

For teaching material, *Beginners' Course*, see pages 136, 137; and for the Department of Scripture in the *General Assembly's Teacher Training Course*, see pages 138-140. For *An Order of Service*, page 141.

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The importance of teacher training in connection with Sabbath School work is receiving larger recognition every day. In Vancouver, Mr. William Burns, Principal of the Normal School, is to conduct the normal classes for the Presbyterian Sabbath Schools in that city, the studies adopted being those of the General Assembly's Teacher Training Course. Rev. J. D. McGillivray, one of our ministers, has been appointed Superintendent of Normal Training in one of the districts of the Pictou County Auxiliary of the Nova Scotia Provincial S.S. Association.

THE CHANGED LIFE

Ephesians 2 : 1-10

By *Rev. J. A. Clark, B.A.*

Paul could not preach a dull sermon nor write a dull epistle, because of his habit of appealing to the actual experience of those he addressed. His words were "weighty and strong," because they dealt with life as his hearers actually found it. What an example he is to ministers and Sabbath School teachers in this! The truth we seek to teach can have no awakening power until we translate it into the terms of the daily experiences of those before us.

The first appeal is to our memory of what we were before we became His. The church at Ephesus had in it both Jews and Gentiles. Their pre-Christian circumstances were not alike. The one had worshipped Diana. The other had worshipped Jehovah. But in both cases there had been the life of failure, the distressing sense of helplessness under the dominion of the world and the

flesh and the evil one. How true this was, each one knew in the memory of his own past. Our circumstances are unlike those of Ephesian, Jew or Gentile, but our experience has been the same, the apostle's words have power to recall our "dead past," its self-indulgence, its frivolity, its weariness.

These words that awaken dark memories are not written, however, for their own sake. The dark night is recalled; but it is for the sake of realizing, more fully, the glory of the day, "Ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord." There are few, if any, passages, even in scripture, where the glory of that day is more vividly and suggestively presented than here. The apostle who tells us in his Philippian letter of his longing and effort to gain Christ and attain unto the resurrection, is here conscious of himself and his fellow-believers as "raised up together with Christ", and made to sit with Him "in the heavenly places."

It was a time of strong faith and high hope with Paul. Nor is the secret of this consciousness of blessedness and power far to seek. The eye of the soul is toward God Himself. "It is all from God," is his speech, the God who is rich in mercy, who loves us with a great love, who plans to unfold to us the wealth of His grace in succeeding ages, who makes us His new creation and gives us our place and work in His kingdom.

Here is an experience of God and His grace in Christ that we must all covet. Have we not known moments that approached it, even though at a great distance? Are not