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HAROLD M. LAMBERT

THE BETTER HOME

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1945
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION SERIES



Eva Luoma

If they were your children you would spare nothing to give them a happy home life, good education, and sound Christian training. Southern Baptists have nineteen homes for children whose parents are not living or are not able to make homes for them, and these foster homes are guided by the same ideals of home-making. When your church joins with the other churches in your state in observing Orphanage Day this quarter, will you have a part in the offering? Your gift then will help to insure a Christian home for over four thousand boys and girls in our Southland—so be a home-maker for them, too!

Remember Orphanage Day

AND OFFERING

The Better

HOME

VOL. II OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1945 NO. 4

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HOWARD M. REAVES, EDITOR

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Contributors

"Studying the Bible at Home," by Lula Grace Burton (Mrs. Joe W. Burton), of Atlanta, Georgia, will challenge and inspire mothers to read the Bible to their children. This article presents Bible reading as an imperative rather than an optional procedure for parents.

Robert F. Aides of the Bibb County Juvenile Court, Macon, Georgia, writes out of his experience and observation concerning juvenile delinquency and stresses the importance and meaning of keeping the home fires burning.

Mrs. Rosalee Mills Appleby, beloved author and missionary who has served for many years in Belo-Horizonte, Brazil, has prepared the "Altar Fires" section on "The Christian and His Relationships." It is hoped that many families will find these daily devotional comments useful in family altar worship as well as in private devotions.

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Editorially Speaking

"Life Is a Landscaping Job"

An eminent author writing about personal problems says, "Life is a landscaping job." By this he means that every individual must make the most and do the best that he can with the site which he has, which is his own life with all its opportunities and limitations. No one can change entirely the basic size and shape of the site which is his, but it is possible for him to alter and to improve vastly his own landscape.

Life is a landscaping job for parents as well as for individuals. Parents cannot remake their children and change entirely their physical and mental constitutions. But skilful landscaping over a period of years can result in the elimination of unsightly areas and in the development of those which have natural and artistic possibilities. Perhaps most parents have never thought of themselves as landscape artists, but surely this is an accurate description of the function which parents have in the world. Being a parent is not an easy job, but it is a tremendously important one. By all means make the most of it!

The Anxiety of Parents

An expert in child psychology writing about children in the midst of war says, "Parents are the most anxious people in the world. If their children are in danger or even in imaginary danger, they can neither rest nor go about their business until they have some assurance that they are reasonably safe."

It is easy to understand the anxiety of parents whose children are in danger zones and to sympathize with the grief of parents who have lost sons or daughters in the war. Altogether too often, though, the anxiety of parents for their children is a matter of concern for their physical welfare. Many parents are relatively unconcerned about their children so long as they are not in physical danger. If more fathers and mothers in our land had felt greater concern for their children and had manifested this concern in more practical ways, the matter of juvenile delinquency would not have reached epidemic proportions. From one point of view it appears that many parents have not been sufficiently concerned about the welfare of their children.

One of the purposes of Jesus was to help individuals overcome anxiety. To his disciples he said with reference to material possessions, "Be not anxious." He did not mean that they were to take no thought about these matters but that they were not to worry about them. Parents can avoid unnecessary worry about their children by taking thought in advance, by living the Christian life before and with their children, and by rearing them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

The cure for care is to be found in the committal of self unto God. Those parents who commit themselves unto God and who encourage and help their children to take similar action will find relief from the burden of anxiety. Perhaps parents can never be entirely free from concern for the welfare of their children, but those who have the joy of seeing their children follow Christ will be most nearly free from anxiety. "The peace . . . which passeth all understanding" will become a reality in their lives.

Howard M. Reavis

Let's



Is Bible reading a "must" in your family life?

Study the Bible at Home

LULA GRACE BURTON

I was visiting with another member of my church in our mission area in Atlanta when an earnest young mother cordially said, "Come in and let me show you what I have bought." Following her into the house and stepping over the various toys and vehicles that four small children will leave about, I fully expected to be shown a new piece of furniture, a winter coat, or almost anything except what she proudly placed in my hands.

"There!" she said. "Isn't it a beauty? You've no idea how I've skimped and saved to buy it."

Lovingly she turned the pages of a large family Bible as we sat side by side on the sofa to examine it. On the flyleaf I saw the price. Twenty dollars! Indeed it had been a sacrifice to purchase such a book. I could well imagine how she had skimped on clothing and housewares and how she had literally saved pennies in order to buy it.

"I know you are wondering," continued my new young friend, "why I bought such a large expensive one."

Then I looked at her closely and I saw the thick lenses of her glasses which told their own story.

"I cannot see to read ordinary print," she explained, "and I felt that I *must* read the Bible to my children."

I did not hasten to tell her that less expensive copies in large print could be obtained. Who was I to belittle the beautiful thing that she had done? Somehow I felt that this young mother had placed the Bible in its proper place in that home. Never would the children take the Book for granted. It would not be carelessly tossed about to gather dust. It has assumed a place of central interest. The

beautifully illustrated family Bible is by far the loveliest thing in the house.

"I *must* read the Bible to my children." This poignant sentence finds an echo in the heart of every Christian parent. The Bible school on Sunday morning is not enough. The more intensive study at Vacation Bible school will not suffice. If a child is brought up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," he must become familiar with his Bible at home.

A schoolteacher, visiting in the home of one of her pupils, saw the Bible in its usual place on the breakfast table beside the father's plate. Turning to the mother, the teacher said, "That is the reason your daughter leads her class. Her familiarity with the principles of God's Word makes her outstanding in any group." Think of it! A teacher attributed scholarship not to the brilliance of parents, not to the child's intelligence quotient, nor yet to up-to-date teaching methods, but to familiarity with the Word of God!

But *when* can the Bible be taught at home? All of us are busy. If a homemaker is an active church member, that very activity will take her away from home. Moreover, the ever-present servant shortage makes the problem more serious. The very complexities in the life of a Christian mother afford her little opportunity for a quiet moment in any day.

Suppose we let the dishes and the dusting go for a moment. Let us really stop what we are doing right now and go look in the mirror. Now let us say, "I am too busy to read the Bible to my children." Can we continue to look steadfastly into the mirrored eyes? The answer coming from deep within us will be, "If I am too busy to teach God's Word to my children, then I am *too busy*."

No doubt the best place for real group study is at the family altar. Our family has its worship period in the early morning. Other families prefer the evening time, but we follow the old adage, "Begin the day with prayer; end it in thankfulness."

Experience has taught us that it is best to vary the method of approach even at family worship. For a time we followed the readings outlined in the Baptist Training Union quarterly. Again we enjoy rereading the Sermon on the Mount or favorite psalms, with time for questions or comment. Maybe for another period we read all we can find about one favorite character. We all enjoy quoting Scripture verses, and the children delight to select and look up their own passages.

Often family problems reach solution during this period. For instance, our small daughter disliked very much to put her room in order. One morning her mother had been unusually severe about her negligence. Slipping a little late into her chair, the little girl quoted, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1).

Properly rebuffed, Mother said, "I was cross this morning. I'm sorry. But the Bible also says, 'Let all things be done decently and in order' (1 Cor. 14:40)." Thus through the medium of Scripture quotations mother and daughter reached a better understanding about a real problem.

Special occasions are particularly glorious experiences if the family can relate portions of the Bible to the occasion. The one who is celebrating a birthday may be allowed to select the Scripture and special prayers are offered for him. A beloved missionary visiting in the home can make the Great Commission come to life with stories from her field. Thanksgiving and Easter offer excellent opportunity for special study.

Christmas Eve is the climactic event in our year of family worship. Always we have made a ritual of lighting candles and a wood fire, turning off all electric lights, singing carols, and reading the loved story from Luke.

This past Christmas we were delighted when the two older children asked for the privilege of planning the Christmas Eve service. Happily the parents listened to the carefully planned program—a piano

duet learned in secret, selected Christmas carols, and the Christmas story uniquely presented by means of tiny packages from the tree.

Sometimes we become discouraged; often we wonder if our somewhat haphazardly constructed family altar is really bearing fruit. This incident proved one thing to us: the children regard this period as their own. Possibly their interest is deeper than we know. Some of the Word will surely find a real abiding place.

It is doubtful, however, if even the family altar offers sufficient opportunity for home Bible study. It has long been my earnest belief that every Christian mother should have a daily story hour with her child. It is not hard to arrange the daily schedule to include storytime for the preschool child.

We usually have our storytime just after lunch. Beginning with a Bible story, we go on to read poetry and some story which the child selects from his own bookshelf.

After he starts to school it is more difficult to have a daily story hour, but Sunday afternoons and rainy days make good times for reading. It follows that the child who has had the daily story habit will enjoy learning to read and with proper guidance will read the best literature for himself. (The Bible heads any list of good literature.)

