SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON II.
THE CHRISTIAN
IN GOD'S KEEPING
(Psalm 121; Book of Jude)
PRINTED TEXT—Jude 1—4, 17—25.
GOLDEN TEXT—Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.—Jude 21.

The Lesson In Its Setting

Time—Inasmuch as the author of the 121st Psalm is not known, its date cannot be determined. Jude wrote his epistle about 65 A.D.

Place—We have no way of determining where the 121st Psalm was written. Strange to say, we have no information of any kind that would tell us where the epistle of Jude was written. It may have been Jerusalem; it may have been elsewhere.

"A Song in Praise of God's Preservations," Psalm 121: This beautiful psalm is the trustful expression of a heart rejoicing in its own safety under the watchful eye of Him who is both the Maker of Heaven and earth and the Keeper of Israel. The Creator of the universe, the Keeper of the nation, is also the Keeper of the individual. Undoubtedly the characteristics of Jehovah revealed in the first two verses of this psalm are stated to set Jehovah in contrast with the dead gods of the heathen nations around them, who, on the one hand, did not make the heavens and the earth, and, on the other hand, were even acknowledged (at times) by their worshippers to fall asleep and thus to forget their subjects. A God who has created the universe has power enough to easily keep and protect individuals, no matter how threatening, or how powerful adverse circumstances or external antagonisms might be.

From physical dangers, the Psalmist rises to moral dangers, assuring those to whom he wrote that Jehovah the Creator, would actually keep his own from all evil contamination of soul.

God's Promises

This exquisite psalm is, as it were, a condensation and summary of similar promises of God in the ages that had gone before, as, e.g., the words of God to Jacob the night he fell asleep at Bethel, after leaving his father's home in sorrow. "Behold I am with thee and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of". So, hundreds of years later, the Lord said to Moses— "Behold I send an angel before thee to keep thee by the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared."

"Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James."— There are six different men in the New Testament who bear the name of Jude or Judas. The author of this epistle of one chapter was a brother of James who wrote an epistle, and, consequently, a brother of the Lord Jesus himself (Matt. 13: 55; Mark 6: 3). To them that are called. That is, to those who have heard the call of the gospel message to accept the Lord Jesus Christ, and have hearkened to it. "Beloved in God the Father."— It is God's love which sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die for us, and then sent that message to us through his word and through his ministers:— those who are called of God truly are the beloved of God. "And kept for Jesus Christ."— The word here translated "kept" occurs five times in this single chapter—here, twice in v. 6, once in v. 13, where it is translated "reserved," and a final time in v. 21. The word expresses watchful care and is suggestive of present possession. It is the same word three times used by our Lord in his wonderful intercessory prayer in John 17. Jude is so confident of God's purpose to keep us that he links it inseparably with and makes it to be a very part of our calling, and the fact of our being loved by God. We are kept day by day from those things which would harm our souls.

That which alone can come between us and God is sin. It is God alone who can deliver us from the power of either of these, and from the weakness and wicked inclinations of our own flesh.

"Mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied."— This sentence is what might truly be called an invocation, so common in all of Paul's epistles. "Mercy" is the unmerited source. "Peace" and "love" are the blissful results, whether by love is meant the mutual love of the readers, or their love to God, or God's love to them, or all three.

Trouble in the Church

"Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in privily, even they who were of old written of beforehand unto this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." — A terrible situation had arisen in the Christian Church at the time Jude was writing, which was probably about 35 years after the ascent of our Lord to glory, possibly A.D. 65, or 66. Certain men had stealthily come into the church, who allowed themselves to become members of the church, but who concealed both their heretical beliefs and their impure life from other Christians, and were thus hyprocrites at the outset. They were false both in their beliefs and in their conduct. The two go together. These terrible conditions led Jude to urge his readers to earnestly contend for the very faith which these men were denying.

"But ye, beloved, remember ye the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; That they said to you, In the last time there shall be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts."—St. Jude reminds his readers that the apostles had often said that mockers would come and then proceed to quote an apostolic document in which this saying was recorded in a particular shape.

"These are they who make separations."— It was characteristic of the false teachers and mockers that they drew lines of demarcation which Christ had not drawn, between themselves and others, or between different classes of believers. "Sensual, having not the Spirit."—That is, they were "men who lived only for the natural self — men who make the sensuous nature with its appetites and passions the law of their life."

Keep in God's Love

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith." — Probably these phrases, of which this is the first, form as perfect an illustration as can be found in all of the New Testament of the words of the apostle Paul — "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." The way to build ourselves up on our faith is by doing the things which Jude now admonishes. "Praying in the Holy Spirit." To pray in the Holy Spirit is to pray in accordance with the leading of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Consequently, all prayers will be characterized by holiness and by spirituality.

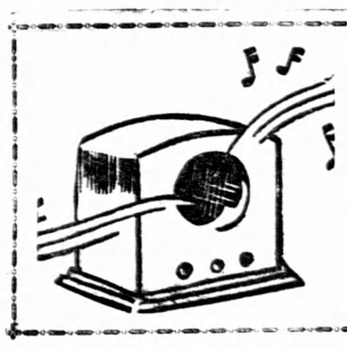
"Keep yourselves in the love of God."— It is not, "Keep God loving you." But we need to keep in the conscious enjoyment of it. We keep ourselves in the love of God primarily by doing those things which please him. "Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." —We are to continually look for our Lord to come back, at which time we know that mercy will prevail. At this time we shall come into the full apprehension of and the full realization of the eternal life, which, as a gift, was bestowed upon us when we accepted our Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

"And on some have mercy, who are in doubt. And some save, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."—As the Lord has been merciful toward us, so should we be merciful toward others, and especially must this be observed as we deal with those who have come into the darkness of doubt, or have fallen into some great sin.

"Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling."— The concluding sentence of Jude's epistle is one of the richest, if not the richest doxology to be found at the end of any of the New Testament writings. "And to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish."—The glory here referred to is, of course, the glory of God, the outshining of all of his divine attributes. "In exceeding joy." This probably refers to the joy which is God's and the joy of the Lord Jesus Christ in bringing to completion their great task.

"To the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now and for evermore. Amen."

C—3



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

G. C. MURRAY

Script Writing No Cinch

Some authors spend months or years writing a single novel, but Irna Phillips, author of The Guiding Light, Today's Children, and the news series The Road of Life, three N B C Serials, turns out more than 30,000 words each week. Her job is no snap —spending nine hours a day at least five days a week in her Chicago office dictating to her secretary. To get the natural touch, faithful characterization, and so on, Miss Phillips invites such people as policemen, storekeepers, etc., in for a chat when she must write a part for such characters.

Chose Hard Road to Success

Joan Edwards, pretty 19-year-old rhythm singer, is determined to make good on her own. Although she is a niece of Gus Edwards, famous for discovering and developing stars, Joan wants none of his influence. And so she suffered many disappointments and heartbreaks. Her father is a song publisher, her mother a former vaudeville singer. Both encouraged Joan's ambition to become a singing pianist. She made her professional debut in Miami, where she was presented by Rudy Vallee, and later by Fred Allen. She is now heard on the blue network on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10.15 p.m.

The News Is Out

About 77 more days till Christmas —but we know now that Arturo Toscanini will conduct the N B C Symphony orchestra consisting of 100 hand picked musicians on December 25 from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. and each Saturday thereafter. The program will originate in N B C's large Radio City studio and will be heard from coast to coast over the Red web. Toscanini, in returning to America about December 15 to take over the baton of the NBC Symphony, comes back to the land where he has had many great triumphs. It was during his seven years of association with the orchestra at the Metropolitan Opera, from 1908 to 1915 that he rose from the rank of fine conductors to the pinnacle of individual supremacy among them. 1920 saw Toscanini returning to La Scala in Milan, where in his earlier years, his great genius had matured. Last year he left America, and was thought to be lost to music lovers here until last Winter he consented to return to the States to conduct ten radio concerts for N B C for which he will receive 40,000 iron men.

Jell-O Benny Rides Again

October 3 saw Buck Benny back on his Jello spot with Mary Livingstone, Kenny Baker, Don Six Delicious Flavors Wilson, Phill Harris and his Jello guzzling orchestra, gravel-voiced Andy Devine, and Sam Schlepperman Hearn, who's "Hello Stranger" has been missed during the last part of Benny's series. The day—Sunday. The time—7:30 p.m.— The network, NBC Red.

Canadian (Radio) Capers

The Good Humor Amateur Hour enters the second year of presenting new voices and acts over the ozone. Two new stations join the hook-up, C F C F, Montreal and C F C O, Chatham. C H M L, Hamilton, C F R B, and C K C L, Toronto complete the chain. . . . C H M L, Hamilton to carry Rugby games of Toronto, Hamilton, and Guelph universities. Sport fans will have a full Saturday afternoon of rugby, for these games will be followed by the Big Four Games. . . . Wondering what happened to Pauline Drake, whose charming voice pleased many radio listeners while pinch-hitting for another female commentator. . . . Lou Snider and Murray Ross have gained many, many friends across Canada on their present C B C network programs. This two piano team is one of the popular features on Canadian Radio. . . . Horace Lapp and his musicians move back into their Royal York Hotel spot, and will soon be heard dispensing smart dance tunes over the air. They have just returned from Banff, Alberta.

Mrs. Marzia Lakov, aged 26, has been legally married under Russian law 29 times in seven years. In that period she has had 28 divorces.

Insect Is Speed Champion of World

Cephenomyia Can Travel at 818 Miles Per Hour

Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, this week at New York, awarded the world speed championship to an air racer named cephenomyia, a kind of bug which has been clocked at 818 miles an hour.

Dr. Andrews, director of the American Museum of Natural History, writes in the October issue of "Natural History, that:

"If it were possible to drive an airplane at the speed of cephenomyia for 17 hours continuously, we could go all around the world in a daylight day. Eight hundred and eighteen miles an hour is approximately twice as fast as our fastest planes."

Around World In A Day

Insects are better fliers than birds, Dr. Andrews says, because they have a heritage of several million years in nature's trial and error flying school, whereas birds have been around only about 135,000,000 years.

"So far the insects may be ahead," he concludes, "but man has only recently spread his wings — and the sky is the limit."

Barkless Dogs Are New Craze

Are Useful Pets In Cities Carrying on Anti-Noise Campaign

Those New Yorkers who take their anti-noise campaign seriously have something more to cheer about than the departure of the American Legionaires. That's when the barkless dog made its North American debut this week.

Incredible as it may seem, the dogs really don't bark. They are born that way; no bark-removing operations have to be performed. Natives of the Congo in Africa, the barkless wonders are known to the Africans as Basenji, which are excellent hunters, although they can make themselves heard with only a sort of growl or rumble.

Dog lovers never heard of these animals until last December, when a few braces of them were taken to England by Mrs. Olivia Burn, an Englishwoman who found them in the Belgian Congo. In the last ten months the Basenji have been bred and shown in England, atracting considerable attention. Two barkless, but otherwise alert and playful puppies arrived from their English birthplace aboard the Berengaria.

Mussolini's Son Here

Vittorio Mussolini, eldest son of the Italian dictator, comfortably attired in shorts on the Rex, from which he was landed by a Coast Guard cutter to escape Communist demonstration scheduled to greet him.