

Corner For Religious News

Sunday School Lesson

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Lesson for November 1 THE FIGHT AGAINST STRONG DRINK

(Temperance Lesson)
LESSON TEXT—Eph. 6:10-20.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."
Eph. 6:10.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Loving and Obeying our Parents.
JUNIOR TOPIC—How to Be Strong.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Strong Armor for a Hard Fight.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Fight Against Strong Drink.

This is not a temperance lesson in the usual sense that it deals with its temptations, but in the sense that it has to do with the believer's walk in conflict with the devil. Perhaps there has been no time when the evil one has been such a terrific fight as he is now doing in his attempt to nullify the eighteenth amendment. The Christian has been saved by grace. Though his redemption is free, between its beginning and consummation there is a real, severe and protracted conflict. This conflict is most difficult and dangerous because it is not with flesh and blood, but with principalities, powers and spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. Though the conflict is severe and painful, we should bravely battle on because the issue is sure if we go forth in the panoply of God.

I. The Source of the Believer's Strength (v. 10).
It is in the Lord. Only as the branch is united to the vine, or as a limb is united to the body, is there strength of life. We dare not attempt this conflict in human strength and wisdom.

II. The Enemy (vv. 11-12).
The enemy is the devil, a personal malicious being, with his many subordinates. His personality is proven by the names given him, and actions predicated of him. He has an exalted position, and is mighty in power, and all unsaved men are under his power. He is the original sinner, and is extremely cunning. He has power over death; enters into men; blinds their eyes; lays snares for them, and sifts God's servants. In carrying on his work, he has his churches and ministers. However, he is resting under a curse. The death blow was given on the cross, and he will receive his doom in the lake of fire.

III. The Christian's Armor (vv. 13-17).
This means that his weapons of offensive and defensive warfare are not of man's devices. Just as his strength is from the Lord, so is his armor. The believer dare not act merely on the defensive. He must attack his spiritual enemies as well as resist their spiritual attack.

1. A Girdle of Truth (v. 14).
The truth of God, sincerely and honestly embraced, alone will avail in this conflict. Reason, tradition, speculation and dead orthodoxy will fall in the crucial hour.

2. The Breastplate of Christ's Righteousness (v. 14).
As the metal plate covered the vital organs of the warrior, so the righteousness of Christ protects us from the enemy's assault.

3. Feet Shod With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace (v. 15).
This suggests the firm foothold of the soldier and his alacrity—readiness to proclaim the message of peace.

4. Shield of Faith (v. 16).
By this he is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Christ is the object of that faith.

5. The Helmet of Salvation (v. 17).
Consciousness of salvation enables a man, knowing that he is a child of God, and fellow-citizen with the saints, to lift up his head with confidence and to vigorously assault the enemy.

6. The Sword of the Spirit (v. 17).
This is the Word of God, the Christian's offensive weapon; with it he can most effectively put his enemy to flight. This Christ used in the temptations in the wilderness, Matt. 4:4, 7, 10, 11. The church of Christ has won all her triumphs by the Word of God. Where she goes on conquering, but when she falls back upon reason, culture, traditions, science, or the commandments of men, she goes down in defeat before the adversary.

IV. The Way to Get Strength to Use the Armor, and Courage to Face the Foe (vv. 18-20).
This is by prayer—and prayer alone.

1. Every Variety and Method of Prayer Should Be Employed (v. 18).

2. He Prays for His Comrades, "All the Saints" (v. 18).

He sees all the believers standing shoulder to shoulder against the enemy.

3. He Is Persistent (v. 18).

Some Things to Beware Of
Beware of idle moments! Beware of the beginnings of evil! Above all, and more than all, beware lest you once admit the fatal intrusion of evil thoughts. In solemn and awful earnest I would say to you, "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation."—Farrar.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

"Why Go To Church?" is closely related to the question, "How Preserve My Life?"

There are two ways by which life may be preserved; one is by walls of defense, and the other is by the strength of life force within us. One is the anti-septic method of keeping away from that which can injure us; the other is by a developed power of soul so that we shall be immune.

Jesus can strengthen the power of resistance by producing that soul force expressed in moral courage, eternal hope, and enduring vitality.

The Church is God's agency for bringing man in vital touch with Jesus. The preaching service is a vital part of the Church program. WHY NOT GO TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY?

Sermonograms

Keep appetite under control.

Spot cash buys many a man.

We should be careful what we love.

Leave the valley of low aims, and climb.

Govern your passions or they will govern you.

We live by radiation, not by absorption.

Pray and practice are teammates in Christian Life.

Men and pins are useless when they lose their heads.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Sport is not recreation unless it recreates, unless it makes us over.

A man cannot scold his wife and have an army of respect for his own religion.

You must hit the line hard if you expect to make a touchdown.

By the street of "By-and-By" one arrives at the house of "By."

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul.

