

The Sulphur

A SERMON BY THE REV. J. W. HENDERSON

Subject: Covetousness.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Hamburg avenue and Weirfield street, on the theme "Covetousness," the Rev. J. W. Henderson, pastor, took as his text Ex. 20:17, "Thou shalt not covet." He said:

Timothy tells us that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. Covetousness is part of the soil in which the tree of evil is nourished and out of which it grows. The child of darkness and of the brood of greed, covetousness is a cancer on the soul. Born of blackness, it makes dark the life that is under its control. Where greed is and covetousness abides are no more found peace, purity, contentment, quietude of mind, repose of soul, presence of happiness is destroyed. Under its godless influence joy and peace are impossible. It will fill a quiet life with turmoil and discontent will rule.

Covetousness is greed let loose. It is selfishness compounded and the mainpring of energy in the grabber's life. Its fruit is sin and its consequences are appalling.

Covetousness must not be confounded with honest desire to emulate good example. Covetousness and righteous discontent are not one. Covetousness and manly ambition are not similar. The man who looks with greenish glinting eyes at his neighbor's well deserved reward is no brother to the soul who longs to follow in the path of those who have achieved success. However, wrong envy may be induced to be, the man who wants to do and to become and to earn a higher place in life, is worthy of all praise. To look upon the wealth and power and eminence of others with the wrong, but it is no less reprehensible than that which is unmanly, self-stultifying lack of pure ambition and of noble aim which is characteristic of so many. Discontent with our lot in life may be a blessing or a bane. Dissatisfaction with our lot and with success attained is a motive to larger and continued effort. Satisfaction and stagnation are not far removed. Righteous discontent incites to progress. Unrighteous discontent makes the soul sick. The history of the world is the record of the discontent—good or godless—of individuals and nations. The unrighteousness discontent of a Bismarck—that is to say, the covetousness—gave to the world the scourge of the Franco-Prussian war as the price of German predominance and of united Germany. Russia wishes Asia for a province all her own and our news is full of war. Napoleon is covetous of empire and Europe is bloody as a shambles. The wretched thief is envious of money and your greed is covetous. The well dressed speculator on the street maddened with the lust for wealth plunders a host as hungry for shekels as himself. But opposite Napoleon stands discontented Washington fighting for his country's weal. Kosciuszko, Garibaldi, Wickliffe, Huss and Luther, all rise up as discontented men. The exalted dissatisfaction of our forefathers finds expression in the country that we love so well.

Covetousness is contrary to the law of God and the commands of Christ. "Covetousness is a bond which binds you for without it men would move ahead. But let us not run too much. Covetousness is subject of the tenth command for it is greed; it brings distress; it is a curse.

Covetousness is senseless, it is unwise. No man by taking thought can annex his neighbor's property to himself. The highroad to unhappiness is founded, as much as it is built upon anything upon envy of the other fellow's fortune. Envy is silly for it makes us sick with jealousy and disappointment, while it offers no relief. The fact that your neighbor is undeserving of his fortune or has no real appreciation of his benefits neither alters your position nor removes his state of mind. That other toiler's place will not be yours whether you are covetous or no. The other woman's clothes might not become your style at all, although they do look well on her. But get and envy put you in a higher place and make you peer with him whom now you wish you were; and taste with sense and little cash may keep you in becoming clothes. Covetousness of the other person's clothes or place or wealth is senseless and it certainly is vain.

Then, too, to covet is to undergo distress. Think of the heart aches and the head aches of those who forget their present blessings in jealous contemplation of the other people's joys. The pleasure of the hour is unsteady. The opportunities for immediate happiness lie unnoticed. The joys of the fields and the skies and the hills and the valleys all are forgotten. Life with its many unpriced happinesses is a thing unceasing for and unending. The soul, the heart, the mind, the every faculty of being, all are distressed and diseased with inordinate desire for the other man's possessions. We befriend the man or the woman into whose hand the devil of envy enters. For to covet is to be aflame with sin.

