

why God gave them. But our topic is "how," not "why." If we think for a moment, we will see how children dishonor their parents, and thus by contrast we may learn how we ought to honor them. Many dishonor their parents by unthankfulness. They forget all that father and mother have done for them. Think of what it meant to you when you were a helpless little babe to have kind and loving care from your parents. Think of what they did for you when you could do nothing for yourself; how they fed and clothed you, and often at what denial of their own health they waited on you. Think of how they provided for your growing needs as you became older, and the numberless ways in which they sought after your prosperity. Can you be other than thankful for it all? Many repay all this by unkindness and neglect. And there is no surer sign of a bad heart than filial unkindness. Solomon long ago strongly advised boys and girls to act towards their parents so as to give them gladness and not heaviness of heart. To do so is right and wise. So be thankful and show it, that your parents may not grieve over your indifference to their efforts on your behalf. Many children do not honor their parents by obedience. Too many boys and girls are wise in their own conceit and know more than their parents. Hence they grow rebellious and cause their parents' hearts to ache on their account. Many a bad man has attributed his fall to first disobeying his parents. Disobedience is the first step in the downward path for many. "A wise son heareth his father's instruction." "Hear thou my son and be wise, and guide thee heart in the way." Thus spoke Solomon of old, and to-day we may well repeat his words. . . . Mark now, how our New Testament lesson tells us to obey, viz., "in the Lord." That is, in the spirit and way of the Lord. Jesus honored his parents by obeying them (Luke 2, 51), and he did so should we. How do you think Jesus obeyed? Grudgingly? Grumblingly? Slowly? We are sure not. But with cheerfulness and alacrity. And so should we. Smile, not frown. "Be a sunbeam" in your home, and make it as light and beautiful as you can, and so as long as your parents live and you can add one ray of brightness and cheer to their lives, do so, and the Lord will reward you now and forever.

Feb. 5.—What I owe to the Junior Epworth League. Psa. 34, 11.

#### HOME READINGS.

Mon., Jan. 30.—Trust in God. Isa. 26, 4.  
 Tues., Jan. 31.—Keeping his law. Ecc. 12, 13.  
 Wed., Feb. 1.—Prayer. Eph. 6, 18.  
 Thurs., Feb. 2.—Bible study. Ps. 19, 11.  
 Fri., Feb. 3.—Following Christ. Micah 4, 5.  
 Sat., Feb. 4.—Confessing him. Rom. 10, 9, 10.  
 Sun., Feb. 5.—What I owe to the Junior League. Psa. 34, 11.

There are two questions to-day for each to ask and answer: First, Has the Junior League done as much for me as it might have done? Second, Have I done as much for the League as I ought to have done? If not, why? Must follow each. What does the Junior League exist for? Does not our Sunday text tell us to "teach you the fear of the Lord"? This is a wonderfully large subject. It deals with the intellect, and gives me instruction. It deals with the affections, and helps me love Christ. It reaches the will, and shows me how to obey Christ. These three parts of us all are

influenced by the League's purpose. Our minds, that we may be wise in knowledge of God and his Word; our hearts, that we may love him ardently; and our wills, that we may obey him fully by serving him in all we do. The plan of the Junior League is to combine these three most important duties, knowing, loving, serving, Jesus Christ. Have the meetings helped in these as much as they might? Not if you have been irregular in attendance or inattentive while present. You owe it to the League to be both regular and attentive.

The second question is whether you have done all you ought for the League, by preparation, by attendance, by attention, by participating, by serving on committees, and in all other possible ways you ought to have been working for and with your superintendent and officers. Have you done what you could? I am sure many of you owe a good deal to the League for the instruction you have received, for the opportunity you have had for studying the ways and means of work, for bringing you into real union with the church, and in many ways edifying your characters. How shall we pay our debt to the League? By loving it more, by studying to make its meetings more interesting and helpful, by increasing its membership, by serving on any committee as appointed, and by praying as we work for its success. The new year is not yet far advanced. Do not let it grow older before you truly renew your pledge to "try to do whatever He would like to have you do," as a person and as a League worker. We owe the League our loving and loyal service as a place in which we may learn to know, to love, and to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### HOME READINGS.

