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BAPTISM

International Sunday School Lesson, May19th, 1935

GOLDEN TEXT: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Ghost."

LESSON PASSAGE: Matthew 28: 19, 20; Acts 8: 34-39.

He built a house; time laid it in the dust;
He wrote a book, its title now forgot;
He ruled a city, but his name is not
On any table graven, or where rust
Can gather from dilute, or marble bust.
He took a child from out a wretched cot,
Who on the state dishonor might have brought,
And reared him to the Christian's hope and trust.
The boy, to manhood grown, became a light
To many souls, and preached for human need
The wondrous love of the Omnipotent.
The work has multiplied like stars at night
When darkness deepens; every noble deed
Lasts longer than a granite monument.

Symbols, 19, 20

Symbols have a real value. A flag is an emblem of a country and a ring is a symbol of a marriage. Christ instituted two symbols, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus had himself been baptized at the Jordan river by John the Baptist, and the ceremony had been full of meaning for him. When, after the resurrection, he was giving his farewell instructions to his disciples, he commanded them to teach or disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is a marvel to what extent this command has been obeyed. Though the Quakers and the Salvation Army do not practice the rite of baptism, nearly all other Christians have done so. Probably one fourth of all the people living on earth, at this moment have received the rite of Christian baptism.

Chance Meetings, 34-21

In the observation car of a train going through the Rocky Mountains, two men began to talk. As the hours wore on, the conversation turned to religion. One was an earnest Christian and the other barely a nominal Christian. Before they reached the coast the earnest Christian had won his chance acquaintance. Two men came on a sleeper from New York into Canada, one a mining man and the other a preacher from England. When the morning papers were read the business man started to speak to the minister. In a short time he was telling his problems. One single sentence flashed the light to his soul—so quickly may results come when the Holy Spirit has been working in both hearts. Philip, going through the desert on foot, saw a high official reading in a chariot. Instead of allowing class privilege to hold him aloof he was prompted "to glue himself to the chariot," as the phrase really reads. He found that his help was needed. The chance meeting gave Philip an opportunity to do some personal evangelism.

Old and New Testaments, 32-35

Many people have had a spiritual rebirth through reading a single verse of scripture. The surprising fact is the wide variety of the verses which have served in this way. Truth has come to seeking minds from both the Old and the New Testaments. The Bible is a Holy Spirit book and there is, in many of its passages, a strangely moving and convincing power. If Philip had had his choice, he might have begun by telling of the historic Jesus instead of explaining a passage from Isaiah, but it was this Old Testament scripture that awakened the mind of the Ethiopian. Evidently he felt that there must be some sequel. A pagan chief who had been given the Old Testament came asking for the "other book." He felt that the Old Testament was incomplete and that the story demanded a sequel. Philip was well enough acquainted with the book of Isaiah to be able to fill in the blanks of the story with the historical facts concerning Christ. Every Christian should be able to use the Bible as a tool to communicate faith. A Scottish judge, none too pious, leaving church after hearing a sermon said of the minister, "That man knows his business. I am convinced that God is love and that I must live in love." The goal of teaching and preaching is conviction.

Acting on Conviction, 36-38

After the preaching of a simple gospel sermon, the moment the benediction was pronounced, a manly young man walked down the aisle quickly and said to the minister, "I am a conscious hypocrite. You must help me or I must stop working in this church." That quick decision led to a new start in the Christian life. One of the marks of executive ability is the power to make swift, sure, final decisions. Once the Ethiopian was convinced, he did not procrastinate. He wanted to be baptized at once and, as soon as water was available, the rite was performed. It is a Christian tragedy that there has been so much bitter controversy over the methods of performing the rite of baptism. Efficacy does not depend upon the manner of the rite upon the sincerity of purpose of those participating. The underlying principle is public profession of discipleship.

After Conversion, What? 39

A Roman Catholic theologian uttered this wise saying, "Better no conversion, if no nurture." That is, if a new convert is left alone without the support of further teaching and fellowship, there is grave danger of lapsing. Few people are strong enough to be solitary, secret or silent Christians. The spiritual life is strengthened by sharing. The Ethiopian had been instructed and baptized, but really his battle had only begun. He did not have the advantage of Philip's companionship very long, but he made a good start and when he was left alone, he went on his way rejoicing. The question has been often asked, Did the Ethiopian win his drivers and attendants before he reached home. Did his religion become a household affair? The church exists to give fellowship to those who need the encouragement of spiritual comradeship. The outward rite is merely to mark the entrance to a brotherhood or fellowship in which the inner life of the soul may be cultivated.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is baptizing as important as teaching?
2. How may we use spare time for Bible study?
3. Which chapters in the Bible are your favorites?
4. What is your strongest conviction?
5. Does religion invariably produce radiancy?

