

Lesson XII.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

June 22, 1902

Rom. 13 : 8-14—Memory Verses, 12-14.

Golden Text—Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.—Rom. 13 : 12.



8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another : for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet ; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour : therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep : for now *is* our salvation nearer *than* when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand : let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day ; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,

and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The apostle Paul travelled into Europe as far as Rome, where he also preached the gospel of Jesus.

The Romans had always been great soldiers and had conquered many nations in battle. But when they had made themselves the strongest rulers in the world they were satisfied, and grew lazy and indolent, finding their chief pleasure in eating and drinking. But Paul was anxious that the Roman Christians should show a good example to their heathen neighbors, many of whom were wholly given up to pleasure and enjoyment.

So the apostle wrote a long epistle or letter to the Romans to warn and advise them about certain things. In this letter he tells the new believers how to act toward their companions, whether they be believers or heathen.

"First of all," says Paul "be honest—owe no man anything. But this is not enough ; you must also keep the laws, and so help your neighbor to keep them. For this reason, you must not steal from your neighbor.

You must not covet his things, nor kill him. Neither must you tell what is not true about him. Even this is not all. A true follower of Jesus must do one thing more—he must love his neighbor as himself. Now," said Paul, "the man that truly loves his neighbor will find no trouble in keeping these rules. He will be as anxious for other people's welfare as his own."

Two of the sins that Paul in this letter wrote strongly against, were drunkenness and over-eating. Many of the heathen Romans spent whole days and nights in this way. "You are wiser now than when you first heard of Christ," says Paul to the Christians, "but do not forget that life is passing quickly. This is no time for sleeping and evil pleasures. The only safe plan is to give up these works of darkness altogether. Come out into the broad light of day and live soberly and decently without envying and quarreling and God will bless you."

For fear some of the Christians might suppose that Paul wanted them to have a hard