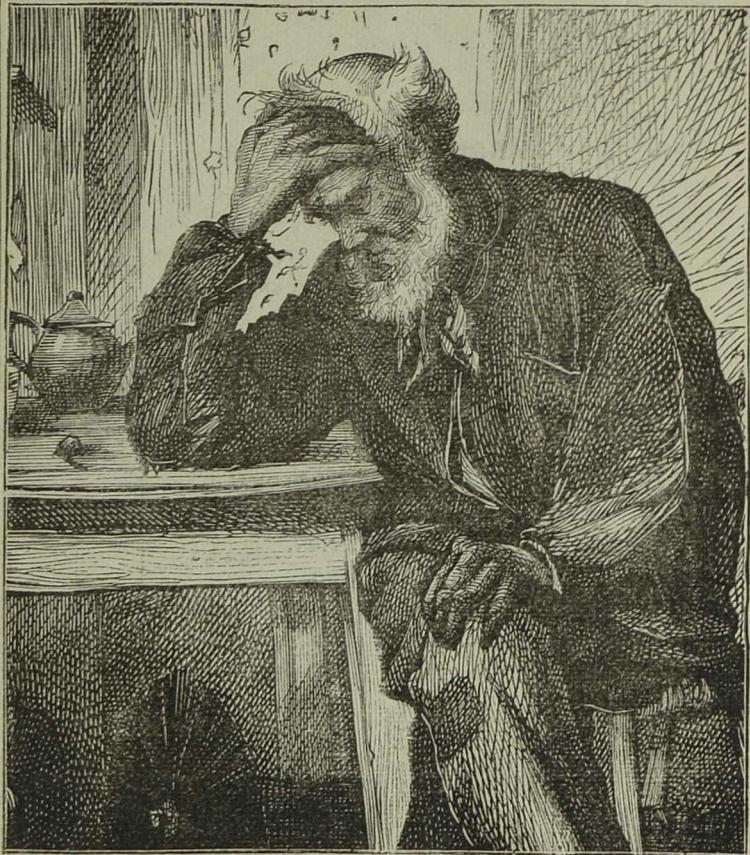


# A LIFE-BELT FOR SINKING SOULS.

BY GEORGE BREALEY.



## ARROWS SHOT AT A VENTURE.

1. THE BRIDGE OF LOVE.
2. A LIFE-BELT FOR SINKING SOULS.
3. NANNY AND HER BURDEN.
4. "MIGHTY TO SAVE."
5. THE SHIPWRECK.
6. LAW AND MERCY.
7. TAKEN AT HIS WORD.
8. THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.
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## A Life-belt for Sinking Souls.

**N**OT long ago I was called to visit a man in sore soul trouble. I found him looking into the dark future with considerable dread and anguish. His conscience had been aroused from a long sleep, and the voice of God was ringing in his ears. A woman who was present appeared to be in somewhat similar circumstances. She said:

“He be cruel afraid. He stares at the

4     *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

wall all day long, as if he saw something before him, and he don't speak, but cries and sighs. I be miserable like with seeing and hearing him. Do you know what sort of trouble that is, sir?"

"Yes," I replied, "I have known something of that sort of trouble. But I found a sure cure for it long ago." The man looked at me, and seeing I had got his attention, I asked what he feared?

"I fear my *sins*, and I fear death, and God, and—"

"And the *bad place, hell*," I replied.

"Yes, sir;" and the tears flowed freely from both.

"You are like a man who has fallen into the water," I said, "and is in danger



of drowning. He sees the waves rolling in upon him; he feels that he is sinking; for there is nothing that he can cling to for support, and if no help comes he will surely be drowned."

"That's just it, sir," he replied.

"I'm very glad you feel like that," I said; "for when a man sees the danger he is in, it is then he gets anxious to escape from it. Your sins are rolling in upon you like waves of the sea, and they will surely overwhelm you unless you can be rescued. But there is a little word here," I continued, opening my Bible, "that has chased away my fears many times, and that always cures *me*: 'What time I am afraid, I will trust in *Thee*.'"

6 *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

“And please, sir, bean’t you never afraid? Don’t you get tossed upon the billows sometimes?”

“No,” I replied; “I am not afraid *now*, though the billows rise high. I always wear a *life-belt*, so that the waves cannot drown me.”

I had got their earnest attention; they had forgotten their fears while I was telling them about my life-belt.

“A life-belt, sir; what is that?” exclaimed the woman.

I replied, “It is something worn around the body that will save a man from drowning. I wear a life-belt which is proof against all the waves of sin and trouble which Satan and my conscience cause to rise up.”

*A Life-belt for sinking Souls.* 7

They both looked to see it around my waist, but it was invisible to them. I told them it was not worn outside, but *inside*, in the *heart*.

“You say you are greatly afraid?”

“Yes, sir.”

“What makes you afraid?” I asked.

“Why, sir, 'tis my sins.”

