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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by Rev. R. C. Todd

WHEN WE WORK WITH GOD

LESSON: 2 Cor. 5:20 to 6:10

As a key to the theme of this lesson, the reader might turn to 1 Cor. chapter 3 and read. In verse 9 of this chapter is the significant verse, "For we are workers together with God." In the lesson several weeks ago on "What we know about God," we spoke of God at work in creation, in moral experience and in Jesus Christ. We spoke of God being in Christ "reconciling the world unto Himself." The fulfilment of the present lesson is to show that man has a part to play in the work which God wills to have done in the world. And we are thinking here of the work of reconciliation.

Just as men are called upon to work together with God in the natural world, in the production of food, and shelter and clothing, and all the necessities and even luxuries of life which go to make up a comfortable physical existence, so they are called upon to work with him in the spiritual world, in the reconciliation of men with God, and the production of those moral and spiritual qualities which go to make up a happy and prosperous and triumphant life. It is necessary that we work with God in the production of food. It is even more necessary that we work with God in the work of reconciliation. For as Jesus put it in the Sermon on the Mount: "not the life more than meat" (Mt. 6:25).

How are Christians to be workers with God in the work of redemption? Paul gives us the answer in 2 Cor. 5:20. We are to ambassadors for Christ, representatives. It is God's love and the privilege of a Christian to be a channel of God's message of reconciliation. "As though God did beseech you by us; we pray God in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." We are to speak of that which we ourselves have heard and to testify to that which we have experienced. But it is obvious, of course, that no one can speak unless he has first had his ears open to hear, and himself experienced the redeeming work of Christ in his own life. Ambassadors convey a message. They are not the framers of the message nor

do they give it its authority. They are merely representatives of authority and the channels of an authoritative communication. The ambassador for Christ is entrusted with communications from God, regarding reconciliation.

What then, is this message of reconciliation with which the Christian is entrusted? Read 2 Cor. 5:17-21. In this passage, Paul speaks of the new creation in Christ, and of the removal from the account which stands against us of our trespasses against God's law. Reconciliation means that "we are no longer stand between us and God. The justice of God's law has been satisfied by Christ. The cross reveals God's heart of love and for-giveness, and those who, being repen-tant, truly turn to him believing he forgives, and by the grace which is in Christ makes them new men.

In this reconciling activity of God, Christians must be fellow-workers with God. This reconciling word is the healing word for individual, groups and nations who are at enmity with one another and with God. To striving individuals, quarrelsome groups and self-centred and warring nations (even if the war be only a cold war) the word must ring out clearly from Christian lips and pens: "We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

The Christian Himself, however, must show signs of being reconciled to God. He must bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. The Christian life has to be lived in the world of men, and must take practical form in the moral life. The Christian must love purity, seek knowledge, practise forbearance, exercise kindness, follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have genuine love toward God and man, be truthful in speech and action, and walk steadfastly in righteousness. He must not "receive the grace of God in vain" (2 Cor. 6:1). For the Christian life is not lived in a vacuum, and the message of reconciliation is not given without reference to the moral life of men in concrete situations in life. (2 Cor. 6:1-11). Here and there in the Scriptures we find lists of marks of the good life. The Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12) compose such a list. Galatians 5:22,23 gives another, "the fruit of the spirit is . . . etc."

The average Christian will feel that his life is too weak and imperfect to live up to such catalogues of virtue. God, however, does not expect us to be perfect all at once. But he does expect us to be earnest. The point is that correct doctrine must be matched with a daily life which is well pleasing to God, in order that the ministry be not blamed, that is, in order that the ambassador's message be received and believed.

In Cor. 6:8-10 there is a series of antithesis which should be noticed. The dishonour, ill-repute and fraudulence, the insecurity, the dying and the punishment mentioned, are understood as imputed to Paul and the Christians by their opponents. The Christian experiences these things in his daily living. But in all these things, he is to prove himself an ambassador. He may be persecuted, but "blessed is he that is persecuted for righteousness' sake. He may be poor in earthly goods, but he has the grace of God which makes him rich. He possesses everything for he possesses Christ. In all the experiences of life he is "more than conqueror through Christ who strengtheneth him."

