

Announcement

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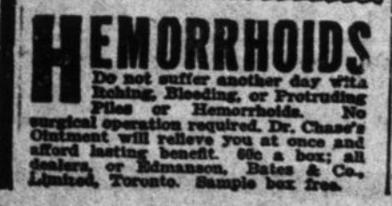
The International Sunday School Lesson for July 22nd Is: "John the Apostle." - Luke 9:49-56; John 19: 25-27; I. John 4:7, 8.

By William T. Ellis.

practically no Christians. Yester- em. day, as I strolled about burnt Smyrna, the city of ancient martyrs, oeloved of St. John, the consciousness surged afresh, as a flood, that in all that great city, which a year ago held a quarter of a million nominat Christians, there is not one left today. In old Philadelphia I made careful inquiry; not a single Christian remains—only the ruined city which they left behind them reminder of hate and bitterness and vengeance. Ephesus, so rich memories of St. Paul and St. John is today without so much Christian to continue the able excavations of the great Basilica of St. John, built by the Em proper Justinian.

For the first time since the apostles planted the Cospel in Asia Minor, there are no Christians left to carry aloft the Name and the Cross. Probably Christendom does not fully realize what has happened in rich region of Bible lands. Certamtolerant lands it is incredible that conditions should have been created wherein it is simply impossible for

either side; one has been as bad as to find the spirit of St. John.



and about John's country—the re- lies waste today because the Chris- carried to the meetings of the church realize in the here and now a land Recently, I spent an unforgetable ing close to Christ in youth and in gion of the "seven Churches of tians have pillaged and burned and in Ephesus, when he would stretch made holy by the character and day on Patmos; and while the the full tide of power; and second-Asia," and the Island of Palmos it- destroyed; old Philadephia, for in- forth his hand and say, "Little child- work of godly men and women. Quaint charm of the island and its ly, the spiritual insight that crown such ruin than even Smerna. The very the holy apostle, who had leaned on the man that makes the land, and orable chapter in a traveller's recunnoly land that it suggests, by con- gravestones in the Moslem cemetery the Master's breast, this repeated ex- not the land the man. The same ords, it is of the friend of Jesus, extrast, the great apostle of love. The have been broken and overturued, hortation grew monotonous; and the soil that produced John the Beloved, ile and prisoner for the Gospel's place recalls the person; amidst the in an excess of animosity. It seems elders made bold to ask, "Father, until he ripened in saintliness to a sake, that one thinks first as he most desciate ruins caused by the as if Asia Minor was without real have you no other message for us?" rare and perfect end, has also pro- climbs the steep hills of Patmos, or latest carnival of hate I have found Christianity for sometime before it "There is no other message: little duced some of the most evil char- looks out across its waters, so sugmay mind turning to the leaders of was without Christians. Now, as a children, love one another." the early church who labored and result, the Turks have decreed that is the gospel which alone can re- "intellectuals" sometimes disparage Revelation. all who bear the name of Christian deem and restore this land of pricein all the widespread territory must leave Asia Minor. Turkey is less memories; the teaching of love of the ministry of Paul and John in today for the Turks, a land, outside that is born of loyalty to Christ, Asia Minor there remain today of Constantinople, exclusively Mos-

> Bible Truth for Bible Lands. Is it any wonder that, as I trav- who was early called "a son elled to and fro over the historic thunder," became the apostie soil, now blasted by the bitterness love, the gentle mystic of the of bigotry, the ngure of the Apostle Testament gallery of raints. As he taught. The churches that have the highest interpretation of the to which he wrote solicitous letters is love; and whosoever dwelleth more than a reinfusion of his Gos- his Epistles, his Revelation, give pel and of his spirit. Western glimpses further into the depths glare of the recent cataclysm in words, written or spoken. Asia Minor, by the necessity for An everyday practical application vitalizing and purifying the Eastern of this truth is that there is hop Churches Today, despite all their for every rash and headstrong boy proud boasts of direct apostolic suc-every heedless, frivolous girl; tha cession, they have got no further he or she may become rich and beau than the vengeful spirit of the tiful in the spiritual qualities that young John, who would have called make life lovely throughout down fire from heaven upon the in-bears. The process is still the same hospitable Samaritan village. The John was made great by his friend dry rot of ecclesisticism shows it ship with Christ; nearness

When in occupation of Ephesus Christians and Moslems to live to- the Greeks made much of their quest for the body of St. John; obviously, A fair man can hold no brief for it is a far more important matter the more enlightened churches the West, in loyalty to the disciple lows discipleship to and intimacy whom Jesus loved, to take up anew with Christ. his work in the land that he loved. and to carry the Gospel of sweetness and love and salvation to the servants and victims of hate who are with present world needs and world and of John and Mary, the Mother