Perhaps your child does not like stories. Maybe he will not sit still and listen to Bible reading. He will not like school at first, nor will he be able to sit quietly and attentively, but his teacher will not give up and cease to teach him. Day after day she will work to interest him until he is able to absorb her words. Even so must the teacher at home be persistent. One child will listen to verses read from the Bible. Another will require gaily illustrated Bible stories to capture his attention. Your pastor or your church librarian can recommend a good book of Bible stories.

What does the Bible mean to your child? What conception does he have of its importance in your home? Of this we may be sure: the Bible means to your child just what it means to you. It is just as important to him as you have made it.

Oh, that parents everywhere would say with the little mother in the mission area, "I must read the Bible to my children."

Keep The Home Fires Burning

ROBERT F. AIDES



Juvenile delinquency—is it anything to you as a homemaker?

"Why is it, Michael, that you don't like to stay at home?"

"Well," replied Michael, "there just ain't nothing there!"

Michael is twelve years old. He lives with his mother and three older sisters in a two-room apartment. His swagger suggests an inward feeling of importance, but his big, deep blue eyes shadowed by curly brown hair are disarmingly innocent. Two years ago Michael began staying out of school, loitering on the streets, and remaining away from home later and later each night. Sometimes he would not come home all night. Neighbors began to complain of missing things. He lost interest in school. Recently he was detected taking money from a neighbor's apartment; a few days later while browsing in a store he helped himself to a large sum of money.

Two little girls were removed from the custody of their mother because her way of living subjected the children to unwholesome conditions which were injurious to their morals and welfare. In spite of her neglect they were deeply devoted to her and grieved for her. After several months in another home under the guidance of a kind, understanding foster mother, one of the girls was found crying. When asked

what was the matter, she sobbed, "I want my mamma. I'd live on bread and water the rest of my life if I could only live with her!"

These children had homes but they were not happy. What was lacking? What was the something they wanted which might have altered completely their outlook on life?

War has upset the normal schedule of many homes. Children innately desire permanency, or rather the feeling of security which permanency brings. Many are bewildered because in a few months' time home has become a strange, disorganized place. Maybe Daddy is overseas, is in an army camp, or is in another locality engaged in war work. Mother has, in many instances, gone to work, leaving the children unsupervised for hours during the day. Perhaps she leaves them with a neighbor without trying to discover their reaction to the neighbor, or in the care of an older child who has no training or experience in caring for young children.

From discontent to injury is a short step for a child. Those who feel definitely that they are being injured by someone's neglect, unfairness, or lack of forethought make up most of today's group of young offenders.

And it is well to remember that the unhappy child is not necessarily the one who has been deprived. The pampered, over-privileged, selfish child is not equipped to meet life, and he usually seeks the approbation of others by eccentric behavior. In either case, children who feel that life is giving them a rotten deal will try to get even by making others experience a degree of the same unhappiness which they are suffering.

Often their new behavior patterns are a mask to hide the real Johnny or Mary, who are in reality the same sweet children they were yesterday. How often parents are heard to exclaim, "I just don't know what has come over Junior. He doesn't even look like the same child!" Can we blame them because their hearts are breaking because of home conditions which they do not understand? One need not be surprised when frustrated, bewildered children begin to offend, destroy, violate, and desecrate.

When the fire on the family hearth is allowed to die down and grow cold, the child is going to look elsewhere for a source of warmth. It may be that in the corner gang he can find an exciting escape from the strife, irritability, jealousy, or lack of love in his home. In the gang his possibilities will be recognized immediately. The gang has its own discipline, its own code, its own rules; the tougher he is, the higher he rates.

Children who wander the streets usually drift into conflict with the law. It is not uncommon to find a gang or club of young boys whose lair is filled with articles lifted from stores and whose rule is that at every meeting each member must bring a stolen article. An empty building is a temptation, and inside there are walls to besmirch, fixtures to tear out, lights to break. Children on the streets fall into the hands of unscrupulous adults who in a short while can implant lasting harm in the child's mind. Bootblacks and newsboys have been used by operators of the "bug" racket and even as directors to houses of ill fame. Youngsters soon learn the jargon of the alleys, the haunts of the reprobates, and the ways of the underworld.

It is estimated that more than eighty thousand boys and girls appear before children's courts each year in our country. This, of course, represents only a small per cent of the actual number of delinquents. Many

people who suffer—sometimes heavily—from the acts of juvenile offenders go directly to the parents or make no complaint. But even at that, eighty thousand youngsters defying the standards of society are a powerful leaven of evil throughout our nation. There is dynamite in such a situation; shall we ignore the menace?

It is said that a scorpion crowded into a close place from which it cannot escape will sting itself to death. It may be that as homemakers we are permitting the same thing to happen. Heavy duties, added responsibilities, moral letdowns, and the nervous tension of the times may have so crowded our days that our homes and the care of our children have been pushed into a corner. When this happens, children find themselves driven by their inborn yearning for security and approbation out of their homes and into the first substitute that happens along.

On the other hand, if there is intelligent love between parents and children in the home, there will seldom be a drifting toward amusements and excitements which pollute young minds. Love, resulting from day-by-day contacts, the sharing of problems and joys, from happy hours spent in work and recreation together, helps create a home. Love is the foundation of the happy home, for God is love.

Often, and particularly today, parents find it necessary to be out of the home, but provision should be made for the children's supervision under capable persons. Then the parents should spend as much time as possible with the children, building up a mutual love which will withstand even the shocks and emotional upheavals that come with war, depression, and calamity. This is no easy project, but consider the result of the alternative!

Decency, honor, and integrity can be made so attractive that wrong with all its insincere fascination will pale. It is easier to instill right principles into a young life than to try later to reshape the firm habits of an adult, and the home has a unique opportunity to ground lives in righteousness. The family group gathered around the hearth of the home discussing, playing, singing, studying, reading, learning, and planning forms a tie so binding that its members are ever reluctant to break away from it.

Let's keep the home fires burning!

Your child's recollection of Christmas can be smothered with trifles or made significant by simple celebration



"I Remember, I Remember"

Esther Brooke

"We're going to celebrate Christmas just as usual this year. We'll have a big tree and generous gifts and as fine a dinner as we've ever had. No matter how much trouble there is in the world, my children are going to have happy memories of Christmas!" Mrs. Underwood emphasized her words with a determined shake of her umbrella as she and her friend, Mrs. Myers, walked through the snow to the December circle meeting of the W.M.U.

"I wonder what Christmas memories are the happiest ones," Mrs. Myers answered musingly. "What do you remember best from your own childhood?"

Mrs. Underwood looked startled. "I've never stopped to think about Christmas memories in just that way," she replied, "but when you asked me that question a picture flashed across my mind, just as if I were looking at it on a screen; I could see the big living room in my old home and all of us gathered around the fireplace for family worship on Christmas morning, and my father, with his Bible open on his knee, reading the Christmas story as if he found it more wonderful every year. It's strange that I recall the Bible reading more vividly than the time that immediately followed the worship hour—when we opened our Christmas presents. What do you remember best?"

Mrs. Myers answered without hesitation, "The star—the shining silver star that was kept from year to year for the top of our Christmas tree, and the little ceremony Father always made of having Mother put it into place. The recollection of the star is brighter in my mind than any of the mysterious packages I found under the tree."

"Why couldn't we ask the other women at the meeting this afternoon about their Christmas memories?" Mrs. Underwood sug-

gested. "I'm beginning to wonder if I'm emphasizing the right things for my family."

"That would be a good topic to follow the devotionals," Mrs. Myers agreed. "I have charge of the program today, and I've asked some high school girls to sing for us. We'll have time for a discussion before the girls come."

Later in the afternoon Mrs. Myers stood before the circle and repeated the question, "What is your happiest Christmas memory?"

A pleased smile passed from one face to another as the answers were given in turn.

Some of the women mentioned taking part in Sunday school programs; one told of going with her mother to take toys to a little crippled child; one remembered her mother's playing of the beloved Christmas carols; others spoke of going on caroling tours; one recalled a wonderful pageant.

"I've learned something today," Mrs. Underwood told the other women in the group when it came her turn to speak. "This year I've been planning the most elaborate Christmas celebration my family has ever had. I wanted my children to have happy memories of Christmas regardless of the turmoil and suffering in the world. Today each of you was asked to think back over her own childhood and tell us what she remembers with the most delight. Not one of you mentioned expensive gifts or lavish dinners. Your enduring thoughts of Christmas centered in commemoration of the birth of Christ. I know now that the finest memories I can give my children will center in the blessed Christmas story. My own happiest memory is of my father's reading that story, and every one of you referred to it in some way. I am grateful to you for helping me, as a mother, to understand the real meaning of Christmas."

