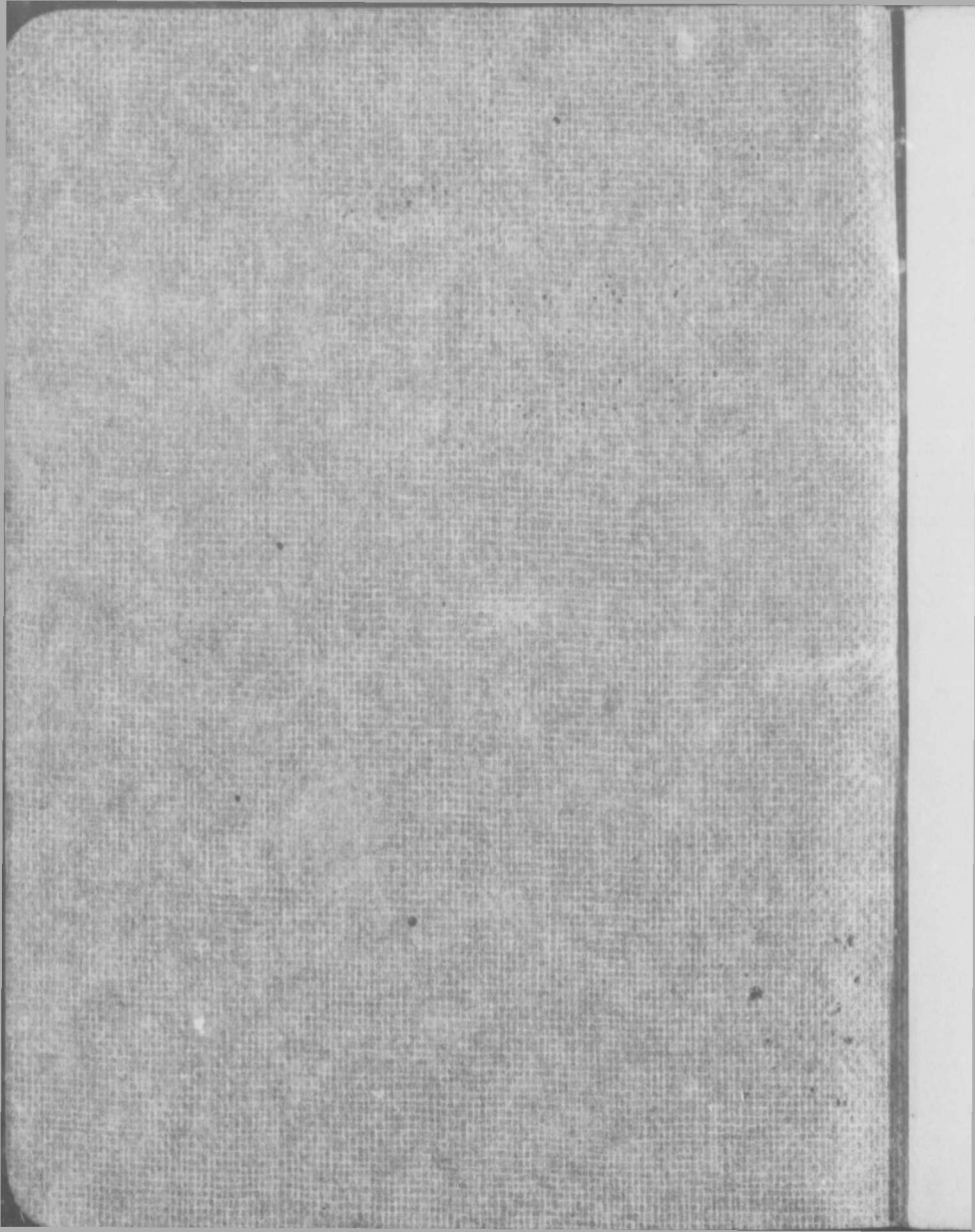


*Think on  
These  
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*Jos. Edmund Jones*



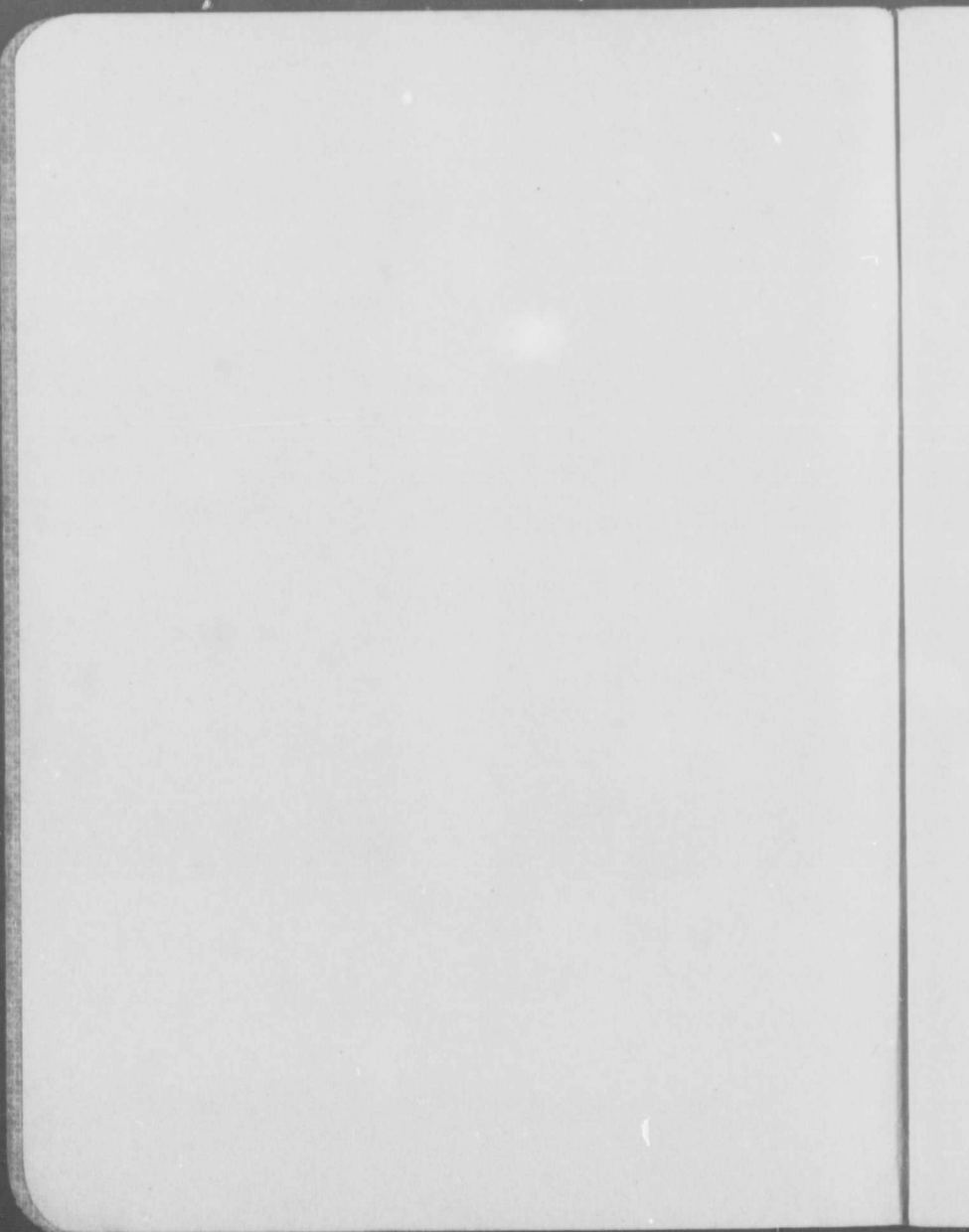
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Thomas Millman

