Sunday School Lesson

LESSON III
CHRISTIAN SPEECH AND CONDUCT—James, Chapter 3

Golden Text.—Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth. Ephesians 4:29.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING.

Time.—The date of the epistle of James is greatly disputed. The author died in 63 A.D. Some place the epistle the year before this, while others date it as early as 50 A.D. The exact date cannot be determined.

Place.—Probably James wrote the epistle in the city of Jerusalem.

The author of this epistle was the brother of the Lord Jesus, and is referred to directly only twice in the Gospels (Matt. 12:46; 13:55; Mark 6:3. Cf. John 2:12; 7:3,5). He was, of course, a Jew, brought up in the strict teachings of the Jewish synagogue, devoted to the law of Moses, zealous in living a righeous and godly life. His was probably the first epistle written in the early church.

It is against this general desire to be prominent as instructors that St. James is here warning his readers. In teaching others, they were in danger of forgetting to teach themselves; to possess faith and to do nothing but talk.

If any stumbleth not in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. 3. Now if we put the horses' bridles into their mouths, that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also. James here begins the subject which occupies almost the entire chapter, namely, that of the control of the tongue. What James here means is that, if a man has his tongue under control, i.e., his speech, he will be thereby keeping under control all the organs of his body which will lead him into sin if not mastered.

A Tongue Controlled

4. Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, are yet turned about by a very small rudder, whither the impulse of the steersman willeth. 5. So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things. As a horse uncontrolled is worthless as far as man is concerned, so a ship when driven by rough winds is certain to founder on the rocks or the beach and be smashed to pieces.

"Speech can guide into right ways, escape dangers, battle successfully with storms, and conduct into restful harbors, but it can also wreck and shatter lives and drown in bottomless floods. Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire! 6. And the tongue is a fire. The tongue can inflame another with the passion of anger, or the poison of suspicion. The world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body. "You sully your lips and degrade your whole nature when you suffer yourself to speak the tainted and tainting word. Passions kindled by unscrupulous language spread through various channels and courses until the whole cycle of human life is in flames. And is set on fire by hell. "The fire of man's wrath is kindled from beneath as the fire that cleanseth is kindled from above.

7. For every kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things and things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed by mankind. 8. But the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison. Augustine well remarks: "James does not say that no one can tame the tongue, but no one of men; so that, when it is tamed, we confess that this is brought about by the pity, the help, the grace of God."

The aposle now calls the attention of his readers to the great but mysterious truth with which we are all acquainted—that with the tongue great good and great evil both may be effected.

9. Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of God. 10. Out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing.

"How great are the possibilities of a tongue which is under divine control, cleansed and anointed! What sorrows it can comfort, what wounds it can heal, what strife it can still! It is also God's mightiest instrument for the pulling down of the strongholds of sin, and the upbuilding of his kingdom.

My brethren, these things ought not so to be. It was abnormal that a man should bless God in his prayers or creed and yet so despise or speak evil of members of his own family, inasmuch as he and his fellow-men were the offspring of a common Father.

11. Doth the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet water and bitter? 12. Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a vine figs? Neither can salt water yield sweet. For similar figures of speech used by our Lord, see Matt. 7:16-18; 12:33-36.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

Who is wise and understanding among you? In a most natural way, James proceeds from his specific discussion of speech to the larger question of wisdom. The understanding of things human and divine and their causes. It is the word used to describe the wisdom of Christ himself (Matt. 13:54). James refers to the need for wisdom at the very beginning of his epistle (1:5, 6), and now returns to the subject once again. Let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom. Meekness in the New Testament "included submissiveness to God as well as gentleness towards man.

14. But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth. The word here translated faction might be more accurately translated "rivalry," expressing the strife existing among different individuals or groups of individuals. There is nothing more tragic in the world than to see Christion teachers, and officers in the Christian church striving among themselves for superior places of honor, and angry if someone else gets more praise than they get. To glory with their tongues of superior wisdom, while they cherished jealousy and faction in their hearts, was a manifest lie, a contradiction of what they must know to be the truth.

