

with the human heart: it needs Christ, and though by nature that heart is dead to God and opposed to His sway, yet nothing but the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ can ever make it live, and therefore it needs to hear His voice before it can believe on Him who is the Saviour of the world.

The *First* truth therefore I wish to bring before you in connection with the Sunday School is:—It seeks, like the secular school, to teach its lessons to the young.

With whom do we commence the great work of secular education? Surely not with the old and decrepit, not with those whose battle of life is well nigh over, and whose once plastic minds have long become indurated by the hardening effects of sin and wearisome neglect.

No, we do the very opposite. By intuition, as well as experience, we all know that the young are the plastic clay which the educational potter can alone mould into exquisite beauty and symmetry. This fair earth was fashioned into loveliness when it was yet young. *Then* was it that its foundations were dislocated, upheaved and furrowed fathoms deep by the huge throes of elemental wars; not when cycles of centuries had made it hoar with age. And thus is it with the child. Its mind is to the teacher what the molten iron is to the moulder, the material with which alone he can work. With the moulder not a moment is to be lost, for the metal will cool and the opportunity be gone. With the teacher the same urgency exists, for the child is fast ripening into manhood, and already the influences of the world are chilling the fresh impulses of its heart.

Now it is impossible to say how soon a child may really lay hold of Christ by faith, and therefore it is impossible too soon to begin the great work of spiritual education. Let slip these golden moments of childhood, let them be occupied simply in the development of the physical and intellectual energies, and the result will be, not that your child will be merely ignorant of all spiritual truth, but that through the perversity of contaminating influences it will have imbibed a spirit of fierce antagonism to all the doctrines of the Word of God.