— July, 1926. —

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
GENERAL SYNOD, ARCHIVES





# Think on These Things

BEING

Twelve outlines for discussions by  
groups of boys and young men

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BY

*Jas. Edmund Jones, B.A.*

With the approval and endorsement of The Canadian  
National Advisory Committee for Co-operation  
in Boys' Work

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**C.S.E.T. SUPPLY DEPOT**

120 Bay St., TORONTO

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THE LIFE OF THOMAS JONES

BY

JAS. EDMUND JONES, B.A.

TORONTO

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THE LIFE OF THOMAS JONES

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WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER  
THINGS ARE HONORABLE, WHATSOEVER THINGS  
ARE JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE,  
WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY, WHATSOEVER  
THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT, . . . . .

THINK ON  
THESE  
THINGS

*Philippians 4:8.*

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**DEDICATED**  
**TO**  
**TUXIS**  
**BOYS**

In 1914 a wonderful forward movement inspired by a desire to do something tangible for real christian unity was begun in Canada when accredited representatives of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Young Men's Christian Associations, etc., decided to provide a joint programme for work on Sundays and week days among boys and young men.

In this programme, at its mid-week session, twenty minutes are to be devoted to general discussion of religious topics.

These notes are printed at the request of the Canadian National Advisory Committee for co-operation in Boys' Work in the hope that Mentors and leaders may find them helpful.

In the programme, and in the organization suggested for carrying it out, boys 15, 16 and 17 years of age are called TUXIS BOYS.

T stands for Training, S for Service, (all training should be for service); U & I refer to "the other fellow" and oneself, You (u) before I (i) in honor preferring one another; X is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter of the word Christ, the vital centre of the movement and programme.

The compiler of these notes who has spent much

of his leisure hours during over thirty years among boys and young men has learned by personal contact that even in apparently thoughtless boys there is a strain of religion, though we must be careful not to *strain* it too much.

No leader, however, need be afraid that his boy friends will find it irksome to discuss the manly Christian virtues with which these notes mostly deal.

Leaders will do well to remember that their boy friends will respect them more if they do not funk the 20 minute discussion period.

It is suggested that young men may become accustomed to public prayer by reading or learning to recite the prayers at the end of each of the chapters, or by making use of the beautiful prayers contained in the Trail Rangers Manual on pp. 364-367. The Manual (40 cents) may be obtained at the various denominational headquarters and at C.S.E.T. Depot, 120 Bay St., Toronto.

## STUDY I

### WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE

Ask class to illustrate various meanings of 'true'; e.g. not an error in fact, a true statement; not counterfeit, true gold; loyal, a true friend; up to standard, a true plumb-line; rightful, a true king; not guilty of deceit, a true witness, etc.

In what three ways may a man shew whether he is true?

In thought, and word, and deed.

"O help us Lord; each hour of need  
Thy heavenly succor give;  
Help us in *thought*, and *word*, and *deed*,  
Each hour on earth we live."

#### TRUE IN THOUGHT

Thought comes before, and causes action. If we set our minds continually on true things, we shall have no thought or inclination for false thoughts, false ideals, false friends, etc.

Just as darkness fades before the light, falsehood cannot dwell with truth.

No sinful word nor deed of wrong,  
Nor thoughts that idly rove,  
But simple truth be on our tongue,  
And in our hearts be love.

The author of "Tom Brown's School Days" knew how hard it is for boys, and indeed for us all to fight untruth at its source and that our hearts must first be right with God, in order that our thoughts may turn to truth and away from falsehood. He wrote:—

"Then God of truth, for whom we long—  
Thou who wilt hear our prayer—  
Do Thine own battle in our hearts,  
And slay the falsehood there."

#### TRUE IN WORD

The Trail Rangers' Manual (page 366) has a beautiful prayer for Morning Watch—One verse is:

"Let me no wrong or idle word  
Unthinking say;  
Set Thou a seal upon my lips  
Just for to-day."

What is a seal for? For one thing it is used in law for specially solemn contracts to warn the contracting parties that they are signing no mere "scrap of paper."

And again a seal means a claim of ownership, e.g. a seal on a bonded railway car, on the envelope of a letter. A thing sealed must not be opened except by the lawful owner. God owns our lips, and although we owe him more than lip-service (what is meant by this last word?) if we do not serve Him with our lips, we do not serve Him with our hearts and lives.

If every time we break silence, we realize that we are breaking God's seal upon our lips, we shall be more careful of our words.



## TRUE IN DEED

How can we know what is the true thing to do? Our conscience will tell us, and we can strive to follow the rules and tests set down in God's Holy Word:

“Thou art the Truth; Thy Word alone  
True wisdom can impart;  
Thou only canst inform the mind,  
And purify the heart.”

Here are quotations from two well-known novels:

“Everybody says it, and what everybody says must be true.”

“Some modern zealots appear to have no better knowledge of truth, nor better manner of judging it, than by counting noses”

Which of these is more accurate?

Enquire what occupations are represented in the Bible Class, and endeavor to get some idea from them of the special temptations that make it difficult for them to be true under all circumstances of the day's work.

Pascal said:—“Man does not wish to be told the truth.” Is this so?

Is the Italian Proverb justified, “It is the truth that irritates a man.” Or perhaps the trouble is that “We often injure the truth by our manner of defending it.”

Napoleon said once:—“A true man hates no one.” Napoleon admitted that his empire was as

nothing compared with the sway of the Gospel of Love.

Is consistency or enthusiasm or love the final test of truth?

Lord Lytton wrote:—"Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplishes no victories without it." Can we do any real warfare for the truth without caring a whole lot; in other words, without having enthusiasm?

Do not disturb your mind with continually wondering whether your actions are consistent. "Don't be consistent, but be simply true." (O. W. Holmes).

Think rather what Christ said: "Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Ancient Hindus groping for the light in their sacred writings, The Vedas, were told: "In the midst of the sun is the light, in the midst of the light is the truth, in the midst of the truth is the imperishable being."

Get the class to paraphrase this into an expression of Christian truth, e.g. "I am the Light of the World;" "The spirit of truth will guide you into all truth." "His truth endureth forever."

Further suggestions for discussion:—

"I have seldom known anyone who deserted truth in trifles that could be trusted in matters of importance." (Paley). Is this always so? If you are asked point blank a question that the questioner has no right to ask, can you answer

that you don't know, if you really do? Even where an evasion would result in an injury to a third person?

