Sunday School Lesson

LESSON I.
CHRISTIAN SONSHIP
(1 John, Chapter 3.)

Printed Text—1 John 3: 1—6, 18—24.

GOLDEN TEXT— But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1: 12.

The Lesson in its Setting

Time. — The first Epistle of John was written about A.D. 90.

Place. — We do not know exactly where this epistle was written, but probably in the City of Ephesus, where it is thought John lived for the greater part of his life after the ascension of Christ.

The first epistle of John is nothing less than a love letter, a letter revealing the wonderful love of God to his children, written only for the family of God. Its author was, most appropriately, the apostle John, "the one whom Jesus loved," and the one in whose Gospel the love of Christ is most frequently spoken of. The very vocabulary of this epistle unmistakably identifies it as an epistle to those who are in God's family.

The Scriptures teach that all who believe on Christ unto salvation are sons of God; not on the ground of their first or natural birth into the Adamic family, but on the ground of their second or spiritual birth into the family of God (John 1: 12; Gal. 3: 26; Eph. 2: 19; 3: 15; 5: 1).

We See God's Love

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God" —It is a very interesting point that almost everywhere in the New Testament where the love of God is spoken of, it is immediately related to the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's son, on Calvary. It is in that sacrifice for us that we most clearly see God's love for us. John 3: 16 is the great statement of this marvelous truth. Now the apostle goes on to tell us that not only has the Lord Jesus Christ saved us, by his death for us, but that God has become to us our Father in Heaven, and that we are made the children of God.

"Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested."— The person here referred to is, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ. His home always was in Heaven, but once, nineteen hundred years ago, he was "manifested," i.e., he revealed himself to men on earth (John 1: 31; 1 Tim. 3: 16; 2 Tim. 1: 10; 1 Pet. 1: 20; 1 John 1: 2; 3: 5, 8; he will be manifested once again, when he comes back to earth the second time, to take his church up to glory where he is. "We shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is."—We cannot here help thinking of the words of the apostle Paul—"For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully, even as also I was fully known" (1 Cor. 13: 12). We will have greater powers for apprehending spiritual truth when we are in our new spiritual bodies, and then we shall see Christ in all of his glory (see John 17: 24), in all of his love, in all of his infinite power and wisdom.

Hope of His Return

"And every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."—The hope here spoken of is, of course, the hope of our Lord's return, and the hope of seeing him again face to face. The effect of the hope of the return of the Lord Jesus upon us is to be likened to the effect upon us of a letter we receive from our dearest loved one who has been away, saying that he or she will be back again in the home on a certain day—everything in the home is made ready, and the very heart of the waiting loved one is also made ready, and all its thoughts and longings are toward the one returning.

"Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away sins; and in him is no sin."—Two glorious things are here said about the Lord Jesus Christ. In the first place, he came to take away our sins. Every man has sinned. Sin shuts us away from God and merits the wrath of God. If we are to be the children of God, our sins must be dwelt with. We could not deal with them ourselves, we cannot cleanse ourselves from sin, we cannot pay the debts they incur, we cannot blot them out. If sin is to be put away, another must do it, and that must be one who has no sins of his own, for if he had his own sins to atone for, he could never atone for the sins of others. And so we read of the One who came to take away our sins that "in him is no sin.

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither knoweth him."—No one who is not first a believer in the Lord can abide in the Lord Jesus Christ Jesus Christ, and a member of his body; or, as the Lord himself said, he is the vine, and we are the branches (John 15: 4—10) If we abide in Christ, we shall keep the commandments of Christ, i.e., we shall do the things that please him.

Love For One Another

The apostle, while he has often before spoken of love for one another, now returns to the subject, presenting it in its practical aspects. Love for one another is not a new message but is involved in the whole gospel story, and indeed, is an Old Testament revelation (Lev. 19: 18, 34; Matt. 5: 43, 44; 19: 19; 22: 39; John 13: 34; 15: 12). Love is the antithesis, the enemy, and the death of hatred.

The great supreme incentive to love, and the perfect ideal for of love for others, is found in the very life and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, who laid down his life because he loved us.

Though the apostle John is called the great mystic of the New Testament, though he writes concerning the loftiest themes that can ever engage the attention of men, and though at times he seems to speak to us from the very heights of Heaven, nevertheless he is exceedingly practical, and, in this very discussion regarding the necessity of love in our life, he points out how that no man possesses this world's goods and refuses to share them with his brother who is in need can ever claim to have the love of God in him.

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth."—Love is dutiful in thought and deed. A little child who was asked what it meant, replied: "Love means doing errands."

"Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him. Because if our heart condemn us, God, is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."—We shall know we are of the truth, i.e., that we are in God, and that we are his children, and our hearts will have assurance in his very presence of our own intimate relationship with him, if we love in deed and in truth. A man will certainly know if he loves, or if he hates his fellow-men, and, if his heart is possessed with true love, it strengthens his confidence in his conviction that he is a child of God.

The design of the 1938 registration plates is exceptionally attractive with Crown and Orange figures on Blue background.

To Save Ontario Motorists Time and Money

1938 Motor Vehicle Permits Are Now Available

DUE to the advance in the new car purchasing season and the fact that increasingly large numbers of used cars and trucks are now purchased at this time of year and following the practice established last year which met with such favourable reception on the part of the motoring public, 1938 Motor Vehicle Permits and Operators' Licenses are being made available in advance of the date of expiration of 1937 permits.

1938 Permits (now available) save the purchaser of a new car or truck the expense of 1937 registration.

They save the purchaser of a used car or truck the fee for transferring the 1937 registration (1938 Permit can be procured without transfer fee).

As indicated in the Budget Address delivered on March 9th of this year, the Government is able to announce a downward revision in the fees for the registration of Motor Vehicles.

PASSENGER CAR REGISTRATION FEES	1937 Fee	1938 Fee
4 cylinders	$ 7.00	$ 2.00
6 cylinders, up to and including 28 horse power	12.00	7.00
6 cylinders, over 28 horse power	15.00	10.00
8 cylinders, up to and including 35 horse power	15.00	10.00
8 cylinders, over 35 horse power	20.00	15.00
12 cylinders	30.00	25.00
16 cylinders	40.00	35.00

(S.A.E. rating of horse power shall be used)

All Commercial Motor Vehicles and Trailers have been reduced 25% from the 1937 rate.

The Fee for the registration of a change of ownership has been reduced from $2.00 to $1.00.

Fee for the Registration of a Motor Cycle has been reduced from $3.00 to $1.00.

CHANGE OF LICENSE YEAR

The Government having decided to change the license year to coincide with its fiscal year, 1938 permits and licenses will be valid to March 31st, 1939.

D. B. M. Gunn

MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

This advance sale of 1938 Motor Vehicle Permits and Operators' Licenses is for **your** convenience.

Secure YOUR License Early!