

## The Sunday School

### BIBLE LESSON.

Adapted from Hurlbut's Notes.

#### Second Quarter.

Lesson X.—June 6, James 3: 1-13.  
SINS OF THE TONGUE.

[Read chapter 3.]

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Psalm 34, 13.

#### I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE. VERSES 1-5

1. **BE NOT MANY MASTERS**—This should read "teachers," as in the Revised Version; for he is speaking of those who were eager to speak in the meetings of the church. The Jewish synagogue often resounded with debate, and the Christian assemblies in Jerusalem were infected with the same spirit. **GREATER CONDEMNATION**—Revised Version, "heavier judgment." Meaning that those who undertake to instruct are held to a more strict accountability before God than others, because of the influence of their utterances. The apostle's purpose was to repress their too great fondness for talking rather than acting.

2. **WE OFFEND ALL**—The Revised Version is far better, "we all stumble;" that is, we are all apt to make mistakes, and especially those who set themselves up as teachers of others, and undertake to judge. It does not mean that "we offend everybody." The better we know ourselves and those we would aid the more strict we will be with ourselves and the more charitable with them. **OFFEND NOT IN WORD**—If anyone is always wise in utterances, never doing harm, never misleading others. It is often better to lose a pearl from a necklace than a word from the tongue. Once uttered it belongs to all by whom it has been heard, and may be added to or taken from according to their pleasure. **THE SAME IS A PERFECT MAN**—This is not to be taken in an absolute sense, but only that his wise use of the tongue will show that he is perfect in his self-control; for he who is able to manage his utterances can generally rule his conduct. The wisdom and grace which gives success in one difficult matter will generally insure it in others. **ABLE ALSO TO BRIDLE**—To hold in check his passions and evil tendencies, as a horse is curbed with bit and bridle. Every man is riding a steed which is liable at any moment to run away with him, in his own appetites and passions. The fluent talker is not often the most faithful doer.

3. **WE PUT BITS**—The apostle now gives two illustrations of the power of the tongue, one the use of the bit and bridle, with which the horse is guided by the rider, the other the rudder, with which the great ship is directed by the steersman. **THAT THEY MAY OBEY US**—The horse, though larger than the man, submits to his will. The bit determines his course.

4. **A VERY SMALL HELM**—With the rudder you may turn the ship at a moment's notice. Though small, it can bias and control the ship's course. Life is made up of small things. It is only by acquitting ourselves well on small occasions that we can grapple with great difficulties and make true progress.

5. **A LITTLE MEMBER**—The smallness of the tongue should not blind, but rather awaken us to the power which it exerts. **BOASTETH GREAT THINGS**—Is conscious of the power which it possesses. **HOW GREAT A MATTER**—Literally, "how great a forest." **A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH**—As when Portland, Me., was laid in ashes from a smoldering firecracker on a Fourth of July; and when Chicago was destroyed in a fire kindled by a kerosene lamp kicked over by a cow.

#### II. THE DANGER OF THE TONGUE. VERSES 6-13.

6. **THE TONGUE IS A FIRE**—Like a fire, the tongue can blast and destroy, as when an evil tongue starts a slander which may ruin a reputation. **A WORLD OF INIQUITY**—"A complete repository of all wickedness, as the world is of all things." **DIRTYLETH THE WHOLE BODY**—When the tongue talks of sin the body is very apt to commit it. The most defiling passions are kindled, vented, and cherished by this unruly member. **THE COURSE OF NATURE**—"The wheel of nature" (Revised Version), an expression variously interpreted, but in our opinion referring to "the cycle of creation," or equivalent to our phrase "setting the whole world on fire." There is no age of the world nor any condition of life but will afford examples of this. **SIN ON FIRE OF HELL**—Since it is Satan, whose home is in hell, that inspires the utterance of the evil tongue. The evil word has its source in the evil heart, which is Satan's seat.

7. **FOR EVERY KIND OF BEASTS**—This is not to be taken literally, but as a general

statement, for there are a few, but only a few, kinds of animals which have never been tamed. **SERPENTS**—As by the serpent charmers of India. **THINGS IN THE SEA**—Some kinds of fishes, even, have been tamed, and made serviceable to man.

