

SUNDAY SERMON

A Scholarly Discourse By
Rev. W. H. Ramsey.

Louisville, Ky.—The Rev. W. H. Ramsey on Sunday preached a powerful sermon entitled "The Religion of Jesus." He took for his text: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much."—Luke vii, 47.

Love took up the harp of life, and smote on all the chords with might; Smote the chord of self, that trembling, passed in music out of sight.

In the midst of so much confusion and perplexity about questions relating to religion, nothing is more helpful than to turn to the words of Jesus and find what He taught and believed. We shall find little difficulty in doing this if we confine ourselves to the first three Gospels. If we include the Fourth Gospel, we shall introduce an element of difficulty and confusion. The Fourth Gospel sets a wonderful philosophy about Jesus and His mission, and it relates incidentally some of the events in the life of Jesus. But for a simple statement of the words of Jesus Himself, apart from any theological theory about Jesus, we must turn to the other Gospels. There is unquestionably much in these narratives besides the words of Jesus, much that betokens misapprehension and misconception on the part of those who heard Him, and also a want to interpret His words and deeds as a confirmation of the materialistic hopes and expectations of His followers. But the utterances of Jesus Himself on the great and vital questions of spiritual religion are so exalted and so self-evident that we shall find no difficulty in discerning them.

What does Jesus teach about God, about Man, about Sin and Righteousness, about Redemption, about the kingdom of God upon earth? We might include other questions, such as the nature of the Holy Spirit, the Church and its Sacraments and Rites, etc. But these are minor and subordinate matters.

What does Jesus teach about God? Strange to say, Jesus has nothing to state about God, after the manner of the theologians. He never entered upon any metaphysical discussion about the nature of God. He never mentions the doctrine of a Trinity. "He had unquestioned faith in God as a living, conscious, intelligent agent. This faith came to Him by inheritance, and was received by Him as the indispensable and indispensable presupposition of all religion." Jesus took the highest thought about God in the Hebrew religion, the conception of God as the Eternal Father of men, and expanded and purified it. He interpreted this idea by His own sublime and splendid moral conceptions, and revealed the truth of the Divine Fatherhood through the medium of His own loving and righteous soul. The thought of God as the ever-present Spirit of righteousness and love was a constantly besetting thought with Jesus. He lived and moved and had His being in and with the Father, and His consciousness of the Father's presence. He saw the ceaseless operation of the Father's love and goodness and care for all things. The whole universe was encompassed by the Father's love. He loves and pities and provides for all. Even the most remote and the most prodigal children are provided for. His rain descends and His sun shines for the evil and the good alike.

Jesus did not think of the Father as a far-off and inaccessible Deity, but as a near and indwelling Presence. He felt the Father as living and acting in the Father's house. Their spirit is one of bond and love, not of joyous trust and spiritual freedom. The effort to obtain the sense of forgiveness and spiritual peace and joy by a diligent discharge of duty leaves the tender conscience in doubt and fear. The knowledge of the Father does not stand upon any legal formality; it is not conditioned upon any service that may be done by the child. This is pre-eminently true of the relation between the Heavenly Father and His human children.

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Jesus everywhere and always assumes the essential divinity of the human soul. The lost sheep belongs to the fold of the Good Shepherd; the lost coin, though battered and confused, is of precious metal; and bears the image and superscription of the king; the lost boy—the prodigal—is his father's child, no matter how far he has wandered or how deep his moral degradation.

What did Jesus teach about "Salvation"? How is the lost rescued? How is the prodigal brought back to his father's home? What does Jesus teach about this? Is there any elaborate creed, or any creed, to be accepted? Does He tell

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 1.

Subject: Daniel and Belshazzar, Dan. v, 17-30—Golden Text, Dan. xxi, 16—Memory Verse, Dan. 2, 30—Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

I. The handwriting on the wall. Belshazzar, only sixteen or seventeen years old, was the ruling king in the city of Babylon. Secure within his defenses, he felt confident of safety, and therefore engaged in revelry at a feast which he made to a thousand of his lords. In his drunken folly and wickedness he called for the golden and silver vessels which had been taken from the temple of Jehovah, that he might drink from them as a token that his gods had given victory over the God of the Jews. During this profane revelry a hand appeared and wrote upon the wall. This filled the king with fears, and he declared the meaning of the writing to his interpreters. He should have been clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold, and be third ruler in the kingdom. When all had failed, the queen, mother of Belshazzar, came in and persuaded her son to send for Daniel, to whom, when he came, the king repeated his problem and the inscription.

