

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XII.—December 27.
THE SUPREME GIFT OF LOVE
(Christmas Lesson)
John 4: 7-19

Printed Text 1 John 4: 7-19.
Golden Text—Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased.

—Luke 2: 14.

The Lesson in Its Setting
Time:—We do not know the exact date of the death of the apostle John, though it is thought to have been about 98 A.D. John wrote his First Epistle not a great while before this.

Place:—There is no evidence in this epistle as to where John was when writing it. It is possible that he was at Ephesus.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God.—The first word of our lesson reminds us that this entire passage is not for unbelievers, but for fellow-believers. An unsaved person simply cannot attempt to live the life here portrayed.

He that loveth not knoweth not God:—If you find a person who is not characterized by divine love bearing the name of Christian, you may be reasonably sure that such a one has never been born again. On the other hand, be careful about snap judgments lest you yourself fail to manifest divine love.

For God is love:—In these words we have one of the most tremendous statements in the Bible. It is the Bible in miniature. Here is all we want.

Herein was the love of God manifested in us:—Not simply "towards us" as the objects to whom the love was directed, but in us believers as the medium in which it was revealed and in which it was effective. The Christian shares the life of Christ, and so becomes himself a secondary sign of God's love.

That God hath sent his only begotten Son:—This glorious title, "only begotten Son" is found in the Greek translation of Psalm 22: 20 and 35: 17, but in the New Testament is found only in the writings of the apostle John, here, and four times in his Gospel (1: 14, 18; 3: 16, 18).

Into the world that we might live through Him:—There was no reason why God should send Christ into the world for us except that He loved us.

Herein is love, not that we loved Christ, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins:—The word "propitiation" means "to appease," "to render favorable," and, from it, our word propitious comes.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. This is the sixth and last time we have the word "beloved" in this epistle. These words are almost a duplication of the sixteenth verse of the preceding chapter. The little word "if" does not indicate a mere supposition, but is to be taken as virtually equivalent to the word "since."

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL
With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

1. Question: "I have been thinking of buying some manure from a local abattoir where I deliver hogs. It is the straw and hog manure from the pens plus all the blood, intestines, and some bones from grease tank rotted in the manure. I was thinking of trucking it in large piles on the ploughing and spreading before seeding. Would this be a balanced fertilizer? They suggested one dollar per ton. Is it worth what they pay for the baled straw they use? Considering the hauling and spreading, would 150 pounds 2-12-6 be better to use on barley? Our land is considered to be in fair shape if the season is favorable, but we never get too much manure. Usually 25 acres is covered on the 10 acres each year. The land is good clay loam."
—L.K., Brant Co.

Answer:—It is difficult to arrive at a definite estimate of the plant-food content of the tankage which you describe on account of the many variable factors that may enter such as, whether or not all the blood is absorbed; what amount of excess water is added; whether the pile is protected from precipitation, etc. I have tried to arrive at a reasonable estimate. Basing my figures on 100 hogs, 200 pounds each, I figure that the mixture of manure, blood, straw, tankage and water would give you a manure carrying approximately to the ton, 10 pounds nitrogen, two pounds phosphoric acid (P2O5), and 6.2 pounds potash (K2O). At current prices, this would be worth approximately \$1.85.

No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and His love is perfected in us:—By the phrase "His love" John means "the love which answers to His nature and with which He has endowed us. Man receives the love of God and makes it his own."

Hereby we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit:—With this verse should be compared 3: 14. It is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity in us who makes us aware of our abiding in God and God's abiding in us. It is not an intellectual comprehension, it is a spiritual apprehension.

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world:—This wonderful title of Christ, "the Saviour of the world," is found elsewhere only in John 4: 42. If we do not accept Him as the Saviour, we, of course, shall never know the love of God in our hearts.

Whoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in Him, and He in God, On the believer's confession of the Lord Jesus Christ, see similar expressions in 2: 23 and 4: 2. The moment we confess Christ as our Saviour we are accepted in Him.

And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us:—This is the natural order; progressive knowledge leads up to faith, but sometimes faith precedes knowledge (John 6:69). In either case, each completes the other. Sound faith is intellectual; sound knowledge is believing.

God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him:—"Love," the holy love of God; of the Father sending the Son to be the Saviour of the world, is now the habitual home of our hearts. We remain; we abide; we stay in it.

That we may have boldness in the day of judgment:—This does not refer to any one particular day of 24 hours, but to that great period of time in which all men will be judged, though this judgment is believed by many to be broken up into a number of different periods, the judgment of the nations, the judgment of believers, the judgment of the wicked dead, etc.