Covetousness is a curse. The courts are calculated with cases of unholy lust for land. Love lies slain in many a home because of marriage ties untie. The jails are full of men who covet the property of the other man a little bit too much. The business world well knows the necessity of "thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's man servant." Too often the surest way to down a rival has been to lure away some trusted employe who could draw away his old employer's trade. But in the ethics of many a business house this is sagacity and not sin. The shop girl is greedy for the ribbons and the trinkets of the moneyed maid above her and she sells her body, while she damns her soul to gratify her whim. Covetousness is a curse.

But while there is admonition and a lesson for those who are guilty of this stated sin there is also another lesson for our day which springs out of this command. The careless, ostentatious, ill-balanced display of wealth by those who possess it is a sin. The ownership of property beyond the average enjoys wise administration on the owner. The man at the top has a mighty regulative influence upon the world of men beneath him. If men are covetous of other people's wealth, they are so, many times because they plan to flaunt their so recklessly in the

face of their great need. The girl whose life is wrecked may not be able to blame. The useless, vulgar display of finery by women whose she never met may be the central reason for her downfall. The millionaire squanders his millions and the example is followed by the poorest of the poor. America is the land of those who live a life of "bluff" because our moneyed men have been extravagantly wasteful. Sham, pretention, desire to appear to be or to be worth something more than we are may readily be traced to the influence of the unwise rich. If a man is entitled to all that he can use righteously then some men ought to be deprived of nearly all they have.

Those who have much should consider it a bounden duty not to give cause to those who are less fortunate than they to become covetous. The wasteful millionaire heads a list of thousands who are living far beyond their means. The list of suicides throughout our land is filled with names of men who, urged by covetousness, have risked and lost their all.

But more than this covetousness is unnecessary. I for one believe that all men are entitled to fair hours, a fair wage, a decent home and a few of the luxuries of life. The sun smiles down impartially upon all. The love of God is free. Wealth cannot buy the charm of studying humanity. Money cannot purchase love. Even a poor man may be upright, kind and true and pure. The humblest soul may do the noble act or speak the cheering word.

God's Presence in All Events.

The providence of God is a very comforting doctrine to the believer. He guides with His eye and holds in His hand the destinies of men and of nations; and His people have a comfortable assurance in the words of promise and in the examples of history that the eyes of the Lord range to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in their behalf.

His eye directs His hand and the arm of His power. He governs the world, it answers wisdom and for the good of His people. He doeth all in pursuance of the counsels of His love concerning their salvation. Hence, they have all the reason in the world for trusting in Him and depending on Him, since wisdom and might are His. Therefore, when in our faith grows to meddle with events and to self-seeking, why not let God into our plans and take counsel of Him?

He will keep and mould our lives. His providence will end to the perfecting of our being according to some one of His standards of infinite beauty, if only we do not, in our self-will, disturb the process. Every movement, every event, every trial He will work into the marvelous harmony, so that by and by we may be gems of His crown of glory. If we, in our self-will, meddle with events and to hold a court (if I may so speak) upon God's providence, and begin to say, "How wilt Thou do this or that?" we lose ground—we have nothing to do there; it is our part to let the Almighty exercise His own office and steer His own helm.—Samuel Rutherford.

Our Part and His.

Providence hath a thousand keys to open a thousand doors for the deliverance of His own when it has come to the greatest extremity. Let us be faithful and care for our own part, which is to do and suffer for Him, and leave Christ's part on Himself, and leave it there; duties are ours, events are the Lord's. When our faith grows to meddle with events and to hold a court (if I may so speak) upon God's providence, and begin to say, "How wilt Thou do this or that?" we lose ground—we have nothing to do there; it is our part to let the Almighty exercise His own office and steer His own helm.—Samuel Rutherford.

Hand That Receives God's Gift.

It is very plain that what is not most wanted in the Christian world is more faith. We too little respect faith, we dabble too much with reason; fabricating gospels where we ought to be receiving Christ; limiting all faith, by the measures of previous evidence, and cutting the wings of faith when, laying hold of God, it conquers more and higher evidences. Be it unto you according to your faith, is the true principle, and by that the whole life of the church on earth always has been, always will be graduated "Increase our faith, then, Lord!" and be this our prayer.—Bushnell.

