

Messages on the Lesson

By Raymond T. Davis

The lesson chosen for Sunday, September 26th is one which bears timely and applicable message for the folk of our day. It speaks of the outcome of good family life and Christian nurture. It challenges us to examine our lives in the light of parental responsibility regarding spiritual matters. Its purpose will truly be fulfilled if we make the words of the memory verse our personal dedication. — "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

The Biblical Basis:
Read: Acts: 18: 1-6; Timothy: 1: 3-6; 3:14-15

In the verses Acts 18: 1-6 we read of a young man Timothy, and his mother, Eunice, who were devout believers in the Christian faith and who were held in high esteem by their fellow church members. The challenge of Paul is accepted by Timothy and he becomes the companion of the dynamic apostle and Silas as they continued their missionary journey. Timothy's duties at the outset were no doubt those of a secretary arranging many of the details of travel and accommodation and performing errands of trust and importance for his two elder companions. However we can be sure that the relationship was not that of a servant but of a brother in Christ.

In the 2 Timothy 1:3-6 passage we catch a glimpse of Paul's attitude toward Timothy. He loves him with a great love which is poured out in much prayer on behalf of the young disciple who at their last parting had shed tears even at the temporary breaking of the fellowship. Paul expresses his thankfulness for Timothy's mother and grandmother whose "unfeigned faith" had such a bearing on the boy's character, and which now is evident in him. He sees in Timothy a real man of God and urges him to use his gifts for the advancement of the Gospel.

For this reason Timothy is urged in 2 Timothy 14-15 to adhere to the truths which he had been taught by his sound teachers who had themselves experienced their worth and value. The Scriptures and the message which he learned in youth were still true and Paul reminds him of their great power for life.

The Application:
Today we need parents and grandparents like Eunice and Lois — strong folk of the faith who will nurture the young in the eternal truths of the Scriptures, who will prepare them for life not only with much good advice but by careful teaching, Christian example and loving guidance; who will follow the young with their ardent prayers when they leave home and go out into the world with its difficulties and its opportunities, its problems and its pleasures, its sins and its goodness.

We need also men like Paul who with keen insight can recognize the values in young men and women and who will challenge them to the best that is in them; who will urge them to walk in the way of God and in the sound teachings of their youth; who will stand behind them as their Christian friend and counsellor as they meet the world.

It is true too, however, that we need young folk like Timothy who will grow in the Christian faith and respond to the efforts, teachings and guidance of those who have trod the way before; who will benefit from the failures and successes of the past; who will commit themselves to a study of the scriptures and live according to their precepts; who will walk humbly with their God.

Helpful Quotations:
"The age of children is the age of learning."
"It is a comfortable thing when children imitate the faith and holiness of their godly parents and tread in their footsteps."
"The faith that dwells in real believers is unfeigned. It is without hypocrisy, it is a faith that will stand trial, and it dwells in them as a living principle."
"Dad doesn't just tell me to go to church — he comes too."
"We reap the reward of our grandparents' deeds: our grandchildren will reap the reward of ours."
"Defeat is the home leads to disaster in the world."
"The parent who does merely his duty to his children has small right to expect love in return. Only love can begot love."
"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

WILL VISIT OLD HOME IN WALES
Mrs. J. R. Williams and Miss Margaret Williams left last week for New York City where they will sail on the Queen Elizabeth for a two month visit in Wales. It is their first trip home since the family came to Canada, twenty years ago. They will make the return trip on the Queen Mary.

The Champ From Waterloo

By Raymond T. Davis

ELMER ACKLEBERRY'S long legs made crunching sounds on the white gravel path leading to the pretentious Hendrick residence.

He reached the door and lifted one hand to knock, but it remained suspended in midair. The same doubts assailed him again. What if Old Man Hendrick didn't give him the order?
Elmer sighed and knocked, timidly, hoping nobody was home. But the door was swung open after a moment by a pompous fat man with ruddy cheeks and a broad smile. "You're Elmer?" he said. "The Acme Company's pool shark?"
Elmer hesitated, finally replied, "I'm Elmer—the insurance salesman."

Mr. Hendrick grasped Elmer's skinny arm and hauled him into the house. "Your boss didn't tell you, I guess. He has been phoning for weeks to sell me insurance," he told Elmer as he led him through one big room and down a thickly carpeted hall. "Then he discovered I'm an unbeatable pool player. Says he's got a new salesman who will pin my ears back. That's you, eh?"
Elmer scowled. So that was it! That was why the Chicago office had summoned him all the way from Waterloo. Not because of his sales record. It was his pool-playing they wanted. Elmer had the urge to run straight back to his room and pack up.
"I told your boss I'd give you the order if you can lick me," Hendrick rumbled on happily. "Nothing like a good contest, is there?"
They turned into a large room, brightly lighted, with two shiny new tables in its center.

Hendrick sprinkled some talc on his palms and briskly rubbed them together. "Hope you are a good loser, Elmer," he said cheerfully.
Elmer hurriedly peeled off his coat and rolled up his sleeves. "I'm a better winner," he said curtly, and selected a cue-stick from the nearest rack.



He already could picture Mary Ann's forgiveness.
"How about a little wager, too," urged Hendrick, "just to make it interesting. Say a dollar a game."
Elmer thoughtfully fingered the four dollars in his pants pocket and shook his head. "Ten cents is enough for me."
"A dime, then, but doubled each game. Okay?" Elmer absentmindedly agreed with a nod and the play was started.

The game was over in exactly four minutes. Hendrick was really good, Elmer reflected. He rarely missed a shot that could be made; he knew how to freeze his opponent and succeeded consistently.

But the champ of Waterloo was better. Elmer found himself able to do tricks that were impossible on the ancient tables back home.
"You were just lucky, Elmer," Hendrick declared goodnaturedly. "Now I'll bear down hard on you." He seemed almost pleased that he had been beat and that competition was tough.

The next games were fast and close, but Elmer won each, sometimes by only a miraculous shot, while Hendrick's big smiles faded and Elmer's expanded.
It was fourteen games later, almost three hours, when at last they ended the tournament. Both men were exhausted, but Elmer had won every single game.
Hendrick wiped his perspiring brow with a towel and then mixed drinks. Later, he brought out a pad of paper and his check book. "You win the insurance order—just mail the policy to me," he directed as he wrote. "Best commission you'll ever make, I bet."
"The last, too," Elmer murmured, recalling again how the company had tricked him into leaving home—and Mary Ann. "I'm going back home. Maybe the commission will be enough for a down payment on a little farm." He could already picture Mary Ann's forgiveness at the news.

Hendrick folded a check and there was a strange sobersness in his expression as he eyed Elmer and handed it over. "My check—don't forget the little wager we made, Elmer."
Elmer lifted a hand and backed away. "The commission is plenty, Mr. Hendrick," he protested. "Let's forget the wager."
Hendrick forced the folded check into his hand. "Use it for your farm," he insisted. "Remember—we played a dime a game, doubled each game. Figure it out. It amounts to \$1,538.40."

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TERRA COTTA
(last week)
Real estate is on the move again. We understand that Joseph McBride has sold his farm here to a Toronto gentleman. Further particulars later.
A bulldozer was here to cut down and straighten the 5th Line Hill, which is a decided improvement. School days are here again. We understand a male teacher has been engaged at the 5th Line School.
We are pleased to learn that WIL-

Ham Norris of the 5th Line who has been on the sick list is on the mend and we hope to soon see him around again.
Summer visitors who have been spending some time at their summer homes include Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman of Niagara and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor of Toronto.
Corn cutting seems to be the general order of the day.
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