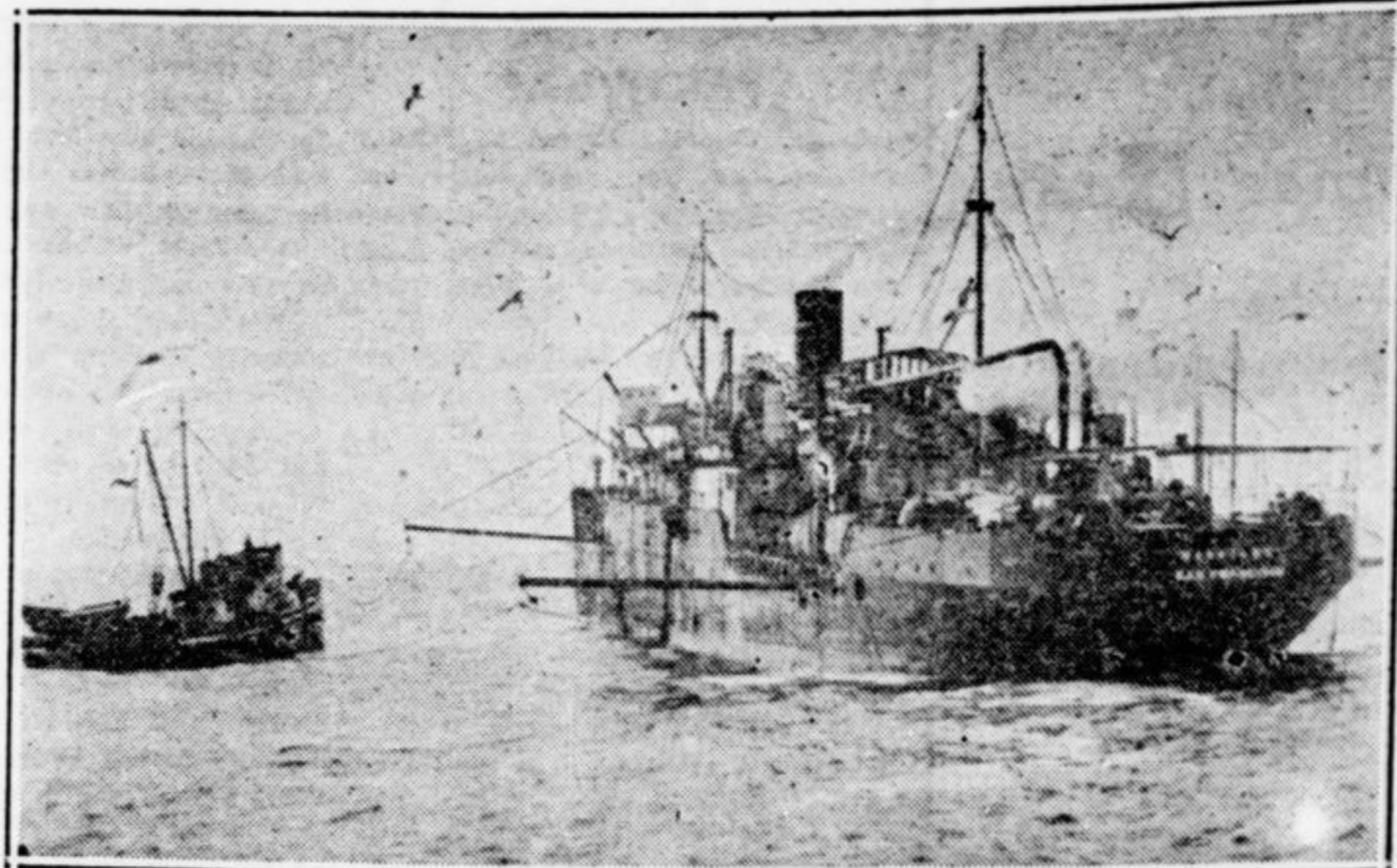
Because as He is, even so are we in this world:—"The reference is not to any one attribute, as love or righteousness, but to the whole character of Christ as it is made known. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment, and he that feareth is not made perfect in love:—"The thought of boldness necessarily calls up that of its opposite, fear. There is fear in man naturally; but love ever tends to expel it.

We love, because He first loved us:—"The omission of the pronoun "Him," which appears in the Authorized Version, should be carefully noticed. It is not so much that we love God, or His Son Jesus Christ, as that we love. Love becomes a part of our nature as it is a part of God's nature.



J. S. Standley, San Francisco laborer, boasts of what he believes to be the longest eyebrows in the world—measuring three and one-half inches in length. He says he bites end: off to keep them trimmed.

Seagulls Welcome Coast's Newest Industry



Seagulls surrounding the mother ship of California's newest industry — high seas sardine fishing. A fleet of 120 purse seiners work out of San Francisco for sardines which are turned into fish meal, oil and fertilizers.

Children Censor Films Severely

Hollywood, Cal.—The movies showing to the most children this year have been the so-called adult films. And so Hollywood has come to the conclusion after watching matinee receipts, that there is no advantage in making pictures especially for the children.

Youngsters between the ages of 8 and 15 prefer adult heroes and heroines, with the exception of Shirley Temple. The West Coast Theatre figures present some unexpected statistics. In the second place in child popularity is "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," definitely adult entertainment, with Harold Lloyd's "The Milky Way" running third. "Mutiny on the Bounty" fourth and "Earthworm Tractor" fifth.