Valley of Shadow

MONICA McDONALD

Paul was coming home—home from the war—blind. When his wife received the news she was shocked and hysterical. Then she became bitter.

"Why should it have happened to him?" she cried, just as so many others have asked. "He was young, light-hearted, happy. Everything to him was an adventure. He had such plans for our future."

They had been married three years. She knew his impatient temperament and was fearful that he would not submit to this affliction.

She remembered how skilful he had been at all kinds of handwork. He could put any unruly household gadget into working order. He had been more than an average student in college and had a bright future as an attorney. Everything in his life seemed to require the precious sight he had lost.

She tried to convince herself there must be some hope for his vision, but the specialists' pronouncement had been definite. There was no glimmer of hope that any portion of his eyesight could be saved. Her friends tried to comfort her with cheerful platitudes which only irritated her.

The ordeal of meeting Paul was the hardest which she ever expected to face, for she dreaded to learn what effect the tragedy had had upon him. If it had made her bitter, how much more would it affect him?

She was waiting for him when he was brought home. The doctors ordered him to remain in bed for a few days after the long trip, and a competent nurse had been engaged for the first difficult period. Although she tried to be calm, she became inarticulate with sobs at the sight of his pale, set face as he was helped up to his room. As he passed her, he reached for her hand and pressed it tightly.

After the first few days of rest, Paul was up and about again, remembering familiar things about the house and talking about them as if he could see. There was nothing hopeless or discouraged about his attitude. He seemed to have some special gift that

made him courageous now, and gradually his wife's sense of hopelessness left her too. She was leaning on him for advice and it seemed to be just the tonic for him.

One day he brought up the subject of his future. He was as determined as he had always been to continue with his career of law. His health was excellent. He knew his wife would agree with any plan he wanted to undertake. He invariably became animated and jubilant as he discussed his plans, and his vivacity was infectious.

His wife began to realize she had nearly made the disastrous mistake of showing too much solicitude for him, or intimating that she would assume full care of him as though he were an invalid.

The unkind attitude now would be an overly sympathetic one. He had had a bad break. He could concede that, but it was all behind him now. The future, their future together, was the important consideration before him. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, he felt fortunate that he had his home and familiar surroundings to shield him against uncertainty.

Paul had his moments of despair, but they were generally brought on by thoughtless remarks or by the actions of outsiders, pity for a handicapped man.

There was very little difficulty in resuming his law practice. A secretary took over the details which he necessarily had to forego. Transportation for the blind was no longer difficult. The hardest thing to hurdle at first was the attitude of others in their misplaced sympathy accompanied with head shaking.

Paul and his wife are now enjoying a really normal life. They have their friends around them again, except those who are of necessity carrying on the war in distant places. They enjoy the long walks they used to take together, and they hear music they both love, and they laugh together. The adjustments, each taken as it has come, have been hurdled without disaster and life for them is still a glorious adventure.

ALTAR FIRES

Recommended for Daily Worship in the Home

PREPARED BY ROSALEE MILLS APPLEBY

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS RELATIONSHIPS

Fourth Quarter, 1945

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 7, 1945

The Christian Way of Life

Luke 10:25-37

Explained in Daily Reading for Wednesday

Memory Selection: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbour as thyself.

Luke 10:27.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Love for God and Love for Man—Matthew 22:34-40

34 ¶ But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto them, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Here Jesus gives the key to New Testament teaching—ten commandments in one as an answer to the lawyer's question: "Which is the great commandment?"

If I were asked, after twenty years of missionary experience, what is the most important qualification of a new missionary, I would give these words of Jesus. Because you cannot love God and look down on man, a single word would cover all—love—an

overflowing affection that has come down from the Heavenly Father, flooding our lives and pouring out in rich service for others.

The love which comes from him is not a farce, and it is not forced. It is no respecter of person, does not depend on the loveliness of the other person, will not cease when the affection is not returned, and does not wither when tested. Love through which the fires from the heavenly altar burn is purified of all selfishness, is longsuffering, is kind, is humble, and is not easily provoked. Christ himself is love. His whole life was poured out in one endless expression of devotion. The Christian way of life is the way of love.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Love Better Than Sacrifice—Mark 12:28-34

28 ¶ And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,

and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

The scribe who admitted that to love God and neighbor "is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices" was aware that the sacrifices of his age had lost their significance, that attitude is nobler than action, and that to be is better than to do. Love is the very atmosphere of the soul, but burnt offerings had become a mere formality of the law.

One of the holiest demonstrations of love occurred eleven years ago when communists killed the young couple, John and Betty Stam, still in their twenties. The assassins left their speared bodies on a lonely hillside in inland China. Evangelist Lo found the martyred missionaries, and together with another native family, he provided a coffin. On Eagle Hill he told the awed Chinese that love had brought these young people to China and that God's love for them was greater. Mrs. Howard Taylor says that although she had never before seen tears in response to a gospel message, she beheld the listeners on this day weep. She asks, "Why the change? Why the melted hearts? They had seen a demonstration of the love and power of God."

What no formality can do, true love revealed in an unmistakable way can achieve. This is greater than sacrifice and burnt offering.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

True Neighborly Love—Luke 10:25-37

25 ¶ And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

The story of the good Samaritan is one of the most beautiful ever written. It was occasioned by a certain lawyer who was "willing to justify himself." Jesus taught the proud Hebrew that love is an attitude of the heart and not an emotion partial to particular people. Anyone whose life is possessed by this spirit of love is friend to any person in need, regardless of race or circumstances. Jesus selected a despised Samaritan, the race most hated by the Jews, to illustrate the bigness of love. This lawyer probably looked down with contempt upon the Samaritans and considered the Gentiles as dogs and the Romans as robbers. Thus, willing to justify himself for

lack of love to others, he asked, "Who is my neighbour?" The Master showed him that any man alongside the roadside of life was a challenge to his care and concern.

Would God bless our mission program if we sent the gospel to the black people of Africa and neglected the Negroes of our own land? Is he pleased with or present in worship where only certain classes or colors are welcome? Recently I heard a minister tell about visiting a church. When he started to take a seat, the usher whispered, "That pew is sold to Mr. Smith. He does not like to worship with strangers in his pew." What does such a man know about worship?

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Love, the Proof of Discipleship—John 13:31-35

31 ¶ Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The unbelieving world is a cold one. It was so in Jesus' day—decidedly selfish and greedy for personal gain. The Master sent his men into such an environment with this instruction: "Love one another. . . . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

In my state in Brazil we had a great-hearted layman who was devoted to the cause and gave generously to promote the kingdom. He educated a seminary student who became a missionary. When death drew near, he called his children around and the last request was that they should always be united. When he could no longer speak he held up his fingers, clasping them together as a signal of the united spirit he wished to prevail among them.

One of the great attractions of our evangelical churches is the unity among be-

lievers. The warm friendliness and love draw lonely lives to church. A deacon at Belo-Horizonte was an orphan lad, and his first admiration for the evangelical services was because of this unity. Jose needed someone who cared, and Christians are always concerned. He was finally converted and is one of the noblest Christians I have ever known.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Love from the Heart—I Peter 1:22-25

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

I have just put down a secular magazine, *Your Life*, and in more than one article this thought was expressed: "You cannot be successful without getting along with people. Sympathy and consideration pay big dividends." This is exactly what Jesus and his book have taught through the ages—that love is the basis of human relationships.

Kagawa once stated to missionaries, "You can preach an eloquent sermon and my people will say: 'I could have read that at home.' But if you give yourself in unselfish service, they believe." That is something which does not need interpretation. It is true on every mission field. Many times one act of love and humility will achieve more than months of preaching.

Peter speaks of unfeigned love. "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." The first young Brazilian woman to give herself to the evangelization of the Indians died after two years of service at the age of twenty-one. The result was greater than a long life of toil. Three missionaries are today serving our Home Mission Board because of the loving sacrifice of Noemi Campello.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Abounding in Love—I Thessalonians 3:11-13

11 Now God, himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

For the sake of safety Paul had been forced to flee from Thessalonica (now Salonica), but the church continued to flourish. Timothy returned with the good news of their faith and zeal. The apostle writes with affection, advising the members, "The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another." Only the Holy Spirit could achieve such a victory.

Zinzendorf gathered the persecuted of all Europe on his farm, called Hernhut. With so many different nationalities present some of the people experienced difficulties in getting along together. The Count organized prayer bands and had at least one group praying each hour of the day and night so that petitions were going to the throne all the time. The result was an outpouring of God's Spirit during the celebration of the Lord's Supper one Sunday. Selfishness and differences of race were banished. Fervent love came in its place. There was a spirit of unity and a mutual desire to evangelize the world. All became living witnesses, preaching everywhere and establishing more mission stations than evangelical churches had done in two centuries.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Love, the "Bond of Perfectness"—Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

The Jesus way is the way of love. There can be no concern where there is no affection. The true child of God will always possess this virtue which is the highest attribute of his Father. No other quality of character can stand except upon this foundation. Beauty which is not warmed by love is cold and useless. Discipleship without devotion becomes tyranny.

