

LESSON XII. (September 20.)

ABSTINENCE FROM EVIL. 1 Pet. 4. 3-11.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess." Eph. 5. 18.

Primary Notes.



Approach. Do you know anything about poison? Tell of some things that are poisonous. Do you know what poison ivy is? Once two boys went into the woods. They came to a poison vine climbing up the

trunk of a tree. Jack hurried off as far as possible. "I've been poisoned once," he said, "and I'll keep as far away from that vine as I can. I don't want to be poisoned again. I guess it won't hurt me," said Henry. "Have you ever touched ivy?" asked Jack. "Do you know whether you can be hurt by it or not?" "No, I never touched it. I don't know anything about it, but I guess it will not hurt me. A touch can't do any harm anyhow, and I shall not run away from every vine I see."

There seemed to be so much ivy about that Jack ran home, but Henry would not. "A touch can't hurt anyhow," he kept saying. But next day the little red pimples came out, and soon Henry was dreadfully ill and full of pain with poison almost all over him. A touch was enough, after all. He might have touched a wild grapevine, though, and not have been hurt. Why was a touch too much then? Because he touched the poison ivy, and sometimes that poisons when one hardly touches it at all, but just goes near it.

The Poison of Strong Drink. Teach text. What is meant by "excess"? It means too much. How much wine or whisky would you call too much? Alcohol is deadly poison. How much poison is too much? A drop, a touch will be too much if the thing is dangerous.

Suppose poison does not kill at once, does not even show at once, but acts slowly instead, does that show that it is not dangerous? Suppose poison does not taste like poison, does that show that there is no harm in it? Show how people are deceived in strong drink, how alcohol acts slowly as a poison, how people grow to like the taste, and yet it is poison all the same and all the while.

Suppose we do take poison, either down our throats into the stomach and into the blood, or through the skin, as with the poison ivy, what is sure to come at last? Pain. It must hurt. Then if we spend all our money for poison shall we not be poor? Then comes poverty, you see. And if we do wrong and hurt ourselves and others there comes punishment. It comes sometime, if not all at once.

Now we will put these things down under the big letter P. We will put "Poison" first of all, and by this poison we mean the poison of alcohol. See what will follow it then, coming right after it as surely as it comes first.

Write on blackboard:

P
OISON.
PAIN.
POVERTY.
PUNISHMENT.

When this poison brings all this, is not a touch too much? One never knows just how easily he may bring on the dreadful troubles that follow. And then, no one suffers alone. (Mention the ills that come to homes because of this curse.)

Star Thought: A Touch is Too Much. Drinking wine at all is what the text calls "excess." This means too much of anything at any time. It means going too far, and if one never takes one step one cannot go too far.

Thoughts for Teachers. Aside from the possibilities of influencing the homes through the children, which is very important, our chief work is to fortify the children now against temptation in time to come. We cannot too deeply impress this practical couplet:



"From drink, with its sorrow, temptation, and sin,
I surely am safe, if I never begin."