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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for November 2
Golden Text.—Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.—Psa. 19:14

The Lesson as a Whole
Once more we turn to the practical Epistle of James for instruction in what we might call the Christian ethic, although we find this set forth even more fully in the Epistles of Paul. But James gives us certain important principles which, if obeyed, will enable us to glorify God before men and will keep us from what would dishonour Him and grieve His Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; Jas. 4:5).

Consistency in little things, the ordinary affairs of life, is incumbent upon all who profess to know and love our Lord Jesus Christ. Where this is lacking, great discredit is brought upon His name. Unbelievers often have very definite ideas of what constitutes Christian consistency, for every man's natural conscience, which is a divinely implanted monitor in the human breast, approves the high and lofty standards set forth by Christ and His inspired apostles. It is upon these that James insists.

He deals particularly with control of that unruly member, the tongue, as well as on the importance of a kindly attitude toward all men, even to those who are abusive and given to harsh judgments. He points out the terrible damage that may follow upon the circulation of a false report, which, once started, spreads like a prairie or a forest fire and cannot be stopped until it has left a vast area of ruin and desolation behind it. How we need to pray with David that God will set a watch over our tongue and keep the door of our lips (Psa. 141:3) so that we may not speak unadvisedly or ungraciously of those whom we should help rather than hurt!

Verse by Verse
Jas. 3:1.—"Be not many masters;" that is, "teachers." We should be more ready to learn than to take the place of authoritative instructors of others. The greater one's knowledge, the greater is his responsibility and hence the greater the condemnation to which he is exposed if he goes astray himself, or misleads others.

Verse 2.—"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man." Should a man be found who never fails in word, that is one who is never guilty of an unwise or unkind remark, he would indeed be a perfect man and able to control every impulse. But such men are not found, for "in many things" we all offend, or stumble. Our blessed Lord is the one and only example of absolute perfection in speech and behavior.

Verse 3.—"Bits in the horses' mouths." James uses a very easily understood illustration, and refers to something that was practiced widely even in his day. Horses, large and strong as they are, can be controlled but the use of a very small contrivance, a bit in the mouth, which enables the driver to "turn about their whole body."

Verse 4.—"Behold also the ships . . . turned about with a very small drawn from sea-faring life." A helm." A second illustration is rudder, or helm, is a very small piece of mechanism as compared with the size of a ship; yet it is used to control the course of the vessel, according to the will of the helmsman.

Verse 5.—"Even so the tongue." The application is plain and is readily apprehended. Although so small, the tongue has tremendous potentialities for either good or evil. It may act as a spark that sets a whole forest afire, if not properly controlled. How often has an unwise or unkind remark wrecked the happiness of an individual, a home, a church, or a community.

Verse 6.—"The tongue is a fire,

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LONG, PLEASANT FALL SEEN BY PROGNOSTICATOR CUNDICK

J. J. Cundick, noted Kitchener weather forecaster, made an interesting forecast on the weather late in September when we were having a week of frost.

This eminent weather prophet sees a long pleasant fall despite its discouraging beginning in Sept. "We will have lots of delightful weather to enjoy in the next few months. It's going to be a long pleasant autumn," he remarked. In making this prediction, Mr. Cundick pointed out that the earthworms are still abounding near the top of the ground and are making no move to burrow deeper underground because of the cold.

"That is a certain sign that there is warmer weather to come," he said. "There is no cause to worry." Twin City residents, who have given up all hope of a mellow autumn and are preparing for an early winter will have comfort in knowing that Mr. Cundick's predictions of previous falls have always run true.

A friend of the Walpole Indian tribe, this well-known prognosticator has learned their age-old secrets of predicting the weather and bases his prophecies on signs of nature observed by them.

At least once a year Mr. Cundick pays a visit to the tribe at Georgian Bay and has an old-fashioned "pow-wow" with them on weather conditions.

a world of iniquity." James uses language that might seem, to a thoughtless person, too vehement and even exaggerated. But he wrote by divine inspiration and as he depicted the evil that a false tongue can be responsible for, he does not give himself to overstatement in the least degree. In fact, it would be impossible to overrate the power for evil of an uncontrolled tongue.