May you fairly deceive a sick person as to his state of health?

If you know your employer is being robbed or cheated, are you untruthful by remaining silent?

Can you shield a fellow-employee by an evasive statement? Does it make any difference that you believe he will not offend again?

Should you remain in the employ of an untruthful man?

Should you take advantage of an obviously unfair decision of an umpire?

Where you have not stolen money may you doctor your accounts so as to make them balance?

Should you tell a man your real opinion of his conduct, or keep silent? Does it make any difference if he is your friend?

All discussion is usually with a view to action of some sort. A Christian cannot hope to approach his ideal without recourse to prayer.

### LET US PRAY

*"O Thou by whom we come to God  
The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod;  
Lord, teach us how to pray."*

*We pray Thee, O Lord, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, and the actions of our lives, may be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. We know that without Thee we cannot do any good thing. Help us to be true to Thee, and true to all mankind. Amen.*

TO AVOID CRITICISM

THINK NOTHING

SAY NOTHING

DO NOTHING

BE NOTHING

## STUDY II.

### WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONORABLE

Ask class for various meanings of "honorable."  
1. worthy of honor, honorable conduct; 2. conferring honor, honorable scars; 3. acting on principles of honor, an honorable man; 4. having marks of honor, an honorable burial, an honorable discharge.

The other translation is "Whatsoever things are honest." Is the word "honest" or "honorable" the larger word? An honest man is one just and honorable in business.

Let us, as in the case of things true, think of things honorable from three points of view. Honorable in thought and word and deed.

#### 1. IN THOUGHT

Ruskin said, "The utmost point and acme of honor is not merely in doing no evil, but in thinking none." What is meant by acme?

Where does the passage occur? "Love thinketh no evil."

If we live up to the Tuxis program our constant thought will be for others, "in honor preferring one another." What do the letters u and i stand for in 'Tuxis' and why in that order?

## 2. IN WORD

There is a proverb, "Honor is like an icicle; if it once melts, that is the last of it." Is this correct? And yet if once one's reputation of keeping word of honor is gone it is hard but not impossible to regain what is lost.

What are debts of honor? Are there different kinds? Is it right to refuse to pay a debt contracted when under the legal age of 21 years? Any exceptions to the rule? If a trustee advances money to his ward, may the latter sue him when he becomes of age? Are gambling debts really debts of honor? Many opponents of arbitration in national disputes argue that war is inevitable where the nation's honor is attacked or involved. Is this argument good and to what extremes does it lead?

"Honor, thou blood-stained god! at whose red altar sit war and homicide. O to what madness will insult drive thy votaries."

What is "The Unwritten Law"? May a man under any circumstances be justified in taking the law into his own hands and killing another who has violated his wife's or his daughter's honor and chastity?

## 3. IN DEED

"The noblest spur unto the sons of fame  
Is thirst for honor."

What temptations are there in our lives to do wrong things that may mark us as seeming more honorable than our fellows? What special tempta-

tions beset a dry-goods clerk, an insurance agent, a railway employee, etc.?

Is there a difference between honor and fame?  
Can a man without ambition hope to attain honor?

Henry Van Dyke, a famous American poet and diplomat, writes:—

“Let me but do my work from day to day,  
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,  
In roaring market place or tranquil room;  
Let me but find it in my heart to say,  
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,  
‘This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;  
‘Of all who live, I am the one by whom  
‘This work can best be done in the right way.

Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,  
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;  
Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours,  
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall  
At eventide, to play and love and rest,  
Because I know for me my work is best.”

John Oxenham, a famous English poet, writes:—

“Is your place a small place?  
Tend it with care!  
He set you there.

Is your place a large place?  
Guard it with care!—  
He set you there.

Whate'er your place, it is  
Not yours alone, but His  
Who set you there.”

(Class should commit this to memory).

There is an old proverb "Honor and ease are seldom bedfellows." None can hope without exertion to reach an honorable place in his chosen business or profession.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise,  
Act well your part; there all the honor lies."

But after all, Jesus Christ summed it all up, "I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me. I seek not mine own glory; there is one that seeketh and judgeth."

"And grant that to Thine honor, Lord,  
Our daily toil may tend;  
That we begin it at Thy Word,  
And in Thy favor end."

#### LET US PRAY

*O Lord, Thou who art worthy to receive honor and glory and power, for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created, look down with all Thy loving-kindness upon us Thy creatures, whom Thou hast made a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned with glory and honor and hast set over the works of Thy hands. Help us to control our thoughts, to use our lips, and live our lives, so that we may not do dishonor to our Creator, and may in all things love and serve Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Amen.*



### STUDY III.

## WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST

Did not ever see a sculptured figure of Justice? What was there peculiar about the eyes? They were blindfolded. Why? Because it "discards party, friendship and kindred" (Addison). Where should we try to be blind?

Is there any difference between what should be our attitude towards sin and wrong in our private relations, and the attitude of the state and police authorities towards crime?

As to the latter great Quaker, William Penn said: "Justice is the insurance we have on our lives and property, and obedience is the premium we pay for it."

Ought one to offer himself as a witness in a cause in which he has no interest, if his evidence is of value to one side or the other, or to the Crown? Is a Christian really just, if he conceals or fails to reveal material evidence? How often do we hear people say that they are not going to be dragged into Court as a witness? Is this fair or Christian? Has not the vilest criminal the right to expect justice as well from his fellow men as from the Court?

But in our private lives there is another point of view. "Judge not that ye be not judged." Who

said this and when? Lord Byron with this in mind wrote, "He who is only just is cruel. Who on earth could live were all judged justly?"

And yet to follow this strictly raises many difficult problems. If a boy knows that another has stolen a copy of examination questions, should he report it? Does it make any difference that the boy is his friend? If you are a member of a club and you know one of the members is stealing from the club lockers and premises, are you doing justice if you keep silent or shield the offender? Do you not owe a duty to your fellow clubmen? Are you doing a real kindness to your companion to allow him to continue on a wrong course?

What more practical way of training oneself in forming a just judgment of our fellow men and of their activities than (1) by refusing to circulate unkind reports, (2) by refusing to pass judgment till one has heard both sides?

"Love thinketh no evil." What chapter is this from?

"To speak no slander, no nor listen to it." Where do these lines occur in the initiation ceremony of the Tuxis boys?

It is the very essence of Christianity that human effort alone cannot solve our problems. We must look for help to One Who alone can give us strength and wisdom.

Just and holy is Thy Name;  
I am all unrighteousness:  
False and full of sin I am;  
Thou art full of truth and grace.

What hymn is this from? 'Jesus Lover of My Soul.' In the Christian religion justice has no place without love, and love none without justice.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land.

O blessed shelter from the storm,  
The sinner's sure retreat  
O trysting place, *where heavenly love  
And heavenly justice meet.*

#### LET US PRAY

*O God, the Judge of all, to whom belong the spirits of just men made perfect through communion with Thee, we too would be wholly Thine. We fall far short of deserving to reach that trysting-place where heavenly love and heavenly justice meet. But we know that by the merits of Thy Son Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises which exceed all that we can desire. Thou hast a mighty arm; strong is Thy hand and high is Thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before Thee. Stretch forth Thy mighty hand and lead us into the paths which lead to Thee.*  
Amen.

