The Law of Love

Lesson III.

THE LAW OF LOVE Temperance Lesson

Rom. 13: 7-14. Study vs. 1-14. Commit to memory vs. 9, 10.

their dues. Pay to every man what is due him

of money, or of respect

and honor. Tribute:

taxes paid by a subject

nation. (See Matt. 22:18-

22.) Custom: a duty on

goods. Fear; we are not

to be afraid of, but to reverence those who have power,

to punish wrong-doers, as

judges. Honour. Those

who hold office in the state

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to 7 Kender 'therefore to all their dues' triblie to whom tribute's due; clistoni 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 fulfilied the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not sceal, "Thou shalt not shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, "Thou shalt not

Shall not writes, Thou shall not covet; and if there been false writess, Thou shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is 4 briefly compre-hended in this 5 saying, namely. Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; ^{\$} there-

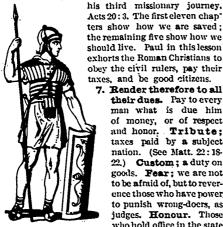
fore love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 And 7 that, knowing the s time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is 9 our salvation nearer than when we 10 believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in 11 riot-ing and drunkenness, not in chambering and wanton-ness, not in strife and ¹²envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Je'sus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts thereof.

Bevised Version-1 Omit therefore; ² his neighbour; ³ Omit, Thou shalt not bear false witness: ⁴ summed; ⁵ word; ⁶ love therefore is the fulfilment of the law; ⁷ this; ⁸ season; ⁹ Omit our; ¹⁰ first; ¹¹ revelling; 12 jealousy.

EXPLANATION

Connection-The letter to the church at Rome was written by Paul from Corinth near the close of



Roman Soldier

should be honored, if not for their own sake, because of their office. 8, 9. Owe no man anything. Pay all debts when due. The man who drinks too freely will soon owe much and have nothing to pay. But to love one another; a debt we owe to all (Matt. 5:44), and which we can never fully pay. Hath fulfilled the law; for no one who loves his neighbor will want to break the law which forbids harming him in any way. (See Matt. 22: 34-40.) In verse 9 we see that the law of God requires us to be pure in heart . and speech, free from hatred, honest, truthful, contented. Briefly comprehended; summed up. Thou shalt love. We shall be and do to others all that the law requires, if we love them. "Love." it has been well said, "is that which finds its happiness in another's good."

10. Love worketh no ill. On the contrary it always looks out for opportunities of doing good to others. (See 1 Cor. 13:4-7.) But intemperance destroys love in the heart and home, works min to character, and brings shame and poverty to helpless wives and children. The Ten Commandments here called THE LAW, tell us how we ought to act. Love prompts us to fulfil the law, that is, to do what it directs.

11. Knowing the season (Rev. Ver.); the time that was to be ended by the second coming of Christ. Christ comes to each one at death, and for this coming also we should be prepared. To awake out of sleep; the sleep of carelessness and indifference to spiritual things. For now is our salvation nearer. By "salvation," as Peloubet remarks, Paul here means final deliverance from sin and sorrow. This will come (1) to all the world at Christ's second coming; (2) to each Christian at hisdeath; (3) gradually to all nations, as the gospel is preached to them.

12. The night is far spent; the night of trial and sadness. The day is at hand; the day of the coming of Christ, the Light of the world, John 8: 12. Let us therefore cast off; "as if they were a night-robe." The works of darkness; all kinds of sin in heart and conduct. Sin loves dark ways, and is therefore spoken of as darkness. Put on the armour of light; the Christian armor, Eph. 6: 13-17. It is the armor of faith, hope, lové, in which we may appear without shame in the light of Christ's coming. Until that time we must fight, like good soldiers, every kind of evil, including intemperance. With this armor we need never fail of victory.

13, 14. Honestly; decently, becomingly. As in the day; doing nothing that we would be asnamed for other people to know. Rioting and irunkenness. Drunkenness leads to "rioting" or lawlessness, to vice and jealous quarrels. Chambering and wantonness; licentiousness in its various forms. Butput ye on ; thoughts, feelings, actions like those of the Lord Jesus Christ. Make no provisi .n_ for the flesh; but strive to master every impure and selfish desire, 1 Cor. 9:27. To fulfil, etc. Neither the desire for strong drink nor any other evil appetite should be yielded to. Let love to God and man rule the whole life. "Fill a glass with water, and you cannot at the same time fill it with wine. Paul had some such thing in mind when he said, 'Be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit,' Eph. 5: 18. The best way to drive out evil is to occupy all the room with good." (Peloubet.)

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