Hate destroys, tears down, and breaks up while love builds, achieves, and is ever constructive. Love discovers the best in others, reveals hidden possibilities, and adorns life.

From the Roman prison, Paul writes with tender solicitude to the Christians of Colosse because of false teachings which threaten the church in this town of Asia Minor. After calling their attention to all the beautiful graces which adorn the Christian life, he mentions the supreme one: "You must clothe yourselves with tenderness of heart, kindness, humility, gentleness, forbearance. . . . And over all these put on love, which completes them and fastens them all together" (Goodspeed).

Paul knew that love for God on the part of Christians of Colosse would keep their creed straight and that love for man would keep their actions orthodox.

FELICITY

FAYE CARR ADAMS

Golden

As a harvest
Of sun-ripened grain,
Is the glad meeting of old friends
Again.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

- M.—Solomon Anointed. 1 Kings 1:28-38
- T.—David's Last Words. 1 Kings 2:1-12
- W.—Solomon's Wise Choice. 1 Kings 3:4-15
- T.—Wise Judgment. 1 Kings 3:16-28
- F.—Temple Built. 1 Kings 6:14-28
- S.—Love for God and Love for Men. Luke 10:25-37
- S.—Temple Dedicated. 1 Kings 8:15-30

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 14, 1945

The Home a School of Christian Living

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Luke 2:51-52; Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1-4

Explained in Daily Readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Memory Selection: Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Teaching the Word to Children—Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord:

5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

In the public schools children study the theory of living, but in the home they learn its practice. Their whole future depends upon how well they learn this lesson during their early years. In his farewell address Moses reminded Israel of the importance of teaching God's commandments to the children, to "talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

We need to heed the counsel of Moses in our own age. Fifteen per cent of all our people attend Sunday school. Let us assume that half of them are children. That makes at least 7½ per cent of our American children receiving only one hour of religious training each week, unless the homes supplement this. What can we expect of America in the future? Every family in the country should have family prayers and the daily teaching of the Word.

Grace Noll Crowell, perhaps the best-loved woman poet in the nation, has told how memorizing of Scriptures, and espe-

cially the beautiful psalms, blessed her life. They became poems of power in her soul later on.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

The Fourfold Life—Luke 2:51-52

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Here is an example of beautiful living which included physical strength and poise, an unbiased, keen mind, understanding sympathy and warm friendliness for others, and a soul which was sensitive to the voice of God! What a conquest!

I thought of the beauty of well-rounded living once when I saw a Brazilian family which measured up to this description. They were wealthy yet humble, cultured yet gentle. They had traveled in many lands and felt a wide sympathy for other races. God's kingdom and its interest had first place in their thinking.

How can the home co-operate with the state in bringing up children who grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man"? It will require clean living, Christian conversation, and fair play in the family circle. Care in table talk, loyalty in keeping one's word, justice in attitude, unprejudiced opinions, and acts of kindness have their influence.

We had a missionary on our field who did not speak unkindly of others. When I expressed my admiration to her, she said immediately, "It does not occur to me to talk about people. It was never allowed at home."

Parents who desire well-rounded children must pay the price with constant vigilance.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Obedience to Parents—Ephesians 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Both the Old and New Testaments emphasize the importance of children obeying their parents. Our age has not winked at this clear, biblical truth without paying a fearful price. The harvest of an "unspanked generation" is tragic indeed.

Submission to authority is taught in the law of common sense. Every tree and flower which is to bring forth fruit must yield to the laws of nature. In the bank, factory, or business office each employee is expected to submit to the regulations of the firm. In the army, the schoolroom, and the nation there must be rule and order or else there is anarchy.

We have a wave of juvenile delinquency which is a disgrace to a Christian civilization. The business of living, of sharing, and of respecting others is learned in the home. Parents who lead their sons and daughters lovingly into the recognition of authority are preparing the way for their future happiness. That same respect will be carried from the home to the schoolroom and into citizenship. In very few instances is there resentment later when parental discipline is wise and Christian.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Learning the Word of God—2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

One of the most beautiful scenes I ever witnessed was the hour of family devotion in the home of Francis Soren, who for so long was pastor of First Baptist Church, Rio de Janeiro. The Bible was read and explained. There was prayer with all kneeling and then each child arose to kiss the parents. From such an hour they turned to meet the needs and problems of the day. Life had been undergirded by faith and love. The children had been armed for the difficulties of the day.

The Bible rightly taught and lived in the home becomes the atmosphere of a child's life, his source of thinking, a holy vocabulary, the bulwark against trials and temptations.

Susanna Wesley took one evening off to talk in particular with one of the children, setting aside a separate day for one or more. Because her son John was miraculously saved from a fire, she wrote: "I do intend to be more particularly careful of the soul of this child, that thou hast so mercifully provided for, than ever I have been, that I may instill into his mind the principles of Thy true religion and virtue."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

God's Worship Established—Joshua 23:6-11

6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

7 That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

8 But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day.

9 For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

10 One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

Joshua had been a father to the nation of Israel. The time had come for him to leave forever those whom he had so courageously led into the Land of Promise. With what tenderness and pathos he said,

"Cleave unto the Lord your God. . . . Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God."

Worship is so necessary to the welfare of the family and community that no one would live in churchless cities.

After the First World War many natives of Latvia came to Brazil and were given sections of rich land on easy terms. Among them were Christians who felled trees and made benches and a pulpit that they might worship God in the new land. Today this whole section of Sao Paulo flourishes with grain and green fields. A large Baptist church stands in the community. These people provide ministers of the gospel along with other Brazilians for the evangelization of a great and growing country.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Piety in the Home—1 Timothy 5:1-4

1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.

4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

Recently a ministerial student in a modernistic school who was weary of teaching which tried to destroy his faith said, "I got more religion at my mother's knee than I did in all the four years in the theological department of that school." A lad from a missionary home came back to state, "Several times I was on the very brink of ruin, but the memory of my Christian home and godly parents saved me." Happy is the lad who enters the big world outside with such memories as these boys had.

Years ago Abner Polk ran a livery stable in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Although Sunday was the biggest day of the week for the stables, he discontinued operation of his stables on that day. He was cautioned that such a policy would break him. Instead, his business prospered. At the time of his death his wife said to all the assembled children, "You have a wonderful heritage. The way you can help me is to live up to it."

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Wisdom and Understanding—Proverbs 4:1-7

1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

No ancient people made a greater contribution to the world than did the Hebrews. The Greeks gave to humanity the highest expression of beauty. Rome added law and government. But what the Hebrews contributed led to nobler living.

The book of Proverbs, as no other book in the Bible, gathers up the ideals of Israel. It sets forth the maxims of the people, not merely the ideas of one man. Throughout this book you learn their attitude about the home, duty to parents, and respect for old age.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments" (Prov. 4:1; 3:1).

The Proverbs of Israel taught that wisdom consisted in following the counsel of parents. Few virtues are so much emphasized as this of filial love and respect.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

- M.—Queen of Sheba. 1 Kings 10:1-13
T.—Ahijah's Prophecy. 1 Kings 11:26-37
W.—Israel Rebels. 1 Kings 12:1-20
T.—Rehoboam's Reign. 1 Kings 14:21-31
F.—Samaria Built. 1 Kings 16:21-28
S.—The Home Fostering Christian Ideals. Deut. 6:4-9; Luke 2:51-52; Eph. 5:22, 28; 6:1-4
S.—Ahab and Jezebel. 1 Kings 16:29-34

Making the Home Christian

Lute 10:38-42; 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Explained in Daily Readings for Monday and Tuesday

Memory Selection: Charity suffereth long, and is kind. 1 Corinthians 13:4.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

Christ in the Home—Lute 10:38-42

38 ¶ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

How sweet to remember that at least one house opened its doors to Jesus in the weary trips to Jerusalem—the quiet and beautiful home of the Bethany sisters where a woman's hands served him and a woman's heart understood the deeper meaning of his life. We can imagine Martha and Mary in later years recalling his visits there and perhaps pointing out the chair where he sat. Then Mary of the understanding heart may have said, "But he did not seem nearer to us then than he seems today. His presence has ever been with us." We may be sure that every word was spoken and each act was done with the consciousness of his presence.

No house can ever be a home without Christ. His presence sheds a halo of peace and glory over the humblest cabin.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Supremacy of Love—1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity,

I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

If you have ever spent Christmas in a strange land, you have probably realized how much of life's happiness comes to us because of family ties. There is very little meaning to any holiday when it is stripped

of past associations. Even the sunset cannot be enjoyed alone. Home without affection becomes a barn or barracks.