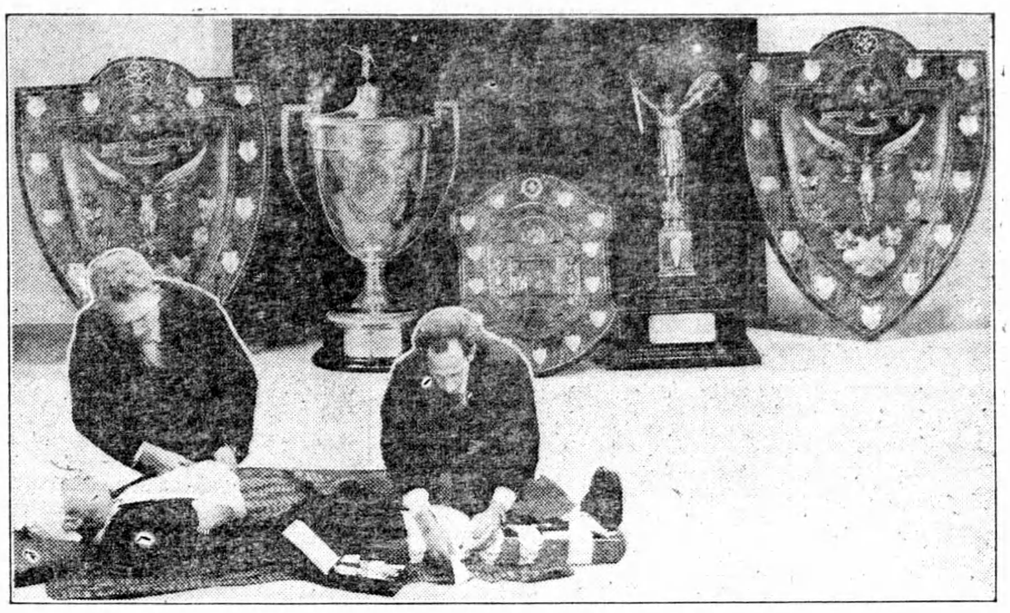
James now turns from his discussion of wisdom in general to a characterization and development of the two kinds of wisdom which men may have, one bearing evil fruit, and the other bearing fruits of righteousness.

15. This wisdom. That is, any such wisdom that allows jealousy and faction in one's heart. Is not a wisdom that cometh down from above, but is earthly. That is, it does not have a divine origin, but derives from the natural plane on which unregenerated men live. "It belongs to the lower impulses, not the higher, in man's nature. Devilish. The original word here really refers not so much to the devil himself, as to demons, and as partaking of the nature of demons or unclean spirits who are represented as possessing the souls of men, and reducing them to the level of madness.

16. For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed. In I Cor. 14:33, God is said to be the author, not of confusion, but of peace. The word here translated vile means good for nothing.

17. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure. (See Prov. 2:3-6). "The purity of the heavenly wisdom does not consist merely in victory over temptations of the flesh, but in freedom from worldly and low motives. "I cannot win men from impurity to purity if I am not pure." Then peaceable, gentle. "It is because the man who is inspired with pure wisdom has no ulterior, selfish ends to serve that he is gentle, sympathetic, and considerate towards those who oppose him. Easy to be entreated. The best interpretation of this phrase would be "winning its way by gentleness." Full of mercy and good fruits. Without variance, without hypocrisy. The first two words here probably mean "unwavering," "steadfast," "single-minded," while, as we all know, hypocrisy means "insincerity," "pretending to be something which one is not."

A Ten Year Goal Reached



Foremost among the coveted honours won by Bell Telephone first aiders was the Dominion-wide Championships for women and men—a goal which Bell first aid teams have been striving to attain for ten years.

In the picture two Bell Telephone first aid graduates are giving an exhibition of how head, arm, and leg injuries should be cared for. In the background are the trophies won by the different Bell Telephone teams. Left to right: the Ontario Provincial Shield and the Montizambert Cup emplematic of the Canadian Championship won by Team No. 1, Toronto. The Sir George Burn Trophy, All Canada Ladies' First Aid Championship, won by the Accounting Ladies' Team, Toronto. The Wallace Nesbitt General Trophy and the Quebec Provincial Shield won by Team No. 1, Montreal.

Approximately ninety-five out of every hundred Bell Telephone male plant workers are now qualified to render First Aid.

A Blanket Sentence

Because his clothing and money had been taken from him, C. B. Walden had to serve a ten day sentence in Atlanta, Ga., all wrapped up in thought of his missing apparel, and a blanket provided by the police. Walden said three men held him up and fled.

It Has Since Disappeared

Pilot Johnny Martin, with his pet, a pesodi of rare value. The animal has vanished, and Martin would like to find it, because there are only two of its kind known to exist in this country.

Duchess Abandons Wallis Blue Color

"Wallis blue" went by the board this week. New clothes chosen at Paris by the Duchess of Windsor were black, brown and red. Only one costume struck the familiar blue note. It was a traveling ensemble in navy blue wool.

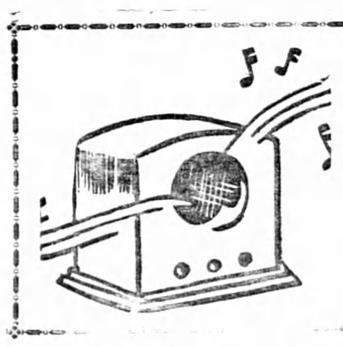
There was a strong note of plaid in apparel the duchess selected for day wear at Mainbocher's, where a private room was set aside for her fittings.

