

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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### Lesson for April 9

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#### CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

LESSON TEXT: I Corinthians 15:41-55.  
GOLDEN TEXT: Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ—I Corinthians 15:57.

"If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (I Cor. 15:13, 14).

In other words, the truth of the resurrection is an indispensable foundation stone upon which the structure of Christian doctrine rests. Beware of those who would spiritualize or explain it away!

The facts are there—fully proved and dependent there is no need for doubt or question.

In our lesson we find:

#### I. The Great Change (vv. 41-50).

Since it is obvious that our present bodies are not suitable for the spiritual world (v. 50), and that there comes, sooner or later (and almost always, it seems, too soon!), an end to their existence, there must be a radical transforming change. This takes place in the resurrection of the body.

To make such a blessed—and to the human mind, almost inconceivable—truth clear, Paul uses the effective method of comparison and contrast. Following his skillful use of the illustration of the sowing of grain, which dies that it may live again (I Cor. 15:35-39), he gives us a picture of the resurrection body.

That which we must put away in the silent earth at the end of life's day is a natural body, weak and lacking eternal glory (v. 43). It has already shown the evidences of decay and corruption, which we know shall be completely manifested in a short time. Marvelous as it has been as an earthly body, it cannot go with us into eternity (vv. 47, 48), for it is natural and not at home in the spiritual world.

Woe, then, the great change that takes place. In the resurrection, the body for the eternal activity of the believer stands out as glorious, incorrupt and incorruptible, powerful, spiritually quickened, and heavenly. What more could be said?

Here we stand amazed and at the same time encouraged by the revelation of what God has in store for us who believe on Christ. Death does not end all—it is only the beginning of real fullness of life and usefulness for the Christian.

And all that is because of—

#### II. The Great Victory (vv. 51-57).

Death is an enemy, indeed man's great enemy. There are those who have tried to deny that fact, to explain it away. They talk about death as "the great adventure," etc., but when one actually comes to face it, the truth is realized. It is an enemy.

But in Christ, death is a conquered enemy. The blessed message of Easter day is that "death is swallowed up in victory" (v. 54). Death could not hold our Lord (v. 57), and He was the "first fruits of them that sleep" (v. 20). This assures us that because He lives, we too, who believe on Him, shall live.

So death has lost its sting, and the grave its victory (v. 58). With Paul we cry out today from the depths of our beings, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 57). This is a day of joy, of singing, of victorious faith.

But the joy of Easter is not simply something to warm one's heart. It is—

#### III. The Great Incentive (v. 58).

Living for Christ and serving Him in this world is our greatest privilege, but we are all so human that we need encouragement. We need an incentive.

The Bible speaks much of the rewards of God to those who are faithful, and gives many assurances that we are not engaged in a vain task. At times it seems as though men only reject, and the work of the Lord moves but slowly, if at all.

Let us not be discouraged or disheartened. We follow and serve a victorious Christ, One who has triumphed over death and hell. What we do for Him is never done in vain.

Note the helpful thought here. We are to be "unmovable," and yet "abounding." That seems paradoxical, but it is not, for it is only the life steadfast and unmovable at the center which can abound at the circumference.

That center is the resurrected Christ, and when we are established in Him, we are ready to live the abundant life for Him.

Easter is a glad day for a believer, but it is a sad day for the unbeliever. He may attempt to maintain an outward appearance of joy, but he will know in his heart that the message of the day is definitely not for him. And yet it is, for today he may by faith take as his Saviour the Risen One and enter into fullness of joy in Him.

So many people "celebrate" Easter all their lives, year after year, but never truly "keep the feast." May many such friends make this Easter day, 1944, the beginning of a new life in Christ!

## "As We See It"

(By J. A. Strang)

CANADIAN SOLDIERS seem to be getting their share of the honours that are being handed out and no doubt there are many others that deserve those special honours that miss out on them also. There is one group on the home front that deserve special mention and it is the group of volunteer workers that hand out our ration books that we have in mind. Just why this particular group should be expected to do this work without remuneration is difficult to understand. Most of us even neglect to show our appreciation to those volunteers when getting our ration books and many of us do not even have a word of thanks for their trouble. However, their work is appreciated and they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done a good job, saved the Dominion a good many dollars and sometimes there is more real satisfaction in doing something for nothing than there would be if we were being paid for doing it.

