

ARE YOU WEAK AND RUN DOWN?

In This Condition Only a Tonic Medicine Can Renew Your Health.

The condition of being "run down" is one that doctors do not recognize as a disease. The physician of to-day who gets his training in a hospital where only severe disorders are encountered knows little about it. But those who are run down in health know that it is not a fancied affliction.

The expression "run down" applied to health means a condition in which all the bodily functions are enfeebled. Appetite fails, the digestion is impaired, the nerves are impoverished, the complexion becomes pale or waxy, there is no animation, but rather worry and mental depression. Fatigue is a constant depression. No particular organ being affected, you must look to relief to the blood. As it circulates through every part of the body, any improvement in the condition of the blood is quickly felt throughout the entire system. As a restorer of the blood and builder of weak nerves Dr. Williams' Pink Pills stand at the head of all tonic medicines. Every dose of these pills helps to enrich the blood and strengthen the nerves, and thus the various organs regain their tone and the body recovers its full vigor. Ample proof of this is given in the statement of Mr. William Devine, Gerard street east, Toronto, who says: "Two years ago, while employed as a conductor on the Toronto Street Railway, I became much run down. I consulted a doctor, who gave me medicine, but it proved fruitless, as I was constantly growing weaker. My appetite completely failed, and I fell away in weight until I weighed only 125 pounds. I was sometimes taken with fainting spells, and finally felt compelled to resign my position. I tried what I thought was lighter work, but with no better results. I was growing weaker and weaker. One day a chum urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, but by this time I was heartily tired of medicine, as nothing I had taken did me any good. Finally he bought me a box of the pills, and I could no longer refuse to try them. After a time I felt they were helping me and then I gladly continued their use, with the result that I was finally enabled to go back to my old position fully restored to health. I owe this splendid condition to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and can strongly recommend them to any one suffering as I did."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can be obtained through any medicine dealer, or may be had by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.



LESSON IV. Jan. 25, 1920

Peter stands up for truth and honesty. Acts 5: 1-11.

COMMENTARY. — I. Ananias' hypocrisy known and punished (vs. 1-9). 1. But a certain man named Ananias—the name is the same as its Hebrew form Hannaniah, a common name in Israel. Ananias and his wife Sapphira were members of the Christian community, but they were unworthy of their companionship, as was manifested by their conduct. Sapphira—The name may mean beautiful or it may be derived from the name of the precious stone, sapphire. A possession—The word may mean lands or buildings, or any other kind of property. It here means land (v. 3). It was sold ostensibly to help replenish the common treasury, hence it was in an important sense a religious act. 2. Kept best part of the price—There was no necessity that the price of the land should be generally known, and for that reason Ananias believed that his act of deception would not be suspected or detected. His selfishness in the form of a desire to be thought religious and liberal prompted him to sell the land, and his selfishness in the form of greed prompted him to practice deception and keep for himself a part of the proceeds of the sale. His wife also being privy to it—The act was planned beforehand and therefore the guilt was in full measure. Sapphira was in the scheme and equally guilty with her husband. There is no suggestion in the narrative that she made any attempt to influence Ananias not to keep the money for himself. The story might have read differently if she had thrown her influence on the side of truth and honesty. Laid it at the apostles' feet—The apostles had charge of the distribution of the funds bestowed for the support of the Christian community. Ananias therefore brought a portion of the price of the land and laid it at their feet, or placed it at their disposal. This was done "apparently at some public religious service, where they could be seen of men. Danger threatened

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the infant church from within, for already Satan was tempting its members to acts of deception.

3. Peter said—Peter was present and he may have been in charge of this part of the work. Why hath Satan filled thine heart—Peter puts his reproach in the form of a question to make it more emphatic. Satan could not have filled Ananias' heart, or made him bold, or inspired a desire to play the hypocrite if his heart had not been open to his approaches, to lie to the Holy Ghost—He lied to the Holy Ghost because the offering was made, not to the apostles nor to the church, but to God. And because it was contrary to his profession as one who professed to be converted by the Holy Spirit and to be under his influence—Peloubet. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and Ananias made bold to come into their presence with his heart filled with Satan to act and tell a lie. 4. Whiles—An old form of the word while. Was it not thine own—No one was under any compulsion to sell his possessions for the benefit of the Christian community, and after they were sold, the proceeds were in the power of the owner. These questions, asked in rapid succession, pressed home upon Ananias a good deal of his guilt. Concealed this thing in thine heart—Peter's words indicate that Ananias had carefully planned this deception. Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God—It is not intended to say that Ananias had not lied unto men at all, but that the gravity of his offence was that he thought to deceive God. In verse 5 it is said that the deception had been practiced toward the Holy Ghost, and so we learn hence the divinity of the third Person of the Trinity—Cam. Bib. 5. Tell down, and gave up the Ghost—This summary punishment was the direct act of God. There is no suggestion that death resulted from natural causes. Peter and the other apostles had no responsibility in the matter. It was a case between Ananias and his God. great fear came on all—Ananias' death was not merely vindictive, but it was intended to make clear to the church God's attitude toward sin and to warn them against hypocrisy. It had its designed effect upon all that came to know about it. 6. young men—The youth of the congregation; very probably young men who were in attendance as servants, or those whose business it was to attend on the congregation, and perform various offices when Christians celebrated their worship.—Moshem. wound him up—In burial clothes. carried him out—Probably into the valley of the Kidron, the great Jewish burial place, buried him—It was the custom in the East, and that custom still prevails, to bury the dead the same day and within a few hours after death.