Love makes easy this business of living. It oils the machinery, lightens the burden, puts a song back of the washing, and takes away the drudgery of monotonous tasks. Kagawa preaches a gospel of love and practices it because as a boy he was deprived of family affection. Paul, who lifts us to the most perfect definition of love ever penned, was probably separated from family ties after his conversion.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

A Family Becomes Christian—Acts 16:25-34

25 ¶ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas.

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Midnight! Black midnight, and the household of the city jailer in Philippi was asleep. The man of the family had fastened in stocks the feet of the two prisoners who had been turned over to his care. They were secure, he thought, in that inner prison.

In the stillness of the night voices were heard singing. What kind of prisoners were these? A sense of uneasiness came over the jailer. Things began to happen. An earthquake shook the doors of the prison open. The jailer, trembling for fear, called for lights and fell at Paul's feet with this question on his lips: "What must I do to be saved?" When Paul and Silas proclaimed the word of the Lord to all that were in his house, he "was baptized, he and all his, . . . believing in God with all his house."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

A Child Serves God—1 Samuel 3:1-9

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Tragic beyond expression is the confession found here. It reveals the dark period recorded in Judges when "the word of the

Lord was precious [rare] in those days; there was no open vision." From the time of Joshua until Samuel came, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6). Into such an age a child came—a little boy with a godly mother who prayed him into the world and then gave him to God. It is hard to say whether the Lord lent Samuel to Hannah or Hannah lent him to the Lord. At any rate he belonged to both. And God, after so long a time, found an ear into which he could whisper his will—a child whose life was in condition to receive his message.

Do we believe that children are too young to hear him? Hudson Taylor was called as a teen-age boy. He later wrote: "The presence of God was unutterably real and blessed, and I remember . . . stretching myself on the ground and lying there before him with unspeakable awe and unspeakable joy. For what service I was accepted I knew not, but a deep consciousness that I was not my own took possession of me which has never been effaced."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

A Mother's Prayer for Her Child—Matthew 15:21-28

21 ¶ *Then Jesus went thence, and departed unto the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.*

22 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

23 *But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away, for she crieth after us.*

24 *But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

25 *Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.*

26 *But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.*

27 *And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*

28 *Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

We read today about a mother who pled for her child and would not take no for an

answer. So deep was the desire of her heart that she was willing to accept any seeming indifference without resentment.

One Saturday afternoon, while visiting away from home, the mother of Hudson Taylor became so burdened about the salvation of her teen-age boy that she went apart declaring that she would not leave the room until God gave the assurance that Hudson was saved. With this determination she started to wrestle with the Father. Conviction finally came that he was saved.

Hudson, back at home, had a vacation this same afternoon, and sought a book from his father's library to read. Instead of a book, he found a leaflet on "The Finished Work of Christ." He casually started to read it and saw that Jesus had done all that could be done for his soul. The rest depended upon him. He said, "There was nothing in the world for me to do, save to fall upon my knees and accept this Saviour and his salvation."

When his mother came home, he met the train to tell her, but she stopped him, saying, "I know, my boy. I have been rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad news you have to tell," and she told him that God had revealed it to her.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Parental Example—I Kings 9:1-5

1 *And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,*

2 *That the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.*

3 *And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have halloved this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

4 *And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:*

5 *Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.*

For the second time, God appeared to young Solomon and made him some precious promises. How could Solomon ever get away from such a promise as this one after the Temple had been finished—"If thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, . . . then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever."

John Paton, one of the most saintly men of missionary history said, "My father had a strong desire to be a minister but when he finally saw God's will had marked out for him another lot, he reconciled himself by entering with his own soul into this solemn vow:—that if God gave him sons, he would consecrate them unreservedly to the ministry if the Lord saw fit to accept his offering."

The example of a godly man at the head of the home is worth more than all the counsel and lectures that might be given children.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Duties of Husbands and Wives—Ephesians 5:25-33

25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

26 *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

28 *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

29 *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

30 *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

31 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

33 *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

The Bible starts out with a home in the garden of Eden and ends with a description of the beautiful home which awaits us up yonder. Across the intervening space there stands out across the centuries the only spot on earth which looks back toward one and forward to the other—it is our earthly home. From the beginning the home was intended for one man and woman, and its highest purpose was to perpetuate the family. God's Book is clear in its teaching that man is the head of the family. He is to love and care for his wife and children. The wife is to respect and obey her husband.

I have lived nearly half my life on foreign soil and know that nothing so lowers the prestige of America as our divorce record. It is written in the very nature of things that a nation cannot rise higher than its homes.

THE BUILDER

JULIA W. WOLFE

"O builder, will you build a house for me
With windows wide and tall, that I may see

The distant woods, the nearer cedar tree?
O builder, will you build it strong and fine

With sturdy walls to shelter these of mine
With grace and beauty in each lovely line?"

"Oh, that," said he, "I'll do right readily;
A labor of delight 'twill surely be."

"O builder, will you build a home for me,
Where love and happiness will ever be,
Where all who dwell will live in harmony
And those who come will always welcome find?

A place of peace, with voices ever kind
To soothe the weary heart and troubled mind?"

"Ah, that, alas, I cannot do," said he,
"Of that you must yourself the builder be."

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—The Tishbite. 1 Kings 17:1-24
T.—Elijah and Obadiah. 1 Kings 18:1-16
W.—Contest on Carmel. 1 Kings 18:25-46
T.—Elijah at Horeb. 1 Kings 19:1-14
F.—Naboth's Vineyard. 1 Kings 21:1-10
S.—Making the Home Christian. Luke 10:38-42;
1 Cor. 13:4-13
S.—Ahab Slain. 1 Kings 22:28-40

The Influence of Christian Homes

2 Timothy 1:1-6; 3:14-15; Titus 2:1-4, 11-12

Explained in Daily Readings for Tuesday and Thursday

Memory Selection: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Lydia's Home—Acts 16:13-15

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14 ¶ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

In addition to ruling a hospitable home, Lydia was a businesswoman in Philippi, a seller of purple goods for which her native city of Thyatira was renowned. That she was able to take in outside guests indicates that she was wealthy as well as hospitable.

Lydia might have argued that she had plenty to do with her family and work, but she found time also for religious worship. Her loyal heart was ready soil for the first gospel seed ever planted in the continent of Europe. When Paul explained the coming of Christ as the promised Messiah, she believed and was baptized.

What graciousness is revealed in her manner of inviting Paul and his friends to her home!

It was more than formal courtesy. The first home in the new continent to which God had called Paul was one which would represent worthily the gospel.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Timothy's Home—2 Timothy 1:1-6

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Little Timothy learned the Scriptures daily and caught the contagion of an "unfeigned faith" which made up the atmosphere of his home. The word "unfeigned" is significant. Religion in this home was real.

The knowledge of the Old Testament which he gained and the examples of piety which he beheld in the home so prepared his heart that when Paul and Barnabas appeared young Timothy had unusual understanding of the Scriptures. He was converted and "grew in knowledge and grace." The son of Eunice has a place of immortal grandeur in the Bible because a good mother and godly grandmother had equipped him before his day.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Philemon's Home—Philemon 1-7

1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

It is splendid to remember that homes of wealth and influence in the first century opened their doors to the gospel and that many of the early churches were organized in Christian households. In reading Paul's letter to Philemon we realize that he was a man of property—generous and friendly. He seems to have been a noble friend of the poor.

None of Paul's letters so reveals the effect of Christianity upon the daily living of men and its results upon society as this one. In a day when the death penalty was visited upon slaves who ran away Paul expressed his confidence that Philemon would show mercy and kindness and would even treat the servant as a son. Here was something which in time would tear down the whole system of slavery. It was the beginning of abolition.

Christianity is not something abstract but is a flaming force which makes a vital difference in living. It works in the business office, in the home, in industry, and on the farm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

Qualities of a Christian Home—Titus 2:1-10

1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

This letter shows that the essential needs of life in the home have not changed in nineteen centuries; the qualities which Paul recommends would cure all home and church problems today, even in so-called Christian America.

He counseled Titus to teach the old men to be sober, grave, temperate, patient, charitable and sound in the faith. For the older women he advised holy living, kind, gentle, and instructive speech, and temperance.

For the younger folks these virtues are given: serious-mindedness, discretion, chastity, love of home, goodness, and obedience.

In our sophisticated age, we often wink at these homely virtues, but they are the very foundation stones of character and stability. There would be fewer broken homes and a purer society if they were observed.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Christian Supervision—1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man knoweth not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Americans pride themselves on freedom and absence of authority, but the Scriptures clearly set forth rules and restrictions for both home and society. Paul wrote young Timothy that a bishop should rule "well his own house, having his children in subjection."