THE PASSING of Stephen Leacock last week recalled to mind one night when we were attending the O.A.C. Mr. Leacock was guest speaker that night, addressing the students on the subject: "How to Write a Story." We were more impressed by the looks of Mr. Leacock than we were by anything that he said. He was introduced by Prof. McConkey and if you know Mr. McConkey you will know that he would be dressed for the occasion with not even one hair out of place. On the other hand Mr. Leacock's hair looked as though it hadn't been combed since last house-cleaning time and his string tie that might have been meant to be tied in a bow knot was hanging loose. However, his address went over big and we thoroughly enjoyed it. About all that we can recall of the address now was Mr. Leacock was unable to tell us what sort member that the heroine was. Always dressed in a "Flowing Gown," Mr. Leacock was unable to tell us what sort of a gown that was and he mentioned that about all that he knew about gowns was the one that he wore when crossing the campus on graduation day and then he also mentioned that he was well acquainted with a night gown as he had never become up-to-date enough to wear the new fangled pajamas. We thoroughly enjoyed his remarks and got a kick out of his humor. However we often thought afterwards when attempting to read some of his books that they didn't seem to go over the way his remarks did.

THE STANLEY CUP semi-finals are all over for another year and now that we have to worry about all in the finals and it looks as though the Canadiens of Montreal should take the silverware this year. The Toronto Maple Leafs were not good enough for their opponents, the Canadiens, however, the Leafs gave everything that

they had and no team or individual should be expected to do any more. The Leaf-Canadien series was an interesting one and outside of the final game, which the Leafs lost by a score of 11 to 0, were not at all one-sided games. In the other semi-final series the Chicago Black Hawks, which made the play-offs by a narrow margin, succeeded in taking the Detroit Red Wings in 4 out of 5 games. While the Canadiens should win over Chicago in the finals the series may easily prove to be an upset. Many of us will be pulling for a win for Chicago and all because of the way Elmer Ferguson viewed the situation during the Leaf-Canadien series. Fergy had a good chance there to win some support for the Montreal team. However, he blew that chance at almost every opportunity during the series. We don't blame Montreal for their high opinion of their Canadiens this year, but there is a much more important game on right now that pro hockey and many of the weaker teams are weak because of that larger game going on overseas. Hockey broadcasts have been good for us this season though taking ones thoughts off more serious affairs for the time being at least.

Now Delhi—A national system of education for India has been planned, in which all children of India will be given a good basic education. It provides for a school for artisans, technical high schools, and a three year diploma course for engineers.

Quality counts most—for that rich, satisfying flavour which only a fine quality tea yields, use..

# "SALADA" TEA

#### ACTON

Acton and the community were indeed shocked to learn of the sudden passing away of J. C. Matthews at his home on Bower Ave., late Friday evening. For nearly twenty-five years he has been the obliging and efficient postmaster in Acton office.

The council met the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. for a round table discussion of ways and means of meeting the constantly growing need for improved facilities for youth training and a community centre where the citizens can gather for healthful recreation and good fellowship. It was felt that now the nature and scope of Y.M.C.A. activity had developed a definite pattern for its operation, certain improvements can be made in the distribution of the floor space on the ground floor and in the basement of

the building, which will add substantially to its usefulness. The estimated cost of the plan is \$3,500.

Member of the crew of the newest corvette to join the Canadian Navy is one of Acton's sailors, Seaman Len Lambert. He is now on "The Forest Hill" a corvette built in Britain for the Canadian Navy.—Free Press.

#### WHAT IS THE WAR DOING TO WOMEN?

While millions of American women toil valiantly to aid the war effort, some "weak sisters" seek dangerous fun. FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover writing in The American Weekly with this Sunday's (April 9) issue of The Detroit Sunday Times... exposes an evil situation and proposes what should be done about it. Get Sunday's Detroit Times.

