

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for July 21
Golden Text—God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

—John 4:24

The Lesson as a Whole

Worship is really worthship; that is, it means to ascribe worth to another. God is the only worthy One; therefore we are to worship Him alone. In Christ, God is revealed in all His fullness; so we are to give Him the same adoration and loving obedience that we give to the Father, who is only known in His fullness as we see Him in the Lord Jesus (John 14:7-11).

Some people think of every kind of religious exercise as worship, but Scripture does not so confuse them. It distinguishes between prayer, which is asking from God; ministry or instruction in the Word, which is receiving from God; and true worship, which is giving to God, that is, bringing to Him our praise, thanksgiving, and the adoration of our hearts. The Lord tells us that they that worship the Father "must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23, 24). Paul writes of believers as those who worship by the Spirit and "have no confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:3, literal rendering.) The mere performance of a ritualistic or liturgical service is not worship. One might go through all the outward forms of religion and not really be occupied with the Lord at all. It is as our hearts are taken up with Him that we look up to God in reverent and adoring love. We may worship in the silence just as truly as while the voice of praise is ascending to Heaven. So-called "aids to worship" of a material character are more of a hindrance than a help. These all belong to a past dispensation, when God taught His people by the "kindergarten method," as it were. He used types and shadows to prefigure the realities of the present glorious dispensation of the Holy Spirit.

Verse by Verse
Deut. 8:11.—"Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God." It is so easy to forget God in the very enjoyment of His benefits. He would have us see in all His good gifts to us but more reason why we should love and honor Him, who is the giver of them all.
Verse 12.—"When thou hast eaten and art full." This is the time of danger. It is the one who has no longer any sense of need who is most inclined to become unmindful of the One from whom every blessing comes.
Verse 13.—"When all that thou hast is multiplied." We are in constant danger of allowing material things so to occupy us that we neglect our private devotions or

undervalue the importance of gathering with the people of God for worship in His presence. Wealth may be a greater menace to spirituality than poverty. It is often the poor in this world who are richest in faith (Jas. 2:5); while they who are determined to become rich fall into many a snare (1 Tim. 6:9).

Verse 14.—"Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord." To become occupied with material things and to be lifted up with the pride of possessions is the easiest way to lose a sense of nearness to God, and to forget our responsibility ever to honor and adore His name.

Verse 18.—"Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God." All blessing comes from Him; therefore He Himself should be the object of our worship and our love. Nor are we only to adore Him for His gifts, but for Himself alone.

Verse 19.—"If thou forget ye shall surely perish." While these words were spoken in the legal dispensation, the principle applies today. Spiritual blessing is only ours as we honor God. We soon decline in our experience if we forget Him.

Verse 20.—"Ye would not be obedient." God destroyed many nations because they turned from Him. He warned Israel that such would be their fate if they refused to obey His voice. In after years, His words found a terrible fulfillment. For us, too, there can be lasting blessing only as we recognize our responsibility to honor His name.

Isa. 40:30, 31.—"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Physical strength does not necessarily mean spiritual power. This is only ours as we learn to wait on the Lord, to be occupied with Him and to learn in His presence the lessons that can be learned nowhere else. When He becomes the all-absorbing passion of the soul, we are lifted high above all merely human limitations. Thus we are enabled to soar up into the heavens as on eagles' wings, to run the race of the spiritual life in faith, and to walk with God, as Enoch of old, without fainting.

Mark 12:28.—"One of the scribes came." He seems to have been an honest man. He had been impressed by the sincerity of Jesus Christ and the clearness of His answer to the questions of others. He came inquiring, "Which is the first commandment of all?" He meant, of course, not first in order, but first in importance.

Verse 29 and 30.—"Jesus answered.....The Lord our God is one Lord.....thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." In these words, quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4, 5, our Lord epitomized all of the Commandments that

deal specifically with man's duty toward other men. He who loves God supremely will not willingly dishonor Him in anything.