Thirty-Seven Children In Kindergarten Class

While the measles epidemic has made inroads in the public school attendance since the second term opened, the new kindergarten primary class taught by Mrs. Joseph Dwyer has entered its second week. Thirty-seven children are registered, divided into two groups, some attending from 9 till 11:30 in the mornings, and the others from 1:30 to 3:30 in the afternoons.

Classes are held in the downstairs room at the school which formerly contained Miss Hazel Harrington's class. During the Christmas holidays a new floor was laid in the classroom, and equipment which had been on hand since last fall set up. Miss Harrington's class is now conducted in the upstairs assembly room.

Pupils registered for kindergarten primary work are:

Carolyn Bielen
Connie Blanchard
Judy Bonathan
Patricia Boukili
Gail Brabish
Donald Clark
John Cummins
Wendy Davidson
Brenda Dawson
Margaret Eason
William Gerrie
Carol Greensward
Kenneth Gribbin
Maud Hadley
Sharon Harley
Brenda Hawes
Linda Korzack
Jill Kettner
Brian Lewis
June Lyon
Robert Martin
Eleanor McCarvell
Douglas McGilvray
Beverly Morrow
Catherine Murphy
Carol Mann
Marilyn Patton
Keith Preston
Phillip Raw
Kent Riddall
Terry Ritchie
Wendy Saunders
Brydon Shields
Louise Stapleton
Jacqueline Tost
Billy Walker
Jane Wardlaw

ANNUAL MEETING

of the
ESQUESING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

will be held on the

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 31st

Council Chambers — Post Office Building
at 2 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mrs. J. A. CARROLL, Supt. of Fall Fairs for Ontario.
MR. J. E. WHITELOCK, Halton Agricultural Representative.
A cordial invitation is extended to all interested in Fall Fair work
to attend.

CRAIG REID, President

GARFIELD L. MCGILVRAY, Secy.

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HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Vic and Joe

Last Thursday first form boys engaged in a friendly little game of shinny with the valiant midgets of Public School. This riot took place in the Memorial Arena (admission 50 cents). After sixty minutes of furious hand to hand combat the High School team emerged victorious with a score of 6 to 2. The Public School team in spite of their inferior size gave our chaps a good run for their money. Joe Louth was the shining light of the Public School squad and Benny "Turk" Cormican was voted the "Most Valuable Man on the Team" (the High School team). We prophecy that the High School lads with a little practice will be able to take on Public School's kindergarten. Also we hope to see a return struggle in the near future.

A skating party for high school students is to be held this Friday night at the High School's rink. Each person is to bring a box lunch and these will be pooled. Hot cocoa will be supplied. The menu for the evening is as follows: Skating from 8 to 10; lunch, then rug cutting or more politely, dancing. This shindig is being whipped up by five members of the social committee.

La causerie de l'école: We see that the big bad wolf of Fifth Form and the little Scotch Red Riding Hood have called a truce in their daily scraps and were seen stepping out together at last Friday night's hockey game. It must have been the girls' pipe band that was the attraction. We see that mad, mad, blonde lover of cell #1 has broken another fair damsel's heart. — Oh well, these second formers will never stop playing with fire. — What was the cause of all the confetti in Fourth Form last week at coming marriage?

Howard C. Wrigglesworth
Installed as Master of
Credit Lodge

At the annual installation of officers of Credit Lodge, No. 219, GRC, AF and AM, held last Friday evening, Brother Howard C. Wrigglesworth was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for 1948.

Bro. Wm. E. V. MacCormack acted as installing master. Bro. Trygve Wold, the I.P.M.

To do honour to the new Master of Credit Lodge, a large number of visitors attended, including brethren from St. Catharines, Brampton, Streeterville, Erin, Acton and Mil-ton.

After the meeting had closed, members sat down to a banquet, arranged by the incoming Junior Warden, Bro. Wilbert Cleave.

Lucky Strike Bowling Club

AND SNACK BAR

"Where a Snack has a Snack"

OPEN BOWLING:

every week day from 1 to 7 and all day Saturday
from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Lots of opportunity for everyone to play this popular game. Ladies are particularly invited to the club in the afternoons — it's more fun than a game of bridge.

The club is reserved for league bowling from 7 p.m. each week-day evening. Come down and watch them play and have a "snack" at the bar.

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