

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for October 8  
Golden Text—To me to live is Christ.—Phil. 1:21

The Lesson as a Whole  
Approach to the Lesson

It is one thing to trust the Lord Jesus as Saviour. It is quite another to give Him His rightful place as Lord of one's life. Salvation is by pure grace, apart altogether from human merit (Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5) but those who have been redeemed to God by the blood of Christ are called upon to present their bodies as living sacrifices, "holy, acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1). Because we are bought with a price, we are admonished to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which are His (1 Cor. 6:20). Our blessed Lord asks His disciples to commit themselves wholly to His authority. It has been well said, "If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all." Self-interest should have no place in the lives of His followers.

We should not think it a matter of hardship thus to come under the control of our blessed Lord, but rather as a great and glorious privilege to be identified with Him in His shame and suffering, as we remember that it was for our blessing that He endured earth's scorn and hatred. To bear the cross after Him simply means that we seek to share with Him in His rejection by the world and recognize our identification with Him in His death. The saintly Samuel Rutherford, when enduring persecution because of his faithfulness to his Lord, wrote from his prison in Aberdeen, "Christ's cross is to be such a burden as wings are to a bird and as fins are to a fish." It was but another way of saying what Paul declared so long before: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14). To follow the Lord in loyal devotion will often mean present suffering and misunderstanding, but in the coming day of manifestation none will regret that he has endured too much for Christ's name's sake, and will rejoice in that he was counted worthy to "follow in His train."

### The Historical Setting

Christ's challenge to His disciples for wholehearted devotion followed closely upon Peter's great confession and Christ's rebuke when he failed to recognize the necessity of His coming crucifixion. This occurred during our Lord's ministry in the region near Caesarea Philippi in the summer of A.D. 29.

The call of Simon and Andrew and James and John took place by the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum in the winter of the previous year.

The letter to the Philippian was written while Paul was a prisoner in Rome, probably in A.D. 64.

### Verse by Verse

Matt. 16:24—"Let him deny himself." The path of discipleship is one of constant self-abnegation. The Lord was preparing His followers for the responsibilities that would be theirs when His prophetic words concerning Himself were fulfilled. They would be called upon to ignore fleshly claims and to take up the cross, which meant accepting the place of rejection with Him, and thus they were to follow in His steps.

Verse 25—"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it." He who would think to better his condition by avoiding persecution for Christ's sake and so to save his life, would really lose it; but he who was ready even to lay down his life for Christ's sake would keep it unto life eternal. Death in this world would be only the introduction to everlasting glory.

Mark 1:16—"He saw Simon and Andrew... casting a net into the sea." These brothers had met with Jesus a short time before, but had not then been called to leave all to follow Him. Now they had reached a crisis in their lives, when they must make a great decision. Observe that it was the Lord Jesus, not they who took the initiative (John 15:16).

Verse 17—"Come ye after me, and I will make you... fishers of men." It is a mistake to attempt to apply these words to all disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a special way He selected these two, and others later, for a great soul-winning ministry. But we may be assured that all who follow Him faithfully will be used of Him in some way.

Verse 18—"Straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him." Their hearts had already been won for Him. Now, when the call came for full-time public service, there was no hesitancy. It is true they had not much to leave, but for His name's sake they turned from whatever they had in the way of earthly prospects, and He made them valiant and competent workmen in the great task of winning souls to Himself.

Verse 20—"Straightway he called them: and they left their father and went after him." This was a real test. They doubtless loved their father, Zebedee, intensely, but they put Christ and His claims first, and so forsook home and business for His sake.

Phil. 1:19, 20—"My salvation through your prayer." These two verses show us how Paul relied upon the prayers of the people of God, and how encouraged he was by the realization that they were remembering him in this way, while he was in prison for Christ's sake. He felt

that it presaged his own deliverance and pointed to the time when he would be free again, according to his earnest expectation and hope; to preach Christ openly and widely if it should be the will of God, or else to glorify Him in a martyr's death. He had but one ambition—that Christ Himself should be magnified in his body, whether by life or by death.