## STUDY IV

### WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE

How may impurity occur? In two ways, by contact and by mixture.

Have you ever noticed the wonderful structure of the first psalm?

"Blessed is the man that *walketh* not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor *standeth* in the way of sinners, nor *sitteth* in the seat of the scornful."

The boy who is tempted to associate with impure companions first *walks* with, then stops and *stands* among, then takes his permanent *seat* with those who have nothing but scorn and ridicule for what is pure and good.

In considering impure things there are no two sides to the question. When the devil suggests that there are two sides and that you should know more of the wicked ways of the world, all he wants is that you allow a little discussion. "Have only one policy with regard to the devil. Don't argue with him, hit him. If you begin to parley with him he is considerably older than you are and has had a deal more experience."

You may find that the devil through the agency of some boy or man may urge you to visit an impure woman. For a strong tonic read Proverbs chapter

7, and you will know for sure that "her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death."

Of all the things this verse from Philippians tells us to "think on", perhaps *thought* influences *action* in purity even more than in the other things named.

If the heart be not pure, how can words and actions be pure?

What did Christ say in The Sermon on the Mount? "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

The great Keble who wrote Sun of My Soul and other fine hymns wrote

Still to the lowly soul  
He doth Himself impart  
And for His dwelling and His throne  
Chooseth the pure in heart.

How can we, if our hearts and minds are God's, and He is dwelling there, allow impure thoughts to enter in?

Learn by heart these wonderful words.

Holy! Holy! Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may  
not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

If a companion tells an impure story or makes an impure suggestion, how can you show your disapproval without antagonizing instead of convincing? Is not this a real chance for leadership?

Are city boys or country boys more exposed to temptations to impure acts?

For indeed I know  
Of no more subtle master under heaven  
Than is the maiden passion for a maid,  
Not only to keep down the base in man,  
But teach high thoughts and amiable words,  
And courtliness, and the desire of fame,  
And love of truth, and all that makes a man.

Where does this passage occur in the initiation ceremony of a Tuxis boy?

John Oxenham in "A Mother Cry" makes a wonderful appeal.

Remember! your mother was once a girl,  
O son! what would you have thought,  
If you knew that some man had wrought her  
shame,  
And withered her youth with his fiery flame,  
And upon her such woe had wrought?

Son!—Remember!— these girls were innocent  
once—  
Dare you further their souls defame?  
You cannot—you may not do this thing!  
It is death in life, it is life's worst sting,  
And the price you pay is—*Everything*.

Are temptations to impurity more frequent or more strong in one occupation in life than in another? Your class is bound to have some ideas, perhaps startling ones, on this subject. Get them to talk a bit. How can such temptations be best met?

to Do they help one another to get to know the right sort of girls?

What do they do with their leisure time? Is it fully occupied so as to exclude impure and low thoughts and habits?

Is it safe to let a girl of the wrong kind accost or converse with you?

on  
a  
*"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's."*

There is a hymn by a Canadian that is rapidly finding its way into the new hymnals. Here are two verses:

er  
ie,  
Keep thyself pure! Christ's soldier, hear,  
Through life's loud strife the call rings clear.  
Thy Captain speaks: His word obey;  
So shall thy strength be as thy day.

nt  
O Holy Spirit, keep us pure,  
Grant us Thy strength when sins allure,  
Our bodies are Thy temple, Lord,  
Be Thou in thought and act adored.

#### LET US PRAY:

or  
r?  
ps  
lk  
*Keep us, O Lord, under Thy gracious protection and because the frailty of man without Thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by Thy help from all things hurtful. Make and keep us pure within. Thou art the fountain of all good. Thou of life the fountain art, freely let us take of Thee, Spring Thou up within our hearts; Rise to all eternity. Amen.*

## STUDY V

### WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY

Lovely means having mental or physical qualities which inspire admiration or love. Things may thus be lovely to the mind or to the senses—lovely to see, smell, touch, taste, hear.

We may fill our lives with lovely things—by shutting out unlovely things and by cultivating lovely things within our own hearts and surroundings. There is a quaint old Latin poem which has been translated thus:

“And while the hours in order flow  
O Christ, securely fence  
Our gates, beleagured by the foe,  
The gate of every sense.”

What special unlovely foes assail the gate of man's sense of taste? Drink, dope, gluttony, etc.

What his sense of sight? Obscene pictures, unlovely and impure performances, etc.

What his sense of hearing? Coarse jests, improper suggestions, etc.

What his sense of touch? Unseemly familiarity with women, etc.



John Oxenham wrote:

“Each sin has its door of entrance.  
Keep that door closed!  
Bolt it tight!  
Just outside, the wild beast crouches  
In the night.  
Pin the bolt with a prayer,  
God will fix it there.”

And elsewhere he says, remembering that the wild beast may be within us:

“In the inmost shrine  
Must thou begin,  
And build with care  
A Holy Place  
Each stone a prayer.”

How did you spend your last holiday? Did you keep your eye keen to notice lovely things? Do you ever make an effort to visit picture galleries and study lovely effects of color, light and shade, the glories of God's Out-of-Doors?

How often lately have you gone out of your way to listen to lovely music? Or have you gorged your appetite with nothing but ragtime?

Are you making a real effort to make yourself fit company for lovely women, and do you seek their company, or are you choosing flighty, flippant, unlovely rollicking girls who you think help to give you a 'good time'?

What books have you read lately? Do you remember one lovely thought they expressed?

Or were they read merely to pass the time and be forgotten? What do you admire in a book? and you? and you? What in a picture? a girl? a show?

Let us be honest with ourselves. Have we made and are we making a real effort? Do we realize how fast life passes and how soon our chance is gone to fit ourselves for immortal joys?

“Fair before us lies the way,  
Time for work and time for play,  
Fill the measure while we may;  
Up and On!”

“Life and Time will not delay,  
Time is running fast away,  
Life is now—to-day, to-day,  
Up and on!”

Where are these lines used in the initiation ceremony of the Trail Rangers?

Lovely things will drive unlovely things away.

There is a story of the great Henry Drummond who on visiting a former chum at College found the walls of his room much decorated with questionable pictures and suggestive scenes. He said nothing, but soon afterwards sent him a beautifully framed picture of Christ, a copy of a painter's masterpiece, with the request that it might find a place on his friend's walls. On his next visit he found that the face of the spotless Son of God reigned supreme and had driven forth the unlovely things that before had disfigured the walls.

If the Mentor is familiar with Barrie's famous

play "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," a reference to it would be effective.

In our prayers do we spend most of our time asking for things for ourselves? Do we thank God as we should for all the lovely things He has created?

"For all things, beautiful and good and true;  
For things that seemed not good, yet turned to good;  
For light and air; sweet sense of sound and smell  
For ears to hear the heavenly harmonies;  
For eyes to see the unseen in the seen;  
For vision of the Worker in the work  
For hearts to apprehend Thee everywhere,  
We thank Thee, Lord."

—John Oxenham

### LET US PRAY

*O God, who hast created all things, teach us to see Thee in all the glories of the earth and sky and sea. We would turn our gaze from the sight of all things hateful, and feast our eyes and souls on those great things Thou hast provided. Help us to make all things sweet and lovely. Labour is sweet, for Thou, O Christ, hast toiled. Thou hast been tempted like as we are. Thou, O Christ, art all we want. More than all in Thee we find. And having found Thee, may we delight to commune with Thee, and to strive to fit ourselves for those heavenly mansions which Thou hast promised for those who truly seek Thee.*  
Amen.

## STUDY VI

### WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT

Every schoolboy knows what a good report is. Find out the occupations of the members of the class or of their fathers. Ask them what the qualities are that give good reputations to persons in such occupations: A merchant, good value and fair prices; a lawyer, placing the interest of his client first; a doctor, skill in diagnosing cases, etc: An insurance agent, a clerk, a mechanic, etc.

But when it comes to a wider circle than one's business or social associates, what is it that gives permanence to a man's reputation?

Is it not invariably the fact that he has been of service to his fellow man? Get the class to recall some great names of "good report" in history. Wilberforce, Lincoln—helped to abolish slavery; Wellington—saved the world from despotism of Napoleon; Sir George Williams—founded the Y. M. C.A.; Carnegie—gave libraries, organs, etc., and founded fund for pensions for teachers, etc.; Howard—remedied abuses in jails and started the movement for fair treatment of prisoners; Livingstone, Stanley, "Chinese Gordon", Cecil Rhodes, Francis Drake, etc., etc., (the last named the first great apostle of a real "freedom of the seas").

How can men in humbler walks of life best serve their day and generation and thus earn "a good

report"? Get the class to give various answers. The Great War taught us endless ways of Sacrifice and Service.

Henry VanDyke, puts these words into the mouth of Henry Hudson, the explorer:

"I believe  
That God has poured the oceans round His world,  
Not to divide, but to unite the lands.  
And all the English captains that have dared  
In little ships to plough uncharted waves—  
Davis and Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher,  
Raleigh and Gilbert—all the other names—  
Are written in the chivalry of God  
As men who served His purpose. I would claim  
A place among that knighthood of the sea,  
And I have earned it, though my quest should fail!  
For mark me well, the honor of our life  
Derives from this: to have a certain aim  
Before us always, which our will must seek  
Amid the peril of uncertain ways.  
Then, though we miss the goal, our search is crowned  
With courage, and we find along our path  
A rich reward of unexpected things.  
Press towards the aim: take fortune as it fares."

John Travers Cornwall, an English lad barely sixteen years of age, achieved fame at the battle of Jutland, May, 1916, by merely doing his duty at a humble post. No record of the Victoria Cross was more impressive than that of his behaviour. Mortally wounded he remained standing alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders until the end of the action, with the gun crew

dead and wounded all around him. Some time elapsed before the steadfast courage of the boy was made known. Meanwhile he was brought ashore, died at Grimsby and buried in what was little better than a pauper's grave. When Lord Jellicoe's report of the battle appeared, with its stirring reference to the boy, the body was re-interred with the highest honors. Representatives from the King, Parliament, Navy, etc., attended, a memorial fund was raised, the boy's picture placed in the schools (quoting the words of Queen Mary) "to remind future generations of the lasting glory that attaches to the performance of duty."

"Obey your orders, cling to your post. Don't grumble. Stick it out." This is the gist of the lesson, wrote the First Lord of the Admiralty.

John Oxenham wrote:—

There was his duty to be done,—  
And he did it.

No thought of glory to be won;  
There was his duty to be done,—  
And he did it.

Wounded, when scarce the fight begun,  
Of all his fellows, left not one.  
There was his duty to be done,—  
And he did it.

Death's fiery hail he did not shun,  
Fearless he stood, unmoved, alone,  
Beside his eager, useless gun;  
There was his duty to be done,—  
And he did it.

Britain, be proud of such a son!  
Deathless the fame that he has won;  
Only a boy—but such a one!  
Standing forever to his gun;  
There was his duty to be done,—  
And he did it.

Let every soul in all the land  
Revere his stedfast loyalty.  
Britain shall all unconquered stand  
While she can breed such sons as he.  
His brave, short life was nobly planned  
On lines of perfect fealty.  
His death fulfilled his KING'S command,—  
"Aye ready be to come to ME!"  
And he did it.

#### LET US PRAY

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Whom we would serve in all things, incline our hearts to "seek things that are higher, thoughts that aspire." Give us courage and strength through good report and ill, to press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We know that it is not given to many to do great things. We pray Thee that we may daily realize that:*

*The trivial round, the common task,  
Will furnish all we ought to ask,  
Room to deny ourselves, a road  
To bring us daily nearer God.*

*If our lives should fail to earn that good report which we covet and desire, may we learn of Thee wherein we fail. And in all things teach us that*

*we may serve not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. All this we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord. Amen.*



## STUDY VII.

### CAN WE CONTROL OUR THOUGHTS?

*Seek ye the Lord, while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.*

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.—Isaiah 55: 6-9.*

Is there any difference between "wicked" and "unrighteous"? Is the former one who actively does wrong, the latter one who thinks evil and is merely passively on the side of the devil? Ask for examples. A man who robs is wicked. A man is unrighteous whose thoughts are evil and who takes no interest in any effort to make religion a vital force.

How can we keep our thoughts from being wicked or unrighteous?

By remembering that the Lord is near.

The poet Young, said:—

"Guard well thy thoughts; our thoughts are heard in heaven."

There is a wonderful verse in the hymn "O Jesus I have promised":—

Oh, let me feel Thee nearer;  
The world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within,  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

What sights dazzle? What sounds tempt? Fortunately the dazzling "gin palace" is a thing of the past. But do not some low class theatres furnish unwholesome sights and sounds?

And yet, just as the Kingdom of God is within us, so are the foes of evil within as well as around.

"What we are afraid to do before men, we should be afraid to think before God."

John Ruskin wrote:—"The first as indeed the last nobility of education is the rule over our thoughts." But are not some of us so impulsive that thoughts come to us unexpectedly, suddenly, and we cannot prevent their entrance?

Did not Martin Luther show more appreciation of human nature when he said:—"We may not be able to parry evil thoughts, but we may surely guard against their taking root in us, and bringing forth evil deeds." The famous infidel, Voltaire, wrote over one hundred years ago:—"Men use thought only to justify their unjust acts, and employ speech only to disguise their thoughts."

Voltaire prophesied that in one hundred years, the Bible would be forgotten. But his works are not now read, and his philosophy is discredited.

"If vile thoughts at any time enter into the mind of a good man, he doth not roll them under his tongue as a sweet morsel," wrote the great Bible Commentator, Matthew Henry. Only by good thoughts can we displace evil ones. We fail if we merely strive to drive out the evil.

In *Kenelm Chillingly*, one of Lord Lytton's novels, a brutal village bully threatened to wreck the life of a girl who feared and loathed him. Being beaten in a fair fight, the bully brooded with evil thoughts, and was saved from spiritual and moral wreck by his antagonist's influence. There is a dramatic rendering of a ballad, Lord Ronald's Bride, which ends with this stanza:

"God grant that the wish that I dare not pray,  
Be not that which I lust to win,  
And that ever I look with my first dismay  
On the face of my darling sin!"

What a check on lustful thought, if every time we are tempted, our thought turns to our Lord and Master. If we draw nigh to Him, we will not dare to long for or even think of that which we know is wrong. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."  
—Psalm 145: 18.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."—Psalm 34: 18.

Do not forget that vicious thoughts may offend

at first, but if we allow them to enter the mind often, they eventually cease to offend.

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien  
As to be hated, needs but to be seen;  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.—Pope

Ask the class to give examples of thoughts one should not harbor. Thoughts impure, revengeful, suspicious, resentful, haughty, envious, jealous, selfish, bitter, hasty, etc., etc.

“But hushed be every thought that springs  
From out the bitterness of things.”

—Wordsworth.

“Men are not influenced by things, but by their thoughts of things.”—Epictetus, a heathen philosopher.

Good thoughts are no better than good dreams unless they be executed.—Emerson.

At our next session we shall consider how right thoughts may lead to right ways.

### LET US PRAY

*“O Lord, Who knowest the thoughts of all men and from whom nothing is hidden, draw near to us in all Thy lovingkindness, and teach us the way in which we ought to walk. We would live ever in the light, so that upheld by Thee, we may not stumble or stray from the right path. All that we have is Thine, even our thoughts. Help us to make them more worthy, more fit for Thy gracious presence. Be with us now and for evermore. Amen.”*

## STUDY VIII.

### WHICH WAY DO YOUR THOUGHTS LEAD ?

When Isaiah wrote 55: 6-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts," to whom was he referring? The wicked whom he was calling on "to forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts."

"Bad thoughts are worse enemies than lions and tigers; for we can keep out of the way of wild beasts, but bad thoughts win their way everywhere. The cup that is full will hold no more; keep your hearts full of good thoughts that bad thoughts may find no room to enter."

"In matters of conscience first thoughts are best; in matters of prudence, last thoughts are best."  
—Robert Hall.

Is this always true? Does not conscience, if dulled by disobedience to its commands, sometimes take a little while to come to our rescue?

What is the meaning of highway? It is a free way and a way all men may travel without permission, as distinguished from a road with a toll-gate, or a private way. The main road between important places is often called the King's Highway.

John Oxenham wrote:—

“To every man there openeth  
A Way, and Ways, and a Way,  
And the High Soul climbs the High Way,  
And the Low Soul gropes the Low,  
And in between on the misty flats,  
The rest drift to and fro.  
But to every man there openeth  
A High Way and a Low,  
And every man decideth  
The Way his soul shall go.”

What does the second line mean? The first Way is the High, the Ways are the midways on the misty flats, and the last mentioned is the Low Way.

What makes a highway safe to travel?

1. Light. In some countries actions for damages may be brought if road is not properly lighted. What gives light on the Christian road? Truth.

“The light of truth to us display,  
And make us know and choose Thy Way.”

2. Its owner is able and willing to keep it in repair, so that pitfalls may not occur. God is the proprietor of the King's Highway.

3. A safe highway is guarded. The Christian's Highway is guarded by conscience which warns us if we stray from the right way.

4. A highway is not lonely. A Christian may derive strength for his journey from communion with his fellow-Christians along the road.

5. It leads to some place where life and limb are safe—a town or city. The Christian's haven is Heaven.

6. There is usually someone to be found who can point out the right direction to go.

The Holy Spirit—"Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth."

Come gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With light and comfort from above.  
Be Thou our Guardian, Thou our Guide,  
O'er every thought and step preside.

7. There are usually places of refreshment where one may be strengthened for the journey.

What kind of spiritual refreshment does the Christian find on the King's Highway?

Interesting answers may be obtained to the question "Why is a High better than a Low Way?" It runs through healthier country, the view is better, etc.

John Oxenham wrote:—

"A wonderful Way is the King's Highway;  
It runs through the Nightlands up to the Day;  
From the wonderful WAS, by the wonderful IS,  
To the still more wonderful IS TO BE,—

Runs the King's Highway.

Through the crooked by-ways of history,  
Through the times that were dark with mystery,  
From the cities of man's captivity,  
By the shed of the Child's nativity,—  
And over the hill by the Crosses three,  
By the sign-post of God's paternity,  
From yesterday into Eternity,—

Runs the King's Highway.

And wayfaring men, who have strayed, still say  
It is good to travel the King's Highway.  
Through the dim, dark Valley of Death, at times,  
To the peak of the shining Mount it climbs,  
While wonders and glories, and joys untold  
To the eyes of the visioned each step unfold,—

On the King's Highway.

And everywhere there are sheltering bowers,  
Plenished with fruits and radiant with flowers,  
Where the weary of body and soul may rest  
As the steeps they breast to the beckoning crest,—

On the King's Highway.

And inns there are too, of comforting mien,  
Where every guest is a King or a Queen,  
And room never lacks in the inns on that road,  
For the hosts are all gentlemen, like unto God,—

On the King's Highway.

The comrades one finds are all bound the same way,  
Their faces aglow in the light of the day;  
And never a quarrel is heard or a brawl,  
They're the best of good company each one and all—

On the King's Highway.



So gallantly travel the King's Highway,  
With hearts unperturbed, and with souls high and  
gay;  
There is many a road that is much more the mode,  
But none that so surely leads straight up to God,  
As the King's Highway.

### LET US PRAY

*O Thou who hast taught us in Thy Holy Word that in all our ways we should acknowledge Thee, we draw nigh unto Thee now and pray that Thou wilt lead us in the way everlasting. Help us to walk in that strait and narrow way that leadeth unto life, that our lives may be filled full of things and thoughts worth while. We know that life is not a goblet to be drained, but is a measure to be filled. Give us strength and courage to fill the measure so that we may share with others those good things that we may have in such abundance, if we but trust Thy gracious promises.*

*Thy way, not mine, O Lord,—  
Not mine, not mine the choice  
In things or great or small,—  
Be Thou My Guide, my Strength,  
My Wisdom and my all. Amen.*

## STUDY IX.

### WHEN IS IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD TURN TO RIGHT THOUGHTS AND WAYS?

*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.*

*While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:*

*In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,*

*And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low; and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;*

*Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.*

*Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern—*

*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*  
—Eccles. 12: 1-7.

Get the class to suggest reasons why youth is the time for decision and give illustrations.

1. Youth is time of growth. If things grow wrong it is difficult or impossible to change them; e.g., a crooked tree, an ill-shaped bush, a vicious boy, etc. "As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined."

2. Youth is impressionable. Things become hardened or toughened by exposure; e.g. honey, vegetables, etc.

3. If one gets started on the wrong road early one is liable to wander far, and it is all the more difficult to get back.

