

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for November 30  
**Golden Text**—He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.—John 5:12  
 The Lesson as a Whole

It was never the will of God that we should be left to live on without definite assurance of our salvation if we have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ. When that has taken place we are regenerated by the Word and Spirit of God, and so there will be a new life, which will manifest itself by new behavior. In our natural state we lived for ourselves and sought our satisfaction in the vain empty things of this poor world (Eph. 2:1-3). But when born again we are made partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4), and with this new nature come new ideals. We no longer love the things that once meant so much to us. On the contrary, we soon learn to love things which we once hated, and to hate the things we once loved.

The Holy Spirit who indwells all believers, becomes the power of the new life and enables us to walk before God in love and holiness. Where no such change is known or manifested we may be sure that any profession of faith in Christ is but a delusion. Real faith produces fruit to the glory of God. This is not true of a mere intellectual acceptance of the great facts of Christianity as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. One may credit all the

truths of revelation and yet never yield the heart to Christ. To do this is to believe in Him in the true sense. In other words, to believe is to trust in or to commit oneself to the Lord Jesus resting upon His Word, knowing that He cannot lie. Anything short of this is to fail to enter into that new creation of which all are a part who have been born from above. It is important that we be sure we are resting in Christ alone for our salvation, not in anything that we can do or that savors of human merit.

**Verse by Verse**  
 1 John 4:15.—"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God." There is a difference between professing and confessing. We may make a false profession, but a confession is necessarily true. Where there is genuine faith, Christ is confessed as Son of God.

**Verse 16.**—"God is love." This is the second time this declaration is made in the one chapter. See verse 8. Love is the divine nature. It is what God is, in His sense. This divine love is reproduced in us when we are born again. To dwell, or abide, in love is to abide in God; that is, to enjoy fellowship with Him.

**Verse 17.**—"Herein is our love made perfect." The margin is better: "Herein is love with us made perfect." That is God's love is perfected toward us. It has been manifested in the gift of His Son, who has taken our place and borne our judgment; so that now we have nothing to fear as we look on to

### CHECK CAR FRONT LICENSE BRACKET

Motorists are advised by the Ontario Motor Vehicle Licenses Branch to check their equipment to make sure they have the front license bracket to carry the new 1948 plates which are to be issued for front and rear of the vehicle. During war years, and including this year, only the rear plates have been carried on vehicles.

J. P. Bickell, registrar of motor vehicle licenses, explained that many vehicles, even new vehicles, are not equipped with the front bracket. Owners of older cars in some instances have been found to have discarded the front brackets.

### HUNTER SKINNING DEER SUDDENLY EXPIRED

Arthur Cryderman died with terrible suddenness at his home at Keswick last week. He had been north with the deer hunters, and returned in apparent good health. However, while preparing the animal he brought home for winter use with him, he was overcome, and his lifeless form was found by his wife beside the carcass of the deer. His widow is the former Ida Thompson of Baldwin. Interment was made at Queensville.

the final day of judgment because our case has been settled already, out of court, when we received Christ by faith. Now we are seen by God in Him, so it can be said that "as he is, so are we in this world."

**Verse 18.**—"Perfect love casteth out fear." It is not our own love, which is never perfect while we are in the body, that delivers us from fear, but the knowledge of God's perfect love toward us, which tells us that all our sins deserved has been borne by Christ, and so we are freed from condemnation. If we fear still, it shows that we have not learned this blessed lesson; hence are not made perfect in love in the sense of having learned to apprehend the truth involved in perfect love.

**Verse 19.**—"We love him, because he first loved us." The Revised Version omits "him" as it is not found in the best manuscripts. It is more general. We love, not only Him, but His, because we have entered into the enjoyment of His perfect love to us.

**Verse 20.**—"If a man say." John now proceeds to test the reality of our profession. To say we love God while hating a brother is to be guilty of a lie. We cannot love God unless we love those who belong to Him.

**Verse 21.**—"This commandment have we from him"; that is, from the Lord when He was here on earth, bidding us love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34).

**Chap. 5:10.**—"He that believeth... hath the witness in himself." The witness is the record, or testimony, God has given concerning Christ, in His Word. The believer has received this record into his heart; therefore has the witness (of the Word of God) within.

**Verse 11.**—"This is the record," or the witness, namely, that God says He gives eternal life to all who believe on His Son.

