

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GROWING IN CHRIST

Golden Text. — Speaking the truth in love, [we] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ—Eph. 4:15

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

There used to be a noted preacher in Edinburgh, Scotland, by the name of Macgregor. He was popularly known as "wee Macgregor." If you had seen him in the pulpit, you would not have designated him so. He had a massive head with shaggy hair and beard, and heavy shoulders. When he preached, his resonant voice, his fiery eloquence, and his lofty thoughts proclaimed the intellectual and spiritual giant. If you had seen him out of the pulpit, however, you would have understood the nickname. For the pulpit hid the short, twisted legs upon which this master of ceremonies hobbled. The story is told that at a gathering of the General Assembly a speaker was expatiating on the value of physique in the ministry. Just as he was describing the magnificent physical specimen required in the sacred calling, "wee Macgregor" walked on to the platform. After a moment of embarrassed silence the great concourse burst into laughter, followed by a round of applause for the little giant, the man who, despite his twisted little legs, had climbed to a place of honor in the Scottish church.

I sometimes think the church is something like "wee Macgregor." Our Head, the Lord Jesus Christ, is all perfection. In Him are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). If all the members were in proportion to the Head, in holiness and wisdom and grace, what a magnificent spectacle the Church would make for all principalities and powers to behold! But so many of the members are dwarfed, twisted, and warped! The result is a sort of spiritual monstrosity.

We must remember that, while God sees the members in the Head, men see the Head in the members. Is it any wonder they so often turn away? There is one thing we can do. As "wee Macgregor" stood behind the pulpit when preaching, we can learn to hide behind the Cross, "crucified with Christ," until it is not we who are seen, but Christ living in us.

The day is coming when all the members will be perfected, and the whole body will be in full accord with the glorious Head. Then the angelic hosts will witness, in the glorified Church, "the manifold wisdom of God" (Eph. 3:10). What a miracle of grace! That is Paul's theme in the chapter of our lesson.

Verse by Verse

Eph. 4:1.—"The prisoner of the Lord... walk worthy of the vocation..." Paul would not call himself the prisoner of Rome. His life was ordered from a higher throne than Caesar's. "Walk" refers to daily behavior, which cannot be divorced from our lofty position "in Christ."

Verse 2.—"Lowliness... meekness... longsuffering... forbearing." These were the very qualities which were despised by the great ones of Paul's day, but they are the marks of true greatness—true godliness.

Verse 3.—"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." We are not exhorted to keep a uniformity of performance in the bond of an all-commanding organization. Within the unity of the Spirit there is room for much diversity, with peace embracing all.

Verse 4.—"One body... one Spirit... one hope." Here are the first three of the seven great unities. The one body is the Church, indwelt by the holy Spirit, and moving toward "that blessed hope" which will witness the consummation of the divine purpose.

Verse 5.—"One Lord, one faith, one baptism." The one Lord is Christ, the one faith is that confessed by Peter (Matt. 16:16) with all that it implies concerning His redeeming work. And all the controversies over baptism have not destroyed this testimony of the faith.

Verse 6.—"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." There is no "you" in the best authorities. Here is the climax of the unities—One God, the Father, a title denoting His benevolence. He is both transcendent (above all), and immanent (through all), not a God afar off, but a God nigh at hand.

Verses 7-10.—These verses tell us of the activity of Christ as ascended and made "head over all things to the church" (1:22). They declare His tri-

umph over death and the grave. We have a victorious Head.

Verse 11.—"Apostles... prophets... evangelists... pastors and teachers." Here is a diversity of ministry. All are not endowed alike. Just as a house needs different kinds of workmen—masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians—so God's house needs ministers of various kinds.

Verse 12.—"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work... for the edifying." Omit the comma after "saints" and the meaning will be clearer. The work of the ministers is to fit the saints to minister. Only as all the members are ministering members can the body be built up to full stature and power.

Verse 13.—"In the unity of the faith... unto a perfect man... the fulness of Christ." Once again it is not uniformity that makes for full development in the body of Christ, but oneness of faith and knowledge of Christ. The Head is perfect. The whole body must be brought into accord with the Head.

Verse 14.—"No more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about." We must get beyond that immaturity of childhood marked by gullibility, and come to maturity of discernment, so as to avoid the errors being vended on all sides.

Verse 15.—"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him... even Christ." Some will sell the truth in the name of love, and some will sell love in the name of truth. Both are equally wrong. Truth and love must be wedded, else we shall never approach the proportions of Christ.

Verse 16.—"From whom the whole body... maketh increase of the body." The source of all supply for the body, the Church, is Christ the Head. But in the distribution of the supply, all the members must co-operate. If foreign matter accumulates anywhere in the "supply line," the whole body will suffer, but if by love we serve one another, the whole will be developed, "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (v. 13).

The Heart of the Lesson
A place of privilege is a place of responsibility. I have been present at quite a few commencements at Wheaton College, and I have always noted that, in conferring the several degrees, Dr. Edman would say, "I confer upon you the degree of —, with all the rights, and privileges, and responsibilities pertaining thereto." It seemed to me that he always put extra emphasis on the words, "and responsibilities."