II. Daniel reproving the king (vs. 17-24). "Let thy gifts be to thyself." Daniel as a prophet of God cares nothing for any reward; this king can give, nor does he fear him. "Is the most high God?" Whom Daniel proclaims the God of the Jews, whose power Nebuchadnezzar had recognized in the delirium of the Feast of the Furnace. "Thy father," Grandfather, "Majesty." In the eyes of his subjects, "Glory." From his victories, "Honor." From the enlargement and decoration of his palace, "Whom he would he slew." In dispensing punishments he was condemned or acquitted at pleasure, and in dispensing rewards he granted or denied them. "Heart was lifted up." In pride and arrogance, wilful and obstinate, he had rebelled against the God of the Jews, who had been rebuffed by the rebellion of his people, but by the direct visitation of God. He became insane.

III. "He was driven." The madness that fell upon him induced him to forsake society and to run to the woods and deserts, and to dwell in a den of beasts. "Thou hast not humbled." Thou hast sinned, not through ignorance, but through deliberate contempt of God, regardless of all warning. "Against the Lord." As if thou hadst been equal or even superior to Him in wisdom and power. "The inward darkness of his house." From the temple of Bel, where they have been treasured up since the conqueror had carried them from Jerusalem. The thirty chargers and thirty vases of gold which had been sent for the temple of Solomon, and had adorned the walls of the captivity of Jehoiachin, and the thirty chargers and the four hundred basins of silver by which Zedekiah had supplied their place, and which were carried away in the final deportation. They profaned these vessels to show their contempt for Jehovah. It was an open insult to the God of the Jews. "Hand sent from Him." From God.

IV. Daniel interpreting the writing (vs. 25-28). "The writing." The words were Aramaic, with letters like the Hebrew. Why could not the wise men read them? Perhaps they could not stand upon any legal formality; it is not conditioned upon any service that may be done by the child. This is pre-eminently true of the relation between the Heavenly Father and His human children.

The love and grace of God come through no contract. St. Paul tells us that we live as servants in the Father's house. Their spirit is one of bond and love, not of joyous trust and spiritual freedom. The effort to obtain the sense of forgiveness and spiritual peace and joy by a diligent discharge of duty leaves the tender conscience in doubt and fear. The knowledge of the Father does not stand upon any legal formality; it is not conditioned upon any service that may be done by the child. This is pre-eminently true of the relation between the Heavenly Father and His human children.

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

OCTOBER FIRST.

The Joys of Church Membership. 1 Thess. 5: 15; Luke, 12: 8.

One of the chief joys of church membership is that it gives direction to our Christian activities; we have overseers whose guidance renders our work far more effective.

Another joy of church membership is that it restores us, holding us back from many evil courses by direct warning, or by the silent power of common opinion.

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The Church and the World.

We laboriously climbed the Great Pyramid, four hundred and fifty feet into the air. The cloudless sky and perfectly dry atmosphere made it possible to see great distances in every direction. To the north and west the curving river, the groups of palms, and the red of the domes and minarets of Cairo made up a view of charming beauty peculiar entirely to that country and that locality. To the south and east the desert stretched away as far as the eye could reach, the heated air shimmering above the golden sands, what before we had not discovered. The fresh verdure of the river bank met the encroaching sands of the desert in a distinctly defined line. All bright green on the one side, all dreary barrenness on the other. Upon a ground where it is impossible to appreciate any distinct that line is. From our great elevation it was strikingly apparent.

Epworth League Lessons

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1.

The Christian and His Bible—Psa. 119: 11; Jer. 15: 16.

Psalm 119 is prolific with suggestions as to the value of the Word. It is an inspired exhortation on the part of the author, who has had the Word in his heart; that is, he has placed it at the center and source of life. It thus becomes the secret source of strength and results in the keeping of the individual from sin. Jeremiah represents himself as "cutting a way for the Word, and he will not make up his mind to let it go." The meaning of the Word is that it became incorporated with his being as food becomes assimilated.

Just Like God.

Little Mary was one morning reading with her mother in the New Testament, and she was one of the verses of the chapter:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Salad Grown at Table.

The experiment of serving a dinner party with salad grown under the guests' own eyes was recently tried in Berlin. Here is the recipe: Take good germinating lettuce seed and soak it in alcohol for about six hours, so it in an equal mixture of rich soil and unslaked lime, and place it on the table. After the soup water it with lukewarm water, whereupon it commences to sprout immediately. The thing worked like a charm, and the lettuce when plucked and prepared for eating were the size of Barcelona nuts.

Senator on Investigating Tour.

