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PINE ORCHARD

October 8, 1953
Miss Beth Johnston, nurse in training at Toronto Western Hospital spent the weekend with her parents Mr. and Mrs. E. Johnston.
Mr. Marshall Bagg was visited by his brother Douglas on Saturday.
The car and garage on the farm of Mr. George Mason was completely destroyed by fire last Monday night around 7 p.m. Sparks ignited the barn roof, and it was only the timely arrival of Newmarket fire brigade followed by the Mt. Albert truck which prevented the buildings all being destroyed. Mr. Mason's son Graham drove the truck out of the garage when the blaze was first discovered, the car was burning madly then. A full barrel of gasoline sent

flames in the sky for 100 ft. Mrs. Howard Haines entertained one night in honour of Miriam Boake, a bride of last Saturday.
Mrs. Dowdella of Toronto, also Mr. and Mrs. J. Reesor of Stouffville were recent supper guests with Mr. and Mrs. H. McClive.
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Shropshire, our newly weds, the bride being the former Miriam Boake.
Mr. Wilbert Widdifield is spending a time with his sister here and is busy adding a sun porch to their new home.
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Johnston and Earl of Coldwater district attended the anniversary service on Sunday. Mrs. Rushbrook, the former Jean Willis met many of her old friends at her childhood church.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Baker are entertaining Mrs. Baker and two sisters from England.

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

NEW MEN IN CHRIST
Golden Text — Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. — Matt. 5:16.

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Approach to the Lesson

The Bible is a strange book, and full of surprises. Turn to some passages, such as the first chapter of Romans, and you have a picture of man so black, so dismal, that you either rebel or feel ashamed that you belong to the human race. But over against that there are passages which so lift man up, so ennoble him, so glorify him that you stand aghast at the contrast. Nowhere in all literature do you find such contrasts. Moreover, it is all true. The one picture of man, the sinner, the other is man, the redeemed sinner.

The Bible expects nothing of a man. It does not invite him to lift himself. Regarding him as helpless, it offers him a salvation which is all grace, apart from all effort of his own. On the other hand, it is simply astounding what is expected of redeemed men. The high trust committee to us would stagger angels. We have a high calling (Phil. 3:14), a holy calling (2 Tim 1:9), a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1), and we are not only required to fulfill that calling, but to conduct ourselves in all things in a manner worthy of it.

Yes, something is expected of God's new creatures. But even God's new creatures are not required to work out what is expected of them on their own resources. Having been saved by grace, they are invited to draw on the unlimited resources of grace to live as saved men and to accomplish their God-given tasks. In other words, God stands ready to work in us what He expects of us. Our lesson stresses what God looks for from us His redeemed children. Let us catch the vision, commit ourselves to it, and face it with the assurance, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

Verse by Verse
Matt. 5:13 — "Ye are the salt of the earth... lost his savour... good for nothing." Salt is for seasoning and preserving, but it can do neither if it loses its special quality. We need the "sweet savour of Christ" (2 Cor. 2:15) to fulfill our function in this tasteless, perishing world.

Verse 14 — "Ye are the light of the world... cannot be hid." As a city in a commanding position is seen from long distances, so we must dwell in the heights if our lives are to be beacon lights to men.

Verse 15 — "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick." Under a bushel measure the lighted lamp would be worse than useless. Not only would it fail to give light, but it could cause stumbling, and soon be "smothered" for want of oxygen.

Verse 16 — "Your light... your good works... your Father." The light you did not produce, but only received, your good works are wrought in a strength not your own, so the glory belongs not to you, but to the "Father of lights" who "worketh in you" (Jas. 1:17; Phil. 2:13).

2 Cor. 5:17 — "In Christ... a new creature; old things... new." God's method in salvation is not improvement of the old, but all things new. (Cf. Rev. 21:5.)

Verse 18 — "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ... the ministry of reconciliation." Everything pertaining to the new life has its source in God. Whatever is not "of God" has no place in the life of the new man. The reconciled state is one in which the conflict between us and God has ceased.

Verse 19 — "God was in Christ, reconciling the world... not imputing their trespasses." The work of reconciliation originates with God, not the sinner. It is specifically the work of Christ, and involved that act of sin-bearing which made possible the removing of guilt from the sinner, apart from which there can be no reconciliation.

Jas. 2:14 — "What... profit... though a man say... say... and have not?" I think this skeleton of the verse will help to clear the meaning. After all, this is not a conflict between faith and works, but an insistence of true faith, which cannot but issue in good works.

Verse 15 — "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food." Practical James brings the whole matter to a very practical test.

Verse 16 — "Be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding ye give them not... what doth it profit?" Pious speech, however much pathos and feeling may be in the accents, will never warm a shivering body or fill an empty stomach.

Verse 17 — "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." Life requires relationship. Solitude is death. Living faith is always related to action.

Verse 18 — "Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." A fair challenge. Actually faith cannot be demonstrated apart from works, so the man without works has nothing to show. It was in the sphere of works that the faith of Muller and Hudson Taylor, and all others like them was manifest.

The Heart of the Lesson
Matt. 5:13-16 — An old Roman proverb said, Nil solum utilis ("nothing more useful than sun and salt") Now it is exactly these two most useful things that Christ set us His people to be in this world. The separate attempts of men to discover or produce something sensational, exciting, thrilling are evidence that they find life drab andavorless. We are called upon to introduce into this world the salt, the seasoning, of Christ's kindness and goodness. At the same time we shall be as a "light" in a dark place to guide man's feet into the way of life. Shakespeare says that "all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death." We must challenge that process. Our lives must be as beacons amid the gloom, so that fools may become wise unto life eternal.

2 Cor. 5:17-19. Now it is only as we have made a clean break with the old life that we can function as salt and light for God in this world — only as we are "in Christ" and therefore "new creatures" not just professors of religion. When in very reality "all things are become new, and all things are of God," we can display to the world what is meant by being reconciled to God, and invite others into that blessed relationship into which all that is enmity to God is replaced by what is harmonious with His holiness.

Jas. 2:14-18. The faith that brings us into this place of reconciliation is no idle thing. It is "faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). And right here is where we act as salt, bringing the seasoning of loving-kindness into lives that so need the refreshing. A false piety may "rub the salt" into the wounds of men's needs, but true faith will minister the sweet savor of Christ in deeds of practical helpfulness. When the doctrine of salvation by faith paralyzes the hands, we have totally misunderstood the doctrine. Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe" (John 6:29). It is equally true that believing is the beginning of work.

GREENWOOD

October 8, 1953
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Malcolm (nee Marie Hicks) who were married in the church last Saturday afternoon.
Sorry to report that Mr. Stanley Byers has been under the doctor's care with a severe attack of flu.
We are pleased to say that Miss Gertrude Corbett is still gaining in strength after her seizure of illness.
The Brooks family were visitors in the city last Saturday.
The average Canadian eats 35 candy-bars each year.
On a per capita basis Canadians consumed 2 4/5 pounds of honey during 1952.

LEMONVILLE

October 8, 1953
Mr. and Mrs. S. Rae spent Sunday in Meaford visiting with relatives.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Gray and family were in Newmarket on Saturday attending a wedding. Weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson were Mrs. Williamson and son Fred of Toronto.
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Ratcliff had as their guest last week, Rev. D.C. Harry of Toronto. Mrs. Spence has as her guest this week, Mrs. McMasters.
Several of our local young men are attending the International Plowing Match being held this week in Cobourg.

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