Mon., Feb. 6.—Hatred is murder. 1 John 3, 15.  
 Tues., Feb. 7.—Keep thyself pure. 1 Tim. 5, 22.  
 Wed., Feb. 8.—Do not steal. Eph. 4, 28.  
 Thurs., Feb. 9.—A lying tongue. Prov. 12, 17-22.  
 Fri., Feb. 10.—Put away lying. Eph. 4, 25.  
 Sat., Feb. 11.—Do not covet. Ps. 119, 36.  
 Sun., Feb. 12.—Topic. Five "thou shalt not's." Ex. 20, 13-17.

In the first five commandments we are forbidden to have more than one God, idolatry is prohibited, profanity and Sabbath breaking are also forbidden, and we are commanded to love our parents and to honor them. In the remaining five, which form this week's topic study, the people were warned against murder, adultery, stealing, lying, and covetousness. These are five large subjects, and the meeting will not lack for subject-matter. The interpretation of these commandments, given by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount, should be used, e.g., murder is not only in the outward act of killing, but in the inner spirit of hate. Hence not what we realize, but what we are to be examined, but how we feel towards them. Jesus taught that it is not enough to keep from doing bodily harm to others, but that we must love them in our hearts. So we will not want to injure them. Love is the one great antidote to all harm-doing. Love is the one great preventive to any injury to others. "Let brotherly love continue."

The seventh commandment calls for personal purity and domestic unity. This is gained only by love for one another also. A loveless home has wrecked many a life. The children can contribute much by loving ministry to make father and mother happy. . . . The Saviour warned against all impurity of thought and unholy desire in his com-

ment on this commandment. Think good thoughts and you will not desire to do evil deeds, is the vital lesson for the young here. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." The eighth commandment is or rather "mor" articles is really as bad as stealing money. To take as ours what is another's is theft, and before God no such act is small, for the motive is only wrong, and in his sight motive is all-important. . . . The ninth commandment (false witness) forbids lying. Truth is one of the most beautiful virtues. Not only truth on the lips in speech, but "the law of truth" in the heart. Again, remember that "God desireth truth in the inward parts." Not only must we not tell a lie about another, but we must not tell it because we have no desire or disposition to. We must "love one another," and so we will never even feel like saying untruthful or unkind things of another. Truth in speech, in motion, in act, in desire, is one of the most attractive and precious graces and makes grand and lovely characters. To be always true we must walk in him who is "the truth."

The tenth commandment is against covetousness. Our Lord gave a very pointed warning against it (Luke 12, 15-21). Our young people are to be warned against "things" for their own sake. A man's life is greater than "things." It does not consist of "things," Jesus said. And yet "things" are the source and object of much unwholesome desire by old and young. "Things" are a temporary character is permanent. Hence Jesus taught that to be is greater than to get or to have. Do not strive over the temporary and forget the eternal riches, was his advice. Children are inclined to covet. "I wish I had —" is often heard. Let them be taught better and higher thoughts, and they will learn to "be content with such things as they have." (Make it clear in this concluding study in the Ten Commandments that they are still binding upon us. We are warned against the vices named, and therefore advised to practice the corresponding virtues, and to do so right in the spirit of him who came to complete the commandments, we must remember that "love is the fulfilling of the law.")

#### Hints for Junior Workers

"The careful preparation of the lesson by the superintendents or an assistant calls for a large amount of study, which may take time that it would seem might be properly devoted to other pursuits. But the greater the amount of time given to this work, the larger will be the results, and the reward will be so overpowering that the teacher will be stimulated to even more earnest efforts."

"No one has, or ought to have, so much influence over the child as his own father and mother. No one commands so much of his respect and confidence. No one comes so near to him, and no one is so vitally responsible for his right training. The church worker laboring for the religious training of the children will have tenfold power over him, if the homes are in earnest sympathy and co-operation with him. The greater the number of such homes in a church, the greater will be its power for far-reaching helpfulness."