Verse 21—"For to me to live is Christ." Christ meant so much to Paul that his whole heart was devoted to glorifying Him. This should be true of all believers, and, if so, it will result in the richest possible Christian experience. It implies a surrendered will, and the body yielded to the Lord who redeemed it, that it may be used only to His praise. "To die is gain." Death is no enemy to the one to whom Christ is all. To live gives opportunity to manifest Christ down here; to die is to be with Christ, than which nothing could be more precious.

Verses 22, 23—"What I shall choose I wot not." The apostle himself was in a dilemma as to which of these he would prefer, were the choice left to him. It permitted to continue in the body, he would have further opportunity of service for Him who had claimed him to this ministry. On the other hand, he longed "to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." His had been a life of toil and suffering for Christ's sake such as only a Spirit-sustained man could have endured without fainting and as he lay in the Roman prison he longed for release—a release which would mean to be forever with Christ. Labor for Christ was sweet, but rest with Christ would be sweeter.

Verse 24—"To abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Paul's unselfishness comes out strikingly here. As he weighs everything, he sees the need of ministering to the church of God rather than seeking rest for himself.

Verses 25, 26—"That your rejoicing may be more abundant... by my coming to you again." It is clear that Paul fully expected that the Lord would permit him to revisit Philippi, that the rejoicing of the saints there might be more abundant on his behalf. They were his children in the faith; as a tender father he yearned over them and longed to see them once more before closing his earthly ministry. We have no record in the word of God as to whether this desire was fulfilled, but there are earthly church traditions which indicate that it was.

### The Heart of the Lesson

Commitment to Jesus Christ involves placing oneself entirely at His disposal, to be guided and directed by Him through the Holy Spirit and

the written Word of God. A mistake made by many is to profess to yield themselves to Christ for some special service. It is not for us to choose what we should do for Him or where we should go. One might, for instance offer himself to the Lord for the Christian ministry without being called of God for that work, or qualified to do it. Another might present himself to the Lord to go as a foreign missionary, who had neither health nor ability for such strenuous service. The important thing is to be willing to serve in whatever capacity Christ Himself may choose for us.

### ELIZABETH BUCHANAN WINS CALF

Climaxing a ticket selling campaign by the York County Junior Farmers' Association the fall dance marking the close of the season at Cedar Beach Gardens, Musselman's Lake, brought out some five hundred on Saturday night last in spite of the frigid weather which no doubt kept many away.

After a rollicking square dance the weather seemed to turn milder. Ten-year-old Elizabeth Buchanan of 35 Metcalfe St., Aurora, was the winner of the registered Holstein heifer calf donated by Geo. W.

Henry of Oriole Lodge Farm, Todmorden and Jos. Darlington, Holstein County Salesman also of Todmorden. Agricultural Representative, W. M. Cockburn, Newmarket, called on Mrs. Geo. Henry to draw the winning ticket to decide the future home of the calf "Oriole Lodge Marion Texal." Incidentally Elizabeth bought her ticket from her cousin, Nelson Buchanan of the Victoria Square Junior Farmers' Club.

The executive expects to be able to forward about one hundred and fifty dollars from the dance to the Ontario Junior Farmers' Winnipeg Flood Fund.

# Grand Opening of the Stouffville Livestock Exchange

at the new

## STOUFFVILLE SALES ARENA

# Saturday, October 14th

AUCTION SALE EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 O'CLOCK

## LIVESTOCK (Our Specialty)

(Phone Us — Pick-up and Delivery Service Can Be Arranged)

FARM IMPLEMENTS, TRACTORS, FURNITURE, A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

**"You Bring It, We'll Sell It"**

FIRST SALE OF ITS KIND EVER HELD IN YORK COUNTY

2 SALES RINGS IN OPERATION AT SAME TIME

Have Installed The Latest In Speaking Systems In The Sales Arena

## GRAND PRIZES - FREE LUCKY DRAW

LADIES - FREE AFTERNOON TEA - 3.30 - 5

COME AND SEE THE LATEST

TELEPHONE - REFRESHMENTS - PAGE SERVICE

SALE AT 1 O'CLOCK SHARP

— EVERYBODY WELCOME —

For Information Call Stouffville 290w2

**Sellers & Atkinson, auctioneers**

## The Search for Better Government

(By R. J. Deachman)

