

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1902.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson II. July 13. Exodus 20: 1-11.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.—DUTIES TO GOD.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.—Luke 10: 27.

EXPLANATORY.

1. THE AUTHORITY FOR THE LAW.—EX 20: 1, 2. 1. AND GOD SPOKE ALL THESE WORDS. This supreme law is issued by the supreme authority. The divine authorship of the commandments is proved by their astonishing nullities to anything man has ever written. There is nothing comparable to them in all the literature of Egypt, from which Moses and his people had come. Moody tells about an infidel who was converted by perceiving how impossible it is that Moses could have originated this unparalleled and majestic code. For more than three thousand years it has been the great cornerstone of the world's law, and it is as true now as it was in the days of Moses.

2. I AM THE LORD THY GOD WHICH HAVE BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE. God resists his authority on his benefits. "How do you know that there is a God?" some one asked an Arab. He answered, "How do I know whether a man, or a camel passed my tent last night?" Everywhere we can see the footprints of a loving Father. Because God had led the Israelites thus far, he had the right to prescribe laws for their future.

II. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT. THE DUTY OF SUPREME SERVICE TO GOD.—VS. 3. What is Forbidden? 3. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME. That is, "in addition to me, in my presence." This first commandment does not directly forbid image-worship, which is reserved for express mention in the second commandment; but if it is followed out, it covers the ground of all four commandments relating to God. It requires wholehearted service of God, and especially the sincere worship which is at the basis of all service. It forbids heathen idols, idols of wealth or ambition or vanity or fashion, as well as idols made of wood and stone.

III. THE DUTY OF PURE WORSHIP.—VS. 4. What is Forbidden? 4. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRaven IMAGE. This does not forbid painting and sculpture, for the Hebrews themselves were commanded to place golden cherubim in the very holy of holies.

5. THOU SHALT NOT . . . SERVE THEM. That is what is forbidden—worship of God under any material image. When the Israelites, soon after this, made the golden calf, they broke the second commandment. Indeed, though they called the calf a symbol of the one God, they had really broken the first commandment in their hearts, or they would never have set up the idol.

Why is image-worship forbidden? First reason. FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD. He is careful of his honor, just as a father requires strict, prompt, and respectful obedience, and wants his children to love him more than they love a servant or a neighbor. It is for the children's good that the father is jealous in this way. "Jealousy," says Chadwick, "is the shadow thrown where the sunshine of

love is intercepted." Second reason. VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN. Tendencies to idolatry and image-worship are inherited; they lie heavily upon the third and fourth generation. They can be conquered (Ezek. 18: 20), but they are a fearful legacy to leave to one's children. Third reason. Moreover, a life free from idolatry, serving God fully, transmits its tendency also, as is shown in the following verse.

6. AND SHOWING MERCY UNTO THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME. The marginal reading of the revision is "a thousand generations," which follows the parallel passage in Deut. 7: 9. Punishment follows the evil for only four or five generations, but mercy follows the good for thousands of generations, so much easier is it for God to bless than to curse. The doctrine of heredity, therefore, becomes a strong incentive to a God-fearing life. AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. It is not enough to love God; commandment-keeping must be added. A little girl I know is very likely to say, after a fit of naughtiness followed by punishment and weeping, "I love you, Mamma," to which the wise mother replies, with a kiss, "Then why don't you mind me?"

IV. THE DUTY OF REVERENCE.—VS. 7. What is Forbidden? 7. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN. This does not mean that we are never to use God's name. The Jews, perhaps, went to an extreme in this regard. God's covenant name was pronounced among them only once a year, when the high priest went into the holy of holies on the day of atonement. "As it is not a temple but a desert which no foot ever treads, so the sacred name is not honored by being unspoken, but by being spoken aright."

Why is Profanity Forbidden? (1) FOR THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTYLESS THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN. Christ declared that for every "idle word" men are to give an account in the day of judgment. How much more for the words that trifle with the name that is above every name! (2) This punishment begins at once, in this life. The profane man loses the respect of all good men, and he soon loses his own respect for sacred things. No one can speak lightly of God without coming to think lightly of him. (3) Swearing has been called "the most gratuitous of sins." There is not even the semblance of any advantage in it. (4) Swearing is a peculiarly low disgusting sin. An old writer said that when the accusing angel, who records men's words, flies up to heaven with an oath, he blushes as he hands it in.