Verse 31.—"The second.....Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This Commandment was cited from Leviticus 19:18. It epitomizes all the precepts that have to do with man's duty toward other men. He who loves his neighbor will not desire to wrong him in any particular.

Verse 32.—"Master, thou hast said the truth." The scribe was deeply impressed and at once declared his sincere appreciation of the answer the Lord Jesus had given. He had affirmed the unity of the Godhead. This, all Scripture-taught Jews held as a cardinal truth.

Verse 33.—"To love him.....and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices." There was real spiritual discernment manifested by this scribe. Nothing in the sacrificial ritual of the Law was of any value in the sight of God if love were lacking. To love Him and to love one's neighbor wholeheartedly was that which pleased God above all else.

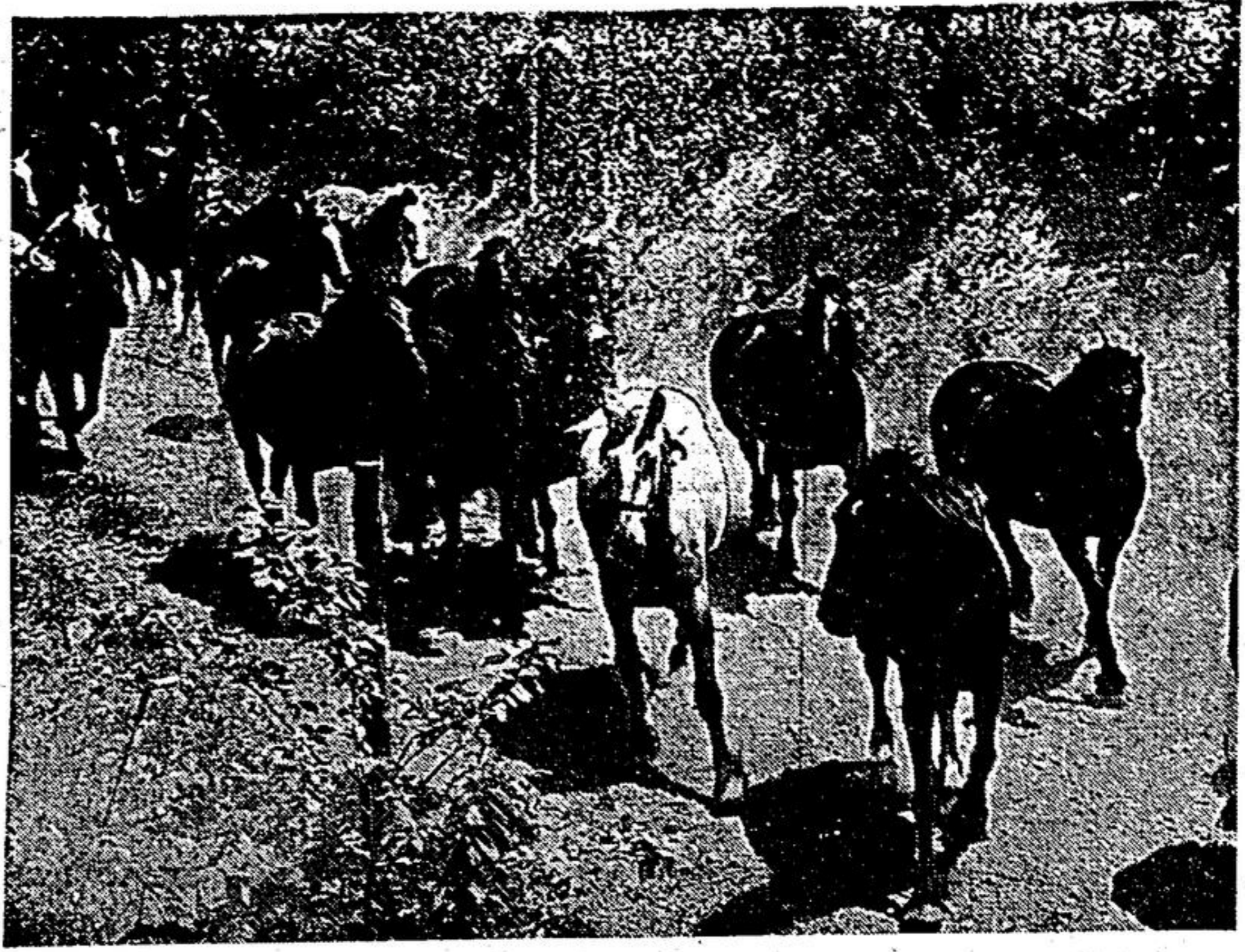
Verse 34.—"Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." Nevertheless, with all his appreciation of the spirituality of the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, this scribe was not yet in the Kingdom. He was, as it were, just outside the door. To step in would mean to receive Christ for himself—to trust Him as Saviour and own Him as Lord; The Heart of the Lesson