Crusaders attempted; until one monly called "holy" where the teach- the sacred commission given from God. After all, is there any other

"I Had a Friend." Tamed from his passionate nature

by association with Jesus, John should rise luminous, All aged, he ripened and sweetned these crimes against civilization this fellowship of love. The blusterthat have been committed by people ing youth, who was for fiery measbearing the Name he honored are ures and direct action, became the the direct antithesis of everything mellow teacher to whom we ov ucceeded to the ones he loved, and finite ever reached by mortal-"Goo his Revelation, need nothing love, dwellth in God." His Gospel Christianity is confronted, in the the divine nature than any other

self in the absence of the Christian likeness. He could answer all inspirit of tolerance, patience and quiries concerning his changed nature with the simple formula: "I had la'Friend." And, to come to closes! grips with applied religion, same friend offers his friendship to every one who seeks it. We go have to go far for a remedy for this distraught world; it is to be found in of the transformed character which fol-

What Makes Lands Holy.,

learns, on the spot, what lustful, ings of John and Jesus have been the Cross. Traditions and legents ex- reward of life to equal this? Can lotting, despoiling, grave-robbing, more fully wrought out into the pressed in such poems as "John the one ask more of the years than that quarrelling marauders the crusad- life of the people. In this sense, our aged," cluster around the apostle's they bring as they draw to a close ers really were. Their emprise was own land may become a holy land life in Ephesus for the ripeness of a new sense of spiritual perception. the recovery of the empty tomb of even though not associated with the a holy character is most fragrant. a new consciousness of the Godward Jesus: the crusade for today is the earthly lives of Bible characters; be- Nevertheless, no study of the meaning of things, a fresh effusion bearing back to Bible lands of the cause it may be saturated with their apostle's biography is complete that of the peace which is the right of spirit and ideals. Better than to does not reckon with his experiences those who love and trust God? Everybody has heard the story of sentimentalize over a historic "holy at Patmos, a lovely little island set John's story bears the two outstand-For weeks past I have been in atrocities of every sort. The land how St. John the aged used to be land" given over to holliness, is to in a sea of incredible blue beauty. Ing lessons:—first the joy of keep-

> out western world because it is so new, and lacking in historic associations; forgetting all the while that this very condition makes possible the moulding of the New World Into a better fashion than the Old. This is the land of tomorrow, and not of resterday; God's unique opportunity ranean storms; even as hard pressed for saints and patriots to express themselves more nobly than men and women have done in the past. Our Johns are yet to come, to give sanctity to places as yet without special him to a sojourn traditionally, said associations. Holy men make holy to have been eighteen months, on

esus and Asia Minor. Until Paul and Master and Saviour whom he most brilliant of its era, and John So do seeming hardships ever lead made it the home of his maturity, sensitive souls into a new under-Ephesus was known to the whole standing of the ways of God, and world as the seat of the temple of of the preciousness of Christ. Diana of the Ephesians, one of the in a century, great Ephesus became forting perception of the ways celebrated as a center of Christianity. Today, as the ruins are vesited by occasional travellers and scholars, their thought is all of John and scarcely at all of Diana. The entire habitable globe contains not a single worshipper of Diana today; where more than a score of millions of persons are studying this week's Sunday School Lesson concerning St. John; and other hundreds of millions the globe around, do him reverence. Such is the power of a life touched by Christ.

After Ephesus Patmos. There is reason to believe that ere long the world may be quickened to new interest in Ephesus, once the Musing amid these sacred scenes, home of Paul and his companions now in possession? 'At first glance conditions ever in mind, one has of Jesus, whom he cherished as a this may seem the very task the thoughts of other lands, not com- son until her end, in fulfillment of

For, after all has been said, it is people make the experience a mem- the years, and makes plain the lov-That acters of history. Shallow minded gestive of the imagery of The

The monks who dwell on Patmos

point out the very cave where John had his vision of the Better Land, which is the key to the riddle of this world. It is a granite chamber wherin many a shepherd must have fled for refuge from Meditervessels sought shelter of the island's peerless harbor. Cruel Emporer Domitian thought to punish John and the Christians by sentencing this lonely island, but he really was To think of the Apostle John in only driving him to a haven of quiet connection with these regions is to and communion and of vision, whererecall, less his life in Galilee and in he was again vouchsafed a new Judea, than his later years in Eph- and comforting sight of the French visited this mighty city, one of the had loved and followed in Galilee.

John's life was crowned by a vis ly jon. "At eventide it shall be light. must be recorded as one of the great After storms and stress, sufferings achievements of our faith that, with- and labor came the clear and com-



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