

TEACHING HINTS

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

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

This Lesson is part of a series of practical exhortations which follow from the earlier doctrinal part of the Epistle (see Exposition). There are two main thoughts:

1. Love is the basal principle of the Christian life, vs. 10-14. (a) It is an obligation upon every soul,—not a matter of choice, but inherent in the very nature of the Christian life, to be expressed socially, in practical kindness. (b) Love renders injury to another impossible. It cannot work ill to one's neighbor, but only good.

2. This life of love is enforced by reference to the second coming of Christ, the final event in the history of salvation on earth. The apostles viewed His coming as drawing near, and felt the great uplift and hope which it inspired. (See also Exposition.) Note the attitude of a life expecting Christ's return: (a) There should be no indifference or idleness. (b) All deeds of darkness should be put away. Several social vices are especially named and among these, drunkenness. (c) The Christian should be clothed with Jesus Christ (see Exposition) as the secret of personal growth in holiness. The lusts of the old life are expelled by the graces of the new. It is not enough to prohibit the sins of the flesh. There must be a positive life of joy, and this is found in Jesus.

The teacher should unfold this truth in its application to intemperance. Drunkenness is here viewed as hindering the highest spiritual experiences. Leaving out of view, in the meantime, other aspects of the problem, the teacher should consider the relation of salvation or sanctification to intemperance. The final solution of intemperance for the individual is personal salvation. This has been tested in the experience of many confirmed drunkards, and has been found adequate to all needs. We are in danger of forgetting this, and many are seeking deliverance in other ways. The church must never weaken in her presentation of full salvation in Jesus.

In all departments of Christian work the same principle is equally valid. The old life must be replaced by a better. There must be a substitute for the saloon, where men can enjoy themselves in a social way, apart from the evil surroundings of the bar-room.

In the training of young people, nothing is more helpful than to enlist them in active Christian work. There is room and work for all. Life should be so consecrated, that there will be no opportunity for the lower passions to assert their influence.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Take the \$76,000,000 spent annually in Canada for strong drink, and have the class figure out how many five cent loaves of bread this would buy. Bring a loaf to the class, and a map of Canada. Measure the loaf, and have the class figure out how far the loaves bought with liquor money would stretch. They will be astounded. "Wherefore this waste?" will be a telling question: how many poor, helpless people must go hungry, because of it! He who wastes his money in strong drink, makes life harder to others, as well as to himself. (From a suggestion by Peloubet.)

Tell the story of the eleven Samoan chiefs to whom Robert Louis Stevenson sent presents and showed other kindnesses when they were in prison, and who on their release built a fine wide road through the bush to his house, and called it The Road of the Loving Heart. Here was love on the part both of the white man and the brown men: practical love, which did something to help the other man.

Ask the lawyer's question (Luke 10: 29), "Who is my neighbor?", and lead the scholars to the Lord Jesus' wonderful answer, and the parable of The Good Samaritan (verses following).

Spring this question upon the class, "Where does the Bible say to keep out of debt?" And this one, "Where does the Bible say to stay in debt?" Probably v. 8 will be given as the reply to both questions.

Then go on to the reason why the second sort of debt is our duty. Again, v. 8 in its last clause. Explain what the "law" is: