

VITALIZING THE VIRTUES

The International Sunday School Lesson For March 18 Is, "Jesus Saves From Sin."—John 8:12, 31-37, 56-58. A Temperance Lesson

By William T. Ellis.

Enlightened selfishness may do much for the race. China, as a product of Confucianism, is proof of this. But it will not do enough; as China also has demonstrated. Now that it has become the fashion to put the temperance reform upon an economic basis, let us be clear-thinking enough to admit that this is not a sufficient foundation for so great a cause. This present Sunday School Lesson opportunely links the quarterly temperance lesson with certain tremendous teachings of Jesus.

How to vitalize the virtues, so that they will be warm, living, positive things, attractive to all mankind, is one of the problems of religion. A cold morality repels. Even the artificial glow and cheer of alcohol has been more winsome in the eyes of the thoughtless than the stern, gray, repressive and apparently joyless life of some abstainers. This question is not an academic one. It is of first importance in many communities which have cast out the saloon, and have not yet found a substitute. Negations get the world nowhere. No people are to be saved, spiritually, socially, economically, by the things they do without. The devil like nothing better than an empty room.

So we turn to the great affirmations—the majestic, incomparable utterances—of Jesus in this passage which has been assigned to us, to discover what their bearing is upon temperance. First of them is the sweeping declaration of the Messiah, "I am the Light of the world." Is it in following that Light that society has come to the decision that the traffic in strong drink should be terminated? The liquor habit belongs to the darkness of the world. It comes from ignorance and an inadequate appreciation of value. No thoroughly wise man would tolerate the traffic in alcohol, if he could stop it. We are abolishing it because we have advanced farther into the light of spiritual values.

The World's Enlightener As it has followed the Light, what strides society has made! Moral reform has ever followed in the train of Him whose way brings perfect light and perfect justice to pass. Jesus never said a word about slavery, yet slavery has gone from all the civilized world, and His behest, Jesus never mentioned the drink habit, yet the growing wave of prohibition around the world is essentially a Christian movement. He knew nothing about tenements; nevertheless, the irresistible impulse for better housing of the poor, which is being written upon the statute books of civilization, is wholly in the spirit of Christian love. All our modern moral reforms, against the social evil, against the drug habit, against under-payment of labor and the denial of the right of the child to a playtime and a schooltime, are direct consequences of the Light that Jesus has shed upon the hearts of mankind. The new light that is streaming into our prisons, the illumination of the problems of the indigent and the defective, is but the reflection of the increasing radiance of the Light of the World.

His words are sometimes used in small fashion. Later we grow up to them. Thus, we have freely talked about "the world," with no conception of what the term involves as is now ours since we have matriculated in the great school of the war. As we have all of his learned geography and other lessons in the war dispatches, and have grown into some measure of appreciation of the vastness of this great human family of which we are members, some of us have been taking thought of the hitherto unnoticed fact that Jesus had so much to say about "the world." He thought in world terms. Nothing that He said or did was in the language of provincialism. Not understood at the time, or for many centuries afterward, it is clear that Jesus used the word "world" with the presence of omniscience. Nothing good exists anywhere that is not ultimately to come to pass everywhere. Because temperance principles were enacted into radical laws in the United States, Russia prohibited vodka, and every other one of the warring nations took somewhat similar measures. We have come to the day of worldism. The Light of the World has arisen for the entire race. Missions and reform are now seen to be one. There is no darkness of any sort so dense or remote that it will not be driven out by that Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. To-day a temperance lesson is also a lesson in cosmopolitanism.

The Slaves and the Free Friend of mine in Japan, a veteran missionary, was one day conducting a service in the back country when a man took him aside mysteriously and whispered, "Honorable Forester, do

you not know that it is against the law to teach Christianity, and that one who does so may lose his life?" Whereupon my friend informed me that those old laws had been abolished many years before and that in all Japan any man was free to speak and write as he pleased upon any religion.