Ex-Senator Cockrell of Missouri, now interstate commerce commissioner, and one of his colleagues on the commission will start for St. Louis and the southwest in July to make a study of transportation questions. This study will be exhaustive and will deal with important branches of the rate problem.

Peculiar Shift of Granite.

A block of granite weighing over 200,000 pounds, flat on top and with clean breaks on two sides, has been found near Woodbury, Vt. Three hundred feet north is seen the ledge from which the block broke away. The two are on about the same level, but between them a barrier of granite its fifteen feet high. Local geologists are trying to figure out what natural causes brought about the shift in the position of the block.

Sad Sight for Father.

Charlotte and Mary Heatly, eight-year and fourteen-year old, respectively, were drowned the other day in the Mersey, near Liverpool, England, almost before the eyes of their father, who helped to carry them to the water. The girls, who were at service, had been visiting their father, and he had warned them of the treacherous nature of the river at that point. He was called from his work to assist in the rescue of two bathers, and was among the first to respond. The rescue failed, and when the bodies were brought ashore he recognized his two daughters.

Illinois is the latest, if not also the first State, that has fully organized a "Temperance Department" in its Sunday-School Association. Pennsylvania leads in a movement to get temperance into the regular machinery of the church by the appointment of a "Temperance Secretary" for every missionary society.

The Sunday Breakfast Cable

HOW MUCH I OWE.

When this passing world is done— When has sunk yon glorious sun— When we stand with Christ in glory, Looking o'er life's finished story, Then, Lord, shall I fully know— Not till then—how much I owe!

When I stand before the throne, Clothed in beauty not my own; When I see Thee as Thou art, Loveless with unceasing heart; Then, Lord, shall I fully know— Not till then—how much I owe!

—Robert M. McCheyne.

Some Startling Facts About the Vice of Intemperance.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?—Yes, It is Woe Unto Us If We Put the Bottle to His Lips, Directly or Indirectly—Patenting Excesses.

When Cain, after slaying Abel, said to him the fine show of indignation, "Am I my brother's keeper?" he said what every liquor seller and liquor user since him has said: "I use it in moderation. Is it my fault if others become drunkards? That is their lookout. Let every man attend to his own business."

A menagerie lets loose its lions and tigers to roam over a village. "They have never hurt me," urges the keeper, when men protest.

A snake charmer frees all his serpents in the midst of a crowd. "They never bite," he boasts serenely, "until a man builds himself up on the side of a pine forest, and all the valuable trees are burned up, together with a village near by. 'I didn't spread the fire,'" pleads the man. "It spread itself."

Progress of Temperance in England.

Brewers are just now much exercised in saying that temperance reform is winning off in their returns. Attempts are of course being made to discount any suggestion that beer is ceasing to be the national beverage and that a wave of temperance is sweeping over the land. But we have no hesitation in saying that temperance reform is winning its way in England, and that the decline of the brewer is something more than a merely temporary depression. Considerations of health and economy appeal more powerfully than ever they did before to the popular mind, and are the brewer's most formidable enemies.

A Reason for the Decrease.

The editor of an English liquor trade organ, said in a recent interview, that in the opinion of the trade, the great decrease in the consumption of liquor in England was due first to economic conditions, and secondly, to the change in the public taste, saying: "During the last three years enormous expenditures of the South African War has pressed heavily upon the public. When they are short of money, wine is the first thing in which they will economize. Then, as regards the public taste, it is a well-known fact that men will not sit long after dinner, as they used to do, and drink their bottle of port or claret. The moment dinner is finished they begin smoking, the only form of liquid refreshment they indulge in afterward being in most cases a glass of whiskey and soda."

Temperance Notes.

Mrs. Carrie Nation and others have contributed \$1500 towards the project of establishing a weekly Prohibition newspaper in Oklahoma, to be published at Guthrie.

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A local option election was held a short time ago in an Eastern State. Two men traveled eighty miles to deposit their ballot. They had convictions on the duties and privileges of citizenship. They both voted against the saloons, and no-license carried by two votes in that town.

The English Liquor Commissioners report shows the intemperance is at its height in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In all cases of insanity, in some sections alcohol is used more freely than in others. There the percentage of insanity from this cause is greater. There is something very significant in these facts.

John Leibach, a retired farmer, of Silver Run, near Hanover, is dead at the age of 104 years. He was born in 1807 and was the oldest resident of the county. He is survived by his second wife, to whom he was married five years ago at the age of 99 years.

Charles Mulaski was found dead at Shepton. There was a wound in the back of his head, the result of his being struck by a blunt instrument.

