

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1903.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson XII. September 20. Abstinence from Evil.—1 Peter 4: 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.—Eph. 5: 18.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE NOBLE AND BLESSED LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST.—Vs. 1, 2. 1. FORASMUCH THEN. Referring back to 1 Peter 3: 18, where it is stated that Christ suffered for the unrighteous that he might bring us to God. AS CHRIST HATH SUFFERED . . . IN THE FLESH. Since he has thus opened the way of salvation, of forgiveness and a new heart and new life; and since he has set you the example of doing right at any cost, even at the cost of crucifixion. ARM YOURSELVES. As your defense against the great enemy of yourselves and of the world. LIKEWISE WITH THE SAME MIND. This is your panoply, your armor, the same mind, the same spirit and purpose, the same state of mind which led Christ to die for the sins of men; viz., the hatred of sin and the love of righteousness; the love of his Father and of good, and the desire that all the world should live the heavenly life, like his own resurrection life. HE THAT HATH SUFFERED IN THE FLESH. As the symbol and centre of the worldly life. He has suffered in crucifying and subduing ungodly lusts, desires, motives, and every evil passion of human nature. HATH CEASED FROM SIN. Just as Christ after he had suffered death rose from the dead into life immortal in the heavens.

2. NO LONGER . . . IN THE FLESH TO THE LUSTS OF MEN. The sinful desires of human nature which men naturally give indulgence to. The lusts of men here defines what is meant by the flesh. But to the will of God, which is that he should be holy "as it is in heaven. Just as Christ having died, as to the body, on the cross, was raised again to a new and glorious life, so those who crucify the passions and lusts have done it that they too may live in their own glorious life, as much beyond their former life as the resurrection, life of glory is beyond the natural life of the body.

II. THE SINFUL LIFE TO BE REPUDIATED AND FORSAKEN.—Vs. 3, 4. 3. THE TIME PAST OF OUR LIFE MAY SERVE US. We have had an abundant experience of the evil life; we know its cup of pleasure with the dregs of misery; we have felt its scorpion stings, its hollowness as the apples of Sodom. We have already wasted too much of our lives in these things. It is high time to make a change. HAVE WROUGHT THE WILL (the desire, the inclination) OF THE GENTILES, the idolaters. The description of their sins in this verse and in the first chapter of Romans is borne out by secular writers of that age. See Farrar's From Darkness to Dawn, and Uhlhorn's Conflict of Christianity with Heathenism. Of these things they had had enough and more. LASCIVIOUSNESS, in plural because of its many forms and acts,

FOUND OUT.

What a Mother Found Out About Food.

A mother found out what a change of food can do for a whole family, from the nursing baby to the adults, in this way: "Twice during the summer months my baby was taken violently ill and was very slow getting over the attacks. His former diet of cow's milk alone ceased to agree with him so I combined it with an expensive infant's food but he soon became very much constipated.

"Then I shifted to Grape-Nuts food and found that this was just what baby needed adding it to his milk after softening it in hot water. Baby has thrived upon this food and is now healthy and strong and chubby as any mother could ask which you know is saying a great deal.

"It did not take me long to find out that a saucer of Grape-Nuts and cream is just what is needed by the tired nervous mother and I have also proved to my satisfaction that when the children are old enough to chew Grape-Nuts it is far better for them than oatmeal or any other mushy food for it develops their teeth and helps their digestion and their minds seem brighter and more active too.

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applied to the darker forms of evil (Mark 7: 22; Rom. 13: 13; 2 Pet. 2: 7, 18. LISTS. "The inner principles of licentiousness." EXCESS OF WINE. Boiling over, overflowing with wine; referring to the excessive, insatiable desire for strong drink. REVELLINGS. The word is originally derived from the Greek word for village, and meant at first village merry makings, which degenerated into parties of revelers "parading the streets with torches, singing, dancing, and all kinds of frolics." On idolatrous festivals, "the rites grew furious and ecstatic." BANQUETINGS. Drinking bouts, carousals. ABOMINABLE IDOLATRIES. The lusts and abominations which were connected with idolatry and which made it often so attractive to the natural man.

4. WHEREIN THEY THINK IT STRANGE. "It is not hard, even from our own experience, to picture to ourselves the surprise of the heathen when he found his friend refusing an invitation to a banquet, shrinking from contact with the prostitutes of Greek cities, or there, passing the wine-cup untasted." EXCESS. OF RIOT. "It may mean either (1) the state in which a man no longer thinks of saving anything, health, money, character, in the indulgence of his passions, or (2) one in which there is no longer any hope of his being saved himself from utter ruin."

III. THE FORCES BY WHICH THE NEW LIFE CAN OVERCOME THE EVIL LIFE.—Vs. 5-11. There are two directions in which we need every power, every influence, every motive by which evil can be overcome.

1. THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. 5. WHO SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT. No one can sin with impunity. A judgment day hangs evermore over the head of every sinner like the sword of Damocles. THE QUICK are the living. This judgment came upon the world in Noah's time. It came upon the Jewish nation in two, or three years after this Epistle was written. There is still a judgment to come (Matt. 25). This fact is a powerful incentive to the forsaking of sin. There are those whom no other motive will reach till they have felt something of this.