Then the Japanese confessed that he belonged to a family which had been Christian three hundred years before and that the secret had been handed down from father to son for these generations, and that he had been secretly worshipping the God of the Christians. He had missed the news of the emperor's proclamation, long years before, and knew nothing of the hundreds of hidden Christians, like himself, who had come out into open fellowship, one of the most romantic episodes in missionary history. Now he had suddenly learned the truth, and the truth had made him free. There is no real emancipation except by the progress of truth. No word of the Master has been oftener more brilliantly exemplified than this one, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Hope of Freedom There is a right slavery, and it may be freed. This is the message that lies at the heart of the Lesson. There is hope for even the worst victims of sin, whether that sin be drunkenness, passion, avarice, or what not. This is the uniqueness of the Christian gospel: It offers power for liberty. Not only does it set forth the benefit of freedom but it also tells men how to be free. Recognizing the profound truth that sin is slavery, it provides a Redeemer. "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

It means much that the promise of liberty comes from One who has authority to fulfill His word. Some of the greatest Creeds in history have denied the reality of matter, and insisted that mind is all, bade a man believe that he was happy when he was unhappy or that he was well when he was ill, but they had not the power to fulfill their promises. It is of no avail to bid a sinner sin no more, unless he be given the force for the fulfillment of that injunction. Now God's commands are God's enablements. What He bids us do He helps us do. There is supernatural power imparted to the will of God. In other words, it is by the Son's might, as well as by the Son's right that we are free from sin.

Right here Christianity wins or loses. It either delivers the race from the old thraldoms, or else it does not, in which case it is the grandest delusion of the ages. If the Gospel is not adequate to meet all the needs of this new day, it is not equal to any of them. Conversely, if the Gospel can save one sinner from his bondage and make a new man of him, it can do the same for all the sinners on earth. And what Christ has done in the making over of life is proved in countless cases, in all the ages. The latest drunkard saved down in the rescue mission, and the heathen Korean made over into a shining saint, are conclusive evidence that the Son is still able to make all men free.

The Truth and the Facts A third great principle is laid down by Jesus in this lesson, and it underlies the practical considerations of the temperance question. This is the eternal pre-existence of the Son with the Father. "Before Abraham was, I am." What has this got to do with the deliverance of the drunkard, or the individual and for society? Everything. In the heart of the ageless Almighty resides the love of Christ. If God forever is all that Jesus showed Him to be, then the ineffable deity has no greater business on hand in all His universe than the saving of men and women.

The greatest truth is not too large a sheet for the wisest, and most harried of spirits, fleeing for refuge. That Jesus is and was with the Father from before the foundation of the world is a matter of supreme interest to every one of us, for it assures us that all the tenderness and patience and forgiveness and loving helpfulness which He showed in Judea and Greece are still employed for the last man on earth.

This statement was drawn from Jesus by the snobbishness of the Jews. They were boasting that they had Abraham for an ancestor. In that they rested. Now it was a fact that they were by blood descended from Abraham. But greater than the mere fact was the supreme truth that all who have the spirit of Abraham are his heirs. There are some descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims who have none of the spirit of those great pioneers. Whereas there are others, recent immigrants, who are true to the Mayflower type. The best citizens of the country are those most loyal to its laws and genius; and the truest children of Abraham are those who share the privileges imparted by Christ, who was before Abraham, and whose spirit was that patriarch's equipment. It is better to be a son in truth, than a son in fact.

CONVENTION TO OPEN THURSDAY The annual missionary convention of the Christian and Missionary Alliance will be held in the tabernacle, 1309 Walnut street, from Thursday until Sunday. Meetings will be held every afternoon and evening. The evening meetings will include evangelistic services. The evangelist who will be present at the convention will be the Rev. W. T. MacArthur, of Springfield, Ill. Other speakers will include: The Rev. E. R. Dunbar, of Lancaster; the Rev. I. E. Hess, of South China, and the Rev. R. M. Custer, of Soudan, Africa.