We need strong voices at this hour, a closer supervision of institutions and movements which affect our youth. Russia has prohibited minor children from going to movies unless they are in authorized groups conducted by a teacher. Bells are rung at eight for minors to be at home. Imagine Russia going farther than America in protection of childhood!

According to the book, *Our Movie-Made Children*, 60 per cent of our people attend the pictures weekly and only 15 per cent the Sunday school. It appears that the shows are influencing at least four times as many people as is the Sunday school. It is said that the movie industry is being conducted with less moral regard for the welfare of the people than is found in voodooism in Africa.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

A Temperate Family—Jeremiah 35:5-10

5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:

7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents: that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.

8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in; neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:

10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

Written forever in the annals of sacred history is the name of Jonadab, the father who requested that none of his descendants should drink. His counsel was heeded, and later his children said, "We will drink no wine: for Jonadab . . . our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever."

During the time of national prohibition in America, it was a source of pride to Christians on mission fields to think of our country as dry because of evangelical Christianity. The repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment was a great disappointment. Ever since the repeal there has been a steady increase in crime, automobile accidents, and drinking. Over three billion dollars of the nation's yearly income is spent for alcoholic beverage.

Even if there were no moral issue involved, it is pathetic beyond words to spend our resources on alcohol when three-fourths of the world is hungry. If our people could see for just one day the pinched faces of hungry children, the unhappy homes which need the gospel, students begging for an opportunity to study, the call for Bibles, and the desperate necessity for orphans' homes and hospitals, they would be unable to throw away money on drink. Had the churches been loyal, the saloon would not have come back to our country.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Integrity of the Home—Psalm 101:1-7

1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

While visiting in Kentucky on my furlough last year, I was guest in an ideal home. The cheerful, consecrated mother showed me the large, country house, saying, "I prayed three years for this place where I could bring up my children away from the distractions of the city."

The best books were found in the bookcase. The finest music was on the piano; a radio was there. Six children had come because they were wanted. Each has his task and his contribution to the family group. There was a room at the back fixed up with electrical and chemical instruments. Fam-

ily devotion was natural and happy. The older children took an interest in trying to lead their friends to Christ. All extra time outside of work or school hours was filled with Scout or church duties.

These wise parents deliberately set about to establish a home where the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs of their children would reach fullest development. The environment in which they live is conducive to the building of character.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Elijah Translated. 2 Kings 2:1-14
T.—Elisha's Miracles. 2 Kings 4
W.—Naaman Cleansed. 2 Kings 5:1-14
Th.—The Syrians. 2 Kings 6:8-19
F.—The Lepers. 2 Kings 7
S.—Temperance Begins at Home. 2 Timothy 1:1-6;
3:14-15; Titus 2:1-4, 11-12
S.—Jehu Made King. 2 Kings 9:1-13

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 4, 1945

Fellowship in the Church

Romans 12:3-18

Explained in Daily Reading for Monday

Memory Selection: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. Romans 12:10.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

One Body in Christ—Romans 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Christians on a mission field know a beautiful unity and brotherly love not to be found elsewhere. Their number is few and there is a common sympathy and understanding. They know what Paul meant by "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

My little church in Brazil is like a big family. When one is in trouble, all suffer. When a member goes astray, all are concerned and try to bring him back. Prayer has united all hearts. There are ten daily prayer groups pleading for the lost. The result of these prayer meetings has been increased giving, more consecration, an evangelistic fervor, a spiritual atmosphere in the worship, more conversions, and a better spirit.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Joy in God's House—Psalm 122

1 I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates,
O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is
compact together:

4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of
the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to
give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

5 For there are set thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they
shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosper-
ity within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sake,
I will now say, Peace be within thee.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our
God I will seek thy good.

From childhood days I have felt an inexpressible joy in going to God's house. A wonderful peace comes by just sitting in his sanctuary and waiting in his presence. There the heart may give vent to the longing for worship; it may find the peace it cries out to attain. There the soul may discover the anchor for which it is restless, the communion for which it yearns.

David longed for the tabernacle when he was hiding from Saul. The restlessness of humanity can be explained by the fact that man is exiled from God and is trying to satisfy the soul with things. It can never be done. The church of Christ should have that atmosphere which satisfies the deep desires of the soul. Those whose hearts yearn for the Bread of life should leave the temple satisfied. They should go away fed. Mankind has been weaned away from the Father and is homesick. We need the church so that men can find their Father. Only in his presence is there true joy.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

A Growing Fellowship—Acts 2:44-47

44 And all that believed were together,
and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods,
and parted them to all men, as every man
had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one
accord in the temple, and breaking bread

from house to house, did eat their meat
with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with
all the people. And the Lord added to the
church daily such as should be saved.

Only unusual circumstances and an all-potential love could have caused men in that selfish age to live on so high a plane: "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." Even after many years of teaching on stewardship, it would take a religious cyclone to cause this now.

This plan of a common treasury for all was practiced by a band of European Christians who put their money into one fund in order to get to Brazil and buy a strip of virgin land. They lived on this high scale until the land was cleared and everything established.

A true Christian will always share, regardless of the method which is used in supplying the needs of others. The spirit of love and helpfulness goes with the changed heart.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

A Sharing Fellowship—Acts 4:32-35

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

There is something wrong with a world order which allows a very small per cent of its citizens to enjoy the good things of life while the rest are poor, ill, uneducated, and unhappy. This problem is far more acute in other lands than in ours, but we share responsibility for all men. As Christians we must not only share the gospel with all men but bring about better economic conditions for them.

Pearl Buck in a timely article asks where we shall look for moral leadership tomorrow if the church will not furnish it. Where can we find the strength, unselfishness, and spirit of brotherhood necessary to change unchristian conditions? She says, "Now, if ever, the church ought to furnish the leadership for our people to make the sacrifice of our prejudice and our greed which through all the centuries we have not been strong enough to make. If the church cannot produce the necessary moral leadership, then religion is dead indeed."

Our churches are lights in this dark age. If we would win victory over the terrible economic inequality among the people of the world, if we would share the gospel with every man, we must look to the church to produce the Spirit-filled men big enough to change the world outside.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The Family of God—John 1:10-14

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Christ gave to all who would receive him "power to become the sons of God." What a glorious experience to have a Father who is unlimited in resources, who can do anything, and who possesses all things. Into such an inheritance we have been called. "And if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts" (Gal. 4:7, 8).

What union of feeling and purpose among truly saved persons. Two different times we took a special car on the train to attend our Baptist Assembly on the orphan home farm in Minas, Brazil. At each station where the train made stops the group would go out on the platform and sing, distribute

literature, and preach a short sermon. In small towns where the Christians were few they would unite themselves with those from the capital with a joy that radiated from their faces. All belonged to the same family, united in a common purpose.

Christianity would make a greater impression upon the pagan world if we always showed the spirit of love and unity. Miss Gracen has told that a communist leader in China who saw how the missionaries risked danger to help the common people during the bombing sent an invitation to them to come and preach to his men, saying, "Now I see these folks really love the common people."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Spiritual Brotherhood—Hebrews 2:9-12

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

We talk much of democracy, freedom, and the brotherhood of men without practicing it. I read that a Negro child was saluting the flag and when she finished saying, "With liberty and justice for all," she added in an underbreath, "For all except us."

Law and government cannot make men brothers. Men must acknowledge the same Father if they would be brothers. When God is our Father and when his sons are born in his likeness with the same spirit true brotherhood will need no legislation.

Dr. Walter Judd tells about a great Chinese mother who, in spite of having trachoma, is rearing in a beautiful way twelve children. She draws and paints. Then as if that were not enough, she goes into homes spending four afternoons a week

doing evangelistic work among the people, teaching them to bathe their babies and to understand the Bible. After Dr. Judd had been there for sometime in the interior, she and another woman came to the hospital and convinced him that he was getting thin and must have at least one meal a day in her home. This gracious Chinese mother with twelve children found time to take in a foreigner. It did not take politics to teach her about brotherhood.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

The Fellowship of Jesus Christ—1 Corinthians 1:4-9

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 11, 1945

Worshipping in the Church

Isaiah 6:1-8; Ephesians 5:15-21

Explained in Daily Reading for Friday

Memory Selection: Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. Psalm 111:1.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

The Bible in Worship—Nehemiah 8:1-3

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

What unspeakable joy is ours because anywhere and under any circumstances we can have fellowship with Jesus Christ. In Brazil an invalid who stays awake a great deal told me how precious were her thoughts of Christ in the dark hours when sleep would not come—just lying there or sitting in an armchair recounting his precious promises. She was sitting in heavenly places. Our missionaries in the Japanese prison camps were at peace because of this blessed fellowship. Madame Guyon, persecuted for her faith, wrote from the cold dungeon where she had been placed: "To me remains not place nor climate. I can be content in any place since God is there."