II. Sapphira's Sin and Its Punishment (vs. 7-10). 7. Three hours after—This length of time elapsed after the death of Ananias before Sapphira came into the presence of her apostles. Nothing is known of her whereabouts during that time. It seems likely that she had become anxious for the return of her husband from his hypocritical errand, and went to the place of Christian assembly to find him, little suspecting that he was already dead and buried. 8. Peter answered unto her—Sapphira may or may not have asked a question regarding her husband, about whom she was anxious, but her appearance showed that the inquiry was in her mind. This form of expression is sometimes used where no question has been asked. Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much, doubtless from information given him directly, by the Holy Spirit, and he asked Sapphira if the amount brought in by Ananias was the price. And she said Yea—Peter had given her full opportunity to make a correct statement, but she failed to regard truthfulness and lied by word as her husband had lied by deed. She did not admit that

reverential fear of God inspired them. They had an impressive exhibition of his hatred for sin and his love for righteousness. There was also inspired in them a fear to sin against God. Upon as many as heard these things—An occurrence of such importance and significance could not fail to be reported far and wide. It caused the people to fear to disseminate before the Lord.

Questions—How did the early community of Christians live in Jerusalem? Who were Ananias and Sapphira? What temptation did Satan bring to them? What was the nature of their sin? How did Peter know the nature of their sin? What punishment was inflicted? What effect did this punishment have?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic—Modern forms of hypocrisy. I. Hypocrisy unveiled. II. Deceptions punished. III. Conclusions.

I. Hypocrisy unveiled. The term "church," signifying the "called out ones," is used in the lesson for the first time in the book we are studying. The increasing number of adherents to the Christian faith necessitated organization for effective service (Acts 6: 1-4). Ananias and Sapphira were evidently of good social standing and fair profession. They had unquestionably been baptized and received into the Christian community, and seem to have been persons of repute among them. The lesson teaches clearly that a community of goods was not obligatory in the early church. There is no evidence that the early Christians were ever counseled thereto by the apostles. The general benevolence was evidently a voluntary matter, and some authorities suggest that the design was to provide for those who had suffered the loss of goods because of their adherence to the Christian faith. Ananias and Sapphira were not obliged either to sell or give. Their motive was to obtain credit for a self-sacrificing benevolence, which they neither possessed nor practiced. Vanity and covetousness were at the root of the transaction.

II. Deception punished. With the unexpected suddenness of a lightning flash came revelation and retribution. As planned, detection seemed wholly improbable. There was an uncalculated factor in the equation, "Thou, God, see me." Peter's language (v. 3), shows that detection and punishment were miraculous and profound—impressed the church and the public as far as it became known. "Both transgressors were pilloried in undying shame." Evil-doers can count on no moment of security. "Be sure your sin will find you out." God's judgments never mistake. To Him the

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A Woman's Trouble

Stratford, Ont.—"I do think Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription one of the best medicines I have ever known for the ailments of women. I had for quite a long time been having women's trouble which caused me to become all run-down, weak and nervous. I doctored but nothing seemed to give me relief until I began taking 'Favorite Prescription.' This medicine gave me such wonderful relief that I am glad to recommend it to others."—MRS. A. GODWIN, 60 Brant St.



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NERVOUS AND RUN-DOWN

Brampton, Ont.—"A few years ago I was in a nervous and run-down condition and felt greatly in need of a tonic. A friend who was being helped by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery advised me to try it, too. It helped me from the very start and eventually restored me to perfect health. I feel in a position to praise the 'Golden Medical Discovery' very highly and take pleasure in recommending it to all those who are at all nervous, weak or run-down."—MRS. ESTHER PEATSON.

Dr. Pierce's medicines are made of vegetable growths that nature surely intended for backache, headache, pains, irregularities, and for the many disorders common to women in all ages of life. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is made of lady's slipper root, black cohosh root, unicorn root, blue cohosh root, Oregon grape root and Viburnum. Women who take this standard remedy know that in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription they are getting a safe woman's tonic so good that druggists everywhere sell it in liquid or tablets. It is without alcohol.

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