SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON II.
NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.
John 3: 1-17.

GOLDEST TEXT — Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

TIME.—The miracle at Cana occurred in February, A.D., 27. The rest of the events recorded in these two chapters took place at the passover season April 11-17, of the same year.

PLACE.—Cana was a town in Galilee, several miles from Nazareth. The events recorded from 2:13 through 3:21 took place in Jerusalem. The events of the remaining verses of Chapter 3 occurred at Aenon on the west side of the Jordan, the exact location of which is not known.

"Now there was a man of the Pharises, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews." None of the contents of the third chapter of John are to be found in any of the other Gospels, and even the name of Nicodemus does not appear anywhere in the Bible outside of this Gospel (7: 50, 51; 19:30). We know that Nicodemus was a Pharisee and thus a strict observer of the law, a ritualist, whose life was made up, for the most part, of prayers, washings, fastings, sacrifices, legal observances.

"The same came unto him by night, and said to him Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him." While Nicodemus's confession of what he believed concerning Christ cannot be compared in fullness with the later confession of Simon Peter or of Thomas, yet it is one of the greatest acknowledgments of Christ's absolute supremacy to be found in the New Testament.

"Jesus answered and said unto him Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew he cannot see the Kingdom of God." The word here translated "anew" might also be translated, as the margin indicates, "from above."

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" The question of Nicodemus is perfectly natural. It is not the result of unbelief so much as of astonishment. Christ's words are meant to rouse men out of their spiritual security and to strip from them every illusion behind which conscience can shelter.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." To enter into the Kingdom of God is simply to become a citizen of that realm in which God is sovereign.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (See John 1: 13; I. Cor. 15: 47-49.) What a man receives from his parents is a body with animal life and passions; what he receives from above is a spiritual nature with heavenly aspirations and capacities.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born anew." Here we have the first of six "musts" in the Gospel of John (3:14; 4:24; 9:4; 10:16; 12:34).

"The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the voice thereof, but knowest not whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." The Greek word translated spirit (pneuma), is exactly the same word here translated wind. Man does not control the wind as he does not control the Holy Spirit.

"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?" The emphasis should be on the word how. No one will ever be able to fully, absolutely answer that question except by referring such things to God.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou the teacher of Israel, and understandest not these things? The Old Testament often spoke of the work of the Holy Spirit, and Christ shows his astonishment that one learned in the Old Testament should find this fundamental teaching concerning the necessity for the Holy Spirit's work so amazingly new.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that which we know and bear witness of that which we have seen; and ye receive not our witness." The plurals of this verse are probably rhetorical. Christ knew the Father and testified of him. He came to bear witness of the Father and of all the great spiritual truths that relate to God.

"If I told you earthly things." Those facts and phenomena of the higher life as a class which have their seat and manifestation on earth: which belong in their realization to our present existence, which are seen in their consequences like the issues of birth which are sensible in their effects like the action of the wind. "And ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things?" Those truths which belong to a higher order, which are in heaven, and are brought down thence to earth as they can become to man.

"And no one hath ascended into heaven, but he that descended out of heaven, even the Son of man, who is in heaven." Such a statement as this from the lips of our Lord lifts him high above every other being who ever lived upon this earth. That he came down from heaven is often repeated in this Gospel.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. (See Num. 21: 8ff.) The brazen serpent was lifted up before the dying people of Israel that they might simply look on it and be saved. They were not saved by anything in themselves, but by simply doing what the Lord said, looking at that which he had lifted up before them, a type of their sin.

"That whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life." Eternal life is God's life, the fullest life possible, a life of holiness, a life of peace and joy, a life that has no end.