Harry Wright fell asleep on the east-bound car of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at Scranton, and three seconds thereafter the Buffalo Express passed on the westbound rails. He was still asleep when carried to the station house, where he was sentenced to thirty days in jail for being so careless in selecting lodging.

Charles Boland, of Carbondale, aged 17, was crushed beneath the wheels of a train and died later in the hospital.

Jacob Potowin, aged 73 years, of Shamokin, fell down a long flight of stairs, breaking his neck. He died in a few minutes.

Alexander Rocco, of Freehold, taken ill, fell helpless on the railroad. He had been there some time, a pet dog tugging at the prostrate man. The animal's howl attracted young men, who carried Rocco from the rails just as a train came around the curve.

Michael O'Brien, aged 15 years, of Shenandoah, bandaged his own arm after it had been severed by the blow of a train on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and walked home. He is now in a hospital.

The Lackawanna Presbytery, which has for some time had under consideration the efforts of a portion of the Pittston Presbyterian Church congregation to oust Rev. J. J. Fletcher, has recommended that the relations of the minister and the church be severed. The Presbytery expresses confidence in the minister, and prays him for the courage and success with which he has fought gambling, impurity and intemperance in Pittston. All efforts to adjust the differences between the minister and the congregation failed.

The Puddle Mill of the Bethlehem Steel Company is to start up again to its fullest capacity, employment being given to several hundred men.

At the final sessions of the presbytery of Lehigh, in the First Presbyterian Church, South Bethlehem, the following commissioners were chosen to the synod of Pennsylvania: Rev. A. T. Schickel, of Allentown; Rev. J. W. Boal, of Center Hall; James Cattinich, of Munch Chunk, and Elders E. A. Spear, of Pen Arty; Frank M. Trexler, of Allentown, and Dr. A. R. Fleming, of Tamaqua.

THE GREAT DESTROYER

Latest News of Pennsylvania Told in Short Order.

Edward K. Schofer, 16 years old, a high school boy, stepped into an open elevator shaft at the Mansion House, Reading, and fell to the basement, 30 feet below. His skull was fractured and three ribs were broken. He died three hours later.

William Horning, a farmer, of Bendlebury, told the police an odd hold-up story. Horning says a man ordered two baskets of fruit, agreeing to pay 35 cents a basket. When Horning delivered the fruit, the man was not at home, but a woman took charge of the baskets and declared she would not pay more than 25 cents a basket. Horning refused, and then the woman became angry and locked him in a room, saying she would not let him out until he agreed to take her price. Horning stood the confinement several hours, but finally surrendered and was given his freedom when he knocked off 10 cents from the price of each basket of fruit.

The Reading Trust Company won its contest in the Supreme Court against Francis P. McManus, who is suing for setting up the \$2000 estate of Caroline McManus. Her will appointed Mr. McManus and the Reading Trust Company executors. Mr. McManus, with the consent of the legatees, ignored the trust company. The company receives \$2,202.24, its claim of 2 1/2 per cent, on the estate.

George A. Leinbach, of Reading, senior member of the firm of Leinbach & Bro., clothiers, died after a lingering illness, aged 64 years. He was a generous giver to church work and charity. He was a Union veteran.

Mrs. Vinton Foreman, of Reading, aged 48 years, died from injuries received in being struck by a train on the Reading Railroad.

While his train was running at high speed James Heller, of South Bethlehem, an engineer on the Reading Railway train, was struck by the reverse lever and had his breastbone fractured.

Mrs. Adam Musser, of Morgantown, had several ribs fractured and sustained other internal injuries as the result of her horse falling and striking her, and throwing her out of the wagon.

Charles L. Eberly and his wife, of Pottsville, trolley passengers, who were injured in a collision of two cars, brought suit against the Pottsville Union Traction Co. for \$1000 damages. After the case had been on trial all week the jury brought in a verdict of \$800 for Mrs. Eberly and \$75 for her husband.

While playing with matches, Robert Smith, 2 years old, of Norristown, was burned by the clothing taking fire. The child's condition is critical.

The home of Adam Hilbertis, of Strasburg, was entered by thieves during the family's absence and a pocketbook containing considerable money was stolen. The borough Council of Elizabethtown has rescinded permission granted several months ago to the Philadelphia, Lancaster and Harrisburg Railroad to lay tracks through the town. Promoters of the company say they will lay tracks on its Harrisburg turnpike for through line to Lancaster and thus avoid both Elizabeth and Mt. Joy.