8. **THE TONGUE CAN NO MAN TAME**—Though no man can transform the tongue, yet God can. Neither can a man control his neighbor's, nor even his own tongue. The evils produced by the tongue are more difficult to check than any suffering from beasts the most savage. **AN UNRULY EVIL**—Revised Version, "a restless evil," that which is incapable of restraint; a picture of the ever-moving tongue, which bursts through barriers to assail and ruin men. **DEADLY POISON**—An allusion to Psalm 140, 3. In the drop of venom which distills from the sting of the smallest insect, or the spikes of the nettle leaf, there is concentrated the quintessence of a poison so subtle that the microscope cannot distinguish it, and yet so virulent that it can inflame the blood, irritate the whole constitution, and convert day and night into restless misery. In James's day, as now, it would appear that there were idle men and women who went about from house to house, dropping slander as they went. When the light and trifling thing which has done the mischief had fluttered off the venom was left behind, to work and rankle, to inflame hearts, to fever human existence, and to poison human society at the fountain springs of life.

9. **THEREWITH BLESS WE**—The apostle speaks here of the human race in general. Everyone has the instrument wherewith to offer a noble, spiritual sacrifice to God. This embraces the highest exercise of the highest human powers. **GOD, EVEN THE FATHER; AND THEREWITH CURSE WE MEN**—Those who fulfill the forms of worship, and with lips praise God in the church, are not always free from abuse of their fellow-men; and sometimes the curses are given in the name of religion itself. A blow aimed at a man's reputation injures him more than a blow aimed at his body. The tongue of the calumniator is more to be dreaded than the weapon of the highwayman.

10. **OUT OF THE SAME MOUTH**—As in the fable, the same man blowing hot and cold; and in the story of Æsop, the tongue was shown to be at once the worst and the best. **OUGHT NOT SO TO BE**—The tongue, which is controlled by the Spirit of God, ought not to be ruled by the spirit of evil. "The brotherhood in Christ will assuredly themselves understand how severe reprobation such conduct deserves."

11. **SWEET WATER AND BITTER**—Such would be impossible from the same spring. The image is peculiarly appropriate to Palestine, wherein salt and bitter springs are found. Though these are sometimes found near each other, yet they do not flow at the same place. Grace can make the same mouth that once sent forth the bitter, send forth the sweet for time to come, as the Lord changed Marah's bitter water into sweet. And all of James's proposed "moral reform" are founded on grace.

12. **FIG TREE, MY BRETHREN, BEAR OLIVE BRANCHES**—No tree can bring forth fruit different from its kind. Hence the fruit of the tongue is an index of the root of the character. Hence, also, if a man speaks bitterly and afterward speaks good words, the latter must be so only seemingly; they cannot be real, except his heart has been changed.

13. **WHO IS A WISE MAN**—The suggestion of the apostle is that such should be chosen for public teachers. Self-conceit will not mark those who are most truly fitted for such a responsibility. Shallow streams bubble loudest; empty pans make most noise. When some one spoke to Sir Isaac Newton of his wonderful knowledge he re-

plied that he felt himself to be like a child gathering a few stray pebbles of truth on the shores of a boundless sea. Sir Joshua Reynolds was one of the greatest painters England has produced, but when another great artist praised one of his pictures he replied, "Alas! sir, I can only sketch." **OUT OF A GOOD CONVERSATION**—Revised Version, "by his life," which is a far more accurate rendering. In former times the word "conversation" meant life, and not merely "talk," as now. True wisdom is shown by the regulation of the conduct more than by the utterance of the lips. Words that inform and heal and do good are the marks of wisdom. **MEEKNESS OF WISDOM**—The wise man does not need to convince others by self-assertion and forwardness, but can afford to be patient. It is a great instance of wisdom prudently to bridle our own anger and patiently to bear the anger of others.

\*\*\*  
Push.

A boy walked into a London merchant's office in search of a situation. After being put through a series of questions by the merchant, he was asked: "Well, my lad, what is your motto?" "Same as yours, sir," he replied. "Same as you have on your door—push." He was engaged.—Spare Moments.