Keep Hoping Always.

We are saved by hope. Never man hoped too much. The plague is that we don't hope in God half enough. Hope never hurt any one—never yet interfered with duty; nay, it always strengthens to the performance of duty, gives courage, and clears the judgment. St. Paul says we are saved by hope. Hope is the most rational thing in the universe.—George MacDonald.

Razor Straps.

These are prepared from strips of flonobum of the usual length and width, left for twenty-four hours in a one-eighth to one-fourth per cent solution of hartshorn salt, to which one and one-half per cent of alum has previously been added, at the ordinary temperature; the strips are then dried at the normal temperature, rubbed with soap and polished with pumice stone. They are finally fastened in the usual manner to wooden handles. Straps made in this way will give a smooth sharp edge to the razor.—Scientific American.

HER SCHEME.

Mrs. Lawson—"How can Mrs. Wylesleigh afford to keep three servants?"

Mrs. Dawson—"Oh, she plays bridge with them every Monday afternoon and wins back all their wages."—Somerville Journal.

EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 23.

Holy and Unholy Ambitions Mark 10: 35-45—Passages for Reference—John 5: 44; Phil. 3: 7-11.

One of the most interesting incidents recorded in the Word is given us in the main reference for our lesson. They are on the way to Jerusalem, and as they go Jesus has told them of the coming days of sorrow and testing. He assures them that the way to victory lies through the valley of humiliation. It seems that there is a mingling of strange emotions in the breasts of the disciples James and John and their mother seem to have reasoned something like this: "Our Master has a hard experience to pass through. We will stand by him through it all, and certainly he will see our devotion, and he will reward us with the best places in the kingdom." It is to be feared that, although loyalty was there, yet the thought of exalted position was more in their thoughts. Their ambition for preferment was hardly restrained. The attitude of the other ten disciples toward them for making the request shows that there was in their own hearts the same spirit that they condemn in the two. It furnishes Jesus with an opportunity to teach them, and all ages, the striking contrast between the spirit of the world and of Christ's kingdom. "Not to be lifted up, but to minister." In the reference in John, Jesus charges home to their hearts that the selfishness which led them to seek honor one of another made it impossible for them to believe in him. In Philippians, Paul takes a fair look at all the things in his possession and life, by which he might claim honor among men, and then says he counts them as nothing. What a transformation of the church and of the world if the young people could be thrilled with a noble ambition! The man who simply exists with no purpose to make his life tell for anything in this world is an incurable to the ground. There must be some principle firing the soul with enthusiasm if the life is to be of any benefit to the community.

The world's idea of greatness is position, honors, a great name, popularity, and such things. Success wins the applause of men. But God has a different standard. He does not look so much at the thing done as at the heart of the doer of the work. Some of the greatest heroes that ever lived on earth will never have their names in books.

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"The Fox and the Grapes" Revised.

Governor (who has told her small pupil the story of "The Fox and the Grapes")—"Now, isn't that a clever story, Ethel?"

Ethel—"Clever? Not a bit! That fox was nothing but a goose. He pretended that the grapes were sour; what he should have said was: 'Oh, what beautiful grapes! So tempting and so sweet! But my doctor has told me never to eat sweet things, so I must refrain.'"—Tit-Bits.



Age of Horse.

When horses reach nine years of age, the dental star, or yellowish ring, appears next the enamel on the corner of the intermediate teeth. The following year the dental star appears on the corner teeth.

Double Moulting Pullets.

The common occurrence is for pullets beginning to lay in the late summer or early fall to lay at least several weeks and from that to several months, then quit laying and go through a partial moult before beginning again, says The Feather. Instances of old hens moulting twice the same season occur quite frequently. Of the causes of these phenomena practically nothing is known. Their occurrence is so far from regular that ordinary observations have not yet suggested probable causes or rules of occurrence.—Boston Cultivator.

Poultry Feed.

