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INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER BIBLE STUDY CLUB THE GAZETTE'S BRANCH.

Rev. Dr. Linscott's Suggestive Question on the Sunday School Lesson for March 5th, 1909.

Prizes for Answers.

The Gazette has secured the right to publish the International Sunday School Lesson questions by the Rev. Dr. Linscott, which have aroused so much interest elsewhere, and they will appear weekly. One of these questions each week is to be answered in writing, and upon these answers prizes will be awarded. This paper is also authorized to form a Local Newspaper Bible Study Club for its readers, and guarantees to all who join and fulfill the conditions, that everything herein promised shall be faithfully carried out.

Persons may join the club at any time during the year, but must, of course, answer the 52 questions hereinafter explained, to qualify for the prizes. It is, however, desirable that the questions be answered as the lessons are studied.

The International Newspaper Bible Study Club, which had its origin last year at Brantford, Ont., is for the purpose of promoting, in an unfettered way among the masses, a wider study of the Bible, the baser truths of Christianity, and the problems which enter into every man's life. It is composed of all those who join a local club and take up the simple course outlined herein, barring only ordained clergymen. We have the sympathetic co-operation of the latter, but it is not considered fair to have them compete for the prizes. Sunday School teachers, Bible class scholars, and church goers generally may belong to this newspaper club, also non-churchgoers of all shades of opinion. All such are warmly invited to join and compete for the prizes.

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST.

1. Each contestant, or his or her family, must be a paid-up subscriber to this paper during the continuance of the contest in order to qualify for membership in the International Newspaper Bible Study Club and this Local Club.
2. Each contestant in this Local Club must answer each of the written questions for 52 consecutive weeks, commencing for Sunday, July 26th, and the answers must all be in the possession of this paper within two weeks after the close of the contest.
3. Each question must be answered separately, and the paper written on one side only. No answer must exceed 200 words, and may be less. If possible, write on letter paper, size about 8½ by 11 inches.
4. Each answer must have the name and address of the writer at the bottom of the answer, so it can be identified, given a number, registered, and then the name cut off so the examiner may know by number only.
5. Students should be careful to understand the question before answering. To do this the lesson text must be read, and especially the verse or verses upon which the question is based.
6. The answers for this local club must be delivered at this office, and they will be collated at the close of the contest and forwarded to headquarters for independent examination by competent examiners. The prizes will then be awarded according to the highest number of marks won by members of the International Newspaper Bible Study Club, and prizes which may be awarded to members of this Local Club will be given out from this office.

THE PRIZES.

- First Series.—A gold medal to each of the first five contestants.
- Second Series.—A silver medal to each of the next five contestants.
- Third Series.—A teacher's Bible, price \$5.50, to each of the next five contestants.
- Fourth Series.—The book, "The Heart of Christianity," price \$1.50, to each of the next thirty-five contestants.
- Fifth Series.—A developed mind, an expanded imagination, a richer experience and a more profound knowledge of the Bible and of life, to all who take this course, whether winning any other prize or not.

Each medal will be suitably engraved, giving the name of the winner and for what it is awarded, and in like manner each bible and book will be inscribed.

All who can write, and have ideas, are urged to take up these studies regardless of the degree of their education, as the papers are not valued from an educational or literary standpoint, but from the point of view of the cogency of their reasoned ideas.

Philip and the Ethiopian—Acts viii: 26-40.

Golden Text.—Ye search the Scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me.—John v: 39.

Verse 26.—When God directs us by circumstances or by a friend, or by an angel, is it just as much from God as though He spake to us direct?

I do not know whether this angel was a devout man, or woman, or a mental picture, or a dream, or a spirit; but he, she or it convinced Philip that God wanted him to go south. Now how did Philip know that the impression to go south was of God, and how may we know under similar circumstances?

(The above question must be answered in writing by members of the club.)

May any person who is not playing double with God safely trust "the inward voice" to direct as to outward circumstances?

Verses 27, 28.—Philip found that he had not come on a fool's errand. Now is it not invariably so, that results of tomorrow always justify the faith vision of to-day?

Seeing this Ethiopian was a man of exalted position, in a foreign country, what was the significance of Philip being sent to him?

Verse 29.—When Philip saw this man's chariot looming up in the distance, perhaps after days or weeks of waiting, with more or less doubt, he got the impression that this was his opportunity; now from whom did he get the impression?

With what sort of a voice did the Holy Spirit speak to Philip?

If we should learn that the Holy Spirit used the circumstances and Philip's reasoning processes, his hopes and his fears, as God's voice, would that be as really the voice of the Holy Spirit as if the words were spoken by God out of the clouds?

Is it always safe for us to do as the Holy Spirit tells us, as in this case?

Verse 30.—Was this Ethiopian a devout man?

If a man devoutly searches the Scriptures, is he sure to find God?

If a man devoutly searches the book of nature, with a desire to obey her laws, is he sure to find God?

Verses 31-34.—Where in the Bible is the passage which the Ethiopian was reading?

Is it always necessary that some one should explain the Scriptures to us?

