

The Gospel by John, in which the lessons now are, breathes the very mind of Christ. Studying the life of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, therein, earnest teachers will seek by prayer and communion with Him through the Word to keep the trolley on the wire, to preserve the contact of faith, that their lives may be energized of God, and the very touch of their hands be magnetic.

When the life of the youth burdened with sin is touched by the life of the teacher from sin set free, and he is led by faith, through the Word, until brought into contact with Christ, immediately he knows that the Gospel is, by faith, the power of God unto his salvation. The commission given to the apostle is repeated to the teacher, as the Master sends him forth to teach His Word to the young. "To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified." 'Tis a work worthy of angels: may the Christ strengthen His teachers and guide to its faithful performance!

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## CLASS ATTENDANCE

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(Fifth Article of Series on "The Sunday School Teacher in Various Aspects")

How to secure the regular attendance of pupils in their classes is yet an unsolved problem with superintendents and Sunday School conventions. Specially is this the case with regard to senior scholars. Infants and those a little beyond this stage are usually governed by parents; but who can control the seniors? This is the perplexing question. Doubtful methods, by no means elevating in their nature and tendencies, are sometimes followed in gathering and retaining smaller children. These methods, however, avail little or nothing with pupils in the transition stage between boyhood and manhood.

It is notorious, for example, that the attendance of juniors is in some instances virtually paid for by rewards and inducements of various sorts. Schools are actually known to compete with one another in this respect, but such rivalry is sui-

cidal, because what at first is sufficient inducement soon loses its attractive power, and the demand for larger compensation for submitting to be taught is sure to come.

It is not denied that under such conditions some good may be done, scholars may learn something of the prescribed lessons, but they learn at the same time to act from wrong motives, and may finally come to think that they are really entitled to set a price upon the service rendered to the teacher and school by their attendance. This is all wrong. It fosters the evil which it is intended to remove.

Equally pernicious is it, in order to attract senior pupils, to minister, as is occasionally done, to the prevailing depraved taste for exaggerated and highly colored tales of wild adventures. This is a gross perversion of the supreme purpose of the Sabbath School. It is a prostitution of the sacred office of the teacher, and wanton trifling with the Word of God and the eternal interest of the young.

The vital question is, what are the causes of the irregular attendance or non-attendance complained of? Who are to blame—teachers, pupils, parents or others? The blame may be widely diffused; but I venture to think that it is chiefly traceable to professedly Christian homes. Family religion of a truly spiritual type has of late years been waning. Parental authority is becoming feeble and ineffective. God said of Abraham, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him" (Gen. 18: 19), but this sort of family government is now out of fashion. The old apostolic precept seems to be reversed and made to read, "Parents obey your children in all things." The half-grown boys and girls who are on the eve of coming out into society settle what the family life must be, what religion and other exercises are to be countenanced, and it is not surprising that Bible classes are not made prominent in the programme.

The conspicuous absence from Sunday Schools, prayer meetings, and Sabbath evening church services of what are called "leading men" is another stumbling block. In most places to be a "leading man" means to be the possessor, on a large scale, of money or money's worth. The example of such has mighty potency among their poorer fellow-creatures. If they do nothing for