It is well said that a man's religion is the chief fact with regard to him. —Carlyle.

Refuse to live in a region of grudges and malice. The atmosphere is poisonous to the soul.

The man who has lived for himself has the privilege of being his own mourner when he dies.

There is only one real failure in life possible; and that is not to be true to the best one knows.

Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue. In order that they may see twice as much as they say.

Nothing is better worth owning than a good book, provided we possess it as well as own it.

A boy can sow more wild oats in one night than he can reap in a lifetime, and his children continue to harvest the crop to the third and fourth generation.

WEEKLY STORY OF EARLY EDUCATION IN THE HOMES

Home Ties That Would Not Be Severed

Isadore Straus was the oldest of three sons of a refugee German Jew whose pronounced absolute fairness in business provided an inheritance of integrity, moral strength, and ambitious persistency that ultimately made the three boys the richest brothers in the world.

After giving general supervision to the financial endeavors of the family of boys, including the Abraham and Straus stores of New York, Isadore with his wife toured Europe returning on the Titanic which was sunk by the inflicted wound of a great iceberg. Amidst the great excitement of frenzied passengers to escape by the life boats, Mr. and Mrs. Straus remained calm. Seeing the doom awaiting those on board he said to his wife, "Please dear, get into a boat now; here is one ready. Get into the boat! Please dear!"

And she looked up into his eyes and

quietly replied: "Oh, I have been so happy with you all these years. I know I could never find happiness away from you. This simply answers the many prayers we have offered asking that when we go, we might be permitted to go together. Besides, if I stay with you, there will be room for one other in the boat."

When the last load of refugees put off from the ship, they were standing there still, quiet before the awful circumstance which could not conquer them, and she waved a white handkerchief in confident farewell as her friends left her to die with him.

THE QUESTION BOX

(Send problems in question form to Church Editor; answers will appear in later issue)

1. How build up a church choir which will increase worship in the Church?

—Mr. Williamson, who has built up one of America's greatest choirs in Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio, suggests the following: "Secure a competent choir leader—not necessarily a vocalist; let him organize first a Junior choir in the Sunday school, then an intermediate and adult choir. It will take about three years to bring these organizations to their proper standard. The secret of making a good choir is giving the training dignity and worth. There should be adequate preparation for every number and no laxness in attendance at rehearsals. The leader should give each volunteer at least one personal private lesson per week as reward for good work." By going at his task honestly and seriously Mr. Williamson has had no difficulty in securing all the voices he could use.

2. Will you suggest a good assignment card that will put a definite member at work on a definite "project case?"

—Mr. Will you please call on Mr. as a prospective member of our class, and report below the result of your visit. If you desire another member of the class to go with you, we are all ready to respond to your call.

I called on Mr. Date favorably inclined indifferent Other marks of information Visitor

RELIGIOUS NEWS GATHERED ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Father and Son week will be observed November 8-15.

Over \$900,000 is the total reported from New Orleans for the triennial United Thank Offering.

A substitute for early family prayers is being found in the broadcasting of "The Morning Watch" by the Y. M. C. A. of Boston, Chicago, and other cities. Large numbers are listening in to this devotional message.

The essential feature of the Church School of First Congregational Church, Toledo, Ohio, is an eight year's preparation of the children of the school or Church membership. The school has closed its fifth year and is an established success.

British Christian Endeavorers are making preparations for the World's Christian Endeavor Convention which will be held in London, England, July 16-21, 1926, in real British style.

Kalamazoo College has introduced two new courses in its department of social science, viz., the family, and educational sociology.

The Methodist Episcopal Church reports \$52,955 Methodist in foreign mission fields, an increase of 22,000 over 1924, and the estimated valuation of all properties held overseas about \$40,000,000.

In thirty states there is no prohibition of Bible reading in the public schools, but custom bars the discussion of religion by teachers, except the historical teachings of the religions of the world, like Islam and Buddhism, as they are a part of a history course. In twelve states the use of the Bible in public schools in any form is forbidden. In six states Bible reading is a part of the school course.

The Commission of Religious and Social Surveys reports that of the 101,000 Protestant churches in America in towns, villages, hamlets and open country, fifteen per cent have full time resident pastors, eighteen per

cent part time pastors, fifty-four per cent part time absentee pastors, and thirteen per cent no pastors.

The Bible was the best seller in Japan during the year 1924. The American Bible Society reports that 771,774 were sold there and in Korea during the year—an increase of over 125 per cent over the preceding year.

Disciples of Christ, holding their general convention in Oklahoma City, report that a five year attempt to gain 1,000,000 new members for disciples was successful. Records show 900,000 actually received, with enough reports lacking to carry the number well beyond the 1,000,000 mark. The total membership now stands 1,503,881.

COMMENTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

World's Temperance Lesson—Ephesians 6:1-20—for Sunday, November 1st.
The Roman prison could not stay this preacher, as the prison could not stay the hand of John Bunyan in writing "Pilgrim's Progress," and from Paul's fettered hand went forth letter after letter to the churches he had established, carrying comfort and inspiration everywhere.

The Epistle to the Ephesians is one of Paul's greatest productions—precious even in literature. This passage is particularly interesting because of the illustrations of the soldier and the armor which Paul introduces. He wrote chained to a soldier, and as he observed the polished armor, he wrote of the Christian armor.

Every life is a continuous series of battles. The battle is no sentimental fancy but a genuine fight on which hang the issues of life and death. It is a battle that calls for the strength of the Lord, and the whole armor of God. He has prepared armor for us so that we may be able to overcome.

V 10—"BE STRONG IN THE LORD"—not in our strength, or in our surroundings, but "in the Lord." The strength of the Lord is the first condition of Christian victory. The armor itself cannot fight and is victor only as it is welded by a strong hand. James H. Snowden says, "We get strength only as we keep the laws of the Lord, so that his energy can stream through us as the electric current through the wire."

V 11—"The Christian is engaged in the world wide time long battle in which the moral sentiments of the race are arrayed against the passions. Put on the armor; attack the enemy."

V 12—"Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; our enemies are not merely folks like ourselves but spiritual enemies, and the word 'hosts' in this verse would indicate that the number of these enemies is very vast. We are to fight the evil in a man—not the man himself."

V 13—"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR"—and having done all to stand. There comes a time in every life when the only thing left to do is to stand and say, "They shall not pass."

V 15-17—"The armor consists of five defensive parts—Truth is the girdle of character; righteousness will allow no point of evil through it; the shoes enable us to make a sure step, and faith wards off all thoughts and motives of the evil one; the helmet protects a vital point. May not these parts imply that five-sixths of the battle of life consists in resisting sin? The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is the Christian soldier's only piece of offensive armor. The Christian is not simply to stand still and take the blows of evil but he is to strike back and destroy evil in the world—but the Christian sword is the Word of God, his principles and his promises. Jesus killed every suggestion of evil with the sword-thrust. "It is written. All the weapons of this armor—offensive and defensive, apply

"THE FOUNDATION OF HIS HEALTH."

Among the thousands who have publicly expressed indebtedness to Tanlac for normal weight, health and strength, is A. R. White, who recently said:

"The foundation for my present excellent health was laid by Tanlac. For months I had been run-down. I had lost all enjoyment for food and suffered great discomfort from indigestion. My liver was sluggish and that tired feeling was on me all the time."

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Tanlac is for sale by all good druggists. Accept no substitute.

Tanlac Vegetable Pills for constipation; made and recommended by the manufacturers of Tanlac.

TANLAC FOR YOUR HEALTH.

to our battle against strong drink in the individual, the nation, and the world.
V 18—"PRAY WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT"—Of course, the soldier must be in constant touch with his captain, under his orders. It is fatal for the line of communication between the general and his men to be broken. Prayer is the line of communication between the Christian soldier and the Captain of his salvation. He that would quit himself well must seek by constant practice to gain skill in the use of his single offensive weapon, and never undervalue the power of prayer. "Satan trembles when he sees, The weakest saint upon his knees."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is it necessary to bring up the study of drink evil in the Sunday School?
2. What invisible foes do we have? What is most needed today in this fight?
3. What is the use of prayer in our struggle against evil?
4. Where are the prohibition forces strong today? the liquor forces? where weak?
5. What is the greatest war in the world?

Lesson Prayer

Saturate all our petitions this Thanksgiving month, our Father, with genuine gratitude. Increase our faith in thee, and let the reality of our faith be proved by life in Christ. Keep us alert, watchful and ready to drive out sin from our midst. In Jesus Name Amen.

Book Review

JOKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS, by Paul W. Kearney, Edward J. Clode, publisher, 156 Fifth Ave., New York City, will be found most useful in selecting illustrations for addresses of any sort, or for use in arguments. All stories and anecdotes placed under headings in alphabetical order.

BUSINESS LETTERS, by Paul W. Kearney, business letter expert, Edward J. Clode, New York City, gives full details and instructions on the essentials of good taste in business letter writing, covering completely the fundamental principles, giving examples of all kinds of business, professional and commercial letters, including banking.

"Cheer Up" lots of fun and good music Nov. 17-18. 24str

RHEUMATISM

While in France with the American Army I obtained a French prescription for the treatment of Rheumatism and Neuritis. I have given this to thousands with wonderful results. The prescription cost me nothing. I ask nothing for it. I will mail it if you will send me your address. A postal will bring it. Write today. PAUL CASE, C-274, Brockton, Mass.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the time for cleaning ditches in Preble Township will expire Oct. 31 and unless the work is done by that date, work will be done at owner's expense and costs placed on tax duplicate.

AUGUST SCHIEMAN,
Trustee Preble Twp.
Oct. 26-28s.

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