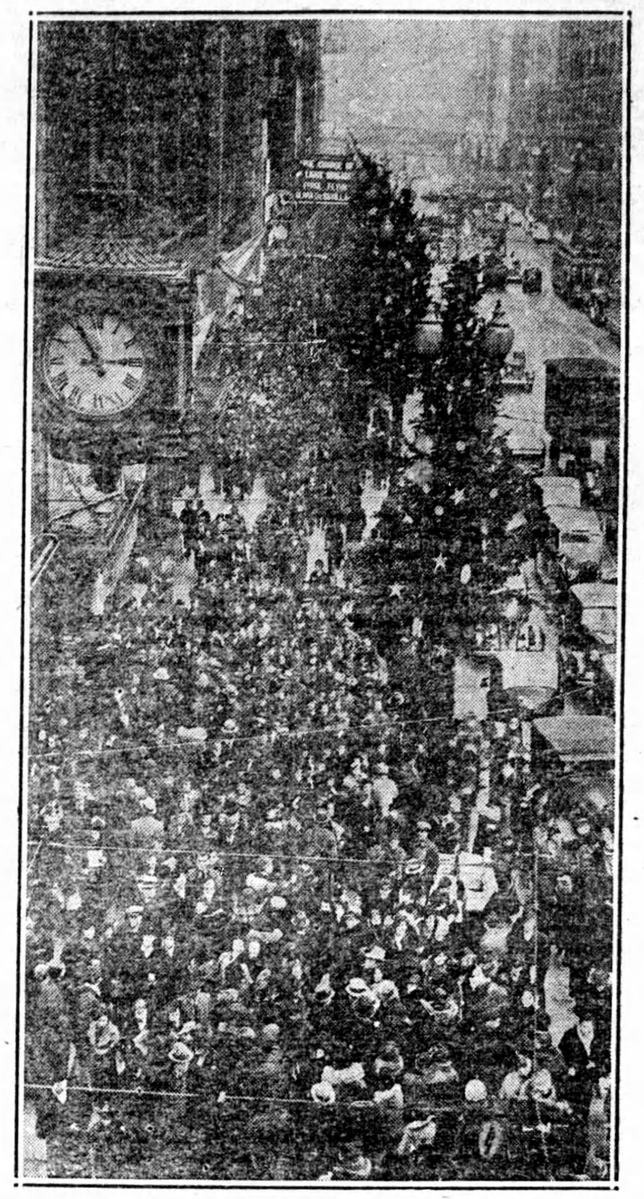
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life." This is, without a doubt, the greatest single verse in all the Bible, and we could dwell on it for hours.

"For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him." The world should have been judged and deserved to be judged, but, before that judgment should ever take place, God first sent his Son to save the world. There is no such thing as salvation for man from sin, or deliverance from the wrath of God, except it is found in Jesus Christ, whom God sent for that one explicit purpose. He is the Saviour of the world and without him the world is never saved.

Trophy For His Outstanding Gridiron Plays

Larry Kelley great Yale end and retiring captain of the team, proudly holding the Heisman Trophy, presented him in New York for being outstanding player of 1936 football season.

Christmas Shopping Jams Herald Prosperity



State Street, Chicago, like all other great shopping streets in the country's larger cities, was jammed from morning until night with Christmas buyers who proved that depression is over. Here is scene at State and Madison Streets.

movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

There's still a lot of argument going on about Leslie Howard's performance in "Hamlet" on the New York Stage. Hollywood stars arriving in New York make a bee-line for the theater; whether it's good or bad, they want to see it for themselves. The general public seems to feel the same way.

The dramatic critics, with a few exceptions, have taken their axes to the Howard "Hamlet". They feel that it's pretty bad, and have not hesitated to say so. Mr. Howard has been moved to defend himself in curtain speeches. This "Hamlet" production has been dear to his heart for a long, long time, you know. Apparently he was not prepared for the roasting the critics gave him.

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Screen actors, undaunted by what happened to them the last time they spent a vacation in New York, plan other ones there in the immediate future. Their principal hazard is autograph hunters. It's a curious thing about autograph hunters; they seem to have a sixth sense that tells them when a celebrity is in the vicinity. It's hard on the celebrities, of course, but take it from me it's harder on the friends or relatives of the famous ones, who have to stand by and wait while the signing goes on. The fans just elbow them out of the way. The expression on Mrs. Gary Cooper's face while her husband obliges the fans is something to remember!

