

Lesson III.

THE LAW OF LOVE

April 19, 1903

Temperance Lesson

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

7 Render ¹therefore 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 ²another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, ³Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet: and if ^{there be} any other commandment, it is ⁴briefly comprehended in this ⁵saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour ^{as thyself}.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; ⁶there-

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

EXPLANATION

Connection—The letter to the church at Rome was written by Paul from Corinth near the close of his third missionary journey. Acts 20: 3. The first eleven chapters show how we are saved; the remaining five show how we should live. Paul in this lesson exhorts the Roman Christians to obey the civil rulers, pay their taxes, and be good citizens.



Roman Soldier

7. **Render therefore to all 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 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 ruin to character, and brings shame and poverty to helpless

fore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 And ⁷that, knowing the ⁸time, that now ^{it is} high time to awake out of sleep; for now ^{is} ⁹our salvation nearer than when we ¹⁰believed.

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 ¹¹riot-ing and drunkenness, not in chambering and wanton-ness, not in strife and ¹²envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts ^{thereof}.

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 his death; (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, love, 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 ashamed for other people to know. **Rioting and drunkenness**. Drunkenness leads to "rioting" or lawlessness, to vice and jealous quarrels. **Chambering and wantonness**; licentiousness in its various forms. **But put ye on**; thoughts, feelings, actions like those of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Make no provision 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.)