After all, life has but one need and this is Christ. Life's only tragedy is to be separated from him. When we have him, place, time, and condition are of little importance. His presence makes easy the dreariest task, makes light the darkest hour, makes sweet the bitterest experience.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Jehu's Death. 2 Kings 10:29-36
T.—Joshua Crowned. 2 Kings 11
W.—The Temple Repaired. 2 Kings 12:1-16
T.—Samarita Captured. 2 Kings 17:24-41
F.—Baalshazur's Reign. 2 Kings 18:1-12
S.—The Church as a Fellowship. Rom. 12:3-18
S.—An Old-Time Revival. 2 Chron. 29:1-11

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Ezra was one of those who brought a company of exiles back from Babylon to Jerusalem. One of the methods used to effect a reformation was to teach the Bible to the people. From early morning until midday he read the Word and the people "were attentive unto the book of the law."

Reformations have been effected many times by a fresh study of the Scriptures. As much as George Muller believed in prayer he placed the study of the Bible above prayer. It is the Word which gives the language and atmosphere of prayer, the conditions and direction for our petitions. Man's knowledge of will of God comes from the Bible.

One of the main reasons why the prevailing religion of South America became empty and meaningless is that the Bible was neglected and forbidden. Religion degenerates into superstition when not reinforced and fed by the Word. Any form of Christianity which forbids the study of God's Word becomes a farce. A nation which neglects the study of the Bible is headed for destruction.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Praise in Worship—Psalm 148

1 Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

14 He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the Lord.

In worship the soul comes into the presence of God, feels his greatness, knows his goodness, and becomes conscious of his glory. Praise flows from a worshipful heart as naturally as a song falls from the bird on wing.

The psalmist sounded his notes of thanksgiving because he could not help it. You feel that back of his songs of gratitude there is a feeling which goes deeper than any expression of words. He called on the heavens and the waters to praise him, the angels, the sun and moon. Then he counseled the kings, the people, and the princes to do likewise.

When some prayer has been answered in a way which has surprised us, when some victory has been won, when life seems sweet and joyous on the bosom of a spring-time morn, when a life has been changed through our leading, does not the soul feel as if it would burst with praise? No adequate words can then express our gratitude for his loving-kindness and goodness.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Prayer in Worship—1 Kings 3:6-9

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

A new king is on Israel's throne at her hour of glory. He is handsome and humble, wise and devoted to the interest of his people. Was ever a picture more promising than that of youthful Solomon at Gibeon where he had gone to worship? The records say, "And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David" (v. 3). That night

God said, "Ask what I shall give thee." How beautiful the answer: "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart." This request came after he had confessed, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in." The spirit of this prayer is perfect and nothing is sadder than the change in the king later on.

In prayer we, too, can lay before God our weakness and our needs with the simplicity of a child and can be confident that he will hear us and answer us. This is the sweetest part of worship.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Confession of Sin—2 Chronicles 7:11-18

11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the Lord, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.

12 And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

18 Then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

There can be no true worship or real praying without a genuine confession of sin. A sin forgotten is not a sin forgiven and the Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in

my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). Christ would dishonor himself and encourage sin if he heard those who kept their sins.

Confession of sin is out of date in many of our modern churches but the experience of every mission field is that it is always the second step in a revival or in an awakened church. Prayer is the first step, and immediately after praying the members begin to acknowledge their sins. I have seen services in which half of the congregation would arise and say, "I am not living as God would have me live; pray for me. I have difficulty with an ugly temper; remember me."

A missionary to China has told how she came into a gloriously close walk with Christ. Before the infilling she prayed to be cleansed and the Spirit revealed sins even back to college days. These had to be righted before there was victory. Every great revival the world has seen was preceded by confession of wrong.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Godly Reverence—Isaiah 6:1-8

1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, say-

ing, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

There is a form of reverence which is not godly—that icy respectability of unbendable dignity in a church which goes through a form of worship with cool precision but without a contrite spirit.

It is quite evident that the reverence of Isaiah was real. If he had not been sincere in his worship, he would have seen no vision. His prayers reached the throne and got results. His spiritual eyes saw the glory of God. The vision transformed his life and gave eloquence to his voice, beauty to his pen, and power to his service.

Only superior lives are capable of real reverence, that attitude of the soul which can grasp something which hands cannot touch or eyes see; that beauty of spirit which kneels in the presence of the Eternal; that grace of communion with God when thoughts and feelings are drawn apart from the world of things to the wonder of spiritual reality. Reverence is the kneeling spirit on the doorsteps of God.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

In Remembrance of Me—1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Lest you forget! This expresses the reason for the Lord's Supper. Is it possible that man must have a reminder? Can he ever forget the death of Jesus on the cross, the depth of his love for us? Can his heart have become so hard and selfish that it ceases to remember the body broken for him and the blood shed for his sins?

Yes, Jesus knew that the vision would grow dim and left a reminder, saying, "This do in remembrance of me." An eternal

memorial was set up to recall the price which was paid for sin, the cost of Calvary, the awfulness of evil. This new testament was sealed with his blood and recounts the marvel of his goodness, the meaning of his grace. We sit at his table for a few moments to think on these things.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Thanksgiving in Worship—Psalm 118:1-4

1 Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

2 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

3 His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

The happiness of a home is increased by expressions of appreciation on the part of members of the family. "All work and no praise makes Jack a dull boy," someone has said. How easy it is for Mother to remind the children of their father's love and care for them. How beautiful when the father, through thoughtful courtesies and little acts of kindness, calls attention to the mother's goodness. Both father and mother can direct the attention of the children to the many contributions made to their welfare by the policeman, the fireman, the milkman, and others.

But better than this is the gratitude which should be felt for the Heavenly Father's bounty. Girls and boys who grow up in such an environment will find it easy to feel and give thanks to God. At family worship there is an opportunity to express gratitude.

Ingratitude limits the bounty of God's goodness. Our recognition that all we receive comes from above is pleasing to God.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Hezekiah's Prayer. 2 Kings 19:1-20
T.—Wicked Manasseh. 2 Kings 21:1-15
W.—The Bible Found. 2 Kings 22:1-13
T.—The Bible Read. 2 Chron. 34:29 to 35:8
F.—Jerusalem Captured. 2 Kings 24:1-20
S.—The Fruits of Public Worship. Isa. 6:1-8; Eph. 5:15-21
S.—Jerusalem Burned. 2 Kings 25:8-20

The Outreach of the Church

Acts 11:21-30; 12:24 to 13:4

Explained in Daily Readings for Monday and Wednesday

Memory Selection: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Preaching the Gospel—Acts 11:19-26

19 ¶ Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus of Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 ¶ Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Persecution drove the early Christians from Jerusalem and many of them reached Antioch in Syria. The church which they established in Antioch became second in importance only to the Jerusalem church. It was here that the followers of Jesus became known as Christians. Luke's description of this great church was that "the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord."

Often in the land of the Southern Cross we have seen groups scattered by persecution or by the desire to improve their economic condition. In their new homes they have held preaching services, have invited their neighbors, and have organized churches.

A farmer entertained one night a lost missionary who became "an angel unaware." He talked until late in the night about the gospel, left a Bible, and passed on. That farmer became a Christian and organized on his farm a day school and a church. Worship services were held every night in his home, and many people in North Minas were brought into the kingdom.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Diversity of Gifts—Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Saved to serve! On the day that Hudson Taylor surrendered to God in answer to a urge placed on his soul to organize the China Inland Mission, he said he could not "bear the sight of a congregation of a thousand or more Christians rejoicing in their own security while millions were perishing in China for lack of knowledge." He could not even go to church in England that day and watch Christians spending all their time in a sort of mutual admiration society, coddling those who should be under the burden of the world's lost. One educational secretary said recently, "It takes all our time trying to keep up with our own flock"—members who should be out reaching thousands of others instead of taking the time of the church.

Most of the Brazilian laymen preach. Those who cannot witness publicly for lack of preparation become colporteurs or find other fields of service.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Sending out Missionaries—Acts 12:24 to 13:4

24 ¶ But the word of God grew and multiplied.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 ¶ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

A broommaker in a certain part of the state encloses tracts with every bill. An invalid not far from Rio writes evangelistic letters to factory girls, friends, and relatives. An Englishman made himself a miser for God and saved money for the extension of the kingdom, living on the minimum of his salary.

Why has God given America over half the

world's wealth when she has only a small percentage of the earth's people? Should she not use this wealth for the evangelization of the world? England and other countries of the Old World will be in no condition to enlarge their mission programs after the war. The duty will be ours.

It is said that the Laymen's Missionary Movement has estimated that if all church members paid a dime a week into God's treasury for missions, it would be possible to give every 25,000 of the unevangelized peoples of the world a preaching station, mission school, and hospital.

It is cheaper to send missionaries than to build warships and bombs. The gospel plants permanent seed of peace and good will; war breeds a crop of children who will rise up to exterminate those who killed their fathers.