At a recent meeting in Nova Scotia of the Potato Marketing Board, members of the retail trade mentioned egg grading, which was introduced in 1933 by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, as an example of what could be accomplished in standardising a product. This is of particular interest, because some of the members who paid the highest tribute to egg grading had previously been prosecuted for violation of the regulations.

* * *

The boys and girls don't stop to think that the best present they get when they are graduated is a high school education.

"PATRIOTISM"

The following essay by Weir Reid of Norval, a student at Georgetown High School, will be read with interest by many of our subscribers:—

"Patriotism" is a glamourous, but expensive farce, a gilded shroud for avarice and various atrocities. Perhaps this is a stern denunciation, allow me to explain.

I have no desire to minimise or discredit the deeds of those who gave their health and lives in the war of 1914-18 in an attempt to throw off a foreign yoke; nor do I renounce all love for my country. I love it and admire it because of its natural beauty, because it is my home. War can only destroy a nation physically and financially. Increases in diseases and crime follow in its wake.

It is essential to hold one's nationality with respect and pride. A sentiment which one bears towards one's family or name. We are not, as a rule, prejudiced against our neighbors. Why should we be antagonistic towards foreign nations?

We are at present paying the first installment on what we considered "patriotism." This statement may be met by a supercilious arching of brows. You may justly ask, "were we to submit to Germany during the Great War?" No, but it was not the ordinary Germans who desired to control us. It was a group of autocratic persons, led by Kaiser Wilhelm, zealous for wealth and power. They played upon the patriotic minds of their subjects to save Germany. The result was war; the men in the trenches suffering, dying for the covetous cause of a few.

Further you may ask, "how are we paying for our victory, the Germans were defeated." The price of our victory was indeed dear. Think of the lives lost, the suffering, the destruction of man and his work, the tremendous debt incurred. No one won the Great War, both sides lost; depression and turmoil still wrack the world as a result of it. Each nation in an attempt to outstrip the other in the "armament race." Educational and building expenses are curtailed to furnish resources for the construction of "death machines," and the stabilization of our defense.

Men, such as Sir Basil Zaharoff, furnished armament to both armies during the war. In so doing he accumulated vast wealth. He also received medals, titles and other superfluous ornaments for his "services." The soldier, who died or was wounded in the slimy trenches, is honoured with a cold stone monument, decorated on certain occasions with wreaths of fragrant flowers.

The "folk" at home see daily the empty chair, hear no longer the loving voices. Orphans long for their soldier fathers, who were not spared to cherish and educate their children adequately. "Yet there is something about a soldier," something about his stalwart fate, that makes people shell out their hoarded coins, others, but few in number as compared with the givers, fill their gaping vaults and seal them tightly. The people of Toronto for example, subscribed $110,000,000 during the World War to carry on the destructive cause. Yet they cannot or will not provide $10,000,000 to construct commodious dwellings for the 25,000 destitute families in that fair city. In the former instance there was music, flags, exhilarating excitement. In the latter the color is drab, the streets are no longer in gala dress, but reeking with bad odors, disease and every phase of sordidness.

This struggle for existence, for health and light is impeded by war and its after affects. Billions of dollars is expended by the world at large for armaments. For the benefit of skeptics, I shall quote a few figures to affirm my statement. Germany is at present manufacturing thirty fighting planes per day for her aerial navy; eighty percent of her population is forced into militaristic training.

You may embrace the opinion that we must have an army and navy to protect our rights. You realize that it is us who fight the wars. It has previously been stated that a few "creatures" start them. Yet it is impossible for them to fight the war themselves; they bind us into fighting by arousing "our national fidelity."

Another war is inevidable. We are quite submissive waiting passively until we must plod again through muddy trenches, rush upon our fellow man, disembowell those whom God made in his image. If we continue to live under this code, war will never die, but humanity probably will. Our solution is we must learn to think sensibly, realize the detriments of war, and staunchly refuse to serve in any so called "patriotic armies."

