

GOLDEN TEXT

Prov. 20 : 1. Wine is a mocker.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Prov. 20 : 1; 23 : 20.

21, 29-35.

T. —Isa. 5 : 11-23.

W. —Isa. 28 : 1-7.

Th. —Amos. 6 : 1-7.

F. —1 Kings 20 : 13-21.

S. —Matt. 24 : 42-51.

S. —1 Thess. 5 : 4-11.

The curse of strong drink.

Source of woe.

A danger signal.

Luxury and captivity.

Drunkenness and defeat.

An evil portion.

Watch !

CATECHISM

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition ?
A. In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*) we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

TIME AND PLACE

About 1000 B.C.; Jerusalem the capital of King Solomon, who was famed for his wisdom as well as for the splendor of his court. His reign lasted for forty years, ending about 975 B.C. It is not known at what time he wrote his sayings contained in the Book of Proverbs.

LESSON PLAN

I. Deceived by Strong Drink, 1, 20, 21.
With its false promise of happiness.

II. Suffering from Strong Drink, 28-32.
Which brings ruin upon its victims.

III. Enslaved by Strong Drink, 33-35.
So that reason no longer rules.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 246; 247; 19 (Ps. Sel.); 262; 530; 275.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Whose name does the Book of Proverbs bear? How many proverbs did he speak? (1 Kgs. 4 : 32.) What did God give to him? (1 Kgs. 3 : 12.) How may we get the same? (James 1 : 5.)

1. From what is wine made? What is it here called? What warning given?

Ch. 23 : 20, 21 What are those called who take wine to excess? In what, besides the use of wine, may we be intemperate? The miseries that follow intemperance?

29-32 What is the cry of the drunkard? What four of his troubles are mentioned? How may we be sure of escaping them? How does a prophet describe the drunkenness of his nation? (Isa. 5 : 11.) To what is the result of intemperance compared? What advice is given?

33-35 How does wine affect the eyes? The speech? To what two foolish actions is the conduct of drunkards compared? How does the drunkard show that he is a slave?

Seniors and the Home Department—What is a proverb? Why is the Book of Proverbs called the Proverbs of Solomon?

Ch. 20 : 1 and 23 : 20, 21 What great folly is here spoken of? What command is given? What warning?

29-32 What is the Bible teaching about excess in wine? (Eph. 5 : 15.) What reason does Paul give for not using wine? (Rom. 14 : 21.) What is the doom of the drunkard? (2 Cor. 6 : 10.) Who is able to save from it? (2 Cor. 6 : 11.) What word points to the beauty of wine? To its pleasant effects? How is wine like a serpent?

33-35 What are the mental effects of intemperance? The moral effects? What does the Bible say to those insensible to danger? (Eph. 5 : 14.) For whose sake should we deny ourselves? (1 Cor. 8 : 13.) What does self-denial prove? (Matt. 10 : 37; Luke 14 : 27.) Who is our Example? (Phil. 2 : 1-8.)

Prove from Scripture—That strong drink is dangerous.

Practical Points—1. Settle this in your minds, that wine is a deceiver. It promises happiness, health, pleasant companions, popularity, and in the end it brings misery, sickness, loneliness, and contempt. How foolish, when we know this, to allow wine to cheat us!

2. "O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil."—Shakespeare.

3. You may be insensible to danger. This does not prove that you are safe. A person walking in his sleep on the edge of a precipice is in danger, though he does not know it. The surest way to be safe from strong drink is to know how dangerous it is to touch it.

4. One thing is certain, we shall never form the drink habit if we do not drink the first glass. And another thing is equally certain, that if we drink the first glass, we are in danger of forming the habit.

5. There is only one way to be truly temperate. It is to receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts, for temperance is one of the Spirit's fruits. Gal. 5 : 23.

6. Even if we could safely use strong drink ourselves, we ought to abstain for the sake of others weaker than we.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To what sins does intemperance lead?

2. Describe the sufferings caused by intemperance?

3. How may the habit of intemperance be avoided?