C. E. Notes

Penn.-sy-C-E, Penn.-sy-C-E, Whose C-E, Keystone C-E, Pennsylvania.

Cheers and songs are quite popular among the Endeavorers of the State. State C. E. cheer leaders and boosters are enthusiastic for a record-breaking delegation to International convention, New York City, in July.

Christian Endeavor's great coming event is the big gathering in New York City, July 4-9. Just twenty-five years ago Christian Endeavor held there a magnificent convention that crowded Madison Square Garden. At that convention the first Junior meeting was held in connection with an international C. E. gathering—a small meeting in Dr. Deem's church. At this coming convention the Juniors are to have a convention of their own, lasting an entire day. Among the speakers already promised is the Hon. William J. Bryan, Homer Rodeheaver, "Billy" Sunday's song-leader, will lead the singing. Another song leader will be Percy S. Foster, who began his convention work at the New York convention a quarter-century ago. A new song-book will be introduced at this convention. The convention emblem is the Statue of Liberty enlightening the world, with the motto, "Let your light so shine."

John Roth will have charge of the services on Sunday evening at the Zion Evangelical Church, Enola. The topic for study in the Endeavor societies on Sunday evening will be the "Curse of Cowardice" will be the topic for study in the Endeavor societies on Sunday evening. The Sixth Street United Brethren society reorganized for a greater work with senior members. Much enthusiasm and interest is manifested at the weekly meetings of the society.

West Philadelphia Endeavorers representing forty churches have protested vigorously against the granting of a saloon license in a section where 85 per cent. of the people opposed it in writing. Albert Slothower and Luke Weirick will conduct the C. E. service at the Park Street Evangelical Church on Sunday evening.

A newly formed Christian Endeavor Society in Hanchow, China, carries a banner marked "Preachers' Band," because its members hold open-air evangelistic services at the big tea-shops.

Earl Schwartz will lead the K. L. C. E. services at the Harris Street United Evangelical Church on Sunday evening. Dr. Ira Landrith, extension secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, has moved to Chicago, thus giving the great central region of the country a United Society officer on the ground.

Roy Shenk will conduct the services at the Sixth Street United Brethren Society of Sunday evening. A debate on a live subject will be part of the evening's program. Messrs. Lawrence A. Miller, Ralph Fitting and Miss Martha Hoke will be on the affirmative side. Miss Lillian Good-year, Messrs. Fred Burriss and William Johnson will speak for the negative side.

Dr. Clark and Dr. Shaw are spending a month or more in the South, gaining strength after their recent severe illness. The Young Friends' Movement in the Friends' churches organized more than one hundred new societies last year. The West Branch of the Philadelphia Union has challenged the other six branches of the union for a contest in union efficiency, following the United Society's "union standard."

All societies gaining and holding all of the following eleven standards conditions a period of one year or more, and be known as "Front Line Banner Societies." This is to remain with them a period of one year, but if conditions are met for a period of two consecutive years, the banner becomes theirs permanently. Society Standards A Junior or Intermediate Society in the church.

At least 20 per cent. of the active members C. E. Experts and the Efficiency Campaign the basis of the society work. At least 25 per cent. of the active members enrolled as Comrades of the Quiet Hour, and 10 per cent. as Legionaries. An offering annually to county and State work. Represented at county and State conventions. Observe Christian Endeavor Week and Pennsylvania Endeavor Day. At least ten subscriptions to the Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor Bulletin and three to the Christian Endeavor World. Special study class conducted, either missions, citizenship or personal work. Decision Day for Associate Members and special and prayerful attention to this department of our work. Adopt and put forth every effort to achieve the society apportionment in the Campaign for Millions.