God Himself, now revealed in Christ Jesus, is the One to whom all worship and adoration is due. The Law could not produce this. It is the direct result of the working of the Holy Spirit within the heart of the believer, creating love for God and the desire to give Him the glory due to His name. Worship in Old Testament times was in accordance with the revelation then given, which was very incomplete as compared with that which we now enjoy. Since God has been fully manifested in our Lord Jesus, His well-beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit has come to occupy us with Him, and to take of the things of Christ and show them unto us, our worship should be of a truly spiritual character as we draw nigh to God in the full knowledge of redemption.

WESTERN CROP REPORT

Winnipeg, July 15 — Hail, this week damaged approximately one thousand acres 25 to 75 per cent four miles northwest of Swallow in Southern Alberta. Torrential rain swept through a wide path in the St. George, Sask. district causing rain accompanied by some hail considerable damage to crops, according to the weekly crop report of the department of Agriculture of the Canadian National Railways. A severe hail storm near Delmas, Sask. covered a strip one mile wide by six miles long and the crop there is a total loss. General rains in other districts of the prairie provinces in the past week have improved crop conditions materially. While the total rainfall is most areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan has been below normal and the crops are patchy and short due to the cold dry spring, normal conditions from now until harvest should result in an average wheat crop. About fifty percent to seventy-five percent of the wheat is reported in the shot blade with quite a large proportion heading out. Coarse grains are also showing much improvement, as are the hay and pasture lands.

Pickering Horse Ranch Helps Europe's Farmers



A 400-Acre Ranch on which upwards of 300 horses are pastured at one time is operated by Alex Picov, who frequently advertises in this paper. The ranch is in the southern part of Pickering town ship. Seen going to pasture, these horses will soon be on their way to Europe to give the farmers of the war devastated districts welcome assistance.

Albert T. Connell Dies in 63rd Year

The village of Unionville and surrounding district deeply regret the death of Albert E. Connell which occurred in Christie St. Hospital. He had been a resident of Unionville for 20 years and made many friends in this community. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. N. Connell of Greenville, Ont., and served 3 years in the first Great War contracting the weakness which gave him many years of suffering and illness, eventually causing his death in his 63rd year.

Funeral service conducted by Rev. James Roe was held in Mitson's Funeral Home in Dundas after the burial, which was with Military Honors, took place in beautiful Grove Cemetery in the family plot.

The last post sounded a fitting tribute to a man of sterling qualities who bore his years of illness with great courage and fortitude.

Surviving are his widow who was formerly Miss Shirley Morden of Greenville, one son Keith and a daughter Clare. Two brothers also survive, George of Carlisle, Ont., and Frank of West Flamboro, Ont.

WRITE IT 500 TIMES

A school teacher was given a ticket for driving through a stop-light, which called for her appearance in traffic court. "So you're a school teacher," said the judge. "Madam, your presence here fulfills a long-standing ambition of mine. You sit right down at that table and write 'I went through a stop sign' 500 times."

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