**Verse 12.**—"He that hath the Son hath life." Apart from Christ all men are dead spiritually. Life is the portion only of those who have received Him into their hearts by faith. Unbelievers are thoroughly alive to the things of this world, but are dead toward God and so unconscious of spiritual realities.

**Verse 13.**—"That ye may know that ye have eternal life." Notice carefully who are entitled to this knowledge: all who "believe on the name of the Son of God." There is no room for doubt or uncertainty here. Do you believe on the name of the Son of God? Then, God says, you have eternal life. Why doubt or fear? His Word is plain. Believe it and you may know you possess this divinely given life.

**2 John 4.**—"Walking in truth." This is the responsibility of all who possess eternal life. We are not left to find our own way through this world, but are now to be guided by the revelation of His will, which God has given in His Word.

**Verse 5.**—"Love one another." Again the Spirit of God stresses the importance of love as the manifestation of the new life.

**Verse 6.**—"This is love, that we walk after his commandments." When love rules the heart the feet will take the path of obedience to the commandments of God. This is not legality, but the glad, spontaneous result of a heart that loves the Lord and so delights to honor Him in the life.

**The Heart of the Lesson**  
 We begin the new life by simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, confessing Him as the Son of God. When we receive the testimony which the Father has given concerning Him, the Holy Spirit comes to abide in us to seal us for God and to be the power of the new life. Thus the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts and we manifest the new life by love toward our brethren. This corroborative evidence that we have been born from above. Mere lip profession counts for nothing. There must be reality. As we apprehend God's perfect love toward us, our hearts go out in love for others.

### Church Attendance

(By Lewis Milligan)

If the census figures are taken at their face value, it may be claimed that about 98 per cent of the people of Canada are professedly Christian. But at this time, when the Protestant churches are making special efforts to enlist the youth of Canada in church activities and membership, it is well that we should remind ourselves of the fact that there are millions of professed Christians in Canada who never attend a church service from one year's end to the other. This is shown by the following comparative figures for the four leading Protestant churches:

	Census	Membership
Anglican	1,751,188	\$00,000
United	2,204,875	739,079
Presbyterian	\$29,147	173,482
Baptist	483,592	137,474
Totals	5,268,802	1,850,035

Thus out of a total of 5,268,802 persons who were listed with the census takers in 1941 as belonging to those denominations, only 1,850,035 were enrolled as church members.

According to the Census for 1941, there are 30 religious denominations in Canada, all but four of which are Christian. The non-Christians listed are, Buddhist, Confucian, Jewish and Pagan. Out of a total population of 11,506,655, only 19,126 claimed to have "No religion." This was a decline of about 6,000 compared with the census of 1911, although the population increased about 4 millions in the meantime. So that it would appear that people are less and less inclined to admit they have no religion. An even greater decline is shown in the number of people who would not tell the census-taker what their religion was. In 1911 there were 32,490 people whose religion was "not stated," whereas in 1941 there were only 17,159 listed in this category.

Of the non-Christians the following comparative figures may be of interest:

	1911	1941
Buddhist	10,012	15,635
Confucian	14,562	22,233
Jewish	74,564	168,367
Pagan	11,840	2,908

The big increase in the Jewish figure was probably due to immigration, and that may account in a lesser degree for the increase in Buddhists and Confucians, who are largely Chinese. The heavy decrease in the Pagan figure may be due to missionary work among the native Indians and Eskimos.

The Census gives the number of Roman Catholics in Canada as 4,986,552 (including Greek Catholics), of which 2,204,875 are listed for Quebec. As all Roman Catholics are regarded as members of the Church, there is no way of determining the proportion of actual attenders, but it is generally admitted that Roman Catholics are more faithful to their church than are the Protestants. At the same time, it should be stated that the membership figures for Protestant churches quoted above do not fairly represent the number of people with local congregations. Many non-members attend church regularly and others occasionally. There are a large number of children who attend Sunday Schools, Children's Services and young people's societies and groups, who are not registered members. Nevertheless there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians who declared to the census-takers that they belonged to the Anglican, United, Presbyterian, Baptist and other denominations, who take no interest whatsoever in those churches.

The Christian Churches stand for all that is spiritually and morally uplifting in our national life, and it is surely the plain duty of every citizen who calls himself a Christian to support the Church to which he professes to belong.

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