\*\*\*

Lafore Langevin, only son of Sir Hector, shot himself Wednesday morning at his father's house. He was in ill health. The young man took an active part in labor organization.

\*\*\*

### A-LABORING MAN'S LEG.

A RUNNING SORE RENDERED IT USELESS. HE COULDN'T WORK TILL HE HAD IT CURED BY KOOTENAY WHICH CONTAINS THE NEW INGREDIENT.

It goes without saying that the average working man finds it difficult to ply his daily avocation without the aid of a pair of good sound legs. To have either of his lower extremities incapacitated by disease is a serious matter. It means inability to provide for himself and those depending on him for support, to which is added the distress and suffering both mental and physical he is called upon in consequence to endure.

Mr. John Dawson, a respectable laborer living at 77 Jones St., Hamilton, Ont., states under oath that about seven years ago an inflammation appeared upon his knee, which continued to grow worse until about three years ago when it got so bad he was unable to work. He tried ointments and various remedies, but the sore continued discharging and the pains in his back were very severe. Last winter he commenced taking Ryckman's Kootenay Cure and in a comparatively short time the sore healed up, the pain disappeared from his back and he was able to resume his work. He thinks there's nothing can beat Kootenay, and he's right.

The whole secret of the cure lies in the thorough blood cleansing properties of the "new ingredient," which is the essential element of Kootenay.

It goes right through the system and eradicates all humors from the blood and in consequence there is a rapid replacing of diseased or decaying tissue by a healthy healing process. Don't be cajoled into taking any substitute for Ryckman's Kootenay Cure. If your druggist does not keep it, send \$1.50 for a bottle to the Ryckman Medicine Co., Hamilton, Ont.

Chart book sent free to any address. One bottle lasts over a month.



GREAT deal of nonsense has been written—and believed, about blood purifiers. What purifies the blood? . . .

## THE KIDNEYS PURIFY THE BLOOD AND THEY ALONE.

If diseased, however, they cannot, and the blood continually becomes more impure. Every drop of blood in the body goes through the kidneys, the sewers of the system, every three minutes, night and day, while life endures.



puts the kidneys in perfect health, and nature does the rest.

The heavy, dragged out feeling, the bilious attacks, headaches, nervous unrest, fickle appetite, all caused by poisoned blood, will disappear when the kidneys properly perform their functions.

There is no doubt about this. Thousands have so testified. The theory is right, the cure is right and health follows as a natural sequence. Be self-convinced through personal proof.

## Sea Foam Floats A Pure White Soap

Made of the Finest Grade of Vegetable Oils.

Best For Toilet and Bath

Saint Croix Soap Company,

Saint Stephen, N. B.

## S. S. LIBRARIES.

Published by The Am. Bap. Pub. Society, latest and best books, in series. It will pay Superintendents to send me for descriptive circulars and prices.

T. H. HALL,

St. John.

MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON & ALLISON,

27 and 29 King Street, St. John.

Dry Goods, Millinery, Carpets, House

Furnishings, Cloths and Tailors' Trimmings.

Wholesale and Retail.

MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON and ALLISON.

one standard American Brand : : : Established 1850

DROP US A LINE

If you wish to select a STEEL PEN suitable for your handwriting

SPENCERIAN PEN CO. N.Y.

Sample Card SIXTEEN PENS, different patterns, for every style of writing, including the VERTICAL SYSTEM, sent prepaid on receipt of TEN CENTS.

SPENCERIAN PEN CO.

450 Broome Street, New York, N. Y.

## Walter Baker & Co., Limited.

Dorchester, Mass., U. S. A.

The Oldest and Largest Manufacturers of

## PURE, HIGH GRADE Cocoas and Chocolates



on this Continent. No Chemicals are used in their manufactures. Their Breakfast Cocoa is absolutely pure, delicious, nutritious, and costs less than one cent a cup. Their Premium No. 1 Chocolate is the best plain chocolate in the market for family use. Their German Sweet Chocolate is good to eat and good to drink. It is palatable, nutritious and healthful; a great favorite with consumers should ask for and be sure that they get the genuine Walter Baker & Co.'s goods, made at Dorchester, Mass., U. S. A.

CANADIAN HOUSE, 6 Hospital St., Montreal.