General Manager Hayward, of the York Street Railway, is double-tracking Market Street from one end to the other with grove rail. The work will be done at considerable cost. Nearly 100 men have been put to work.

John Leiby, of Parsons, was arrested, charged with being the half-nude man who assaulted Mrs. Alex. O'Leary, near Parsons, and who is suspected of pursuing a course of frightening other women. He was held under \$1000 bail.

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THE KEYSTONE STATE

Latest News of Pennsylvania Told in Short Order.

Edward K. Schofer, 16 years old, a high school boy, stepped into an open elevator shaft at the Mansion House, Reading, and fell to the basement, 30 feet below. His skull was fractured and three ribs were broken. He died three hours later.

William Horning, a farmer, of Bendlebury, told the police an odd hold-up story. Horning says a man ordered two baskets of fruit, agreeing to pay 35 cents a basket. When Horning delivered the fruit, the man was not at home, but a woman took charge of the baskets and declared she would not pay more than 25 cents a basket. Horning refused, and then the woman became angry and locked him in a room, saying she would not let him out until he agreed to take her price. Horning stood the confinement several hours, but finally surrendered and was given his freedom when he knocked off 10 cents from the price of each basket of fruit.

The Reading Trust Company won its contest in the Supreme Court against Francis P. McManus, who is suing for setting up the \$2000 estate of Caroline McManus. Her will appointed Mr. McManus and the Reading Trust Company executors. Mr. McManus, with the consent of the legatees, ignored the trust company. The company receives \$2,202.24, its claim of 2 1/2 per cent, on the estate.

George A. Leinbach, of Reading, senior member of the firm of Leinbach & Bro., clothiers, died after a lingering illness, aged 64 years. He was a generous giver to church work and charity. He was a Union veteran.

Mrs. Vinton Foreman, of Reading, aged 48 years, died from injuries received in being struck by a train on the Reading Railroad.

While his train was running at high speed James Heller, of South Bethlehem, an engineer on the Reading Railway train, was struck by the reverse lever and had his breastbone fractured.

Mrs. Adam Musser, of Morgantown, had several ribs fractured and sustained other internal injuries as the result of her horse falling and striking her, and throwing her out of the wagon.

Charles L. Eberly and his wife, of Pottsville, trolley passengers, who were injured in a collision of two cars, brought suit against the Pottsville Union Traction Co. for \$1000 damages. After the case had been on trial all week the jury brought in a verdict of \$800 for Mrs. Eberly and \$75 for her husband.

While playing with matches, Robert Smith, 2 years old, of Norristown, was burned by the clothing taking fire. The child's condition is critical.

The home of Adam Hilbertis, of Strasburg, was entered by thieves during the family's absence and a pocketbook containing considerable money was stolen. The borough Council of Elizabethtown has rescinded permission granted several months ago to the Philadelphia, Lancaster and Harrisburg Railroad to lay tracks through the town. Promoters of the company say they will lay tracks on its Harrisburg turnpike for through line to Lancaster and thus avoid both Elizabeth and Mt. Joy.

General Manager Hayward, of the York Street Railway, is double-tracking Market Street from one end to the other with grove rail. The work will be done at considerable cost. Nearly 100 men have been put to work.

John Leiby, of Parsons, was arrested, charged with being the half-nude man who assaulted Mrs. Alex. O'Leary, near Parsons, and who is suspected of pursuing a course of frightening other women. He was held under \$1000 bail.

George Mihm, a retired farmer, of Silver Run, near Hanover, is dead at the age of 104 years. He was born in 1807 and was the oldest resident of the county. He is survived by his second wife, to whom he was married five years ago at the age of 99 years.

Charles Mulaski was found dead at Shepton. There was a wound in the back of his head, the result of his being struck by a blunt instrument.

Harry Wright fell asleep on the east-bound car of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at Scranton, and three seconds thereafter the Buffalo Express passed on the westbound rails. He was still asleep when carried to the station house, where he was sentenced to thirty days in jail for being so careless in selecting lodging.

Charles Boland, of Carbondale, aged 17, was crushed beneath the wheels of a train and died later in the hospital.

Jacob Potowin, aged 73 years, of Shamokin, fell down a long flight of stairs, breaking his neck. He died in a few minutes.

Alexander Rocco, of Freehold, taken ill, fell helpless on the railroad. He had been there some time, a pet dog tugging at the prostrate man. The animal's howl attracted young men, who carried Rocco from the rails just as a train came around the curve.

Michael O'Brien, aged 15 years, of Shenandoah, bandaged his own arm after it had been severed by the blow of a train on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and walked home. He is now in a hospital.

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