SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IV
Christian Renewal — John 10:7-16; Titus 3:1-11
Printed Tet Titus 3:1-11

GOLDEN TEXT — "For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men." — Titus 2:11.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time — The words of our Lord were uttered in October, A.D., 29. The Epistle to Titus was written shortly before the martyrdom of St. Paul, probably A.D. 66.

Place — Our Lord's words were uttered in Jerusalem. The Epistle of Paul to Titus was written from Rome to Titus who was residing in the island of Crete.

John Ruskin has well said. "There is no wealth but life." The question might well be asked by every man, in the quiet of an hour when he is alone with himself and with God: "What would I consider to be the richest, fullest possible life for myself, if I could have everything in the world I should wish to choose?" Then he might follow this question with another: "Is my life today as rich, deep, full, and satisfying as it can be?"

John 10:7-16. The central statement in this lesson assigned to us from the tenth chapter of John, as it relates to the general subject of our lesson for today, is found at the end of verse 10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The reason why Christ is able to bestow abundant life upon men is because, on the one hand, he delivers men from all those powers which rob them of life. He delivers from the power of sin, the power of Satan, and the power of death. He is able to do this because he lived sinlessly and can give victory.

The abundant life which we have in Christ extends into every sphere of our personality.

Our Lord came also to give us more abundant intellectual life. We can hardly imagine today the mental darkness of the world into which our Lord came.

More Abundant Life

Most of all, Christ is able, and he only, to give to men a rich, more abundant, overflowing spiritual life. He alone brings God into the life of man.

The epistle of Paul to Titus was written to him while he was working as a disciple of Christ and a laborer in the church in the island of Crete.

"Put them in mind to be in subjection to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient." The reference here is principally to Roman officers who were in authority in the island of Crete. "To be ready unto every good work." Good works have nothing to do with the certainty of our being saved, but good works certainly ought to be a part of the experience of everyone who is saved.

"To speak evil of no man." There is probably no greater sin among the children of God than speaking evil one of another, and this vicious habit the New Testament continually denounces. "Not to be contentious." Literally, this means not to be fighters. "To be gentle, showing all meekness toward all men."

"For we also once were foolish." That is, acting without understanding, stupidly, without discernment, which is a characteristic of every sinner. "Disobedient." Both to God's laws, and the laws of magistrates and rulers. "Deceived." As in 2 Tim. 3:13, either by the devil or by the false opinions of men. "Serving divers lusts and pleasures." With a sort of grim humor St. Paul here flashes a sudden light on what is called a life of pleasure, and shows what a slavery it really is.

"Living in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another." Are not hatred and envy the cause of nearly all murders, and most of the lies that people tell about others, and, ultimately, the cause of war itself?

"But when the kindness of God our Saviour, and his love toward man, appeared." Of course this is a direct reference to the incarnation of the Son of God, for God's love for the world was so great that he sent his only begotten Son. Until that time men hardly knew, and never knew in all the wealth of its meaning, that God in heaven loved sinners on earth.

Washing of Regeneration

"Not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves." All the good works done in righteousness, are worthy and commendable but they can never save us. "But according to his mercy he saved us." The mercy of God is simply his knowledge of our desperate need, and his delivering us from the fearful consequences of our desperate condition. "Through the washing of regeneration." Literally, our word regeneration simply means born again. Most commentators make the word washing to refer to baptism. However, baptism does not save us, but is a symbol of the washing away of our sins, which takes place when we are born again.

It is that gradual conforming of the mind, more and more, to that new spiritual world into which he has been introduced, the restoration of the divine image.

"Which he poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour." All the spiritual blessings of the new birth and of the new life are represented as flowing down to us from and out of the one fountain and well-spring of the love of God the Father.

Sinner Declared Just

"That, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." To be justified is to be declared just, and, in the epistles of Paul, it means that a sinner before the throne of holy God is declared just or righteous.

"Faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire that thou affirm confidently, to the end that they who have believed God may be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." Good works are simply doing those things that bring good and blessing to other people. There are good works on a strictly materialistic basis, such as supplying clothes, food, shelter, and relief in physical distress, ministering to the sick, and the lonely, and the impoverished; but there are good works on a higher plane, such as unfolding the word of God to those who do not know it, bringing comfort in an hour of tragedy, leading others out of darkness into light, ignorant men and women, praying with others and for others, faithfulness to those who need us, etc. That great passage in Tim. 3:16, 17 reveals the supreme spirituality of what we call good works, and no man can do good works unless he is a believer in the Lord Jesus. Notice especially the word "careful." The word implies two things: "Bring your brains to bear on these truths that are being thus constantly examined; bring them into your hearts through your minds, that they may filter into the shape the life. Carefulness means the occupation of the mind with the truths that produce holiness of life. And then, secondly, there must be a direct and continuous effort to increase our faith.

"But shun foolish questionings, and genealogies, and strifes, and fightings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

"A factious man." The word indicates a man who is determined to go his own way, and so forms parties and factions in the church. "After a first and second admonition refuse; Knowing that such a one is perverted, and sinneth, being self-condemned. The meaning seems to be that, after a first attempt to induce this person to desist from his perverse and self-willed conduct, Titus is to waste no more time on him, because he knows his efforts will be useless.

"It is a kindly fate that has not given us the gift of seeing ourselves as others see us."

—Will Durant.

New Lord Mayor of London

With centuries-old ceremony at the Guilrhall, Sir Harry Twyford was elected to be next Lord Mayor of London. Before the election a service was held at the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry. Sir Harry is nearer the camera in the procession to the Guildhall.

New Governor of Hong-Kong and Wife

Sir Geoffrey Alexander Stafford Northcote, K.C.M.G., is pictured wtih Lady Northcote just previous to sailing to take up the Governorship of Hong Kong. Sir Geoffrey has been in the Colonial Service since leaving Balliol College in 1904, and has served in various capacities in Kenya, Northern Rhodesia, and on the Gold Coast. During 1928-36 he was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Guiana. Lady Northcote is a daughter of Rev. J. W. Adams, V.C.

Wanted! A Hurricane

"Good-bye. Hope you run into a hurricane!" This sounds a strange "God-speed" to departing airmen, but actually it was what they wished themselves. For the two airmen, given such a strange good-bye, formed an expedition setting out from Boston, Massachusetts, to study weather conditions. Success depended upon their being able to make observations of a hurricane.

China Prejudiced Against Actors

China, land of ancient prejudices, has one prejudice against actors which dies hard.

Until recent years, the law and tradition classed actors with boatmen and slaves, strictly forbidding them to marry into higher grades of society. Their children were not allowed to sit for examinations giving entry into civil service posts. The law forbade them to wear garments of silk spun by domesticated caterpillars; the silk had to be that from wild cocoons, of the sort used for making fishing-nets.

Actors were not allowed to wear furs. If they had even worn a slightly bedraggled rabbit-skin collar they would have been punished by a public whipping with bamboos. Only sheepskins or goatskins were allowed as a lining for the actor's winter coat.

And one of the chief missions of a marriage go-between was to ascertain that neither the prospective bride nor groom of middle-class origin had a taint of leprosy or lunacy —or was related to an actor.

Insurance for Thieves

A thieves' insurance company, consisting of 3,000 members, has been operating in Warsaw, Poland. The members pay a regular premium, and should one of them be arrested, the company pays trial costs. In the case of conviction and imprisonment, the company provides extra food.

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Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

With FRANK DENNIS

Well, here we are back again with a little more gossip about the people you hear on the radio.

The other day we slipped into the studios of CFRB, and gum-shoed our way into a studio . . . and what do you think we found—Roy Locksley and an unknown lad. Roy tells us that the lad is Joseph Laderoute —a new comer to radio—and Joseph has one of the finest tenor voces we have ever heard. We understand that Joseph is taking the tenor lead in the Mendelssohn Choir Concert in the very near future. Laderoute originally comes from the Sault. Our best wishes to you, Joseph.