Cottonseed meal is attracting attention as a valuable poultry food. The people of the South have used it more or less for years. It is just beginning to be used in other localities. Some use a mixture of corn meal and wheat bran, wheat middlings, flour and cottonseed meal of equal parts. This is made into a very thick, dry mash and then fed. Cottonseed meal is rich in the requirements for an egg production. Too much of it is not a safe food, however, for poultry or milk cows at certain periods of their life.—The Feather.

Fair Profit in Timber Crops.

Culture of timber as a farm crop seems to have reached a profitable stage in Illinois, where growers report annual returns of \$4.50 per acre from larch plantations and over \$5 per acre from catalpa. These were the average results from twenty-six plantations, and the profits were obtained from the sale of posts and poles. One of the larch plantations paid \$7 per acre profit. Average returns from black walnut plantations reported from the experience of several growers in Illinois showed an annual income of \$2.05 per acre for posts. But this tree is not adapted for quick returns, as it requires at least fifty years to reach a profitable cutting size. It is reckoned that the annual returns for these plantings, reckoned as an increase to be cut at the end of fifty years, was \$3.32 to \$3.66 per acre.—Boston Cultivator.

Economy in Beef Making.

Here are some points in economical beef production that should not be forgotten at any time and that should certainly be remembered at this time, when most of the calves are starting on their careers. It costs much less to put a pound of gain on an animal during its first year than during its fourth year or its third year. Hence in economical beef production the animals must be made to gain rapidly right from the start. Any slack-up in gain means a loss. The gain of the calf at the time depends on the way it is fed and handled. But so does its gain in the future to a considerable extent. Start the calf right and it is easy to keep it going right. Care in handling and feeding the calf during the first two months of its life pays big.—Weekly Witness.

Stile For Stone Wall.

This is made much like a step-ladder, except for the hand railing. The four sides are of plank cut to the same length, and long enough to come well up above the wall. The hand railing is made of five strips of board, nailed together, as shown in sketch. The upright strips set on the ground, and extend far enough above the stile to make the hand rail convenient for anyone walking up and down the steps. The centre upright standard, explains Farm and Home, is set as close as can be to the

Bumble Foot.

This starts with a corn on the sole of the foot, caused by hard or stony fowl runs, or by birds having to jump from high perches on to a hard floor. If noticed when only the thickness of the skin it can be cured by softening away and removing bird to a soft or sandy run. But if neglected for some time the corn increases, eventually going right through the foot, causing great pain and impediment in moving about, besides being very unsightly. When it has reached this stage it is very difficult to cure, but it is cruel to allow a fowl to go hobbling about with this distressing complaint. Great relief may be given by penning the bird in a coop thickly covered with straw and poulticing the foot until the paria become quite soft, when the yellow, cheesy matter can be squeezed out. But this is tedious work; it is much better to take the small blade of a sharp pen-knife, insert it right through the bad spot and cut outwards, severing the web in two. It will bleed freely, but if the operation is done under a water tap, blood will soon cease to flow. All the yellow secretions can then be removed, and when all are taken away thoroughly, wash out with strong phenyle and water; apply crude phenyle to the wounds and carefully bind up the foot with linen bands, tying each on separately so that the fowl can not pick them off. The bird should then only be allowed to run on sand or straw until the wound is healed.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Some Facts About Hogs.

Filthiness and uncleanness in food tends toward disease. A sow that does not prove a good mother should be discarded. The boar should have abundant exercise and a continued variety of food. One good service is all that is necessary to produce a complete litter of pigs. There is no animal so easy to fatten when it has no exercise as the pig. To maintain healthy and stock-getting power, a boar must have exercise. All the good qualities belonging to the race cannot be found in any single breed. If there is any coarseness in either side let it be with the sow rather than the boar.

Steps to Cross Wall.

stone wall on one side or the other and then nailed securely in place to the frame of stile. The end standards for hand rail are nailed securely to stile frame, near the bottom.

A Biting Jest.

At one time the bailiff in charge of a jury was sworn to keep them "without meat, drink or fire." It was Mr. Justice Maule who gave the classic reply to the bailiff who inquired whether he might grant a jurymen's request for a glass of water. "Well, it is not meat, and I should not call it drink. Yes, you may." Nearly all Maule's good sayings had a strong touch of irony. "May God strike me dead, my lud, if I am guilty!" exclaimed a prisoner when the jury found him guilty. Mr. Justice Maule waited a few minutes, and then said: "Prisoner at the bar, as Providence has not seen fit to interfere, the sentence of the court is..."—Bull-man.

