

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

## The Quiet Hour

YOUNG  
PEOPLEJEHOIAKIM BURNS THE WORD  
OF GOD.

By Rev. C. McKinnon, B.D., Winnipeg.

So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll, v. 21. Sir William Champney in the reign of Henry III., was, it is said, the first to build a turret on his house, that he might overlook his neighbors. Not long after he was smitten with blindness, so that he could see nothing at all. As useless as the turret to the blind man will the Bible be to us, unless we are ready to obey its teachings. The obedient, and they alone, will find in it peace, happiness, blessings that will brighten all their way through life, and the pure, unending joys of heaven. It is the willing heart that sees the way of life.

He cut it with the penknife, v. 23. There has been many attempts to destroy the Bible, since Jehoiakim first used his penknife. It has been prohibited by pagan rulers. It has been banned and burned by the very church that was built upon it. Infidelity, ridicule, scorn have attempted to tear it page from page. But like the oak tree on the wind-swept mountain side, these blasts have but driven its roots the deeper into our human life. The penknife that has injured it most of all is the indifference that has left its leaves unturned and its truths unknown in the nominal Christian's home.

Yet they were not afraid, v. 24. Said an infidel, "There is one thing that mars all the pleasures of life. I am afraid the Bible may be true. This fear is a thorn that stings me, a sword that pierces my very soul; for then I am lost forever." While there is such a respect for truth still left, there is hope that salvation may yet come. But, alas! are there not any who, like the courtiers of Jehoiakim, can calmly see the word of God reduced to ashes in the brazier and yet not tremble? If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the absence of such fear is the last extremity of folly.

The Lord hid them, v. 26.—The faithful man who lifts his voice valiantly for the truth has in the times of persecution a place of shelter, where even the wrath of kings cannot follow him. David in the hostile Philistine court cried unto the Lord and found deliverance. Elijah was preserved by the brook Cherith and fed by the ravens. An angel led Peter from his prison-house. While Paul and Silas sang and prayed with their feet fast in the stocks, God sent an earthquake and gave them freedom. When it is God's will to preserve his own, none can pluck them out of His hand.

Take thee again another roll, v. 28. Think what might have been written on this second roll. It might have recorded that the king of Judah and his people had listened to the prophet's warnings and repented of their sins. Then God would have rolled back the invading hosts of Babylon, and His people would have been free and happy. How is it with us when we read and hear the word of God? Is it written of us that we heed and obey? Or that we despise and reject? Everything really worth while depends on this record.

All the evil that I have pronounced against them, v. 31.—Jehoiakim could destroy the roll, but he could not alter the curse that was continued in that roll. All the evil pronounced against him was as true a prediction against as it was before.

\*S. S. Lesson—Jeremiah 36:21-32. Study the chapter. Commit to memory vs. 22-24. Read ch. 26. Golden Text—Amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God—Jeremiah 26:13.

That a book on geology should be lost does not change the various strata of the rocks; that a chemical formula has been forgotten does not affect the combining properties of the elements; that the ostrich buries her head in the sand and can see no one, does not stay the swift-footed pursuer; and that the Bible should be destroyed, banished, or ignored, does not annul the just judgment of God against every sin, or remove His abhorrence to all unrighteousness. All truth is eternal.

But they hearkened not, v. 31. Blessed be God! it is not said that He did not hearken. Of this we may be very sure, that not a soul will ever be lost because He will not listen to its cry for mercy and pardon. Many a time, alas! we have not hearkened to His warnings and invitation, but when we turn to Him again, swifter than the light comes the message of forgiveness straight from His loving heart.

There were added besides unto them many like words, v. 32.—We are told that the whole sky is bright because small particles of matter in the air oppose the sun's light and reflect it everywhere. Otherwise the sun would float in a black heaven. So all opposition to God's word has served to widen its influence. For example, the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem after Stephen's martyrdom scattered them throughout Judea and Samaria to preach the gospel. Again Paul's being taken to Rome a prisoner gave him the opportunity of preaching Christ in that great centre. In all ages those who have tried to hinder have in the end helped the spread of the Scriptures.