4. If one gets going right early, there are more years to "make good" in.

5. Youth is the time of enthusiasm before the evil days of old age come when there is no pleasure in them.

Some boys and men put off making decisions as to belief or action, always expecting to find something surer or more acceptable and they may, become like the man in a

## MODERN FABLE.

Many years ago, there was a man who desired above all things some suitable and convenient mode of transportation. His friends urged him to buy a horse. "Not so," he, said "for I verily believe something better will be found later."

Then came the high "bone-shaker" bicycle. "No," he said, "I am expecting something more comfortable." Then came the high hard tired, then the cushion tired, then the low safety, then the pneumatic, and each in turn he rejected as requiring too much effort. Then came the motor-cycle, and at last the perfected automobile. "Not so," he said, "I will delay my decision, for I hope yet to find something better that I may get on and off with less exertion, and that will carry me without any trouble on my part."

And he got his wish. For presently there came to his dwelling—the hearse.

What decisions should we make besides the great Christian decision?

Dr. Charles Frederick Foss gives a fine New Year's decision.

"I am resolved to live, not be; to think, not muse; to believe, not doubt; to work, not potter; to act, not falter; to row, not drift; to arrive, not founder."

Repeat this, the leader giving the first of each pair, the class the second.

Amos R. Wells has a fine thing along the same line: "I want to do less, that I may do more. Less of the things that do not count that I may have time to do more of the things that count. Less worrying, for example, and more praise. Less planning, and more performing. Less envying others, and more counting of my mercies. Less digging in time, and more building for eternity."

Repeat this, the leader giving the first and the class the second of each pair.

Youth is the entrance to a beginning. Christ said, "I am the Door."

Everyone is a door of some sort. What is seen when it is opened? Do we see the likeness of God?

Illustrate by the story as told by Sir Andrew Fraser of the pilgrimage of Hindoos to a temple where pilgrims were dazzled by the sunlight shining on the gorgeous walls and pillars. The priest then made them pass before a long dark tunnel looking into which they were to see their god if they passed at the right moment. But the crowd behind pressed on and pushed them past before the god appeared, and their only chance to see him was gone.

Ask the class for passages in the Bible where the door is used as a metaphor. "I am the Door"—John 10:9. See also John 10: 1, 2; Rev. 3: 8; Behold I stand at the door and knock, Rev. 3: 20.

How shall I come when the doors you have bolted? The doors of your hearts you have bolted against Me. How can I come when the bolts are against Me? The bolts are on your side the door, not on My side.

Unbar the Door, and let the Lord Christ in!  
All other ways have proved our own ways vain,  
His power alone can cleanse the world of sin,  
His love alone can give us peace again.  
Unbar the Door, and let the Lord Christ in.  
—John Oxenham.

### LET US PRAY

*Our Lord and Judge who standest before the door, we would open our hearts and let the Lord Christ in. Lead us in the way everlasting. Raise our thoughts higher, so that we may the more desire to travel the High Way and not drift along the misty flats or turn to the Low Way that leads to low thoughts and mean deeds. We would remember now our Creator in the days of our youth. Give us strength to decide and grace to persevere in our decision to seek higher thoughts and higher things. And all we ask is through the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## STUDY X.

### AN EXPLANATION OF THE PASSAGE FROM ECCLESIASTES “REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR”

This is one of the best known passages in the Bible. It is repeated in one of the most solemn moments of the Masonic Ritual, and represents the perfected form of Hebrew poetic thought. The Hebrews had no poetry in the form we have it. Their poetry was formed by imagery, by contrasted passages, etc.

Previous chapters 9 and 10 show what youths are to shun. This verse shows what they are to follow: While the evil days come not—before the evil days come, i.e., calamity and old age.

1. Remember that thou art not thine own, but God's property who created thee. no pleasure, i.e., of a sensual kind.

2. While the light. . . . be not = before they be. Darkness = pain and calamity—Isa. 13: 10; 30: 26. Clouds after rain = before that one trouble shall follow after another.

3. Keepers of the house = hands and arms; shall tremble, i.e. with palsy; strong men bow, as Samson; grinders = molars; cease = are idle; few, and there-

fore not sufficient for masticating; windows = eyes. Eyelids open and shut like a casement.

4. Doors = lips. Shut, as with old men in eating, lest food drop out; in the street = toward the street, the outer doors; (Others say reference is to ears, deaf); grinding low = mastication scarcely heard; (Others say Voice of the mill, the mouth, is low, and less able to make itself intelligible), bird = cock which crows before dawn; old age is sleepless, slightest sound awakens; daughters of music = organs that produce or enjoy music, i.e. mouth or ear.

5. Afraid of that which is high, e.g. to walk up a hill. Fears in the way, afraid on level highway of falling, or being run over, etc.; white heads, like almond trees; grasshopper = dry, shrivelled old man, backbone sticking out, head down. Others say even the weight of a grasshopper is a burden to the old. Burden, i.e. to himself. Desire shall fail = satisfaction shall be abolished. Some versions of Bible have—the caper tree shall fail. Caper is provocative of appetite and lust. Man goeth— See Job 7: 10. Mourners go—will soon go. Amos 5: 16. Matt. 9: 23.

6. Or ever = before ever, i.e. Remember thy Creator before ever. Frail gilded lamp hung from roof by cord of silk and silver interwoven.

As the lamp is dashed down and broken when cord breaks, so man's life is snapped at death. Golden bowl = skull (precious from its contents), silver cord = spinal column, attached to brain. When pitcher and wheel are broken, water can no



more be drawn. Life ceases when vital energies are gone.

7. Spirit returns to God, retaining its individuality, not to be absorbed, as Pantheists think.

There are other interpretations of various portions of the above as the following paraphrase may illustrate:

Remember that thou art not thine own, but His who created thee, and that not the dregs only, but the best years of thy life belong to Him.

Remember this before thou be overtaken by evil days of weariness and old age; before the days of light and sunshine depart and the evening of darkness, calamity and pain close in, when clouds shall be followed by clouds and rain by rain.

Ere the days when the hands and arms that keep and guard thy body, house of thine earthly habitation, shall tremble with the palsy of age, thy form shall be bowed and bent; thy teeth shall be few, thy sight grow dim; thine eyes and ears, the doors through which come to thee the sounds and sights of the outer world, no longer stand open, and all thy powers shall fade.

When thou, an old man, ever wakeful, shalt arise even before the dawn, the least alarm awakening thee; and thy voice and thine ear, the handmaids of music, shall fail thee; the least height shall make thee dizzy, and even along the level highway, dangers and fears shall abound.

Thy strength fails thee for even the slightest burden; desire and the zest of life are gone.

For man soon goeth to his eternal dwelling-place, and mourners go about the streets. Though thy life be bright like a golden lamp, hung by a silver chain, though it bring refreshment like a pitcher dipped in the fountain, though it serve many, like a wheel at the well; yet must the time come when the chain shall snap asunder, and the lamp shall break, the pitcher shall be shattered, the wheel no longer serve.

Then shall thy body return to the earth as it was, and thy spirit unto God who gave it.

(Greater interest will be given to the study of this passage, if the members are encouraged to guess the meaning of the difficult phrases).

In making a decision for Christ in the days of youth never forget that right thoughts and right beliefs should result in something positive.

"Be not simply good—be good for something."  
(Thoreau).

