

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

JANUARY 27. THE GOSPEL IN THE LIFE. JAMES 4, 7-17.

Ver. 7.—The Revised Version reads, Submit to God, but resist the devil. We should submit to God. 1. Because He is the rightful source of all authority. 2. Because he is our Creator and Father. 3. Because his rule over us is a rule of love. 4. Because obedience is the sure road to happiness. 5. Because all his dealings with us are for our good. We should resist the devil—1. Because he has no rightful authority over us. 2. Because he is our adversary. 3. Because he hates us, and would rule over us with a rod of iron. 4. Because to yield to his suggestions is the way to destruction. 5. Because all his dealings with us are to effect our ruin. If we resist he will flee from us. What are the effectual weapons of resistance? 1. Prayer. 2. Faith. 3. The Word of God. Our Saviour repelled each temptation of Satan with a passage of Scripture. Let us have our minds stored with passages of the Word of God.

8. "Draw nigh to God." 1. Where? The Jews would understand it to mean going up to the temple. We may to some extent understand it thus too. Our sanctuaries are specially set apart for us to draw nigh to God, and we should not neglect any opportunity of public worship. But we may draw nigh to God anywhere, and should especially do so in private. 2. When? Publicly, at the appointed hours of worship, and we should take care to be in time. Privately, at such convenient times as we can best fix for ourselves—always morning and evening. Specially, in times of temptation, trouble and distress. "And he will draw nigh unto you." How often the Lord's people prove it to be true, both in public worship and private devotions. Is it ever otherwise? Then there must be some fault in our manner of drawing near to God, for he is always waiting to draw near to us.

8-10. Here we have an instance of the abruptness which characterizes St. James's writing. He suddenly breaks off from the former thought and breaks out with the exhortation, "Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts." Compare this with Isaiah's words (chap. i, 16-17). We are thus taught the necessity of repentance before we can draw nigh unto God acceptably. The joy of the sinner in his carnal gratifications has to be turned into heaviness of spirit, the light, joyous laughter of the pleasure-seeker into mourning, before the mercy of God can be obtained. Only when the sinner is thoroughly humbled in the sight of the Lord will He draw near and lift him out of the depths of despair.

11-12. This section is, in other terms, a repetition of our Saviour's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. vii. 1-5). We are not to be officious in putting unfavorable judgments on the motives or conduct of other people; a great deal of readiness in doing this is an indication of an uncharitable spirit. We are not to judge hastily or rashly. Some are always ready, not only to put the worst possible construction upon doubtful actions, but even to attribute wrong motives in regard to right actions. Such are emphatically condemned by our Lord and St. James. It is not our province to judge at all, except where the position we hold may require it, and then it should be done in all charity, remembering our responsibility to the one Judge of all.

13-14. It is astonishing how, without a thought of the uncertainty of life, men form plans and seek to work out schemes. Though death frequently cuts off others in the midst of their busy life, and brings all their plans to naught, they never seem to think that it may be so with themselves. To be diligent in business is a Christian duty, but it is great folly to let that diligence blind our eyes to the fact that any hour we may be moved from the scene of action. While diligent in business, we should be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, and thus prepared for whatever may befall. St. James's description of the most graphic in the Scriptures. Moses speaks of it as being brief as "a tale that is told" (Psalm (xv. 7.) and David, as being narrow as a "hand breadth" (Psalm xxxi. 5.) In both of these conceptions fall short of that of a vapour which vanishes away. What is so evanescent as that.

15. Here we are taught a lesson of recognition. There is no need that the feeling always be formally expressed; none knew better than the apostle the danger of formalism in this very matter. Many people who have not even the fear of the Lord before their eyes, fall readily into the habit of flippantly saying as a mere matter of form, "If the Lord spare me, I will do so and so." But there is no real meaning in their words.

17. This is the great lesson of the parable of the talents. The man with the one talent did no harm with it, but he made not the slightest attempt to do any good, though he knew it was given him to improve. Sins of omission may involve us in as great condemnation and as heavy punishment as sins of commission. — Abstracted from W. M. S. S. Mag.

As we are not allowed to be idle in this world and to do nothing, so we are not allowed to be wilful and do what we please.—Matthew Henry.

GOOD MEN MAKE GOOD HORSES.

We saw a farmer the other day with a fine looking team passing our residence. One of the horses in his team had a familiar look. Halting the farmer, we said on looking closely at his horses, "Why, your off horse is the counterpart of my neighbor's—a balking horse—the one you had so much trouble with a year or two ago." "Why," said the farmer, "this is the same animal. After a few days I never had any trouble with him." "How did you break the balking creature?" we inquired. "By kindness," retorted the farmer; "the same way that I have broke lots of other horses in my lifetime that were considered unsafe, either in the saddle or harness." Well, well, well, this proves what someone said, that a horse is never vicious or intractable without a direct cause. If a horse is restive or timorous, you may be sure that these faults arise from defects in his education. He has been treated either awkwardly or brutally. Commence the education of a horse at his birth; accustom him to the presence, voice and sight of man; speak and act gently; caress him, and do not startle him; all chastisement or cruelty commences the animal and makes him wild. They are good men who make good horses. We do not remember of ever seeing an uncertain, unsafe, balking horse belonging to a man of this character. They make the horse good.

HOUSE PLANTS.