2. THE GOSPEL. 6. FOR THIS CAUSE WAS THE GOSPEL PREACHED. The good news of the Saviour, of forgiveness, of the love of God, of a holy heaven. TO THEM THAT ARE DEAD. Past generations. THAT THEY MIGHT BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO MEN. Punished, chastened, as other men, in the body by sickness, pain, and death, and in temporal things. And the purpose of all this was that they might LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD IN THE SPIRIT. It was not to destroy them, but to save them to a high, noble, spiritual life. The gospel is the hope and the power by which we and others may gain the victory over every sinful appetite.

3. THE NEARNESS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 7. THE END OF ALL THINGS IS AT HAND. Compare "our Lord's words, 'then shall the end be' (Matt. 24: 6-14). The times in which the disciples lived were to them the 'last times' (1 Tim. 4: 1; 1 John 2: 18). They looked for the coming of the Lord as not far off (Rom. 13: 12; Jas. 5: 8). To them personally, the end of all things in the midst of which they were living and working was not far off, and the opportunity would soon pass away. All this was a powerful motive for turning away from sin. It was now or never. Besides, they could then have part in the new kingdom that was to rule the world. They would have the help the new state of things would bring. They would be where the outward influences would be more favorable to virtue, the atmosphere would be heavenly.

4. SELF-CONTROL. BE YE THEREFORE SOBER, of sound mind, of good and wise judgment, be temperate. Aristotle uses this word to express the harmony of the affections and desires with reason.

5. WATCHFULNESS. AND WATCH. Not the usual word for "watch," but be temperate, collected in spirit, circumspect, especially referring to abstinence from wine and strong drink, for strong drink produces exactly the opposite frame of mind, and puts one off his guard, distorting his judgment.

6. PRAYER. Taking hold of the power of God. No one is strong enough to gain the victory without the help of God, and without the consciousness of his presence and power, which comes through prayer.

7. LOVE. 8. HAVE FERVENT. The word implies "intense strain," "on the rack," "ceaseless." CHARITY, love. The deepest, noblest, most powerful, most heavenly thing in man, and the most difficult to obtain. But even our imperfect love is our most effective weapon for overcoming the evils of the world both in ourselves and in others. Hence, "love your enemies," and the command to "overcome evil with good. FOR CHARITY (love) SHALL COVER THE MULTITUDE OF SINS. Bury them out of sight, slay them, and bury them.

8. HOSPITALITY. 9. USE HOSPITALITY . . . WITHOUT GRUDGING OR MURMURING. There are many students and clerks and homeless ones coming into our cities and towns, and few powers within our reach are of greater value for good than the extension of the hospitality of our Christian homes to these homeless and lonely persons. Here is a power which nearly all can use.

10. AS EVERY MAN HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT. Whatever of home, or religion, or knowledge we have received from God, be it great or small, be it a fortune or only a cup of cold water, we are to use it in ministering to others. For we are only STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD. Every man's gift is given to profit withal (1 Cor. 12: 7), the Greek implying that the gift is to be shared with others.

Doing all for Christ's sake. 11. IF ANY MAN SPEAK . . . AS THE ORACLES OF GOD, in accordance with God's revealed will, and therefore his words will be spoken with the authority of God behind them. They are not guesses, inferences, theories, but truths. IF ANY MAN MINISTER. Serve others. WHICH GOD GIVETH (choicely), from which our word "chorus." The primary meaning is that of defraying the expenses of a chorus in the representation of the Greek tragedies. This was very expensive and could be done only by the very wealthy. Hence the verb came to have the meaning of very large and liberal giving, out of great wealth, and thus to express God's bountiful giving to his children. THAT GOD . . . MAY BE GLORIFIED by the manifestation of his love and power in the disciples of Jesus Christ. Every man saved from an evil life, every advance in goodness, being the work of God, glorifies God.

Temperance application. The forces are the ones by which those that have begun to walk in the ways of intemperance can overcome their appetite. They are the powers by which the temperance work can be carried on to success.

Had to Leave School.

THE PITABLE STORY OF A YOUNG GIRL.

Every Mother of a Growing Girl will be Interested in the Story as Told by the Young Lady.

Miss Laura Dumontier is the daughter of a well-to-do farmer in St. Cuthbert, Quebec. The circumstances under which she was forced to discontinue her studies and leave school will be of interest to all mothers of growing girls, and Miss Dumontier consents to make them public for the benefit her experience may be to others. She says: "At the age of twelve I was sent to a convent school in this parish. At that time I was as healthy as any girl of my age. At the end of a couple of years, however, I felt my strength leaving me. My appetite grew poor, and I suffered from severe headaches. I nevertheless continued my studies until October, 1901, when I became very ill and was forced to leave school. The headaches that had bothered me became almost constant. I suffered from pains in my back and stomach and the least exertion would leave me almost breathless. A doctor was called in and he said I was suffering from anaemia, and was in a very dangerous condition. He treated me until February without the least beneficial result. Then another doctor was called, but no better results followed his treatment. My parents were now thoroughly alarmed and two other doctors from St. Barthelemy were called in, and after consultation their verdict was that my trouble had reached an incurable stage. I was greatly disheartened and did not expect to live long when one day one of my friends asked me why I did not try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I had lost confidence in all medicines, but was willing to try anything that might help me, and my father got me a supply of the pills. When I had used a couple of boxes it was very plain that the pills were doing me good, and after I had taken them a couple of months I was once more enjoying the blessing of good health. I feel that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have saved my life and I gladly give my experience in the hope that it may be of benefit to some other young girls.

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