In the Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul has much to say about our place of privilege, "in Christ." Can we conceive of any higher? The responsibilities are correspondingly high. If an institution of learning expects its graduates so to live as to do honour to their Alma Mater, surely those who are "in Christ" are expected to "walk worthy of the high calling."

Conduct that is worthy of the Lord has four basic characteristics—lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance (v. 2). How different from the qualities sought by the world! I have heard commencement addresses in high schools, the substance of which could be expressed in the words, "Keep your chin up!" Self-assertion is the world's pathway to honor, but Christ's way of greatness is quite the opposite.

These four qualities are especially necessary because, while we were saved as individuals, we are saved into a society so closely bound that we are "members one of another," being members of Christ. This does not mean that individuality is destroyed, but rather that all the redeemed and heightened and enriched individuality of the several members must minister to the development and the perfecting of the whole body. The church of Jesus Christ is not characterized by a dead and monotonous uniformity, but it is marked by a sevenfold unity (vs. 4-6), and all Christians are under obligation to see that that unity finds adequate expression. We must endeavour "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 3).

But the "unity of the Spirit" cannot be divorced from the "unity of the faith" (v. 13). We cannot discuss here the *sine qua non* of fellowship, but we may settle it on our minds that "the unity of faith" does not mean absolute agreement on every point of doctrine. It will however, include a confession of Christ as Lord in the highest and fullest sense of that word, "Lord." Where

Control Apple Drop At Harvest Time

Over the years the apple industry of Canada has suffered losses amounting to thousands of dollars due to the dropping of apples just before and during harvest. These losses can be largely overcome by the use of chemicals. This is a relatively new orchard practice, into every orchard spray schedule report D.S. Blair and S.H.

dissent is necessary, let it not become dissension, and when we must separate, let us avoid schism in the body.

Nelson, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Until recently the chemical sprays used to prevent harvest crop have, for the most part, contained naphthaleneacetic acid, the sodium salt of naphthaleneacetic acid or naphthaleneacetamide as the active ingredient. Now, two new chemicals with equally long names have been introduced: 2, 4, 5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4, 5-T.A.) and 2, 4, 5-trichlorophenoxypropionic acid (2, 4, 5-T.P.), which have amuch longer period of effectiveness than the naphthaleneacetic acid compounds. These newer chemicals have been tested extensively at the Division of Horticulture, Ottawa; the Experimental Substation, Smith-

Liberals on Defensive Caters, N. York

At a meeting in the Newmarket Progressive Conservative committee rooms, Tiny Caters said that the Liberals have been on the defensive since George Drew pledged to cut the taxes by \$500,000,000 without interfering with the old-age pensions or family allowances. The Liberal cabinet is divided on the Tax issue. On the same night that Mr. St. Laurent said in Ontario that taxes could not be cut, Mr. Gardiner in Saskatchewan said they could be cut by \$300,000,000. Who is right?

field, Ontario; recommended that 2, 4, 5-T.A. and 2, 4, 5-T.P.

Just try it!
"SALADA" TEA

be applied at 20 p.p.m. (parts per million) ten to fifteen days before the harvesting commences. When using these harvest sprays, care should be taken not to allow the fruit to remain on the tree beyond its normal picking date. Fruit that are permitted to become overmature on the tree have a shorter storage life.



C.A. CATERS

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

vote for...

C. A. (Tiny)

CATHERS

in YORK NORTH

The Liberals say they can't cut your taxes!

WE CAN... WE WILL!

the Main Issue in this election is **YOUR MONEY!**



We will budget for Government's legitimate needs... we will stop budgeting for bloated surpluses which—in three years—took from the people's pockets the staggering sum of \$1,616,000,000 more than the Government needed.



We will end the shocking conditions in our Defence Department which the Government's own investigator, (Col. G. S. Currie) described as: "A general breakdown in the system of administration, supervision and accounting... Accounting records in a chaotic condition and of little use in determining the nature and extent of irregularities... Waste and inefficiency far more costly in loss than that covered by actual dishonesty".



We will, without impairing the efficiency of our Armed Forces, correct the appalling inefficiencies in the administration of the Department of National Defence.



We will provide the nation with an administration whose attitude towards the spending of public monies will be one of prudence and common sense. A new Government in itself will mean substantial savings to the taxpayer—it will replace a Government whose arrogant indifference to economy was best expressed by Mr. Howe's scornful remark, "What's a Million?". Or, "If they need a gold-plated piano it is our duty to buy it".

We will reduce or eliminate countless hidden, indirect taxes which grossly inflate the cost of consumer goods, add to the grievous cost of living, increase the price of homes beyond the capacity of most of our people to pay, discourage saving and initiative.

We will reduce federal taxes by at least \$500,000,000 a year... without reducing any pensions, family allowances, or other social security payments.

\$500,000,000 TAX CUT NOW!

VOTE

VOTE X

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

Entered by the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada