

deny themselves food and water to please Mohammed. Do we deny ourselves anything that they may know of Jesus, the true Light of the World?

"We can never realize our debt to Arabia till we feel our debt to the Saviour. But when once we have been stirred by that, then the love of Christ will constrain us, and we shall long to send the Arabs our best doctors, and our best thinkers to tell them about Him. We have heard the cry, 'Great is Allah in the end.' No God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." We echo back, "Thou, O Christ, are all I want—Thou art all they want." C. G. W.

JANUARY 4.—A NEW WORLD.—Song Sol. 2: 11-13; 2 Cor. 5: 17; Revelation 21: 5-7.

1. Hints for the junior who is to prepare the topic for study in the meeting.

Here are three views of a new world. If you will read the Scripture verses in order, you will see them in turn. The first is a beautiful view or picture of a new physical world in the springtime. The second shows us a new spiritual world in the human heart when it is renewed by Divine grace. The third portrays the new social world that is bound to come by the power of Christianity.

So you may see these three "new" worlds. One without us in the realm of nature, one within us in the realm of character, and one all about us in the realm of human society.

What makes them "new"? What clothes the earth in the springtime with beauty? Life. What fills man's heart with hatred of sin and love of goodness? Life. What is turning the whole wide world of humanity into a family of God? Life. And that life is from God.

Each of these three worlds as they become new under the magic touch of life speaks to us of the Divine Creator, Redeemer, and King. It is God who directs the seasons and by His power transforms winter into spring. It is God who puts a new heart into us and by His grace transforms our nature. It is God who is making earth into a new and heavenly world by the power of His Word and Spirit in the great soul of humanity.

No one else can make either of these three worlds "new." You may build the biggest bonfire that could be piled together and make its flames reach away up into the clouds; but that will not loosen the strong hand of the Frost King as he holds the earth in his giant grip. No one can hurry the coming of spring in any such way. But watch the sun and see how he does it. Herein is God's power of Providence shown.

And it is so with our sinful hearts. We cannot make them new. All our resolutions, our will power, our struggles, cannot in themselves avail. But when God's Spirit enters how the heart becomes new. It is God's life working within us by His vital power that recreates us, that is makes us into a new creation in Jesus Christ.

And it is the same in the great world of human society. Human law may try to compel people to be clean, sober, industrious, and righteous; but only as God's Word gets into the very soul of the race does mankind learn how to live aright. Christianity is the hope of the human family.

The great trouble in the moral and social world is inside rather than outside. A boy, when washing a store window, brushed, and scrubbed, and rubbed away at a stain he saw there. But it did not come off. Then, looking closer into it, he saw his error, and called to a man within the store, "It isn't outside at all; it's inside all the time." No, we cannot clean the heart by simply washing and polishing the outside, for the trouble is

within, and only God's Spirit can cleanse us there.

So whether it is in the world of creature matter without us, the world of personal character within us, or the world of social morals about us, everything and everybody needs God.

And God is working. Let us not fear. The ice will disappear and the blossoms shoot forth in due course, as springtime succeeds winter.

And just as surely will the new earth, morally transformed by Divine power, take the place of the old, stained and scarred with sin though it has been for ages past, and God's glory shall be made known in the universal heart of humankind just as surely as it is in the universal world of matter.

The lesson for us then, is this: Time passes, years go by, seasons revolve, but there is one who is the same and whose years shall not fall. "This is our God for ever and ever; He shall be our guide even unto death."

2. Hints for the Superintendent's topic review.

Encourage your juniors to re-state the topic study, somewhat along the lines of thought laid down above. Then contrast briefly the old and the new. (1) As to the year past has meant what to you, to your members, to your church, to your neighborhood, to our country? (2) As to purpose. How shall we start the coming year? What new habits form personally? What new plans try in League? (3) As to social service. How can your members serve others—the community needs their ministry—advance God's Kingdom throughout the world, and so help bring Heaven into human life on earth? By all means seek to focus the thought and resolve of your juniors on the realization in themselves and in the world at large, of the life of which Jesus said He came to give "more abundantly."

At this service it might be well to settle on some definite form of resolve for the year. Here is an old one which has done good service before and which you cannot easily improve. Put it on your board, or better still, print it on cotton or cardboard for permanent display on your League room wall. Let your juniors memorize it and become as familiar with it as with their pledge.

"I am only one,
But I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
But I can do I ought to do,
And by the grace of God I will do."

JANUARY 11.—GOD'S HOUSE.—Luke 4: 16-21.

1. Suggestions for the junior who is preparing the topic for the League meeting.

After you have read over the verses, do not try to explain what Jesus said, but rather, lay stress on the statement of St. Luke, concerning Jesus—"As His custom was, He went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day."

The first four words should furnish the key to your address, the idea being to induce all your members to form the habit of regular church attendance themselves, and to make your League a society for the promotion of the church-going habit in every person of your neighborhood.

Do not trouble your mind too much over the word "synagogue." Literally, the Temple was the great central church of the Jewish people, and the synagogue was more like a school house with exercises for the instruction of the people. Every Jew would go to the Temple at one or more of the great annual feasts or religious festivals, but not all Jews went to the synagogue for religious education. But Jesus always went.

There are two great reasons for church-going. These have always been and always will be very important.

The first is worship, the second is study of His word. Both are necessary. We should go to church to show our faith in God, our reverence for His name, our dependence on His mercy; to praise Him for His mercy; to pray to Him for His help; to confess our sins; to claim His presence in our national as well as family life; and thus publicly acknowledge ourselves as a godfearing and Christian people. All these points you can easily work out to almost any length.

But we need religious instruction as well. The church is the place where, in its Bible studying services, we can best learn together what God has taught men in His holy Book. When Jesus came He found just such services for the religious instruction of the people. The synagogue schools were founded long before His day. He did not speak anything against them, but attended them doubtless as a scholar first when He was a boy at Nazareth, and later as a teacher when He became a man.

His example is before us. We have our public preaching services and our Sunday School and League sessions. The first is mainly for worship, the second for instruction, and the third for practice.

Everybody should be in personal touch with these three. We do not expect that all shall attend our Junior League, but we would like a visit from them once in a while. And the juniors should form the habit of church attendance for worship, as well as that of going to their own League meeting and Sunday School.

Jesus went when He was a child; so should all children go still. Jesus always went, even when grown; so should all grown-up men and women go still. His example is before us. First, He went as a scholar; later, He went as a teacher. That is the way it should be still. Boys and girls who honor God at home when they are young, and who grow up with the habit of always going to its services, will be the men and women teachers and the preachers before many years. As it was our Lord's "custom," so let it be always ours—to go regularly to the House of God for worship and to receive instruction.

2. Note to the Superintendent. You have heard of the League of young worshippers, no doubt. There is nothing intricate about it, and your whole Junior League may immediately become a part of it. It simply stands for regular church attendance. Do your juniors go to church as they should? Perhaps so! Do you ever go in a body as a Junior League? Why not? If your pastor is in sympathy with your League, as all true pastors should be, he will be glad to have you present as a League. It does not necessarily follow that he shall preach to you as a body, or that any special attention shall be paid to you in the public service; but it will do everybody good to see you all there together. Arrange it, perhaps, an appropriate hymn may be sung in addition to the regular three in our usual Methodist Church service. The Editor will be glad to hear of any such public services thus attended.

A Creed

There is a destiny that makes us brothers;

None can shun his way alone;

All that we send into the lives of others

Comes back into our own.

I care not what his temples or his creeds,

One thing holds firm and fast—

That into his fateful heap of days and

deeds

The soul of man is cast.

—Edwin Markham.