There is a further argument for the cause of peace. God did not withdraw his commandment and justify killing in battle. He decreed "Thou shalt not kill." Although the clergy and the church gave their support in the war, God did not.

You can't make war without men, women and orators, and "my countries right or wrong" boys and radio broadcasters and editorial writers and cartoonists and farmers and machine workers. It needs the acceptance of millions upon millions. We will not accept war. Our generation made the world war. A new generation can abolish war. If there is blood upon the clean page of the future it will be our blood. It lies within our hands whether or not we spill the ink of existence upon those chapters of history yet to happen. We must and will, I hope, rid our minds and the world of war. Pasture the broad acres of life, and drink its cooling waters without fear of being preyed upon by war.

ONE THIRD OF YOUR CHILDREN DOOMED!

Being of a cheerful turn of mind, we have tried to leave to insurance companies the somber task of charting life's overwhelming hazards. One particular hazard, however, has increased so steadily that we can hardly be held a spoilsport for calling the attention of 1935's parents to the fact that their children, according to the latest estimates, stand one chance in three of meeting death or serious injury from that death-like convenience, the motor car. Take a room containing three children; one of them is destined to be killed or badly hurt by a car before he has completed his normal life span. Statistically, the motor car is life's ugliest joke; its toll makes war seem like a spring outing.—The New Yorker.

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LOWER PRICES

AT the new low prices for May and June, Bray's early-maturing chicks again offer you one of the best chick values you can get. After the first of May, it costs much less to produce baby chicks than it does earlier in the Spring—so naturally they can be sold for much less.

The Bray chicks you buy in May and June are exactly the same as those you'd have gotten two months ago. They are hatched from eggs drawn from the same breeding flocks. The chicks are graded according to egg size before the eggs go into the incubators. And they are hatched in exactly the same way.

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The new prices apply to all NINE breeds, and to "Sexed" pullets as well. Come into the hatchery and get a copy of our new Price List. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised when you see these reductions.

If you are interested in "started" chicks, we have a limited supply of 10-day-old and 2-weeks-old chicks available. They are nicely started and the prices are reasonable.

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The SNAPSHOT GUILD
Don't Overlook the Importance Of Birthday Pictures

Don't delay taking the new baby's picture and then watch him grow through monthly snapshots thereafter.

IN these modern times the father is lucky if he is permitted to see his newly-born hair for several days after Sir Stork has delivered his package, unless it is through the heavy glass of a well guarded window or door in the hospital. After a few days, however, when nurses and doctors decide he is not a common carrier of germs that might attack the baby and retard its growth, he should by all means exercise his authority as a father and demand permission to "shoot" the baby—with a camera, of course.

Every month is usually considered a birthday in a baby's life until he is a year old. Thereafter, regular yearly birthdays are in order. At least a picture a month should be made of the new boarder and after the first twelve months you had better keep your camera loaded with film at all times for you can never tell when your baby is going to take his first cautious, faltering step—and what an event in *your* life—*not his*. It apparently means nothing to the baby. He simply steps out in a matter-of-fact, but careful manner, and you get all excited, let out a couple of whoops, gasp, laugh and scare the infant so thoroughly that he falls down and has to do it all over again.

The chances are that you will not be prepared for that first step, or if you would happen to be holding the camera in your hand you may, in your excitement, even turn it in the wrong direction and get an out-of-focus picture of your own mid-section. But don't miss this moment of moments the next time. Have your camera and yourself ready for action.

There never seems to be enough of these baby pictures to go around for there are grandmothers, aunts, cousins and friends in distant cities who are always looking forward to receiving a snapshot of the newly-arrived commander of the "infantry."

Before you can realize where the days, months and years have gone your child is starting to school. The baby has grown up and before you have a chance to wonder how he will "turn out" you are wondering what time he will come home to "turn in."

There's always the "first time" for everything and this applies to thousands of events in a baby's life. There is the first time he discovers he has toes, and immediately decides in his own little mind that they are something good to eat. His first smile, and then that great moment when he reaches out with his chubby little arms and says, "Blah," which is at once interpreted by the parents to mean "Daddie," or "Mommie," sometimes depending on who is "head" of the household.

So make this "Baby Picture Preparedness Week" and load your cameras ready for action. You don't have to wait "until you see the whites of their eyes," as a certain military man once said, but "shoot" the minute they perform one of their fascinating, amusing little baby "tricks."

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