“Yes,” I said, “this is the cause of fear, and the cure for it is *trust* in God. Now, to *trust* in God is to *believe* what God *saith*. I am not afraid, because I wear a *life-belt*, and my life-belt is made up of some beautiful Scriptures.” I then read to them, dwelling upon the words, “‘And the Lord hath *laid upon Him* the iniquities of us all.’ God tells me I am a

8     *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

ruined sinner, and cannot save myself, and I *believe God*, and rejoice to see what *He* hath done with sins. ‘*God condemned sin in the flesh in Christ.*’ God put my condemnation upon His Son, and He died, the just One, for me, the unjust, to bring me to God. He *put away* sin by the sacrifice of *Himself*. That which stood between me and God is removed by *Himself*. I can come to Him with all my guilt and sins, and He has pledged *Himself* to cast out *none* who come to Him. I put my finger upon these Scriptures and say they are *mine*, because they are the declarations of God; they are written for our faith to lay hold of, and when we *believe God*, we honour Him, and this is to



*A Life-belt for sinking Souls.* 9

be saved. And because this *is so*, see what next God does with *sins*.

“‘Be it known unto you, that through this Man is preached unto you the *forgiveness* of sins: and by *Him all* that believe are justified from *all things*.’ Having accepted this great and glorious message from God, what follows is *mine*, ‘*justified from all things*.’ Thus my sins are *gone*, and my fears are *gone*; sins and fears gone *together*. Where are they gone to? ‘Cast into the *depths of the sea*.’ The sins and the fears go to the bottom of the sea, while I can *ride* upon the waves in perfect safety. As the sins and fears sink deeper and deeper, so I rise higher and higher. So far apart are my sins from

10 *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

me, that, 'as far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.' Those are the two extremes of God's great universe, *east* and *west*, and that is just what the cross of Jesus teaches me. It points far back into eternity, the east of God's love in Christ, and it points on to the eternity to come. The death of Jesus is the centre; the great centre of God's manifested love to His people, and His manifested judgment upon sin. And now there is one beautiful verse which closes the door against all my fears. 'And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.'"

Their eyes were opened; they saw and believed, and their tears fell fast; their

hearts had been broken by love, wondrous love. The joyful exclamation was,

“I never heard such beautiful words put together before.”

So we went over them again: Sin laid *on* Jesus (Isa. liii. 4-6); sin condemned *in* Jesus (John i. 29; Rom. viii. 3); sin *put away* by Jesus (Rom. iv. 25); forgiveness of sins preached *through* Jesus (Heb. ix. 28; Acts xiii. 38); sin *buried* in the depths of the sea (Micah vii. 9); sin *removed* as far as the east from the west (Ps. ciii. 12); sins remembered *no more*. (Heb. x. 17.)

“Now,” I said, “these Scriptures are written for the joy and comfort of such poor sinners as are in trouble about

their sins, and who wish to be delivered from them. Faith is believing God, trusting His word; and the more simply any one takes God at His word, the less will he dread to meet God. There will be no waves to harm the soul who rests in Him.

“Well, sir, the fears be all gone now. I can trust in Jesus now.”

“Then,” I said, “you have put on the life-belt?”

“Yes, sir; I can believe all my sins are forgiven, because Jesus had them, and *God says so*.”

“Now,” I said, “there is something better still than this.”

“Better than this, sir?” was the exclamation of surprise.



*A Life-belt for sinking Souls.* 13

“Yes; let us look and see what God does for the person He forgives. ‘Yea, I have *loved* thee with an *everlasting love*: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.’

“Now He draws me to Him to bestow something upon me; to make me *rich*. The first thing He gives me is *everlasting life*, a life like His own; not a life that can be taken away, or stolen, or *lost*, but one that is ‘hid with Christ in God.’ Next He brings me *nigh* by the blood of Jesus; as near as a son can be to the Father. A little while since I was far off and an enemy, but I am now a *son of God*, and loved with the *same* love that God loves Jesus. His everlasting love

14 *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

has provided for me *everlasting* mercy; this is my daily enjoyment, *mercy, mercy*, till I go and see His face, and be like Him. Another precious fruit of His great love is the clothing He has put upon me, which will never *wear* out, or *grow old*, nor can be defiled; it is called *everlasting* righteousness; *Christ* made unto us who believe wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

“Again, *everlasting joy* is *mine*, to fill my heart with.”

The exclamation of delight at these precious truths to these new-born souls was expressed in words like these:

“Oh, how beautiful! I never knew

there was such beautiful words in the Bible; no wonder, sir, you be so happy, with such beautiful words in your mind."

Dear reader, all these things, and ten thousand times more, are treasured up in the Lord Jesus Christ for faith to draw from. Do you know anything of these things in *reality*? Can you walk about all the day long in the name of the Lord, and say all these are mine now, mine for *ever*, because I am "Christ's, and Christ is God's"? Accept Him humbly, *truly*, as God's love-gift to you, and all that God hath will be *yours*. Reject Him, and you secure all that is reserved for the devil and his angels.

Which shall it be? Don't turn away,

16 *A Life-belt for sinking Souls.*

but say which. The Lord *Himself* is coming quickly; He is at *hand*. But what shall His coming do for you, reader? When the door of glory is opened for those who look for Him, that will be the signal for closing the door of mercy to you, unsaved one, if found *still* unsaved.



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