A Toad and a Golden Carp

By ADRIAN J. BROWN.

The following account of a toad attacking a golden carp is of interest from its bearing on an ancient belief that frogs and toads are at enmity with carp, and kill them by destroying their eggs:

On March 29 my son directed my attention to a large golden carp (C. auratus) lying in shallow water near the edge of a pond in my garden with a frog or toad apparently resting on its head. The fish appeared to be very sluggish, and made no attempt to escape from a landing net with which it was easily brought to shore.

On examination it was found that the head of the fish was held tightly by a medium-sized common toad (Bufo vulgaris) which had obtained a very firm grasp by inserting its fore limbs as far as the second, or elbow, joint into the sockets of the eyes of the unfortunate fish. The ghoulish-looking toad lay on the top of the fish's head, facing its tail, and with its hind legs hanging in front of the fish's mouth. At first the appearance of the eyes of the fish led me to think they had been ruptured, but closer examination showed they were merely displaced and turned partially round owing to the pressure exerted by the intrusion of the toad's limbs between the eyes and their sockets.

On carefully withdrawing the toad's fore limbs, which were inserted to the extent of about one inch within the eye-sockets, the eyes returned to their normal position apparently uninjured, but during their displacement the fish must have been quite blind. No effort of the fish could have rid itself of the toad after it had once obtained the remarkable grasp which has been described, and it appears very probable that the fish would have died in a short time.

How the toad in the first instance obtained a hold in the sockets of the fish's eyes appears very puzzling, but a probable reason for its attempt to obtain a grasp, and for its holding on when a grasp was obtained, may perhaps be found in the unreasonable instinct which toads appear to possess at spawning time of grasping something firmly with their fore limbs. A few years ago in the same pond referred to above, I found a toad embracing a water-logged puff-ball so firmly that it required considerable force to release the fungus from the amphibian's grasp.—From an Article in Nature.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

A lazy man is a dead loss to himself.

A lot of worry comes to those who wait.

Criticism, like charity, should begin at home.

The family tree of the grafter is a plum tree.

A corner in grain isn't necessarily on the square.

Lots of the money that men marry is counterfeit.

For the traveler the best guide-book is a check-book.

A tight man and a loose dog are equally dangerous.

Many a man's nervousness is due to his lack of nerve.

A man's good judgment usually shows up the day after.

Be good if you can; but if you can't be good, be careful.

Graft often goes about disguised as a business opportunity.

Experience teaches us how to make other kinds of mistakes.

In order to satisfy a man give him what he thinks he wants.

Some men make a specialty of posing as horrible examples.

It takes a man with a lot of brass to dispose of a gold brick.

Enterprize and advertising make the biggest pair in the deck.

Most people would fall short if measured by the golden rule.

It's safer to laugh with the big man than to give him the laugh.

It's surprising how many friends a man has until he needs one.

Occasionally a man drops dollars while trying to pick up pennies.—Bakers' Helper.

What Makes the Wind Blow.

Observations demonstrate, however, that the wind never blows in straight lines because all bodies of air when in motion are acted upon by a law of nature called the "deflecting force of the earth's rotation." This force turns all wind to the right of its course in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern. Thus if a wind in our hemisphere starts north it is soon turned slowly toward the northeast, or if it starts west it will soon turn toward the northwest. When it is remembered that at the equator the earth is rotating at the enormous velocity of 1035 miles an hour one will not wonder that such a deflecting force could exist. All areas of high and low pressure, from whatever cause, therefore become whirling masses of air, and a little thought will show that they must turn in the low areas, or "Lows," as they are designated on the weather map, always rotate in a direction contrary to the movement of the hands of a watch.—James H. Spencer, in Youth's Companion.

The Peajacket's Name.

