

THE LAW OF LOVE

A TEMPERANCE LESSON

April 19, 1903

Rom. 13 : 7-14. Study vs. 1-14—Memory Verses, 9-10.

Golden Text—Love worketh no ill to his neighbor : therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—Rom. 13 : 10.



7 Render therefore to all their dues : tribute to whom tribute *is due* ; custom to whom custom ; fear to whom fear ; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another : for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet ; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour : therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep : for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand : let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day ;

not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the LORD Je'sus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Paul was preaching the gospel in Asia, some one had carried the same good news far away into Italy.

Hearing that there was a small company of believers in Rome, Paul wrote them a letter which was afterwards called the "Epistle to the Romans." This letter Paul wrote while staying at the house of his friend Gaius at Corinth, from which place it was carried to Rome by a good woman called Phebe.

Now Paul knew that it would be specially hard for the Roman Christians to remain true to Christ, because their heathen rulers openly allowed and encouraged every kind of wickedness and sin.

"It is quite true," wrote the apostle, "that you live under a bad government. But as Christians you are bound to show honor and respect to those in authority. And this is how you can help those whom God has placed over you :

"Speak respectfully of those who make the laws. Pay your debts promptly and cheerfully, and show good-will and obedience towards all judges and officers whom the king has appointed.

"Not only should you honor those in high positions, you must show that you are Christians by your behavior towards every one you meet. It is not enough that you keep from cheating your neighbors in business. You must learn to love them as yourselves. If you do this, you will have kept the whole law of Christ.

"If you keep this great law of love, you will no longer require to think of special rules to keep you from hurting your neighbor. If you love him, it will be impossible for you to kill him, or steal from him, or break up his home, or tell what is untrue about him. Because love worketh no ill to his neighbor, love fulfils the law."