# TRANSPORT

## for a NATION AT WAR

The Canadian National has been privileged to join with all the citizens of our country, including those who are serving in the armed forces, in the prosecution of the war. It believes that Canadians will be interested in this outline of some of the System's war activities.

*Extracts from Annual Report of the Directors of the Canadian National System:*

### SINCE THE CALL TO ARMS

WITHIN AN HOUR of the opening of hostilities the Canadian National began what has proved to be the largest and one of the most exacting war jobs in Canada. This job has continued day and night without stop for four and a half years.

FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 1939 to March 10, 1944 the Canadian National carried more than 100 million passengers and 300 million tons of freight. Since the beginning of the war the Canadian National Dining Car Department has served 13,631,387 meals.

THE RAILWAY not only hauled away the completed munitions of war, but brought in the raw materials to make them. Without this two-way service, Canada's magnificent job of production could not have been carried out. The Canadian National itself builds mine-sweepers, 12,000-ton freighters, naval guns and gun-mountings, aircraft components, and parts for other gun factories.

OF THE 100 MILLION PASSENGERS carried, a high percentage consisted of members of the armed forces proceeding to camps for training and to shipboard for embarkation.

STEAMSHIPS OF THE COMPANY, though reduced in numbers by sinkings through enemy action, have served gallantly in the war as auxiliary armed cruisers, hospital ships and transports.

CANADIAN NATIONAL Express and Telegraph facilities have worked to capacity to meet war demands.

The Canadian National's nine all-year hotels, situated in cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific, have provided service of an essential nature to those engaged in the war effort. All the Company's resort hotels are closed for the duration.

22% OF THE PERSONNEL in Company's service in 1939 have joined the armed forces. In Victory Loan campaigns Canadian National men and women have purchased bonds to the amount of \$26,924,600.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES, subsidiary of the Canadian National Railways, has carried 435,000 passengers during the war, 9,417,000 pounds of air mail letters, and 1,476,000 pounds of wartime air express. Trans-Canada Air Lines is also flying the Atlantic regularly with mail to and from the armed forces.

### OUR OBJECTIVE IN 1943

as in other war years, was to place the full strength of our manpower and facilities behind the war effort of the United Nations. To this end all energies have been directed. The requirements of the armed forces, of industry and agriculture, for transport and other services, have been met in all of the nine Provinces of the Dominion and in the important sections of the United States in which we operate.

### RECORD TRAFFIC

These demands were greater than ever before, the traffic moved in 1943 being 17.3% greater than in 1942, the previous peak war year, and 44.7% greater than in 1928, the peak peace year.

Freight traffic in 1943 was more than double that of 1939, and passenger traffic four times that of 1939.

Despite this, the very large movements of war materials and personnel reached their destinations in accordance with schedule arrangements. There was no lowering of the recognized standards of safety.

### MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS

The Company also extended its activities as a manufacturer of munitions, ships and naval appliances.

### EARNING POWER

The 1943 operations demonstrated the great earning power of the System, the railway proving again that it can handle an immense volume of business economically as well as expeditiously.

After providing from revenue for all operating expenses (including deferred maintenance, depreciation, amortization of defence projects and reserve for inventories) and also a reserve for pension contracts, taxes, interest

### THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

in all departments of the System have worked hard and loyally to cope with increased responsibilities arising out of the war, and the directors record their appreciation and thanks. The traditional harmonious relations between management and employees were maintained throughout the year. Appreciation also is expressed to shippers and the travelling public alike for their cooperation in and sympathetic understanding of difficult operating conditions caused by the war.

Chairman and President

## CANADIAN NATIONAL

The Largest Railway System in America

#### Highlights of 1943 Operations

Tons of freight carried	80,426,781
Passengers carried	34,500,731
Gross Revenues	\$449,615,953
Net Operating Revenues	\$116,140,245
Cash Surplus	\$35,639,412
Total Payroll	\$195,555,000
Average number of Employees	181,124
Total System Route Mileage	23,562