

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 23.

CHRISTIAN COMPANIONSHIP.

2 THESS. 3: 1-13.

Verses 1-2.—This request St. Paul makes of the Thessalonians, is one of great importance. The success of the Gospel depended then, and does always, as much on the prayers of the churches as the faithfulness of the preachers. If the apostles needed the prayers of Christ's people, how much more are ordinary ministers. Those who cannot do any part of the work, can help it on by praying for those who are doing it. Those laid aside by sickness, those too old to work, and those too young to do much. All can pray.

3-5.—With what rapid transition St. Paul passes from the want of faith in men to the faithfulness of God. Whether men believe them or not, His promises are sure, and the apostle can confidently leave both his own safety and the well doing of his converts in His hands. The apostle had confidence in the Thessalonians—but only in the Lord—that they were both doing, and would do the things which he commanded them. He offers a prayer for them, that their hearts might be directed into the "love of God and the patience (Revised Version) of Christ."

6.—The command to withdraw from every brother who walked disorderly, receives illustration from (verse 2) The word "tradition" has a meaning other than that intended here. Our Lord rebuked the Jews for having made void the law of God through their traditions (Mark 7: 5-13), and St. Paul himself speaks of the traditions of men in a condemnatory manner (Col. 2: 8). But here the apostle means the instructions he had himself given while with the Thessalonians, and which he bids them hold fast. In the ordinary acceptance of the term the Christian Church has its traditions as the Jewish church had; and the light in which we are to regard those traditions is one great point of difference between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants. The former regard traditions as equally binding with the Scriptures; while the Reformed Churches hold "that the Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation."

7-9.—St. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that he had not only instructed them how they ought to walk and act, but shows them by his own example. He had not made himself chargeable to any of them, but had worked for his own maintenance while amongst them. This feature of St. Paul's labors shows his self-denial, for he always took care to maintain the principle that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and that he has a right to be supported out of the contributions of the churches if he choose to exercise it. No argument against a paid ministry can ever find support in anything St. Paul said or did; on the contrary, it was he who distinctly said that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, (1 Cor. 9: 14). In those cases in which he departed from this principle, there were special reasons for doing so; and at Thessalonica the reason is sufficiently obvious in the idlers mentioned in the chapter.

10-12.—St. Paul here lays down the principle of universal and perpetual obligation, that it is the duty of a man to work for his own maintenance, and the maintenance of those dependent on him: The man unwilling to work should not be fed by the hand of charity. We are likely to think of the tramp or the professional beggar; but the apostle had in mind some members of the Church, who instead of quietly attending to their own business, were busy-bodies interfering with other people's affairs, and living upon the kindness of their brethren. By "their own bread" we must understand bread which they had earned by their own exertions as distinct from that of charity or dishonesty. But we must never fail to acknowledge that the power to earn it, and the bread itself, come from our Father in heaven.

13-15.—"Be not weary in well doing" is an exhortation applicable to all Christian people at all times. Then the apostle repeats the command he had previously given (verse 6). If any of these idlers and busy-bodies still remained disobedient to the apostle's word the members of the Church were to hold no intercourse with him, not in the spirit of enmity but of brotherly love.—W. M. Sunday School Mag.

A WIRE FENCE.

A durable wire fence can be made by planting straight growing trees a rod or so apart, and putting wires on them by means of staples after they have grown several years. Lombardy poplars are good for this purpose, as they are straight and rapid growers. They are not especially desirable trees, however, as they are easily broken by ice and wind, and many of the Northern States they are not long lived. There could be no objection to using apple or pear trees for this purpose, if one is pressed for room. As the trees would be in an isolated row there could be little trouble from their being so close

together. If apple trees be selected for such a purpose the most upright growing varieties should be selected. Pear trees would answer the purpose. On small places where a permanent fence is required fruit trees could in this manner be turned to double account.—Coleman's Rural World.

FIVE CENTS A DAY.

