

in South Africa, where Canadian boys rendered such service to the Empire, there was much hardship endured. One day, when the men were about to begin a long march, one of them offered a bottle of liquor to his nearest mate, and said, "Here, drink; you will need it." "No, thanks", said the other; "I am a teetotaler." "Oh, you are in the army now, and you require the stimulant this will afford you", replied the man with the bottle. Taking out a pocket New Testament, the tempted soldier said, "Here is my stimulant, —the written Word of God; I want no other." That ended the dialogue on that subject. The march went on and the Christian Canadian soldier was stronger and fresher at the end of the long, hot day than the men who used the bottle stimulant.

*Him only shalt thou serve*, v. 10. An Eastern teacher gave one of his pupils a cup filled to the brim with water, and bade him carry it through the crowded market-place and back without spilling a drop. The pupil went and with every bit of attention centred upon his task. He returned having successfully accomplished it. Then the teacher said, "What did you see?" "Nothing but the cup", said the pupil. "How can that be?"

said the teacher. "I sent you at that hour because I knew the Sultan and all his officers would pass through the market-place, and they did." "That may be, but I saw them not at all, because I had your order to obey." Then the pupil saw that his teacher intended to impress upon his mind, that, if his whole soul be bent on serving God, the allurements of the world will have no power over him.

*Angels came and ministered unto him*, v. 11. There is a splendid passage in Milton's, *Paradise Lost*, describing the entrance of Lucifer, the evil one, into the Garden of Eden. When night falls upon the earth, and sleep wraps all in its kind folds, Lucifer assumes the form of a toad, and coming close to the sleeping Eve, he tries to pour evil thoughts into her ear. "Illusions as he list, phantoms and dreams", are imparted to disturb and destroy her rest. But God's angels are on guard, and one of them named Ithuriel sees the toad and approaches it. With his wonderful spear Ithuriel touches the transformed tempter, and at the touch "so started up in his own shape the fiend." It will be the same with us if we are God's children. He will send His angels to unmask and drive away the agents of the evil one that torment and tempt us.

### THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material or the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

A word concerning the importance of Jesus' baptism will introduce this Lesson. Bring out that it was His ordination to His public ministry. All the Evangelists report it. Show how important the time was. It was when John was announcing the coming of the Messiah, and when Jesus was 30 years old (Luke 3:23), ready for His life's work.

1. *The baptism of Jesus*, Mark 1:9-11. Let the class discussion proceed along three lines: (a) The place, Jordan. The precise spot is unknown, as there was no emphasis placed on the ceremonial side. (b) The accompanying descent of the Holy Spirit. Bring out the force of the expression, "rent asunder" (Rev. Ver.). See Acts 14:4,

John 21:11 and Matt. 27:51. Compare the case of Stephen, Acts 7:56, and of Peter, Acts 10:11. Bring out the force of the symbol,—a dove, expressive of gentleness, innocence and tenderness. Point out that descended "upon him", a permanent possession. See John 1:33; 3:34. (c) The divine attestation of Sonship. Get the meaning of verse 11 as a testimony to Jesus, bringing assurance of His relation to God. Advanced classes will desire to press the question of the relation of the baptism of Jesus to His personal life. As He was sinless, it was not for repentance, but as a separation from purely worldly relations to His Messianic work. Press home the necessity of every one having a baptism of the Holy Spirit for service.

2. *The temptation*, Matt. 4:1-11. Dwell on the fact that it was the Spirit who was