Her new dinner frocks for winter parties were of lace and georgette. The fabrics chosen for formal evening gowns included broadcloth, tutler, flashing metal fabrics and somber velvets.

Continues Work On Artificial Heart

Dr. Alexis Carrel, research scientist, disclosed this week that he and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh were continuing experimentation looking toward perfection of the artificial heart" which they devised for study of human organs outside the body.

Dr. Carrel, returning to New York from abroad on the Normandie, refused to say that they were making progress, but indicated that they still were working along the same lines. He rejected as "nonsensical" reports that Lindbergh planned to become a British citizen.



Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

G. C. MURRAY

Log Cabin Show Features Jack Haley

Last Saturday, October 9, Jack Haley started the Log Cabin Syrup series over the NBC Red Network. Haley, if you remember, was the timid crooner in the 20th-Century-Fox picture "Wake Up And Live." Supported by Ted Fio Rito's orchestra, Warren Hull, author, and Virginia Verrill, youthful blues singer, this series promises to be on the favorites for this season.

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You listeners who have heard so much about Voodoo, here is your chance to listen to an authentic description of a voodoo service with its accompanying chants and drum calls on Wednesday, October 13, at 3.00 p.m., over the Blue web. The broadcast is designed to show the typical life of Haiti today, and will feature Irma Goebel Labastille whose husband was born in Haiti and Blair Niles, noted woman explorer. The program is titled "Women Expore the World."

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At Least a Small Part

Charlie McCarthy, the only pine block in the world that can claim to have spoken over the radio, entertained at night clubs, given command performances before royalty now has been signed by Samuel Goldwyn in Goldwyn Follies, after which Universal claims his services. What about Bergen, you ask? Well, it looks as though Edgar would get a job too. Charlie says he thinks he can fix it up with the moguls to "give Bergen at least a small part".

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Another milestone in its long record of service to the farmers and homemakers of the nation has been passed on Saturday, October 2, when the National Farm and Home Hour began its 10th year over NBC. On that day, the popular noon-hour program was aired over the network for the 2,771st time since the inaugural broadcast in 1928. During the course of this time, the network has been increased from 17 stations to a total of 70.

New Canadian Voices

And now for a wee bit of Canadian news. A couple of days ago, CFRB ran an audition over the air just before midnight. We think the program was probably the choicest bit of airing we have heard for a long time emanating from a local station. The program introduced a new voice to the air—that of Ran Daly—and girls, is he handsome! Vince "Flying Fingers" Boyd played the organ, while Rai Purdy gave bits of philosophy and quoted poetry. The program was quite appropriate to the hours—you know, the soft, lulling kind. Some smart sponsor should look into this.

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Stan Francis just dropped down on the desk. Stan is the m. c. on the Sunday Night Community Sing Jamboree broadcast over CKCL, at 9:00 p.m. We haven't seen Stan since sometime in the summer when he shaved off his mustache. Imagine our surprise when we noticed a brand new cookie duster under his nose. Thanks for the passes, Stan. We might drop in and see you conduct the mass tonsil exercises. Incidentally Stan presents a smart review three nights weekly at the Lansdowne Theatre.

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"Barnacle Bill"

If the kiddies of the house are interested in listening to serials, tune them in to "Barnacle Bill" over CFRB and a Canadian network at 5.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Ogilvie Flour sponsors the series.

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We have to hand it to Reg Dagg of CKWX, Vancouver, who made Canadian radio history by broadcasting interviews with Sino Japanese war refugees from Shanghai upon arrival here aboard the Canadian Pacific's Empress of Asia. Dagg went over to Victoria the night previous, and boarding the liner on its arrival there in the early hours of the morning, he arranged the interviews on the five hour crossing to Vancouver, and when the first hawser came ashore the dock, Dagg heaved his mike lines ashore. The interviews were on the air before the gang-plank was in place.

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Interested In Canadian Stations

American sponsors are getting interested in Canadian radio stations in so far as to bring their American network programs into Canada. This is indicative of the upswing in Canadian radio business. What we can't figure out is if these stations are valuable, why not run a Canadian series, emanating from some point in Canada. Then we may get some real programs in Canada.

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The announcers out west are having plenty of fun. With the sudden demand for football game broadcasts, a sponsor has undertaken to broadcast the Western Canada group. This consists of teams in Calgary, Winnipeg and Regina. The announcers travel from 350 to 780 miles to do a single broadcast. Nice work, if you get it.

At The Mordkin Ballet

Two members of the world-famed original ballet troupe, directed by Mikhail Mordkin who are presenting new ballets this season never before seen in America.