All societies meeting seven of the above conditions and holding them a period of six months, provided conditions 4, 5 and 8 are among the number, will be enrolled as "Front Line Societies," and be awarded a certificate by the State Union. TO SPEAK ON NATURE "Birds and Bits of Nature" will be the subject of an illustrated lecture to be given by Wm. S. Essick, Monday evening at the Fifth Street Methodist church. The lecture will be under the auspices of the John Wesley Bible class. Mr. Essick's ability on nature subjects is well known. (Other Churches Page 2)

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT RIDGE AVE. METHODIST The evening meeting at the Ridge Avenue Methodist Church will be a memorial service for the members who have died during the year. The Rev. Dr. S. C. Swallow will be in charge of this part of the service.

TO ATTEND CONFERENCE The Rev. F. Grant Sleepy, pastor of the Methodist Church of Enola, will preach the last sermon of the conference year to-morrow. He will leave Tuesday morning to attend the annual Central Pennsylvania Conference, which will be held in Lewistown. The sermon subject for the morning service will be "Evangelism." At the evening service the report for the year will be made.

"DOUG" FAIRBANKS CONTENTS "Always smile, it won't hurt you, and might help others." "Mix fun with your work, you'll enjoy it more—and work twice as hard to make up for lost time." "When every day is alike the years go fast. Break the monotony by trying to bring cheer in the life of an associate, who might be a hypochondriac."

"Nature has a number of thrills in store for us. A trip to the country, right close to nature,—no brick sidewalks, is bully. Such an experience gives one a mental and moral house-cleaning." "A real hearty laugh three times a day is a wonderful physical tonic. Try it and see if the effect isn't psychological." "A smiling face is the accepted symbol of a good disposition." "People devote a great deal of time towards physical exercise, forgetting absolutely that as much attention should be paid to emotional exercises. In order that we be equipped for the various emotions, one should express at the proper time. Amusement is the exercising of pleasant emotions."

BRIDE WEDS JUST 20 YEARS AFTER PARENTS



MR. AND MRS. J. AUSTIN LINDNER

Carlisle, Pa., March 17.—At the same hour when 20 years ago the bride's parents were wed, Miss Beula M. Smith and J. Austin Lindner will be married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Smith, at Oakville, this evening. The latter were married at six o'clock on March 17, 1897. The ceremony this evening will be performed by the Rev. Carroll O. Rasmussen, of Neville. Following the service the couple will leave on a short wedding trip, after which they will live at Birmingham, Ala., where Mr. Lindner is in the real estate business. Miss Smith is prominent socially here and graduated from the Carlisle High school in 1916. The groom is a son of John Lindner, head of the Lindner Shoe Company, and is himself interested financially in the concern. He attended Conway Hall and Virginia Military Institute and has for the past year been in the real estate business in Alabama.

French Snail Farmers Grow Rich With War

Paris, March 16.—French snail farmers are making tidy fortunes out of the war. More than half the French supply of this delicacy has been cut off by the German occupation of Luxembourg, Belgium and Northern France, and the market price has risen accordingly. The demand for snails has also been stimulated by the new food regulations, which class snails with oysters as a "hors d'oeuvre" of which one may eat as much as one wishes.

As many as half a million first quality snails, worth \$5 to \$10 a thousand, can be reared on an acre of land. They have to be fed only once a day, preferably in the evening. A bed of 100,000 snails will consume a wagon load of cabbages in a few minutes, and the noise which they make at their repast is like nothing else in the world.

OIL MAGNATE PENNILESS Tokio, March 16.—Amand de Meyer and family have arrived in Tokio, refugees from Bucharest. Mr. Meyer was president of a big oil refining company and now he says he is penniless. His factory and his house were both consumed by fire just before the arrival of the Germans and he and his wife and children with thousands of others fled homeless from the capital before the oncoming enemy.

REV. COLBURN AT STEVENS M. E. In the absence of the Rev. C. A. Smucker, the Rev. R. H. Colburn will fill the pulpit of Stevens Memorial M. E. Church to-morrow, at both services.



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