

Sunday School Lesson

LESSON FOR AUGUST 14 THE RELATION OF TEMPERANCE TO CHARACTER

(A Personal spot of Temperance)
Golden Text—"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov. 20:1

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Proverbs has been called "The Young Man's Book." It abounds in wholesome instruction, which, if implicitly followed, will insure a life of happiness and rectitude. It was not written to show the way of salvation, nor does it deal with prophecy or great spiritual doctrines. It is as truly applicable for this age of grace as for that of law, which preceded it.

The first epistle to the Thessalonians, in which we find the second part of our lesson, is occupied pre-

eminently with the blessed hope of the Lord's return, and in the selected verses, sets before us the importance of daily living in view of that great event.

In considering a temperance lesson we need ever to keep in mind the fact that our eternal salvation is not secured by moral and ethical behavior. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved up, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). But the one who has trusted Christ already is called to walk before God and man in uprightness and integrity of heart, keeping physical appetites in control and thus, by a sober and temperate life, manifesting the reality of his Christian profession. For those not yet born again, temperate habits are not to be ignored, for they will mean much in the formation of character and the development of a strong, healthy body. But they should never be stressed in such a way as to overlook the prime necessity of the new birth (John 3:6, 7).

Verse by Verse
Proverbs 4:10—"Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings." God speaks to us who are saved, as a Father addressing his children. Here Solomon, by divine inspiration, sets before his son the principles which, if adhered to, will result in a long life, lived to the glory of God.

Verse 11—"The way of wisdom

... right paths." The way of wisdom is the path of obedience to the revealed will of God. We, in our ignorance, may think ourselves wiser than he and so many refuse his instruction and walk after our carnal desires, but if we do, we will have to learn in bitterness of soul the folly of turning away from a life of rectitude and sobriety.

Verse 12—"Thy steps shall not be staitened." Men decry the consistent, temperate life as narrow and constricted. But it is far otherwise. There is a breadth in goodness and a liberty in righteousness that the ungodly know nothing of.

Verse 13—"Take fast hold of instruction." Timothy is told to "lay hold on eternal life," (1 Tim. 6:12). The way of obedience leads to life at its best.

Verse 14—"Go not in the way of evil men." Elsewhere we read that "evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33). We are all greatly influenced by our intimate companions. If you would be kept from evil habits, shun wicked and dissolute associates.

Verse 15—"Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." Let there be no temporizing with the unclear or the unholly. As soon as the sinful character of a thing is evident, shun it as you would the plague.

Verse 16—"They sleep not, except they have done mischief." Evil men delight in leading the comparatively innocent into what is vile an abominable.

Verse 17—"The bread of wickedness . . . the wine of violence." The very food and drink of the ungodly is found in tempting others to sin. Contrast our blessed Lord, whose meat was to do the will of the Father, and who in seeking to save a poor sinner found meat to eat that others knew not of (John 4:32.)

Verse 18—"The path of the just" In contrast to the dark and devious ways of the wicked, the path of the righteous is one of light and blessing, becoming brighter and better as the years go on.

Verse 19—"The way of the wicked." In the very nature of things a life of wickedness brings misery and disaster, even in this world, and how much more in that which is to come! What pitiable wrecks sin and intemperance make of men and women! There could be no better sermon on the importance of temperance than a visit to one of the wards of a public hospital where the wretched victims of lust and alcohol are spending their last days in agony of body and mind.

Verse 20—"Attend to my words." Again the father's challenge comes to his son, to give heed to the admonitions which, if obeyed, will mean so much for all the years to come, but if flouted will mean such

bitter reaping.

Verse 21—"Keep them in the of thin heart." The heart is the seat of the emotional nature and the spring of our affections. If God's Word is hidden in the heart, it will control the entire life.

Verse 22—"Life . . . and health." Both from a physical and a spiritual standpoint, life and health are found as the heart is yielded to God and his will becomes ours. Death and disease are ever stalking the careless and unwary.

Verse 23—"The issues of life." The figure is a striking one. It shows a knowledge of the circulation of the blood by the Biblical writer millenniums before Harvey. And just as the issues of physical life flow constantly from the physical organ, the heart, so our moral and spiritual natures are dominated by the attitude of the heart, viewed as the seat of all our affections and emotions.

1 Thessalonians 5:6—"Let us watch and be sober." The Christian can never afford to relax his vigilance. He is in an enemy's land. Many are the foes seeking his destruction. He must ever be on the alert, lest in a careless moment he be overcome of evil.

Verse 7—"They that be drunken are drunken in the night." The hour of darkness is the hour of Satan's power.

Verse 8—"Us, who are of the day." For believers in Christ the night of sin is over, the light of day has come. We are enlisted in the army of the Lord and called to combat sin and iniquity.

The Heart of the Lesson

How marked is the difference between the way of the wicked and the path of the just! That of the latter leads ever onward and upward to that city which is enlightened by the glory of God, and from whose gates streams that glory which shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. Death is but the entrance of the saint into the presence of the Lord and the beginning of a richer, fuller life, "far better" (Phil. 1:23) than anything known on earth. But how terrible the contrast when we consider the way of the lawless. Bent on enjoying the present moment, seeking ever some new thrill, they cast all caution to the winds and run in the path of iniquity.



W. Davey, 8 Stanton Ave.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lee are on their holidays

Mrs. John Lee has returned to her home in Stouffville.

Looking his best, our friend George Morgason attended the Sports Day in Goodwood.

Mr. P. H. Davey has returned from his holidays at Island Grove Lake Simcoe.

The milk cans at the booth containing water were well patronized on Sports Day and probably by next year a new well and pump may be installed.

Many happy returns to Jessie Brown who celebrates her birthday, August 7th, and to our friend Wm. Hope on August 9.

Excellent is the word used by the entertainers from Toronto when they arrived to find the new stage and hydro lighting in the park. As time goes on probably an odd light or two from the gateway to the booth would help.

While the Tug of War was strenuous to both Uxbridge and Scott Township teams and the pay, per man, to the winners was not large, just figure out what a good adv it was for the Goodwood and Uxbridge boys. Yes sired, it sure put Goodwood on the map.

Visitors to the old home Sports Day from Toronto were, Miss Viola Todd, Miss Middleton and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Brown, Mrs. C. Naylor, Miss M. Lewis, C. Naylor, Mr. Fred Haigh, Mr. Nicholl, Miss Hunter. Stouffville was well represented by our friend Mrs. R. Hamilton, Mrs. Slack, George Dowsell, Mrs. John Lee, Ed Davis, Miss Greta Hatley, Mrs. Gearing.

Too bad our Township Council could not see their way clear for a new sidewalk from the railway to west end. However the roadway pavement is the best for walking, especially for those with broken legs and bad feet. Here's hoping that no accident will happen or it might cost more than a new sidewalk. Here's hoping it won't be long before an allowance will be made for a new walk as the present one is a poor advertisement for our village.

ENGAGEMENTS

Rev. W. S. and Mrs. Irwin, of Lemonville, Ontario, wish to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Dorothy May, to Mr. Thomas Stuart Brown, B.A., of Orillia, the marriage to take place the latter part of August.

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