Have no more house plants than you can easily attend to. A few well-grown specimens are far more attractive than a large collection of indifferent looking subjects. I have often heard ladies speak of the large number of plants they possessed, but somehow they did not do well, because there were too many for the time afforded in caring for them. The same care bestowed upon half the number would have given fine, healthy plants, affording far more pleasure than the sickly-looking large collection. As your knowledge and success increase, then add to your stock. Do not try too many of the novelties advertised and praised highly by florists. They may be good, but half the new plants sent out are far inferior to most of the old and tried kinds which can be purchased at one-third the cost of the new ones. Unless new plants with strong, vigorous constitutions can be had, do not purchase any for the house, as they invariably do not do well.—Country Gentleman

USEFUL HINTS.

To make sauce for boiled rice, beat the yolks of three eggs into sugar enough to make it quite sweet. Add a cup of cream and the grated peel and juice of two lemons. This is a good sauce for other puddings, especially corn starch pudding.

A London scientific paper says that a shoulder of mutton contains one-third more bone than a leg, and considerably more fat and connective tissue, and that, consequently, a shoulder at 20 cents a pound is dearer than a leg at 25 cents.

A French naturalist says: "The Almighty created birds to protect the grain, vegetables, trees and fruits from the ravages of the insect tribe. For every bird that dies, millions of insects are spared from death, and millions of insects means famine."

At a gathering of twenty Springfield, Mass., physicians, the other day, not one was found in favor of the idea of keeping children in school for a whole session with no recess. The only argument in its favor was that it would save the teachers a little trouble in looking after their pupils.

A sprinkling of air-slaked lime is the best preventive of rot in potatoes. It absorbs the excess of moisture, and when the diseased part dries up decay ceases. Of course the sound tubers should be separated as quickly as possible from those in which disease has made its appearance.

If young horses were ridden or driven over rough fields instead of over smooth roads when first put in harness or under the saddle their liability to stumble would be much lessened. They would learn from the first to step high in order to avoid uneven surfaces, and this habit once acquired would prevent this danger later on roads ordinarily smooth.

Self-respecting cheerfulness will dignify the most fatiguing drudgery. There are very many ladies, in the fullest and most complete sense, who wash and iron, scrub and scour, week after week and month after month, often for inappreciative husbands, fathers, and brothers. But there is one never-wearying Watcher who sees and accepts as unto himself every duty faithfully done for his sake.

Very careful experiments made in New York last season, show that the flat culture of potatoes produces the finest tubers and the largest yields. The best results followed the Dutch method of planting, which consists in keeping the surface of the ground level, planting a single eye in a place, covering it six inches deep, and allowing but a single stock to grow in a hill, which are a foot apart each way.

The natives of Madagascar have taken cleverly to the manufacture of firearms. They have accurately imitated the French mitrailleuse, and call the German engineer, who has shown them how to make dynamite, "Father Gunpowder."

We caution our readers to beware of diphtheria, pneumonia, influenza, bronchitis, congestion of the lungs, coughs and colds at this season of the year. Get a bottle of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment and keep it ready for instant use. It may save your life. It has saved thousands.

The largest locomotive ever built is now being made in Sacramento by the Central Pacific Railroad. The engine and tender will weigh 105 tons, and will be 65 feet 5 inches long.

Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powder will positively prevent all ordinary diseases common to horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, and fowl, besides constantly improving them. Beware of the large packs; they are worthless.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the most potent blood purifier and a fountain of health and strength. Be wise in time. All baneful infections are promptly removed by this unequalled alterative.

There are in Greenland 1,154 women to every 1,000 men. This great discrepancy is attributed to the large number of casualties to men at sea. The entire population of the country in 1880 was 10,000. In 1840 it was 8,128.

Ayer's Hair Vigor improves the beauty of the hair and promotes its growth. It imparts an attractive appearance, a delightful and lasting perfume. While it stimulates the roots, cleanses the scalp, and adds elegance to luxuriance, its effects are enduring; and thus it proves itself to be the best and cheapest article for toilet use.

The largest farm in the world is probably that of Samuel Mackey of New South Wales. His land runs 700 miles in one direction and comprises 5,000,000 acres and has been nearly all reclaimed from the desert.

How to TREAT WEAK LUNGS.—Always breathe through the nose, keeping the mouth closed as much as possible. Walk and sit erect, exercise in the open air, keep the skin scrupulously clean, and take Hayard's Pectoral Balsam for coughs, colds, and bronchial troubles.

There were 1,000,000 bathers in the public baths of Boston last year, which was a falling off of about 100,000 compared with last year. The falling off is attributed to the cool weather.

Get HIM OUT OF BED.—I was confined to my bed with Rheumatism, could not move hand or foot. A clergyman called to see me and advised me to use Minard's Liniment. I did so, and in 5 days was out of bed and resumed my work as well as ever.

JAMES LANGILLE
Springfield, Annapolis Co., '82. m2 ly
Holland, in the last three centuries, has recovered from the sea at least 90,000 acres. The Lake of Harlem became terra firma between 1840 and 1852, and the Zuyder Zee is in process of transformation into 500,000 valuable acres.



Who is Perry Davis?

About forty years ago when PERRY DAVIS, of Providence, R. I., in the United States, first introduced to the world his now universally known Pain-Killer, he was a poor man without influence, a cripple and an invalid. He studied the effect of certain drugs upon the human system, and experimented in their use until he had compounded a medicine capable of curing his own maladies. When referred to health he offered the preparation to his fellow sufferers, until now there is not a country on earth which does not buy it. It is eminently a "HOUSEHOLD MEDICINE."

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