Can we understand the Scriptures, or get the full import of any fact, without the aid of the Holy Spirit?

Why could not, or why did not, the Holy Spirit explain this Scripture to the Ethiopian direct?

As a matter of fact, was not the Holy

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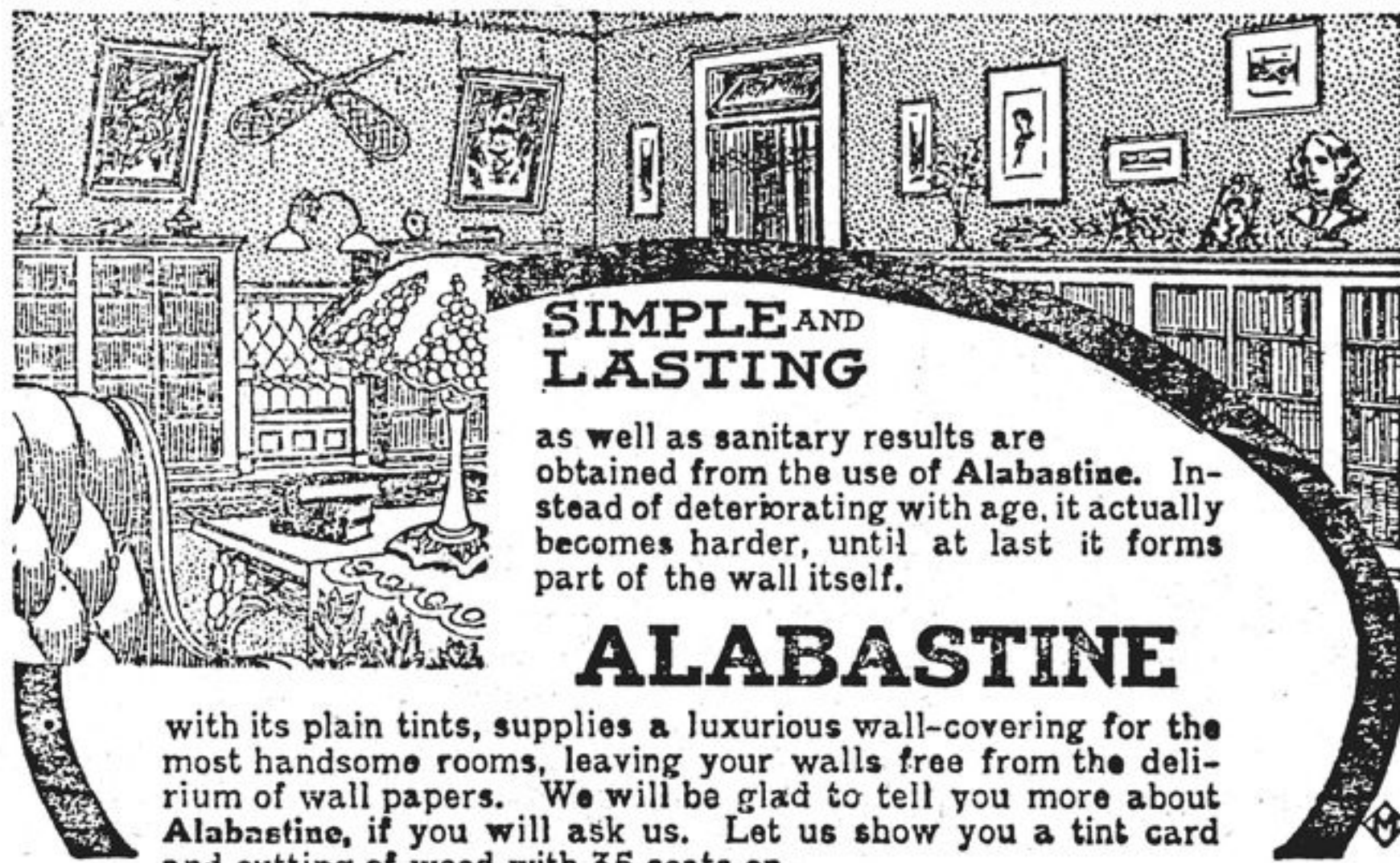
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Spirit guiding the Ethiopian as much as he was Philip?

Was Isaiah conscious when he wrote these words that they applied to Jesus; or did he think that he was describing some other person or persons?

Did not the prophets, as other inspired men, often write more wisely than they knew?

Verses 35-38.—Did this Ethiopian need "converting" the same as a willful sinner, or did he, as a devout child of God, simply recognize Jesus as the sent of God, and was then baptized in his name?

Verses 39-40.—Was Philip, so to speak, "spirited" away, or did he leave in a natural manner?

Lesson for Sunday March 14th, 1909—Aeneas and Dorcas. Acts ix: 31-43.

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NEWSPAPER LAW.

1. A post-master is required to give notice by letter (returning the paper does not answer the law), when a subscriber does not take his paper out of the office, and state the reasons for its not being taken. Any neglect to do so makes the postmaster responsible to the publisher for payment.

2. If any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.

3. Any person who takes a paper from the post office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.

4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time and the publisher continues to send it, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it from the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

5. Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

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