

## THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

## FOR BIBLE CLASSES: A Review of Jesus' New Teachings

The Golden Text for the Quarter regards the Quarter's Lessons as essentially Jesus' interpretation of the old law, which was especially considered in Lesson VII. Let the review turn upon a summary of the principles which Jesus brought to their perfection in His teaching ministry.

1. *The law of Sabbath keeping*, Lesson II. Deal with the original legislation, the additions of traditional teaching, and Jesus' restatement of the law. The present day current ideas on this subject might be pointed out, and the tendency of recent legislation considered. The work of the Lord's Day Alliance is suggestive.

2. *The law of conquest*, Lesson III. The method of Jesus in selecting the apostles without regard to the ritualistic principles of the Old Testament is noteworthy. It marks the beginning of a new democratic method in religion. Its bearing upon missionary work is important.

3. *The law of blessedness*, Lesson IV. Set forth the emphasis of the Old Testament on material prosperity as a mark of blessedness. Further, note the importance the world has always attached to possessions as constituting blessedness. Summarize Jesus' teaching, which places blessedness in spiritual experience and yearning,—in being, as distinguished from having.

4. *Restatement of the true inwardness of poverty and riches*, Lesson V. Follow the contrast of the conditions existing in this world and the world beyond. Present the fact that poverty does not bar from the kingdom, and riches do not admit to the kingdom. Take the further fact that riches may become so fascinating as to harden the soul against the spirit of brotherhood and thereby exclude from the kingdom.

5. *The law of love*, Lesson VI. Trace the Old Testament ideals which practically limited love to the clan, tribe or nation. Also show how, in Jesus' day, all outside the Jewish state were treated as dogs. Set forth Jesus' doctrine of love in relation to enemies within the social order, and to all outside. The missionary appeal this makes should not be forgotten.

6. *The relation of the old law to the new Christian experiences*, Lesson VII. Jesus confirms the revelation in the Old Testament. He completes it by showing its spiritual principle and universal application.

7. *The law of truthfulness*, Lesson VIII. Again get the Old Testament point of view, and the place oaths filled in testimony and ordinary conversation. Trace the tendency of the age to avoid the responsibility, by modifying the form, and therefore the sacredness of the oath. Emphasize Jesus' teaching as a demand for character so transparent that a man's word will be final. Test modern ways of falsehood by this standard.

8. *The law of sincerity in religion*, Lesson IX. State the Old Testament teaching on almsgiving, prayer, fasting. Especially bring out the perversion of these by the Pharisees, and the demoralizing effect. Trace Jesus' doctrine, to the effect that the important thing is to be so sincere that God can bless.

9. *The law of the Christian life*, Lesson X. Begin with the emphasis of the Old Testament upon doing, as seen in the elaborate ritual. Trace the Pharisaic method, which ignored personal loyalty to truth. Present Jesus' teaching, to the effect that He demands such loyalty as leads to obedience to Him.

10. *The forerunner of the Master*, Lesson XI. This graphically sets forth the development of the old in the new. Study John as the representative of the old, and as ushering in the new. Study Jesus as recognizing the value of the old, and giving evidence of the finality of the new.

11. *The new attitude towards the penitent*, Lesson XII. The attitude of the Pharisee represents the spirit of the prevailing religion, in its contempt for sinners and its hopelessness regarding their salvation. Contrast Jesus as the Saviour of the worst, and His personal interest in the returning prodigal.