Chap. 4:4.—"The friendship of the world is enmity with God." The term "world" as used here signifies that ordered system of things that is under the domination of Satan and stands in direct opposition to all that is of God. For a Christian to ally himself with this unholy system is to constitute himself an enemy of God, for he is aiding and abetting that which was responsible for the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers in Him are called to walk in separation from that which rejected and crucified Him.

Verse 5.—"The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy." Perhaps another translation will make this clearer: "The Spirit who dwelleth in us yearns enviously." The Holy Spirit, who dwells in every child of God, is jealously concerned that the Lord Himself should have the supreme place in our hearts and never be displaced by love for the world that spurns and hates Him.

Verse 6.—"He giveth more grace." In the hour of testing, when the things of the world allure and one is about to yield to its blandishments, the humble soul will find needed help to resist temptation, as he looks up to Him who is ever ready to minister needed strength for every time of testing.

Verse 7.—"Submit . . . Resist." Note the contrast. In our fellowship together as Christians we are to be gracious and submissive, not despising the judgment of any. But when we have to face the great Adversary, we are to stand firmly against him as those who, through the cross, are no longer subject to his authority.

Verse 8.—"Draw nigh to God." We do this as we come to Him in prayer and as we allow His Word to control our hearts and lives. None seek Him in this way in vain. Where the Word thus controls, it cleanses and purifies. We are therefore to judge ourselves in the light of that Word and to cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart. James has told us before that "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (chap. 1:8). What is needed is singleness of heart — a definite intention to do the will of God as He makes it known to us.

Verse 9.—"Let your laughter be turned into mourning." It is a serious thing to live for God. There is no room for fleshly levity and foolish trifling. As we recall our many sins and failures we may well mourn and weep before God.

Verse 10.—"Humble yourselves . . . and he shall lift you up." God, we are told, resists the proud, but gives grace unto the lowly. The place of blessing is that of meekness. Present humility leads to future exaltation.

The Heart of the Lesson
When the mind and heart are controlled by the Word of God, the tongue will be used to His glory; but where we act in self-will the tongue gives expression to our inward state and becomes a source of grief and disaster. We are called to a life of complete dedication to God, which involves separation from the entire world system and all for which it stands. Where Christ fills the vision of the soul we will be delivered from all inconsistent behaviour.

MINISTERING TO MENNONITE REFUGEES IN DENMARK

P. S. Goertz is serving in a ministerial capacity among the Mennonite refugees who are located in camps in Denmark, according to recent Mennonite relief notes sent The Tribune. He reports much restlessness among those people who have been confined to these crowded camps for several years. The uncertainty of when and where they will be repatriated gives them considerable anxiety. Brother Goertz says further: "Looking over an audience of 300-400 such refugee Mennonites as I did the other night leaves an indelible impression. Coming as they do from an area established as a Mennonite community 100 years ago and maintained as such for all these centuries these people can truly claim to be heirs of that heritage. Suddenly to lose it as they did and to flee from it stripped of all possessions is a frightful experience. What sympathy goes out to them as one sees marks of all that on their faces! Brother H. S. Bender, who had just come from their (former) community around Danzig and Elbing, was with us at this camp for a meeting and reported that he had seen their churches and described to them the condition they are now in.

97-YEARS-OLD, QUITE ACTIVE

Congratulations are being extended this week to Mrs. Joseph Halward, who celebrated her 97th birthday on Monday. Mrs. Halward is still quite active and very bright for her advanced age. She still maintains her own home in Cannington and is assisted in its management by her housekeeper.

Mrs. Halward says the way to keep the years from making too big an impression on you is to raise a family. She has three sons and two daughters living.

CREAM FROM YOUR GARDEN?

On Saturday the Lindsay Post carried a little item about a resident who had fresh strawberries from his garden for Thanksgiving dinner. That in itself would have been news but for the fact that over-enthusiasm on the part of the reporter caused the article to read that the local resident had strawberries and cream from his garden for Thanksgiving dinner. As a result there has been a flood of calls from people who want to know how to get cream from their gardens and frankly no one really knows unless it could be that seeding it to milkweeds would do the trick.

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