V. THE DUTY OF CONSERVING TIME.—VS. 8, 11. What is commanded? 8. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY. Remember implies that the Sabbath already existed. TO KEEP IT HOLY. Possibly we ask too much about what "not" to do on the Sabbath. Here is a great thing to "do" worship. The Sabbath is to be kept holy by church attendance, Bible study, and private prayer and meditation.

9. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOR. This is part of the commandment. You must work before you can rest, and you must get your work out of the way before you can worship. AND DO ALL THY WORK. You are to work on Sunday, too, but not at "thy work." It is to be God's work, work for others and for eternity.

10. BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS A SABBATH UNTO THE LORD THY GOD. "Unto God?" Did not Christ say the Sabbath was made for man? Both statements are true, just as the Saturday half holiday in the shops is for the advantage of employer and employee alike. IN IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK. "Ah, but," people say, "this letter-writing, this studying, this household task is not work for me. I enjoy it; it rests me." Then consider whether it is not commonly called work, and whether your example would not lead others to do it for whom it would be toll.

"A Christian man was once urged by his employer to work on Sunday. 'Does not your Bible say that if your ass falls into a pit on the Sabbath, you may pull him out?' 'Yes,' replied the other; 'but if the ass had the habit of falling into the same pit every Sabbath, I would either fill up the pit or sell the ass.'"

THOU, NOR THY SON, etc. We are responsible for the Sabbath-keeping of others, so far as we can influence them. "We are our brother's keeper," and in a way, his Sabbath-keeper.

11. FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH . . . AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY. We are living in the Sabbath of the world. God is now sustaining nature, but not creating. Science has never discovered the springing into existence of a new chemical element, or form of life. (2) Because God blesses the Sabbath-keeper. WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSETH THE SABBATH DAY, AND HALLOWED IT. The Sabbath blessings are nearness to God, love to men, peace of

soul, health of body, vigor for the coming week. They are the greatest blessings in the world, and just what the world most needs.

THE SWAN AND THE CRANE.

There is an old legend of a swan and a crane. A beautiful swan alighted by the banks of the water in which a crane was wading about seeking snails. For a few moments the crane viewed the swan in stupid wonder and then inquired:

"Where do you come from?" "I come from heaven!" replied the swan.

"And where is heaven?" asked the crane.

"Heaven!" said the swan, "Heaven! have you never heard of heaven?" And the beautiful bird went on to describe the grandeur of the Eternal City. She told of the streets of gold, and the gates and walls made of precious stones; of the River of Life, pure as crystal, upon whose banks is the tree whose leaves shall be for the healing of all nations. In eloquent terms the swan sought to describe the hosts who live in the other world, but without arousing the slightest interest on the part of the crane.

Finally the crane asked: "Are there any snails there?"

"Snails!" repeated the swan; "no! Of course there are not."

"Then," said the crane as it continued its search along the slimy banks of the pools, "you can have your heaven. I want snails!"

How many a young person to whom God has granted the advantages of a Christian home, has turned his back upon it and searched for snails? How many a man will sacrifice his wife, his family, his all, for the snails of sin? How many a girl has deliberately turned from the love of parents and home to learn too late that heaven has been forfeited for snails!—Moody.

The greatest storm that has visited Mitchell, South Dakota, for years swept over the place on Friday. Seven inches of water fell during the hour.

MONTHS OF PAIN

CAUSED BY A TUMOR OF THE BREAST.

Mrs. J. M. Timbers, of Hawkesbury, Tells How She Obtained Relief After Doctors Had Failed.

From the Post, Hawkesbury, Ont.

Mrs. James M. Timbers is well known to nearly everybody in Hawkesbury, Vankleek Hill and surrounding country. She was born in Vankleek Hill, but since her marriage, twelve years ago, has lived in Hawkesbury, and is greatly esteemed by all who know her. Mrs. Timbers is one of the many thousands who have proved the great value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and gives her experience for the benefit of other sufferers. She says:—"While nursing my first child I suffered from a nursing tumor under the left breast. The first symptom was a sharp pain followed by growth, which gradually increased in size until it became as large as an egg. It was exceedingly painful and caused me great suffering. I consulted a doctor, who gave me medicine, but it did me no good. Then I consulted another doctor, who said I would have to undergo an operation. In the meantime, however, the tumor broke, but would not heal, and as a result I was feeling very much run down. At this time my attention was directed to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I began using these. I soon felt that they were giving me increased strength, and after using a few boxes, the tumor disappeared, and I was as well as ever I had been. My health has since been good, and I cannot speak too highly of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

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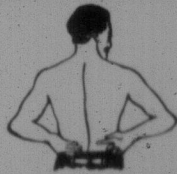


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