

Junior Topic Studies

Weekly Topics

JUNE 20.—RULES FOR RIGHT LIVING.
Rom. 12, 9-21.

What motive should we feel towards right living? v. 9, "love."
How ought love to show itself? In sincerity, without hypocrisy ("dissimulation"), v. 9.

What should our attitude be towards "evil"? v. 9.

What are we to do with the "good"? v. 9.

How will love help us in our relations to one another? v. 10.

Has a Christian any right to be lazy? v. 11.

What should be our spirit in trial? v. 12.

What lesson is there for us regarding poor Christians in v. 13?

What should our feeling be for even our enemies? v. 14.

What does v. 15 teach about sympathy with others?

Is there any lesson about unity in v. 16? About humility?

Read v. 17 and see if it is right to "get even" with one who has done us a wrong. What may we learn from same verse about honesty?

Should we try to live a peaceful life with everybody? v. 18.

What should we not do to those who do us wrong, and why? v. 19.

What should we be ready to do to them? v. 20.

What is the best way to drive out evil thoughts and feelings? v. 21.

JUNE 27.—MISSIONARY MEETING.
TRIP AROUND THE WORLD.
ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO JAPAN.

(Do not overlook Missionary Armstrong's letter on page 133 of this issue. Have it read in your meeting.)

Every Junior has heard of Japan, but as we are going to visit our missions there, this month, I should like to tell you some things about it, which you may not know.

The Chinese named the islands, lying east of China, which we call the Empire of Japan, "The Land of the Rising Sun," because the sun appeared to rise just beyond them.

Not until the year 1275 did the people who lived in Europe know anything about Japan. They had not even heard of its existence, and were astonished when a merchant named Marco Polo, whose home was in Venice, came back from a long journey with stories of a wonderful country he had visited further east than China, where the people worshipped idols and knew nothing about God. His maps and charts were studied and a book was written about his adventures. It is said that another Italian who lived in Genoa about two hundred years later studied Marco Polo's maps and determined he would find a short way to India. This man's name was Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America.

While Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus were anxious to visit strange lands for the sake of trading with the people, the missionaries go to these lands to tell the people about our God, who so loved the world that He gave His Son to redeem it.

Japan is not a very large country—just three-quarters the size of the Province of Ontario—but its population is ten times as great as the population of the whole of Canada.

In the year 1549, Francis Xavier, a great Roman Catholic missionary, visited Japan. For many years the work he began was carried on, but in 1638, the Christians were put to death, and Christianity was forbidden. The Japanese rulers declared the following notice carved in stone in the walls of a castle where many Christians were massacred:

"So long as the sun shall warm the earth let no Christian be so bold as to come to Japan; and let all know that the King of Spain himself, or the Christians' God, or the Great God of all, if he violate this command, shall pay for it with his head."

Thus Japan was closed to all the world excepting the Dutch and Chinese, until 1853, when Commodore Perry, with a message from the President of the United States to the Japanese Emperor, anchored in Yokohama Harbor, and delivered the message to a representative of the Emperor.

The next year Japan was opened to Western nations by treaties with England and United States, but the foreigners were not welcome. The first Protestant missionaries went to Japan in 1859.

The notice boards forbidding Christianity were not taken down until 1873, the year our church sent out its first missionaries.

In 1874 the Christian Sabbath became an official day of rest.

In 1880 the New Testament was translated into Japanese. In 1905 our Dominican Day Orphanage was opened in Kanazawa, on July 1st. (Read Mr. Armstrong's letter in your meeting. You will find it on page 133 of this paper.)

(N.B.—The following supplies will be sent free if you enclose ten cents for postage when ordering from F. C. Stenhouse, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto, Ont.: "A Visit to Our Mission Stations," by Rev. D. Norman, A Picture of the Japanese Orphans, Missionary Report, Trip Tickets, Outline Programme and Directions.)—A.D.S.

JULY 4.—RUNNING A RACE. 1 Cor. 9, 24-27. (Consecration Meeting.)

What do you think

1. "Race" means in v. 24?

2. "Run all" suggests about the contestants or competitors in the race?

3. "Obtain" refers to?

(The "race" means the course of human life. All persons have to cover this course from cradle to grave. Paul does not mean that only one person is rewarded in the race of life, but that if we would be winners we must run the whole race aright. In the following verses he teaches what this is.)

4. "Temperate" means in v. 25? How is it related to "mastery"?

5. "Corruptible crown" refers to? Where is the "incorruptible" crown?

(Only those who strive to be at their best physically can run well. So only those who strive to be strong spiritually and master their sinful natures can make good headway towards the heavenly goal, where an eternal life crown awaits them.)

6. "Uncertainly" means? Of what was Paul certain?

7. "Keep under my body" refers to? Why did he do it—for himself or others?

8. In your own words the teaching of this topic.

JULY 11.—STANDING OR FALLING.
1 Cor. 10, 12, 13.

This is a great study about temptations, and shows us how to stand even

when tried by them. To stand means to be firm, upright, safe. To fall means to yield to sin, and so be led into doing wrong things. There are some important lessons here:

1. Temptations come to all.

2. No temptation is so great that we cannot resist it.

3. If we want to overcome, God will help us.

4. If we yield to temptation we only are to blame.

5. There is always a way out of temptation.

6. It is no sin to be tempted.

7. It is a sin to listen to the tempter who would lead us astray.

8. We can bear temptation, but it is better to avoid it. (See the advice given in v. 14 about idolatry—"fee from" it. So it is better to turn away from temptation at once than to play with it.)

9. Every time we resist temptation we please God and grow stronger ourselves.

10. But every time we yield we grow weaker and less able to resist. So sinning becomes a habit.

11. The great warning is "take heed." Be careful! Watch! Pray!

Home Prize Bible Questions

We give a nice book each month for the neatest and best set of answers to our questions written on a post-card and sent in during the month. Send in yours before the first of July.

We received some splendid answers to our questions given in the April ERA, and have awarded the prize to Myrtle A. Styan, Lombardy, Ont., Bella McDaniel, Carp, Ont., Katie May Goodrich, St. John, N.B., and Meta Wheatley, Stayner, Ont., deserve honorable mention for their excellent replies. Some others, fairly good, were also received. This month we ask you to find about:

"SOME CAVES OF THE BIBLE."

1. What cave was purchased for 400 shekels of silver?

2. Who was buried in a cave, having lived 175 years?

3. Whose body was brought from Goshen to be buried in a cave in Hebron?

4. What five things took refuge in a cave?

5. What cave became a dwelling place for many armed men?

6. What king, seeking his enemy, laid down to rest in a cave?

7. What three men came to a cave at harvest time to meet a king?

8. What men were consigned in a cave and by whom were they fed?

9. What great prophet lodged in a cave?

10. By whose command was the stone rolled away from the mouth of a cave that was a tomb?

11. Who are spoken of as having found refuge from persecution in caves?

12. What prayer was composed by a man in a cave? Where is it recorded?

Just send your answers with your name and address on a postcard to the Editor, and watch each month's paper for the award.

Miss Leigh, Deaconess of the Evangelical Church, gave us an address on "Four Ears of Corn." The first ear had only a few grains scattered over it, which she said represented the drunkard. The next ear had crooked rows, with ill-shaped grains, this was the hypocrite; the third ear, with the small immature grains, represented the smoker, who dwarfed his body, impaired his health, sacrificed his voice, and weakened his brain by the use of cigarettes, making his life an embodiment of lost opportunities. The perfect ear stood for the straightforward, upright Christian.—Centennial Church, Toronto.