## SWEET HELPFULNESS.

"There's never a rose in all the world  
But makes some green spray sweeter;  
There's never a wind in all the sky  
But makes some bird-wing fleetier.

"There's never a star but brings to heaven  
Some silver radiance tender;  
And never a rose cloud but helps  
To crown the sunset splendor.

"No robin but may thrill some heart,  
His dawn-like gladness voicing.  
God gives us all some small sweet way  
To set the world rejoicing."

## TURNING DESPAIR INTO VICTORY.

Every man longs at times to get forever free from his old self. Many a man has thought he could do this by a simple act of will power, and has tried and failed so often that he is ready finally to cry out in discouragement,

"Oh! for a man to arise in me,

That the man I am may cease to be."

But "the man I am," reinforced by the powers of darkness, is more than a match for any human will-power or aspiration. David, and Peter, and Paul, and Moody, and Babcock, and legions of other saints, came to realize this, and their names today would have disappeared in oblivion unless, in their utter despair over self, they had turned away from the man within and called upon the Man who is all-love and all-power to win the victory for them over themselves. Therein is our assurance that "the man I am may cease to be." "Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.—Sunday School Times.

You picture to yourself the beauty of bravery and steadfastness. And then some little, wretched, disagreeable duty comes, which is your martyrdom, the lamp for your oil; and if you do not do it, how your oil is spilt.

## SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Religious Intelligence: The pastor's work is helped by having the denominational paper in the homes of his people.

Herald and Presbyterian: We are to allow no sophistries to excuse us from simple obedience to God when He commands us to repent, believe, and be saved. It is our duty, for God commands it. It is possible for us, or he would not have commanded it. Unless we obey, there is no hope for us in the universe of God.

Canadian Baptist: The man who faithfully and constantly seeks to magnify his office in a worthy manner as he endeavors to fulfil his ministry, finds a variety and inspiration second to no calling in all the world. And such a man, even though he may suffer anxiety and care because of inadequate material support, will nevertheless find his heart assured and satisfied by the thousand and one compensations that reward his whole-souled and unselfish service rendered for the benefit of humanity and to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ his Master.

United Presbyterian: Reputation depends on character and will ever respond to it. Only an imbecile would say that a ball of fire was cold or an iceberg hot. The reputation of a thing depends upon what it is. Clouds may obscure character, as they do the great mountains, and for a time give it an ill repute, but he who has seen the mountains will know that the clouds will lift. The reputation of the everlasting hills remains unchanged in his mind. And a passing cloud will not disturb the beauty of a life any more than it will the grandeur of a mountain.

Presbyterian Witness: It is true that Temperance men have their party predilections; but it is equally true that the policy marked out by the Dominion Alliance, and the local Alliances and the churches is thoroughly non-partizan. What we should earnestly desire is that both political parties would come untriedly to stand side by side on the Temperance platform. This will make it plain sailing for both, and it would have the advantage of saving the ardent and honest Temperance men from the sinister and groundless accusations in which their accusers, without justification, indulge.

Westminster, Philadelphia: This is a world of work, and vacations are none too many. The Son of man himself was no stranger to them. He interspersed his labors by nightly excursions upon the water and frequent rests at Bethany. They were relief stations along the pathway of his mission. To one incapable of a vacation, and such there are, ought to have our deepest sympathy. We all know them. They are tied like Prometheus to a rock from which they cannot escape. Sickness at home perhaps, wherever they go pale faces follow, or perchance misfortune has laid her withering finger upon their lives; for such, vacations are but a change of locality. The old conditions follow on. We are thankful for work and thankful for its cessation. Let the farmer leave his plow in the furrow; the accountant his pen; the salesman his counter; and the preacher his pulpit. For a time forget who you are. Go away and shake off the dust of care and then return. Return younger, happier, and with a braver heart for the year to come.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.