Cooper

x-x-x-x-x

Odds and Ends — Homer Rhodeheaver, who leads that Wednesday night Community Sing on the air, commutes from Indiana to New York to do it — Slim Summerville has a new five-year contract — You'll like Joan Crawford and Clark Gable in "Love on the Run" - John Boles, Texas-born, has been made a member of the staff of the Governor of Texas — When Zasu Pitts sailed for England she wore that gorgeous mink coat of hers, one of the most beautiful in the world, which she really bought so that later she could give it to her daughter!

Story Didn't He'p

Mary Katherine Maxwell, 13, pictured after testifying for her sister, Edith Maxwell, during retrial at Wise, Va., for the murder of her father. Her testimony failed to sway jury and Edith was convicted for second time and received 20-year sentence.

To A Queen's Taste

Nancy Bumpus, who will reign at Pasadena's Tournament of Roses, holding miniature parade float made of real flowers.

Oxford's Diminutive Cox

H. P. V. Massey, of Upper Canada College and Hanlon, son of Canadian High Commissioner Vincent Massey was in control of "A" crew during a contest at Henley recently between the rival trial eights from which the Dark Blue boat race will eventually be chosen. Massey is only a little fellow, but he has a stentorian voice of almost parade ground calibre.

The startled expression of Edith Maxwell shows how her calm forsook her as she heard erstwhile friend testify of her hatred for her father, for whose murder she is [illegible] at Wise, Va.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL
With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Question 1—(a) "Should you apply fertilizer in the fall for spring crops what would be the result?"

(b) "What kind of fertilizer would you use on a lawn and how should it be used?" — J. M. Wentworth Co.

Answer: (a) It is common practice in Ontario to apply fertilizer for spring crops at the same time as the spring grains are sown. This is accomplished through the combination fertilizer-grain drill. If a fertilizer carrying nitrogen were applied in the fall for spring crops, it is likely that much of the soluble nitrogen would be wasted by leaching. Phosphoric acid would be held in the soil in combinations with lime, and Potash would form combinations which would prevent much of its loss. It is claimed by some that by fall application the fertilizer becomes more available to the crop. This has not been proven experimentally, especially at the rate at which fertilizers are applied to Canadian crops. The big advantage of spring application through the fertilizer-grain drill is that fertilizer is deposited fairly near the grain seed. This results in the fertilizer giving the grain a rapid start. If the fertilizer were applied in the fall, it is not likely that when the grain is sown in the spring that the grain rows would follow near where the fertilizer had been sown, hence the grain on fall-sown fertilizer may not get the early start that would result where fertilizer is sown in the spring. Separate application of fertilizer and grain also increases the cost of seeding.

(b) It is difficult to answer this question without more information regarding the type of soil, the reaction of the soil, and the drainage of the land, but in general good results should be obtained from applying a top-dressing of such fertilizer as 3-10-5 or 4-12-6 at the rate of 1-8 lb. per square yard. This should be scattered on evenly as soon as the grass begins to turn green in the spring.

Question 2—(a) "What is the best kind of fertilizer to use for malting barley? Will it improve the quality as well as the yield?

(b) "Will fertilizer applied to oats which are to be seeded down have any beneficial effect on the new seeding? My neighbor claims that the fertilizer will increase the growth of the oat crop so that the oats will smother the new seeding. Is this set?" G. M., Wellington Co.

Answer: (a) Our experiments indicate that 2-12-10 fertilizer gives the largest yields of high quality barley. Malsters report that such barley is preferred.

(b) Fertilizer applied to oats will certainly help the stand of grass and legumes mixture seeded with the oats. This has been reported in a large number of our experiments and is well substantiated. It is true that the fertilizer also increases the growth of the oats, but the fertilizer is also of decided benefit to the seeding.