

Satan cannot compel any one to sin. He can tempt, but it is yielding that is sin. If we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Our hearts are like a strong citadel, whose garrison can repulse the enemy without, so long as he is kept without. Only when one within turns traitor and opens the gate to the foe, can the citadel be captured.

Thou hast lied unto God, v. 4. A boy once had a bad habit of lying. He knew that it was a mean, sneaking weakness; but he kept at it. His father knew only too well his son's fault, and he told a dear friend about it. The friend, who was an earnest Christian, said, "Let me have your boy with me on my journey across the plains". The boy was asked if he would go. "Yes, only too glad of the chance." Together they started,—the frank, honest, courageous man and the crafty, dishonest boy. For months they were together. They faced danger and death together, and shared all the joys of the journey. The boy idolized the man. He copied him in his walk, his speech, and his

honesty. He put aside his mean, lying habit, and became a strong, brave character. Why? Because he saw that the man loved truth and hated lies. And when we get to understand God's abhorrence of lying lips and His delight in true dealing, we shall imitate His truth.

Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Those who love Christ will love one another. v. 32.

A Christian life is the best proof that there is a living Christ. v. 33.

In the kingdom of God he who helps most, stands highest. v. 36.

Vice always seeks to assume the appearance of virtue. ch. 5: 1, 2.

Neither heaven nor hell can come into our hearts unless we will. v. 3.

We never see sin in its real blackness until it is set over against God's holiness. v. 4.

The death of the body is a trifle compared with the ruin of the soul. v. 5.

No hand but our own can shut in our face the door of heaven's pardon. v. 8.

It is a false loyalty to others that requires us to be disloyal to God. v. 9.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

By Rev. W. H. Smith, Ph.D., Fredericton, N.B.

Luke selects certain events to exhibit the life and fellowship of the church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thus far the emphasis has fallen upon the rapid progress of the early church. This Lesson is an illustration of that strange mingling of good and bad which has marked the whole of the church's history.

1. *The true brotherhood*, ch. 4: 32-37. Briefly review the outstanding facts of the new life which found expression in this brotherhood. The rejoicing of the church over the victory of Peter and John before the Council (ch. 4: 19-22), the prayer (vs. 24-30), the tokens of God's presence (v. 31), all exalted the spirit of the disciples. It gave a new basis for unity, and the new life of love issued in corresponding benevolence. This part of the Lesson deals with a principle

and a concrete case. Note:

(a) The principle. This is of great interest and value. The sharing of goods described in ch. 4: 34, 35 is frequently quoted as proof that communism or socialism existed in the early church; but see *Light from the East*. The church was a community with a common life based upon religious sympathy or love. They met, prayed and ate together in the homes of the members. It was a large family life, where the spirit of helpfulness and co-operation was supreme. As the numbers increased, the problem of providing for the poor and the sick became difficult, and those who had means made gifts, and in some cases sold their real estate. It was an expression of love purely voluntary on the part of each, with no understanding that others should necessarily do likewise.

(b) The concrete case of Barnabas. This is cited as showing the extent to which the spirit and method had spread. This illustration of practical brotherhood has great value. The church to-day is increasing in wealth.