



LESSON.—SUNDAY, JULY 23 1907.

The Golden Calf.

Exodus xxxii., 1-8; 30-35. Memory verses, 34, 35. Read Ex. xxxii-xxxiv.

Golden Text.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. John v., 21.

Home Readings.

Monday, July 22.—Ex. xxxii., 1-18.
 Tuesday, July 23.—Ex. xxxii., 19-35.
 Wednesday, July 24.—Ex. xxxiii., 1-23.
 Thursday, July 25.—Ex. xxxiv., 1-20.
 Friday, July 26.—Ex. xxxiv., 21-35.
 Saturday, July 27.—Deut. iv., 7-29.
 Sunday, July 28.—Ps. cxv., 1-18.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

We have a very short golden text to-day, only six words in it. Let us say it over together—Little children, keep yourselves from idols. This is a very easy text to remember, but do we need to remember it? Who can tell me what an idol is? Oh, there are a great many idols in this world, and most of them are very ugly. But we think it is only the heathen who worship idols, as 'we' know ever so much better than to do that. We have been studying for a long time now about how God, guided and helped the Israelites, and what a lot he did for them, and last week we studied about the commandments he gave them, and how they promised to serve God always. Then Moses went away for a while to learn from God what more he was going to do for the people, and for six or seven weeks they heard and saw nothing of him. He told them before he went, however, that he was going to talk to God, and told them to wait until he came back. Is six or seven weeks a very long time to wait? Do you think your summer holidays a very long time? No, because you are happy and enjoying yourselves; but the Israelites began to worry, and to say, 'Wherever can Moses be?' 'I don't believe he is ever coming back,' and things like that. They forgot all about how much God had done for them in their worry about what was going to happen next, and then it was they made an idol.

Try to explain how it was they wanted to see something, not just trust, that they wanted to go on their way, not wait any longer for God's guidance. Then, after telling the story show how people to-day worship idols. Anything that takes the place of God, the first place, in our lives, can only be called an idol, whether it is ourselves, a game, or a friend. We need to be just as careful as the Israelites to see that God has first place.

FOR THE SENIORS.

As it would take too long to read in class the chapters in which the real subject of our study is found, it will be best to get the scholars to read it over carefully before coming to class, and then run over the principal points together. The big questions of how much our prayers influence God, or in how much God's anger can be compared to man's are questions only for long and careful consideration. That our prayers have a real value with God we can have no manner of doubt from the way in which prayer is referred to all through the Bible, and that God has frequently represented himself as averting an impending doom at the intercession of his faithful servants we must admit, but these subjects admit of far too great discussion to be drawn into a half-hour's study. There is enough of immediate application in this lesson to more than occupy the time at disposal. The study of the two characters, Aaron, brilliant, but ready to cater to the popular de-

mand, and Moses, blunt, but immovable on a question of principle, is full of interest. It is so much more the way of the world, like Aaron to fall in with the popular desire at the least sign of difficulty, and then to turn the blame upon the people at the first occasion, than like Moses in uncompromising censure to rebuke the sin and then offer his own self as its expiation. So much easier to pet the child than to train his mind and heart. The sin of the people was lack of faith. The unseen God they could not trust. They were willing to give God the worship if they might only do it through a visible medium. In this respect the sin of idolatry to-day is even greater. The worshipper of fashion, wealth, or power does not even profess to serve God through these, or only exceptionally so, but behind it is the same lack of faith. God has told us that his service is the best, but we cannot 'see' that it is so now, in this little time of waiting, so we make to ourselves gods, of gold it may be, but gods anyway whose service gives us a visible and present reward. The pleasure of rest and plenty when the promised land was reached was too vague, they desired the feasting and the pleasure now. In what way has the world advanced? It is easy to censure the frailty of Israel, but the message of the golden text is just as forcible to us to-day.

SELECTIONS.

'Have we made any calves? Ah, many. We have been great at idol-making. Can I count the calves we have worshipped? the unholy catalogue: Pride, Fashion, Gluttony, Self-indulgence, Wealth, Station, Influence, Appearances—all calves of our making, calves of gold.'—Joseph Parker.

Whatever we make first in our heart's love, that is our God. That to which we sacrifice precious things is our God. Whosoever gives up God's commandments, or right, or honor, or truth, or character, or usefulness, for the sake of any gain or of attaining any end, is an idolator.

Never think, when you take a start in idol-worship, that you will stop there. The idol must have an altar. The altar must have an offering. The whole must have a temple. Every sin is self-perpetuating. Begin to love money more than God, and the great idol of mammon will soon make a temple of your life.

The consequences of loving anything more than we love God are deadly. The character deteriorates; the conscience destroys peace; the allurements and attractions fade into horrors; plagues come; we fail of God's guidance; the idol is destroyed and nothing takes its place.—Peloubet's 'Notes.'

