before he died, he would attend to the matter of the soul's welfare. *Fool* indeed he was. He might have known that he could have enjoyed his earthly possessions all the better if he had taken God into the count. Religion is the first and last necessity of an immortal soul, and adds a charm to every possession, a delight to every activity. To put off securing the heavenly treasure is to rob the soul not of a luxury, but of an eternal necessity. You starve the body without food; you starve the soul without Christ. And you intend to postpone the matter, do you? You have a long life before you in which to look after your soul's treasure, have you! To-day only is yours! This night thy soul may be required of thee!

"Delay not till to-morrow to be wise;
To-morrow's sun to thee may never rise."

FLASHLIGHTS.

1. To be rich toward God, is to be rich in every other way.

2. To be rich toward *men* is to have stores of what men call wealth—money, power, learning.

3. To be rich towards *one's self* is to have a well-stored mind, so that one can be good company for one's self.

4. To be rich towards *God* is to have in abundance what God counts wealth, that is, a noble character.

5. "Covetousness which is *idolatry*"—yet this sin is often called a mere fault, and held to be compatible with religion.

6. Rich men, aside from a very little of their wealth which they can use upon themselves and their families, are merely the administrators of that wealth for the weal or the woe of others.

7. Books are no wealth, if the owner cannot read; or rich food, if he is a dyspeptic: or a fine house, if he is sick in bed. Possession depends on life.

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

This is a Twentieth Century topic. Make clear its modern application. Show that the great tendency of the times is to centre the attention upon material things to the exclusion of spiritual things. Impress the truth of the folly of putting off securing the heavenly treasures. *Now* is the accepted time. *Now* is the day of salvation. Urge *immediate* decision for Christ. Select invitation hymns. Have three brief passages of scripture read by three members of the League, bearing on the topic (see Home Readings.) Give out the slips a week in advance, and ask the members to prepare the reading carefully. You might have two short papers or addresses presented, one on "The soul's true treasure;" the other on "The dangers of delay."

OCTOBER 14.—"PAUL, THE MISSIONARY. THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS."

2 Tim. 4: 1-8

(QUARTERLY MISSIONARY MEETING.)

For this topic we shall present an exposition from "Epworth League Bible Studies" prepared by Rev. W. E. McLennan of Chicago. As our expositions are copied into papers in the United States, it seems an example of reciprocity that we should now and again return the compliment, or enjoy the privilege, whichever it may be, although this is the first time that we have done so. The writer of these columns hopes that this imported exposition may be enjoyed by all.

This is a letter to Paul's son in the gospel, the young man Timothy. It is to be supposed that Paul wrote this letter, not so much to reveal himself as to advise his young friend. And yet Paul never wrote anything without revealing something of his own heart-life. We may, therefore, take this passage of scripture as revealing, in certain particulars, the causes of the apostle's own marvellous success in missionary endeavor.

1. *Always Ready.* "Be instant in season, out of season," writes the apostle. A little further along he says, "I am now ready to be offered." This is in line with Paul's whole ministry. He is the prepared soldier, waiting for his captain's orders. From the time of his conversion, when he is reported to have said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" until he writes this final letter, his attitude is one of constant readiness. And he was ready, not only because he believed in Jesus Christ, but because he was utterly consecrated to the will of Christ. He had no will of his own. He was ready to go into Arabia, where he spent the better part of three years, thinking about that gospel which he should preach. He was ready to leave Arabia, when God called him. He was ready to go back to his old home in Tarsus and waited several years, though we may suppose that he was eager enough to get into the thick of the fight. He was ready, when the call came, to go amongst the wild tribes of Galatia. He was ready to endure afflictions of all kinds. He was ready to go to prison, and then to Rome, and finally, at the end of his long life, he writes, "I am now ready to be offered up."

2. *Faithful.* His exhortation to Timothy to be instant in season, out of season, implies not only readiness, but faithfulness. Further along he exhorts him to endure affliction. He closes by a brief word regarding himself: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Was there ever a more faithful servant of God than the apostle Paul? Who can doubt for a moment, after reviewing his life, that he spoke the exact truth when he said, "I have kept the faith!" This does not mean, simply, that he *preached* the *pure word* of God, but that he *kept his faith* with God. His was the true consecration, for it covered his whole life. No one can say, looking at the work of Paul, that he ever for a moment flinched from duty. O, there is nothing that is so much needed by the Church to-day as downright faithfulness! The late Mr. Moody was the modern counterpart of the apostle Paul, and he was largely what he was, not because of any brilliancy of mind or remarkable power in preaching, as in his unquestioned faithfulness.