The pea in this word comes from no garden, as is suggested, but from the Saxon word pad, which in itself means a jacket of stout, coarse cloth. As pad became more and more forgotten in speech the synonym jacket was added to make the meaning clear, and then the two words coalescing became fixed as the proper name of a convenient coat of the reefer type. Peajacket has kept its life longer alongshore than on the sea. Afloat the coat has long been known as the monkey jacket, and that so universally as to provide one of the rare jokes so laboriously cverworked at the feeble head. Every square-head, or Scandinavian, in a crew is bound to hear his fill about "You Yonsee jumping from the ribboom into the yolly boat in a monkey jacket."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR JUNE 23, BY THE REV. I. W. HENDERSON.

Review Lesson—Golden Text: Is. 43: 2—Read Ps. 106:1-12.

Chief points of the lesson for April 23, as set forth in our study in these lessons. 1. Isaac's trust in God's willings and promises. 2. Jacob's promises that He had made to Isaac. 3. Jacob's consciousness of the divine reality. 4. Jacob's consciousness of the divine providence. 5. Jacob's consciousness of the divine providence.

April 14. 1. Jacob in distress. 2. Jacob prostrate before God. 3. Jacob's terror. 4. God's answer to Jacob's prayer. 5. The awfulness of the recollection of sin.

April 21. 1. The fascinating character of Joseph. 2. Joseph gathered to the land of his fathers. 3. The consequences of family favoritism. 4. The progress and culmination of fraternal hate. 5. How God uses the plans of bad men to further His divine purposes.

May 12. 1. Joseph sold into slavery. 2. The greatness of God's providence. 3. The greatness of Joseph's character. 4. Joseph faithful to God. 5. Faithfulness to Christ a necessity to the enjoyment of the joys of the Christian life.

May 19. 1. Joseph in prison. 2. Joseph's substantial evidence of his nearness to God. 4. Joseph faithful to Potphar. 5. Joseph humble in his viceregal splendor.

May 26. 1. The magnanimity of Joseph. 2. The abiding love of Joseph for his unworthy brethren. 3. Joseph's forgiveness.

June 2. 1. The trials and the tribulations of Israel in Egypt. 2. The book of the Exodus a record of the industrial as well as of the spiritual hardships to which the people of Israel had to submit. 3. The power of God in her adversity. 4. The lesson of Israel in bondage apropos today.

June 9. 1. The humble birth of Moses. 2. The loyalty of Moses' father. 3. The holiness of God's house. 4. The value of humility and dependence on God. 5. Moses asks for aid to accomplish his work. 6. The power of God in this world.

June 16. 1. Israel delivered. 2. Pharaoh behind. 3. The inspiration of God to Israel. 4. God insists that Israel shall help herself. 5. The tenacity and steadfastness of Jehovah.

June 23. 1. God's covenant with Israel. 2. Egypt reaps the consequences of her own iniquity. 3. Israel helps herself out of trouble. 4. Israel obedient.

June 30. 1. I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35). The world's principle is that it is the most blessed thing in the world to receive, and to keep that which we have. The principle of heaven works on exactly the opposite principle from that of the ruler of this world.

More Blessed.

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The Good Endures.

"No good deed, no genuine sacrifice, is ever wasted. If there be good in it, God will use it for His own holy purposes; and whatever of ignorance or weakness, or mistake, was mingled with it, will drop away when the full flower has blown."

Taking the Life Out.

By the time you have boiled your faith down to a form you have taken the life out of it.

Let us vow, as we love our ideals, that we will never endeavor to forsake the company of our fellows, the rank and file of mankind. We will never despise the common toll. We will not antagonize men if we can help it. We will keep together, and act together, whenever we can. We would not drive men if we could, as we would not be driven ourselves. We will persuade them. We will never forget that the worst men are yet men. We will not turn any out of the temple of our humanity. Our faith in democracy is our hope in humanity; that is, that justice and friendliness are in all men. If we believe this we can afford to be endlessly patient.—Charles F. Dole.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

Green—"I was the victim of a lurching party in Arizona once."

Brown—"You don't say?"

Green—"Fact. I married the widow of a man who was strung up for horse-stealing."—Chicago Daily News.