

**THE EVANGELIST. A  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
ADAPTED FOR GENERAL  
CIRCULATION. VOL. III**

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**H. H. S.**

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# THE EVANGELIST:

A Monthly Magazine

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FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION.

EDITED BY H. H. S.

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"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
JOHN iii. 16.

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## THE EVANGELIST.

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### “YOU HAVE LOST YOUR HORSE.”

THE other evening I met, at a friend's house, a relative of the family, whose appearance and manners at once arrested my attention. He was young and looked intelligent, but there was an air of restlessness, if not of absolute uneasiness about him, which could not be concealed by the flippancy of his manner; and, as I gazed on his thin worn face, my heart felt insensibly drawn toward him. He was evidently unhappy, and his desperate efforts to be, what is termed, “jolly,” proved ineffectual to remove the dark cloud that hung over his soul.

After several feeble efforts to get up a lively conversation, he sank back into silence, and his face gradually assumed a dull moody expression.

It was then that I spoke to him about the love of God to the poor sinner, as shown in the gift of His only begotten Son, and, as I dwelt upon the grace which brings a present and perfect salvation so close to the dying grasp of a lost, ruined world, he fixed his large eyes steadily upon me, but said not a word. I went on describing the wondrous love of Jesus in laying down His life for His enemies, and began to

point out the solemn necessity that there was for the Cross, as the only way of escape from eternal damnation.

"Oh!" he said, suddenly interrupting me, "I know all about that. But look here,—*I've lost Him.*"

"What do you mean?" I said, rather startled at the abruptness and earnestness of his tone.

"About twelve months ago, I was converted and was very happy; but in course of time I got mixed up with the world, and somehow or other my joy went, and I lost Christ."

"But if ever you received Christ, you received Him *for ever*. Christ Himself said:—

"'He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.' (John vi. 47.) And we learn from another scripture that He is our life; and again, 'He that hath the Son hath life.' (1 John v. 12.)

"Now if Christ is the life we get on belief, and that life is everlasting, how can we lose it? If it were possible to do so, we could never say at any one time that it was ours for ever; and yet we read, 'These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may *know* that ye *have* eternal life.' (1 John v. 13.)

"But suppose I turn my back upon Christ, and don't value Him—don't enjoy Him *as I ought?*"

"God never takes away His eternal gift because its receiver fails to value Him as he ought, although most assuredly it grieves Him to see His gift slighted."

"Do you say so?"

"Indeed I do. Are you fond of a horse?"

"Yes."

“Suppose I made you a present of one. What would you give me for it in exchange?”

“I should not need to give you anything for it, if you made me a *present of it*. It would be mine for nothing.”

“That is precisely the way God deals with the sinner. He offers him Christ for nothing. ‘The gift of God is eternal life.’ (Rom. vi. 23.) But what would you do with your horse when you had him?”

“I would have him out every day.”

“That would be a proof that you valued the gift. But suppose you got weary of your horse, and, leaving him in the stable one fine morning, you went out for a walk. A friend meets you and immediately says:— ‘YOU HAVE LOST YOUR HORSE.’ Would you not at once say, ‘You are mistaken. The horse is safe in my stable at home.’ But suppose he replied, ‘Oh, that can’t be, you must have *lost him*, because you are not *enjoying him*—you have’nt *him out*.’ Would you not tell your friend that it was one thing to be *sure* of your possession and another thing to *enjoy* it. ‘My horse,’ you would say, ‘is as much mine when I am walking without him as when I am riding him. Of course, the friend who gave him to me, would greatly prefer my appreciating his gift by enjoying it, but he gave me the horse *unconditionally*. He never said, He is yours on condition that you ride him, and the moment that you cease to do so, I will take him away from you.’”

“Now God gives Christ, not as a bribe for something to do, or as a reward for something done. He gives Him *unconditionally*. You have nothing to do