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Comments on the Lesson

SUNDAY, OCT. 31st

"WISDOM, LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE"

by Rev. John M. Smith

We turn our attention this week to the "Wisdom Literature" of the Bible which we find chiefly in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and James. In these writings we become acquainted with the wise sayings of some of the Hebrew sages and teachers who faced the problems of their time and endeavoured by instruction to direct the living of men. They taught largely by the use of concise pithy statements or proverbs. These were easily delivered, easily retained and easily understood. The wisdom which they imparted was derived from experience and observation and was usually presented with a utilitarian bias making reference to the benefits of doing good and the disadvantage of doing evil—"Blessings are upon the head of the just; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked" — Prov. 10:6. Such practical wisdom no doubt had its effect upon individuals and their social implications. It is to be remembered however that for the Hebrews these sayings were more than "good advice". They were God-centred and had that religious basis which is necessary for sound moral teachings and true reforms. The key verse of the lesson "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely" — Prov. 10:9 — is a fine example of the concise type of wisdom and teaching which could be easily remembered and transmitted orally in fitting circumstances.

The Biblical Basis:

Proverbs 10: 1-9; Ecclesiastes 2:1-3
From the wealth of "Wisdom Literature" available in our Bible two passages have been chosen as the basis for the lesson. In the short, weighty sentence of the first of these, Prov. 10: 1-9, we have set before us the blessing and curse of good and evil respectively. Any one of the nine verses can be read apart from the other eight and still retain its full message. This passage is illustrative of the diversity of the wisdom teachings. In your reading of this brief portion of Scripture you will find self-explanatory and contrasting references made to the wise and foolish man; wickedness and righteousness; sloth and diligence; the just and unjust man; and the wise and foolish response to law and authority. The Book of Ecclesiastes from which our second passage is taken might well be described as the reflection of a man whose mind was in conflict over the problems of life. It reveals his vain search for satisfaction and happiness in 1, the acquisition of wisdom; 2, the participation to excess in worldly pleasures; 3, the amassing of great material possessions. Verses 1-3 of the second chapter set us something of his attempt to find contentment in mirth, and of his conclusion of the vanity of worldly pleasure.

The Application:

There is indeed a great wealth of wisdom literature in our Christian heritage: not only in the Scriptures but also in many other literary works. The pity of it is that we do not know them better. The lesson today ought to create within us a desire to go further afield in this study and to ascertain the great truths of life gained from observation and experience by those of other days. That they are applicable today there is no doubt. After all, the fundamental problems of life are very much the same in every generation.

There is this to remember, however, that we may store our minds with knowledge and still fail to have wisdom. We might be able to quote proverbs and maxims for every occasion from our vast knowledge gleaned from study, but if we do not possess the wisdom to apply them in our living, then we are indeed miserable and unfortunate creatures.

Let us search our Christian heritage, then, for those wise sayings, centred in God, which will guide us in our conduct, industry, prudence, character, and obedience. Let us know them in our minds and hearts, and apply them when the occasion demands.

Helpful Quotations:

- "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."
- "The Bible speaks to every mood to which man is prone."
- "We can read poetry, and recite poetry, but to live poetry — is the symphony of life."
- "Four things come not back: the spoken word; the sped arrow; time past; the neglected opportunity."
- "None but God can satisfy the longing of the immortal soul: as the heart was made for him, He only can fill it"
- "General observations drawn from particulars are the jewels of knowledge, comprehending great store in a little room."

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Marchmont - Kentner

Wedding in Acton

On Saturday, October 16, Norma Jacqueline Kentner, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kentner, Acton, was united in marriage with Kenneth Wesley Marchmont, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Marchmont, also of Acton, in St. Joseph's Church. The nuptial mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. V. J. Morgan in a setting of autumn flowers. Miss L. Mulholland was organist and Mr. Hartley Coles sang during the ceremony.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a powder blue ballet length dress with lace yoke and "peplum", matching cap and gloves. The gift of the groom was a gold choker set with pearls and she carried a nosegay of red rosebuds and white baby mums. Miss Irma Kentner, sister of the bride, was her only attendant, dressed in melon pink and carrying a nosegay of tallman rosebuds. Mr. Lyle Marchmont, brother of the groom, was best man and Mesars. Harry Lawson and Martin McCrisall were ushers.

A wedding breakfast and reception was held at the bride's home following the ceremony. The bride's mother received wearing a dress of grey crepe with grey accessories and a corsage of tallman roses. She was assisted by the mother of the groom who wore a grey suit, black hat and a corsage of pink roses.

For a wedding trip to Windsor and points west the bride chose a kelly green suit with brown accessories and corsage of red roses.

Notice to Creditors

In the Estate of Margaret Young, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, Spinster, deceased.

The creditors of Margaret Young, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, Spinster, deceased, who died on or about the 25th day of August, 1948, and all others having claims against her estate are hereby notified to send by post, prepaid or otherwise to deliver to Messrs. Langdon and Aylsworth, Georgetown, Ontario, solicitors for the undersigned executors of the Estate of the said Margaret Young, spinster, deceased, on or before the 1st December, 1948, their names, addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their claims and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them and that immediately after the first day of December, 1948, the Executors will proceed to distribute the estate of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the Executors shall then have notice.

DATED this 22nd day of October, 1948.
William James Young,
Ross Leitch, Executors,
by Langdon and Aylsworth, Their Solicitors,
Georgetown, Ont. 1-10



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