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." (Oliver Wendell Holmes).

Get class to memorize these two quotations and impress upon them the value of storing up the best expressions of highest thoughts.

In resolving to travel the High Way, you will do well to find friends like-minded.

Remember always "The only way to have a friend is to be one." (Emerson).

### LET US PRAY

*O Thou whose infant feet were found within Thy Father's shrine, help us to draw nigh to Thee before indifference and coldness lead us to forget that we are Thy creatures and made in Thy image. Do Thou dwell with us and within us. Let Thy gentle voice check each thought and calm each fear, and teach us true humility so that we shall really know that every virtue we possess and every victory won, and every thought of holiness are Thine alone.*

*Spirit of purity and grace,  
Our weakness pitying see,  
O make our hearts Thy dwelling-place,  
And worthier Thee. Amen.*

## STUDY XI

### THOUGHTS PERSISTED IN AND TRANSLATED INTO DEEDS IN TIME BECOME TRADITIONS

It is interesting to reflect how institutions have traditions which resemble one another. Compare for instance a nation, a club, and the Christian Church.

#### 1. COLORS:

Your country, Union Jack, a combination of St. George's Cross, St. Andrew's Cross and St. Patrick's. What are your club or school colors? What is the Christian ensign? Christ.

*And it shall come to pass in that day that the root of Jesse which standeth for an ENSIGN of the peoples, unto him shall the nations seek. Isa. 11: 10.*

#### 2. MOTTO:

What is the motto of England? Dieu et mon droit. U.S.A.? In God we Trust.

A certain athletic club has "Quit you like men. Be strong." Another has "Play the Game," from Henry Newbolt's famous cricket song which breathes the best traditions of the English public school boy:

There's a breathless hush in the close to-night,  
Ten to make and a match to win—  
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,  
An hour to play and the last man in.  
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,  
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,  
But his captain's hand on his shoulder smote:  
"Play up! Play up! and play the game!"

The sand of the desert is sodden red,—  
Red with the wreck of a square that broke;  
The gatlings jammed and the colonel dead,  
And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.  
The river of death has brimmed his banks,  
And England far, and Honor a name;  
But the voice of a school boy rallies the ranks:  
"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

This is the word that year by year,  
While in her place the school is set,  
Everyone of her sons must hear,  
And none that hears it dare forget.  
This they all with a joyful mind  
Bear through life like a torch in flame,  
And falling, fling to the host behind;  
"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

Ask for some Christian motto—"God is Love,"  
etc.

### 3. EMBLEM:

What is England's? The lion and the unicorn.  
What countries have the eagle, the crescent moon,  
the sun, the thistle, the shamrock, etc.? Your  
club perhaps has a crest on its letter head. What

is the Tuxis Emblem? What is the Christian emblem? The Cross. "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Gal. 6: 14.

#### 4. A SONG:

Name some national songs. Rule Britannia, Star Spangled Banner, Marseillaise, March of the Men of Harlech, Watch on the Rhine, etc. What is the special song of the club or organization you belong to? What is the Christian's song? He has many hymns, but speaking in general terms, Psalm 118: 14, "The Lord is my strength and my song, and is become my salvation."

Where are songs referred to in the Bible? "The new song" Rev. 14: 2, 3. The Hallelujah Chorus, Rev. 7: 12; 19: 6. Moses, Ex. 15; Deut. 32; Deborah, Judges 5; Hannah, 1 Sam. 2; David, 2 Sam. 22; Mary, (Magnificat) Luke 1, 46; Zacharias (Benedictus), Luke 1: 68; Simeon (Nunc Dimittis), Luke 2: 29.

#### 5. A HYMN:

England—God Save the King. U.S.A.—My Country 'Tis of Thee.

The special hymn chosen for Trail Rangers is "The Lord is my Shepherd." See page 305 of Manual.

Hymn books contain the Christian's hymns.

## 6. A BELIEF:

A Nation of unbelievers can accomplish little. It lacks the enthusiasm that is essential to success. If a club does not strongly believe that it has a special mission and reason for existence, it only cumpers the ground.

A Christian must have a creed. What creed states broadly the Christian faith? The Apostle's Creed. Repeat it.

G. K. Chesterton wrote: "Don't say 'There is no true creed; for each creed believes itself right and the others wrong.' Probably one of the creeds is right and the others are wrong. Diversity does show that most of the views must be wrong. It does not by the faintest logic show that they all must be wrong. I suppose there is no subject on which opinions differ with more desperate sincerity than which horse will win the Derby. These are certain solemn convictions; men risk ruin for them. They all are serious and most of them are wrong. But one of them is right. One of the faiths is justified; one of the horses does win; not always even the dark horse which might stand for Agnosticism, but often the obvious and popular horse of Orthodoxy." (See if boys know what is meant by agnosticism and orthodoxy).

"I believe (merely upon authority) that the earth is round. That there may be some tribes who believe it to be triangular or oblong does not obviate the fact that it is some shape. Don't then say that the variety of creeds prevents you

from accepting any creed. It is an unintelligent remark."

Don't sympathize with the critics of Y.M.C.A. methods who say that it ought to teach or do nothing that unbelievers would not agree with. It is like saying they believe in the Y.M.C.A. with the C. left out, or like saying "Give me meat pie with no meat in it." "Don't say, 'I look forward to that larger religion that shall have no special dogmas'. It is like saying, 'I look forward to that larger quadruped which shall have no feet.' A quadruped means something with four feet. A religion means something that commits a man to some doctrine about the universe."

## 7. PATRIOTISM:

No nation, no club, no Christian organization can succeed unless it has patriotism—believes in itself, its aims, its power for righteousness, its permanence, its resolve to prove that an earnest effort may be made to prove that Christianity and belief in a real living Christ are the only things worth while in these short lives of ours.

### LET US PRAY

*O God, we have heard with our ears and our fathers have declared unto us the noble works that Thou didst in their days and in the old time before them,. arise, help us and deliver us for Thy Name's Sake. Help us to keep up the best traditions of the past and to fulfil the highest ideals of the present. Help us to nail our colors to the mast, to know and live our motto, not to be ashamed of our emblem, to learn and*



*sing songs and hymns that are acceptable to Thee, to believe in Thee, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit whom Thou hast sent, and to hold fast to our resolve that with Thy help and guidance we may strive to do something to transmit our community, our nation and our church to those that come after us, greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted unto us. Amen.*

## STUDY XII

### THOUGHTFUL RECONSIDERATION

Which discussion do you remember most of ?

Can you give the title of each ?

Give one or two points of each discussion ?

Repeat some portions or quotations that you remember by heart ?

Which of the concluding prayers impressed you most ? Why ?

Would you be afraid to undertake to lead a discussion on any of the eleven with some other group ?

Would you prefer to lead it with boys of your own age or boys younger ?

Have you made any notes or have you any suggestions which might widen the scope of any of the discussions ?

Are there any ways in which you think we might have made better use of these notes or made the discussions more interesting ?

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The leader will conduct his review of the eleven studies in whatever way he thinks most interesting, but the above suggestions may be found helpful.

