

Lesson XII.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

March 23, 1902

Eph. 5 : 11-21.—Memory Verses, 15-18

Golden Text—Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.—Eph. 5 : 18.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Je'sus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Through the teachings of the apostles and others, there soon sprang up many new churches in different parts of the world. One of these was in the old heathen city of Ephesus, where many of the people had willingly given up their heathen worship when they heard of Jesus.

It was a very splendid city, and many of the people were rich. But it was a wicked place, and the people had many temptations to do wrong. It was hard to be a Christian there.

Now it was **not** possible always for the busy apostles to stay long enough in any one place to teach the new converts all that they needed to know about the religion of Jesus, so when they went away to other places, they sometimes wrote letters to the new believers, telling them how they must behave now that they had been baptized in the name of Christ.

One of these letters was called the "Letter, or Epistle, to the Ephesians." It is now to be found among the books of the New Testament. In one page of this letter the

Christians were particularly warned against certain things. One of these was that they should be very, very careful about what kind of people they chose for friends. "It is not enough," said the apostle, "that you keep away from bad company yourselves, but, now that you are Christians, you must reprove those whom you see doing wrong and teach them to do better."

The other great warning was against the sin of drunkenness. "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess," was the message, "but be filled with the Spirit." Now this did not mean that the believers were to give up all their good times, but only that they were to be happy in right ways—to enjoy themselves in such ways as would bring honor to their new Master. Wine drinking was one of the bad things that they must give up, for it was sure to lead them into danger.

"Do not act stupidly about these things," said the letter, "but use your minds to find out what it is the Lord wishes you to do. Also, do not be too fond of having your own