Other pictures that were well up on the list include "Broadway Melody," "The Big Broadcast," "Rhythm on the Range," the Charlie Chan series, "Texas Rangers," "China Clipper," and "A Night at the Opera."

Thornton Sargeant, a film official, says it is the children, not the censors who demand that virtue be rewarded and vice punished. "They want the 'heavy' smashed to a pulp," says Sargeant. "They want vice not only adequately but savagely punished. Anything that corresponds to the racial period of barbarism, where individuals or groups have to pit themselves against natural circumstances, appeals to young movie-goers."

Home Modernization Plan is Timely

(From the Financial Post)
Some impatience is evident in construction and house equipment circles regarding the slowness with which the general public is accepting the new home modernization policy of the National Employment Commission. There may have been a few observers who expected the banks would be flooded with applications immediately after the scheme went into force this month.

Such a sudden movement was not foreseen, nor would it have been altogether desirable. In matters concerning his home, the average owner is conservative. In this case he is dealing with a long-term investment and one that concerns every member of his family. Decisions are made only after much consideration.

The chief opportunities for home modernization occur in the early fall and late spring. They coincide with the semi-annual house cleaning. Once these periods pass the average home owner hesitates to make important changes. This means the full effect of the new national scheme will not be felt before next March or April.

In the meantime the Employment Commission has acted wisely in seeing its plan into operation at once. The intervening months between now and spring will allow a much needed opportunity for banking, home owners and construction and equipment companies to get themselves fully familiar with all details of the plan. There will be time for minor revisions, the necessity for which is never apparent until any comprehensive scheme of this kind is actually applied.

There will be ample opportunity for parliamentary discussion and matured approval. The industries which stand to benefit in which to arrange funds to finance a vitally needed publicity campaign. Getting these home improvements started at once should do much to ensure efficient operation and maximum volume when the natural time comes for extensive home alterations next spring.

She's a Boy

Syracuse, N.Y.—Six-year-old Charles Clayton is freed of his masquerade as a girl.

"I'm glad I'm a boy now," he told an investigating policeman, "I don't like to wear dresses."

The child's mother, Mrs. John Clayton, told police she gave the boy the name of "Dolly," kept him in girl's clothing since birth and adorned him with long brown curls because his family was in poor circumstances. "I had some girl's clothes and it was easier to get more girl's clothes than boy's," she explained. "Besides I wanted to keep him a baby as long as I could."

The deception was discovered when Edward L. Vinal, a merchant noticed a child he thought was a curly-haired little girl playing around his office.

Vinal said that, struck by the youngster's apparent need for warm clothing, he took the child to a store and ordered an entire outfit. Two women clerks took the child into another room to change the clothes and a moment later returned hurriedly. "She's not a girl, she's a boy," they exclaimed.

A short time later Charles' new clothing and shorn curls told the world.

Police who went to the home found the family just completing a Thanksgiving Day dinner consisting only of bread pudding. When the father said his WPA cheque was not due until Monday, the police took up a collection and bought a real holiday dinner.

Sophisticated Dignity



More attention is being paid, this year, to the interior trim of the new models. In this, the designers of upholstery fabrics have taken their cue from the ladies. To meet with their approval, it must be smart and simple, be cool and long-wearing and at the same time, rich-looking and easy to clean. Neutral shades of mocha velvet are becoming increasingly popular with women when they choose the interior trim. Neutral shades because they blend with most colour schemes and mocha velvet because it meets all the standards set by the fabric-conscious woman. The photo shows a fabric-wise lady at ease in the rear seat of her car. She is wearing a cloth coat and the long lines of the collar give the car an air of casual elegance that is the secret trim of all young women who want something individual in their style. The coat is dull black and the platinum coils in the fur accentuate the slowness of the figure. A tiny black hat with its saucy front bow and the blouse of platinum grey satin are noticeable for their quiet yet sophisticated dignity.



KING PLAYS WITH PETS—An intimate study of the King playing with three canine pets in the garden of the Royal Lodge at Great Windsor Park. (Photo by Studio Lisa, Copyright, 1935, by Acme).

International League Magnates Lay 1937 Plans



Running a baseball circuit is a hobby with some of these delegates — with others it's a full time, serious business, as expressions indicate in this picture taken in Montreal. They are International League club-owners and officials looking ahead grimly to a new season. Front row, left to right: Jack Ogden, Baltimore; John Gehn, Buffalo. Frank Shaughnessy, Montreal, president; Hector H. Racine, Montreal; J. P. Corbett, Syracuse; Joe Cambria, Albany. Standing: Romeo Gauvreau, Montreal; Ed Smith, Jr., Rochester; Arthur Leman, Toronto; Leo Milny and George Weiss, Newark.

Memorial Unveiled to Canon Shatford



The loss sustained by the Woman's General Hospital in the death of Canon Allan P. Shatford, former rector of St. James the Apostle Church in Montreal, was recalled when a bronze memorial tablet was unveiled to his memory in the entrance hall of the hospital by Prof. H. E. Reilley, president of the institution. Prof. Reilley is seen unveiling the memorial. Bishop Farthing, who conducted the dedicatory service, is standing on the extreme right.