It is not easy to estimate the measure of love in a Moses and a Paul; for the narrow boundary of our reasoning powers does not comprehend it, as the little child is unable to comprehend the courage of warlike heroes.—Bengel.

True self-sacrifice is not aimless, nor wasteful. In itself it has no merit. The madman hurls himself from the precipice, or rushes into the fire, and his action is as aimless and as worthless as a hurricane or a conflagration. The patriot flings himself upon the advancing bayonets of the enemy, and the martyr walks, singing, to the stake; but the one purchases by his blood the freedom of his country, and the other, by his costly testimony, vindicates and perpetuates the faith, that, by and by, blesses all men. Self-sacrifice with a moral motive is always fruitful, and justifies itself in the large economy of life.—Philip Stafford Moxom.

The soul is like a curious chamber with elastic walls, which can be expanded, with God as its guest, illimitably, but which, without God, shrinks and shrivels until every vestige of the divine is gone.—Henry Drummond, in 'Natural Law.'

Self is our greatest idol.—B. F. Meyer.

Many virtues we set down in our assets find no entry in Heaven's books.—'Ram's Horn.'

BIBLE REFERENCES.

Psa. cvi., 23; Rom. ix., 3; I. Cor. viii., 4; John iv., 24; Ezek. xviii., 4; Mal. iii., 16.

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, July 28.—Topic—Home missions: The progress of work among the Mormons. Matt. vi., 15-23; xxiv., 11.

Junior C. E. Topic.**TEMPERANCE MEETING.**

Monday, July 22.—The Rechabites tempted. Jer. xxxv., 1-5.

Tuesday, July 23.—The Rechabites resisting. Jer. xxxv., 6.

Wednesday, July 24.—The Rechabites rewarded. Jer. xxxv., 18, 19.

Thursday, July 25.—Our Father's instruction. Jer. xxxv., 12-15.

Friday, July 26.—How to resist temptation. Eph. vi., 10-18.

Saturday, July 27.—Our reward. Jas. i., 12.

Sunday, July 28.—Topic—Lessons from the Rechabites. Jer. xxxv., 1-19. (Temperance meeting.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL METHODS.

Do not offer prizes for beating others, but for improvement on former work.

Attention must be secured through interest. Methods must change for the different stages of development.

The existing contents of the child's mind must be prepared for new ideas.

Language must be used in terms of the child's vocabulary.

The permanence of an impression depends upon the frequency of repetition.

The most effective gateway of knowledge is the hand. The next is the eye.

The less pressure there is, the more satisfactory the progression.

Make the lessons applicable to the pupils' lives.

Develop admiration for the principle.

Question so as to fasten ideas upon the mind.—selected.

BOYS! A FREE GIFT.

**A Jack Knife. A Fountain Pen.
A Watch and Chain. A Camera.**

Boys at summer resorts and elsewhere may have gifts for themselves and their sisters without giving a cent of their money for them.

This is our plan. People have a good deal of time at the summer resorts for reading and looking at picture papers. The 'Canadian Pictorial' is the best printed paper in Canada. It sells at ten cents a copy. It sells at sight. Send for a dozen to start your sales on. We trust you. If you sell NINE you secure a fine Roger's Jack-Knife; just what you want every day of every week during your holidays; sell FOURTEEN, you get a Fountain Pen, a really first-class article, while if you sell TWENTY we give you an up-to-date Nickel Watch, stem-wind, stem-set, and guaranteed.

During July and August we throw in a neat Chain to match, as an extra with every Watch.

As this offer is away below any we have made a word to the wise should be sufficient.

We have fifty 'Brownie' Cameras—mostly the one dollar size, but some of the larger ones also. The first fifty boys that apply for them will, of course, have first chance. Wouldn't it be fine to win your Camera free in this way, and then compete for that Sovereign Prize offered for the most interesting photograph? (See advertisement elsewhere in this paper.) Contest does not close till Aug. 1, and your little 'Brownie' might take a snapshot that would eclipse in genuine interest the work of older and more experienced photographers.

Sell only EIGHTEEN 'Pictorials' at 10c and you secure the small size 'Brownie,' or sell THIRTY-SIX and you get the Two Dollar size. This is a rare chance—seize it. You can get extra films as you want them on the same basis.

But the main thing is to RUSH IN YOUR ORDER AT ONCE (a postcard will do), so as to get a dozen of the July number to sell at the earliest possible moment. Then remit the \$1.20 for those, and get the next lot. When fully paid for we send premium promptly. Try this plan and you will be delighted.

Address, JOHN DOUGALL & SON, 'Witness' Block, Montreal, Agents for the 'Canadian Pictorial.'