Grad Presentation

Another new voice to come on the air in recent programs is that of Jack Barkin. Jack sang in Toronto some years ago, at which time he started on a night club tour. Now he is back for the Grad Cigarette Broadcast. Congratulations are in order in Jack's case, for a week ago, the stork paid the Barkins a visit. Speaking of the Grad presentation over CFRB, the program is one of the finest yet presented—featuring two minutes of practically everything that could be broadcast—sport—comedy —drama—song—and music.

Some good friends of ours just breezed into town —Norman Harris and his orchestra. The boys were summer-jobbing it up north and now are located at the Palais Royale in Toronto—broadcasting over CFRB. Frankie Radcliffe, Harris's ace trumpeter, we take it is quite a lad. No sooner than he gets in town that he calls Dorothy Daly, local songstress, and it seems that they are that-a-way about each other. By the way, Dorothy's brother, Ran, used to play in the Harris organization about a year ago.

Paging Canadian Talent

Talking to Ken Soble, he tells us that Canadian amateur talent is far from running dry. Elimination contests are being run from local theatres at Galt, Guelph, Chatham, Brantford, Woodstock, Sarnia, Hamilton and other points west. The winners are heard on the Sunday noon amateur hour. Arrangements have been made for the ultimate winner to visit Hollywood for screen tests. Who knows—there may be another Garbo or Barrymore. We think this series of programs is really giving Canadian talent an opportunity. If any of our readers would like to compete, just write Ken Soble at CFRB, Toronto.

From down below the border comes word that Murray MacEcheran, Toronto trombonist who joined the ranks of Benny Goodman's Swingeroos has left that musical organization to join Glen Gray's Casa Loma Orchestra. This brings a couple more of Toronto's musicians together. Glen Gray, if you recall, some years ago formed his band in Toronto and played at the Casa Loma when it was turned into a hotel.

Two-Piano Team

Just spoke to Lou Snider of the famous piano team of Snider and Ross. He informs us that they will put on a fifteen minute program over the CRCT, Commission and Mutual networks on Thursday, October 28 at 8:15. We recall the first time these boys played their first two piano program and we are really tickled with the progress they have made. They are also heard on the Grad Cigarette Show on Friday evenings with Roy Locksley's orchestra.

From down below came the inauguration of the 12th consecutive season on the air of the "Voice of Niagara" program, featuring the Carborundum Band and age old Indian legends related by Francis D. Bowman. This is one of the pioneer commercial programs. The programs are heard from 7.30 to 8.00 Saturdays over the CBS web.

Listeners who are great followers of series such as Ma Perkins, the Goldbergs and others will certainly appreciate Columbias new series entitled "Jenny Peabody," heard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p.m. The programs will originate from the Chicago studios and will feature a distinguished cast headed by Mento Everitt, well-known character actress.

Descriptive Music

Victor Bay's new program is causing a deal of comment. This new series is devoted to music describing all manner of worldly subjects under the direction of Victor Bay, brilliant young CBS conductor, with David Ross, Hollace Shaw and other stars. The program is aired Thursdays over the Columbia set from 10:00 to 10:30.

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Bees to Take Florida Trip

Canny Owners Put Them on A Twelve-Month Production Schedule

Millions of bees are joining the Florida trek this year but it's not their idea.

They are being brought down (probably against their will) by canny owners who want to deprive them of their long winter holiday and put them on a 12-month production schedule.

The Florida Beekeepers' Association reported last week this seasonal migration, started tentatively a few years ago, is reaching heavy volume this season.

Phil Taylor, supervising inspector for the state department of agriculture, said Florida has a bee population of more than 5,000,000 and they don't loaf. They buzz out in search of nectar for their 100,000 queens every day in the year.

Sometimes they land on an automobile driver instead of a flower. That makes them angry. Right now there is a driver in a Deland Hospital with five fractured ribs. A bee got in his car, he tried to dodge it, lost control, hit a pole.