It was Saturday afternoon, every man has a right to a quiet snooze on Saturday. On a table beside my couch was a copy of "The Atlantic Monthly," three years old. It contained The Love Letters of Mark Twain. There was also a murder story by Erle Stanley Gardner and a copy of Hansard. What did I do? I read a paragraph or two of Mark's story in which he told his beloved "Livy," short for Olivia, that he had given up smoking, giving her all the credit for the great achievement. Sweet of him, wasn't it? Then there was the murder story, I threw it into the waste-paper basket. I had read it before. I turned then to the copy of Hansard. In it were two speeches, one by J. M. Macdonnell, Financial Critic of the Opposition and one from M. J. Coldwell, smooth, urbane, imperturbable as usual—\$16 words every one of them. I have used them before. Mr. Coldwell believes in planning and like many of us has lived long enough to realize that:

"The best laid plans of mice and men—

Gang aft a'gley."

Who knows what may happen a hundred years from today? Mr. Coldwell's views may be accepted in that distant age but who wants to be the posthumous father of a cataclysm?

The House of Commons is a difficult place in which to make a speech. Who wants to listen to House of Commons speeches except the ones who make them? The chances are that he has mumbled his own so often to himself that he has learned to hate his child before it is delivered. I have spoken to audiences in every Province of Canada, except two, twice in the United States, once in England. The worst speeches I ever made were in the House of Commons. May they sleep well in the deep tomes of Hansard in which they are now entombed. No one will disturb them, no one disturbs past speeches except a few ghouls who want to shove them down the throats of those who made them just to prove that they were wiser then than now—they probably were! So far as the speeches are concerned let us hope:

"After life's fitful fever They sleep well."

The cue for this year, so far as parliamentary speeches are concerned, is the cost of government. Why bring this up? It may be tiresome but there's a reason for it. There has been a war, costs have gone up and among the first casualties of war is economy of governments. Having become accustomed to lavish expenditures they find it difficult to curb the flow and so for years afterwards, or at least until the post-war boom is ended there is no real movement towards the reduction of government expenditures. There is a pleasure in spending. We love to squander, we despise the one who pinches pennies. There is something else. Spending is a loving task. "Parsimony" as Burke once said, "requires no providence; no sagacity, no powers of combination, no judgment."

It differs from spending. When we think of spending, there comes to every man, whether he be Scotch or Irish, the idea of economy, he wants to know how he can get the most for his money. It was in the last paragraph of the amendment to the Speech from the Throne moved by Mr. Macdonnell and read as follows:

"(3) This House regrets that the policies of the government make no provision for a program of national development, without which there can be no hope of a reduction of taxation and the present high cost of living."

There is the straight road. The national effort should be concentrated, not on providing grants of spending money for certain assumed purposes but by spending calculated to strengthen the capacity to produce. Take for instance the present Manitoba flood. I know nothing of the engineering problem involved but by joint action between Canada and the United States the chances are that a solution could be found. This is only one of many problems. Success in these reasoned efforts means strengthening the economy, eliminating waste, lowering the cost of living, increasing the capacity to produce. The mere transfer of money from one group to another, from the state to all, will function only to weaken not to strengthen the national economy and may well make conditions worse, not better.

The Prime Minister speaking at Granby, P.Q., a few days ago, in the course of his remarks said:

"Those who complained about the present financial set-up were only complaining of responsibilities which every adult person should have."

It is easy for those who, through merit alone, have risen to high positions of great responsibility, to think lightly of the responsibilities of others. I do not know how a sense of responsibility can be inculcated by shifting the most sacred of all responsibilities—the care of their own families from those on whom it naturally lies and putting it on others.

## Aluminum serves breakfast in bed!

**An "Inside Story" about HOSPITALS-**

HOSPITALS select equipment with unusual care. That's why aluminum utensils are used in hospital kitchens everywhere. Health authorities recommend aluminum because it meets every need of hygienic food preparation. Enjoy this food protection in your home, too. No other metal is more "food-friendly" than aluminum.

**Hints to the Housewife!** Whenever you see aluminum on the outside of a food or a drink, there's an "inside story" of purity well-protected. Aluminum utensils clean easily. To remove natural deposits left by foods and water, use steel wool with soap and water.

**ALUMINUM COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD.**

**... Aluminum is friendly to food!**