The cumulative power of money is a fact very generally known, but not generally appreciated. There are few men living to-day of the age of 65 hanging on the bounty of kind red or friends, but who might, by exercising the smallest particle of thrift rigidly adhered to in the past, have set aside a respectable sum which would materially help them to maintain their independence in their old age. Let us take the small and insignificant sum of five cents, which we daily pay to have our boots blacked, to ride in a car a distance we are able to walk, or procure a bad cigar we are better without, and see what its value is in the course of years. We will suppose a boy of 15, by blacking his own boots, or saving his car fare, or going without his cherished cigarette, puts by five cents a day, in one year he saves \$18 25, which, being banked, bears interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, compounded bi-yearly. On this basis, when our thrifty youth reaches the age of 65, having set his five cents per day religiously aside during fifty years, the result is truly surprising. He has accumulated no less a sum than \$2,892 17. A scrutiny of the progress of this result is interesting. At the age of 30 our hero has \$395; at 40, \$877; at 50, \$1,667; at 60, \$2,962. After fifteen years' saving his annual interest more than equals his original principal; in twenty five years it is more than double; in thirty-five years it is four times as much; and in forty five years it is eight times as much, and the last interest is \$196, or ten and a half times as much as the annual amount he puts by. The actual cash amount saved in fifty years is \$912 50; the difference between that amount and the grand total of \$2,893 17, viz., \$1,980 68, is accumulated interest. What a magnificent premium for the minimum of thrift that can well be represented by figures.—Brooklyn Eagle

USEFUL HINTS.

Nail stains may be removed from oak by dissolving a half-pint of oxalic acid in a quart of boiling water, and scrubbing the wood with it.

Machine oil can be removed by rubbing it with brown soap in cold water before the whole piece is washed.

Some one gives this on warts: Cut a piece of potato and rub the wart with it. Continue this every night, letting the moisture dry on it, and the wart will soon disappear.

To remove egg stains from silver spoons take a little common salt between the thumb and finger, and rub the stain briskly. Then wash in hot soda.

California farmers raise sixty-two bushels of sunflower seed to the acre, and, after grinding a gallon of oil from each bushel, feed the refuse to chickens and cows.

Living rooms are often kept too hot for plants, as well as for the inmates. The nearer the temperature can be kept at seventy degrees, with a fall of ten or fifteen degrees during the night, the better for both.

Lemon fritters are delicious. To one cup of milk and one egg allow the juice and pulp of one lemon. These may be served with sauce; in that case add the grated peel of half the lemon to flavor the sauce.

To cure fleas, mix one ounce of Venice turpentine with one ounce of water, stir with a rough stick until thick; then wrap a good coating of it around the finger with a fine cloth. Another method is to wrap the part affected with a linen cloth dipped in a tincture of lobelia.

Poultry breeders do not seem to appreciate the great value of bones for their fowls, and but a limited few ever make use of them for this purpose. No matter whether the birds are confined or not, they are sure to be benefited by a moderate quantity of bones, though those which are in close confinement need them most.

One of the strongest cements, and easiest applied, is lime and the white of an egg. To use it, take a sufficient quantity of the egg to mend one article at a time, shave off a quantity of the lime and mix thoroughly. Apply quickly to the edges, and place them firmly together, when it will soon become set and strong. Plaster of paris will answer in place of lime.

The old fashioned seed cakes which have almost disappeared from modern cookery are wholesome and delicious. Beat to a cream one cup of butter and two cups of sugar. Add three table-spoonfuls of sweet milk, a little salt, and vanilla or lemon, to the taste, with two table-spoonfuls of caraway seeds. Stir in flour in a caraway seeds. Stir in flour in a caraway seeds. Stir in flour in a caraway seeds.

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A new brick block, the foundation of which has just been laid in Chicago, will be twelve stories in height.

TESTIMONY OF WORTH.—Mr. G. E. Hutchins, of Rosaway, Digby County, states that his son had been severely afflicted with Salt Rheum in the hands for a long time, and could find no relief from the pain and distress until she used Gates' Nerve Ointment which, after using for a short time relieved her of all pain and soreness. He recommends it very highly to those similarly afflicted as a powerful and speedy healing Ointment.

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