3. *Courageous.* How truly Paul could say, "I have fought a good fight!" One of the elements of faithfulness is courage. And yet it is often distinguished in our minds from that virtue. It was because Paul was so true to his first pledge to Christ that it could be said of him that he absolutely feared nothing. And his courage was not of that sort which manifests itself under excitement, and has for its motive the praise of men. Like his Lord, he went quietly, without any excitement, hardly being conscious that others were looking at him, to the service to which his Lord had called him.

4. *Hopeful.* There is always danger that those who are put into hard places, and are obliged to bear many afflictions, will develop a kind of doggedness which may degenerate into bitterness and cynicism. Persecution, while it may develop patience, has also a tendency to embitter the life. But with Paul trials served to bring him more and more into close union with Christ, and so to mellow him. At the last he could say: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." In the midst of his afflictions the apostle always saw the crown awaiting him. And his belief in Christ was so strong that he fully expected that every one of his trials would further the gospel which he preached.

5. *Zealous.* We may be sure that Paul was writing out of his own experience when he said to Timothy, "Do the work of an evangelist." In the second verse he explains what he means. It is not simply preaching, though he does exhort him to preach the Word. He also tells him to be "instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine." Further along he tells him to "watch in all things," "endure afflictions," and to "make full proof" of his ministry. Our bishops recently exhorted the Church to give a week to prayer and fasting. That was well. Now let us give a year to zealous service, after the manner that the apostle Paul worked for his Lord.

HEART THOUGHTS.

It is right to admire Paul; it is better to imitate him.

We are ready to die only when we are ready to serve.

Paul's crown was a crown of *righteousness.*

It is one thing to work; it is another thing to work cheerfully, hopefully.

Can you thank God for your trials? Paul did.

There is a wide difference between a rebuke, given "with all long-suffering," and scolding. Some of our most active young people need to learn that distinction.

What if Paul came to your church?

FAREWELL SERVICE.

On the evening of August 7th a farewell service was given to Mr. and Mrs. Prudham, missionaries to Japan, in the Methodist Church, Simcoe. An interesting and profitable programme was carried out, which consisted of music by the choir, recitations by Miss Nellis, readings and addresses.

Rev. A. J. Johnson, of Hamilton, gave an address on "Our Responsibilities as Christians in doing individual work."

Mrs. Prudham read a paper on "Heathen Claims and Christian Duties."

A paper was also given by Miss Pettit called "The Far-Reaching Tie."

During the evening a farewell address was read to Mr. and Mrs. Prudham by the chairman, Rev. D. W. Snider. Mr. Prudham replied in a very touching and able manner, following with his address on "Have Faith in God." He dwelt on three points—have faith in God, have faith in the means used, and have faith in the man sent.

The service was preceded by a short missionary prayer meeting and closed with a verse of "God be with you till we meet again."

They sailed from Vancouver on Aug. 20th, being followed by the prayers of God's people.

ANNUAL STATISTICS.

Rev. Dr. Cornish, General Conference Statistician, makes the following report of the young people's societies during the past year:

	1900.	Inc.	Dec.
1. Number of Epworth Leagues	760	49	....
" " Active Members..	18,046	895	....
" " Assoc. Members..	10,805	....	90
Total..........................	28,851	805	....
2. Number of Ep. L's of C. En..	717	....	60
" " Active Members	19,285	....	2,123
" " Assoc. Members.	11,320	....	630
Total..........................	30,605	....	2,753
3. Number of other Y. P. Socs.	70	5	....
" " Active Members	1,636	....	188
" " Assoc. Members	738	134	....
Total..........................	2,374	....	54
4. Number of Jun. Ep. Leagues	303	....	20
" " Active Members..	9,332	....	210
" " Assoc. Members..	3,758	165	....
Total..........................	13,090	....	45
5. General Summary—			
Total number of Societies	1,850	....	26
" " Active M'brs	48,299	....	1,594
" " Assoc. Mbr's	26,621	....	402
Grand total....................	74,920	....	1,996
6. Contributions—			
For local League purposes..	$22,770	$1,656	....
For Gen. Ep. League Fund	1,234	....	$32
For Missions................	19,902	2,947	....
For Superannuation Fund..	478	110	....
For Educational Fund....	119	....	13
For all other purposes.....	62,043	5,705	....
7. Number of Reading Circles.	166	5	....