No reconstruction of tomorrow's world can ignore the value of missions. To feed the hungry is relief for a day and to erect again the torn down buildings will help toward financial security, but to plant in man's soul the invisible, indestructible power of God is to build for eternity.

Not every man is a bulldozer. Those sent must have in their lives the power of God's Spirit—the power that refuses to be defeated by opposition, difficulties, or poverty. A true missionary must have enough faith in God to scorn the consequences.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Helping the Weak—Romans 15:1-7

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

It is easy to see how many problems must have come up in churches in which there were both Jews and Gentiles, for each group had a different standard. Paul wrote them a cure for their problem—"Let every one of us please his neighbour."

When all members of a family or church look from self to Christ and keep their eyes fastened upon him, divisions disappear. Trouble begins when we compare ourselves with those around us and excuse our faults because of their frailties.

Showing love and consideration for others blesses our own lives. Dr. George W. Truett had a brother who was left deaf after an illness. Very early Dr. Truett formed the habit of speaking distinctly for the benefit of this brother, that he might read his lips. His clear speaking tones in the pulpit were due to this habit.

Kindness to the weak will develop patience and consideration which will add charm to the character. Paul told the Romans that not even Christ pleased himself but took upon himself the reproach of others.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Liberality in Giving—2 Corinthians 8:1-7

- 1 *Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;*
- 2 *How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.*
- 3 *For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;*
- 4 *Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*
- 5 *And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.*
- 6 *Inasmuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.*
- 7 *Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.*

To love is to be liberal. As a rule a generous Christian is a godly Christian. The gift measures the richness of God's grace in

our lives. A liberal church is a spiritual church.

Paul wrote the Corinthians with exemplary tact about giving to the poor Christians at Jerusalem. He cited the generosity of the Macedonians, saying, "Their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." The secret had been the giving of themselves first. One cannot give self and not surrender to God what he has.

In my Brazilian church there is a very poor but consecrated family. Eight children are fed on less than thirty dollars a month. Whenever a special offering is taken for missions or the orphans' home, every child brings his gift. I have seen that mother sew for a week in spite of heavy duties at home and then contribute what she made. The children go out after school hours to clean yards, gather up old papers, and do anything they can in order to keep up their pledges.

It is foolish for parents to allow their children to waste money when they can be taught to share. Their whole attitude toward Christ, mankind, and missions is affected.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Personal Work—John 1:35-42

- 35 *¶ Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;*
- 36 *And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!*
- 37 *And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.*
- 38 *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*
- 39 *He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.*
- 40 *One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew. Simon Peter's brother.*
- 41 *He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*
- 42 *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be*

called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

A church is in a sad state of affairs when she must use her money and time pampering those who are already saved instead of spending energy to reach the unreached.

The Ipanema Church of Rio de Janeiro is in one of the wealthiest and most beautiful sections of the city. The members are poor people, many of them servants in aristocratic homes. With less than three hundred in the church they have more than thirty preaching points. The members are busy seven days in a week and maintain thirteen Sunday schools. One worker in the interior and two local helpers are supported. The gospel was preached in 1943 to 34,566 persons and over eight thousand gospel leaflets were given out.

One of the secrets of power in this church is prayer. The word "benevolence" is not used, but "love" instead. The very spirit of love which exists in the church constrains the Christians to give so that no one goes in need. The Bible is used instead of quarterlies. Ipanema's annual financial report showed more money received than if every member were a tither. Their Brazilian pastor says, "Thank God for the spirit of union, fellowship, and joy which lifts us. If heaven has a show window on earth, this church is his show window."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Living Our Religion—James 1:19-27

- 19 *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*
- 20 *For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*
- 21 *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superstition of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*
- 22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
- 23 *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*
- 24 *For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*
- 25 *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being*

not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

27 *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

"After the war, the world will come to America for a blood transfusion" said Dr. J. B. Lawrence, and then added, "What kind of blood shall we have for this transfusion?"

A genuine revival in our church would guarantee purer life in every sense of the word. An awakened church will bring about changes in the social and economic life of the nation.

At a young people's convention the slogan was "What kind of Christianity will we send to the non-Christian world?" If we give our money and sacrifice precious human lives to send a dead formality to other countries, we shall accomplish nothing. Most of the countries to which missionaries go lie under the crust of a dead religion. To add another layer is to waste time and to delude our folks at home.

In our South American countries the only justification of giving the evangelical faith is that it is a living force. If Christ is a mere concept in the life of those who go, no heaven will be planted in society.

The best advertisement we have for our faith in Brazil is the transformed life of the evangelical Christian. Only a reborn person can demonstrate the power of God. Our new Brazilian Christians desire a church kept unspotted from the world, and when they do not live up to a high standard, they themselves sometimes ask for exclusion in order not to bring reproach upon the church.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

- M.—Rebuilding the Temple Begun. Ezra 3:8-13
T.—Work Hindered. Ezra 4:1-6, 23-24
W.—Work Resumed. Ezra 5
T.—Temple Dedicated. Ezra 6
F.—Nehemiah in Jerusalem. Neh. 2:1-16
S.—The World Outreach of Christians. Acts 11:21-30; 12:24 to 13:4
S.—Work Hindered. Neh. 4:1-20

Christians Working Together in the Community

John 17:20-23; Acts 15:22-29

Explained in Daily Reading for Tuesday

Memory Selection: We are labourers together with God. I Corinthians 3:9.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Kindness to the Poor—Matthew 25:37-40

37 *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

38 *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

39 *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

The church of Jesus Christ is not the guardian of empty creed. It is an organism alive with the spirit of Christ, surcharged with power, carrying out the command of its Master. It is a group of men and women reborn, radiating in their lives the principles of Christianity. We are told that every church should be a sample of the kingdom.

If Christianity is to be convincing, it must show the spirit of Christ in relation to others—not merely dishing out charity, but seeking a permanent solution for social problems.

A small church in Brazil is often like a large family. A member of such a church became sick while her husband was in the interior on an evangelistic trip. Her physician was deeply impressed by the gospel because of the help and kindness shown this woman by her Christian friends during her illness.

In the same city one of the preachers became ill with tuberculosis. The Christians built him an open-air cabin, cooked his meals, and administered to his needs as long as he lived. Their thoughtfulness and unselfishness deeply impressed a woman in

the neighborhood who had refused to read a Bible, and caused her to want in her life that which caused people to act in this way. Today she is an active Christian.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Unity of the Church—John 17:20-23

20 *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

22 *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

23 *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

On that terrible night somewhere between the upper room and the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed the prayer that his followers might be one "as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." The result of this unity of heart and purpose would be "that the world may know that thou hast sent me." Christ would be glorified by the love found among his followers. Unbelievers would be attracted to a faith which unites and binds in common ties of mutual helpfulness.

Last summer one hundred and ninety-five missionaries from all over the world met at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. One of these Christian ambassadors told how a revival broke out on the mission field after the missionaries came together and confessed their shortcomings. They prayed until the victory came.

The same spirit spread to the Chinese preachers and workers and to the lay members. All acknowledged to one another their resentments, selfishness, and wrongs. Conviction came over the student body in the Baptist school and not a student was left unconverted. It tore down the barriers, and color, race, and station in life meant nothing. All were one in Christ.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Breaking down Barriers—Acts 10:9-16

9 ¶ *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the house top to pray about the sixth hour:*

10 *And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,*

11 *And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:*

12 *Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.*

13 *And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.*

14 *But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

15 *And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

16 *This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.*

God himself had to intervene in a striking way to bring together Jewish Peter and Gentile Cornelius. It took divine action to remove the scales of prejudice from Peter's eyes so that he could see men as the Lord looks upon them. There had to be a vision from above and a voice of love to convince him.

It will take that today if the race problem is solved. No man with carnal eyes and craven spirit will ever be big enough to pass over into the home and heart of other races to lift and heal.

A lovely girl whose sweet face was darker than mine put her arms around my neck one day and said, "Dona Rosalee, why could we not all have the same color? Why must some live with darker skin than yours?" Then I told her how every soul can be as

white as driven snow, and this was all that mattered in the final analysis. All can lay hold upon the infinite resources of a Father who is no respecter of persons. Every child of the King can live out the glorious heritage which is his.

When our eyes behold the King in his beauty, they will look with love and sympathy upon every man and will see his God-given possibilities.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Lights in the World—Philippians 2:12-18

12 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

14 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

16 *Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

17 *Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.*

18 *For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.*

It has been said that it is tragic indeed when the world influences the church more than the church influences the world. Paul writes the believers at Philippi to live "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life."

Some Christians have had their candlestick removed because they did not shine for Christ. Denominations have suffered the same fate. Look at Russia where the brand of Christianity became so saltless and savorless that it was rejected altogether as a useless thing.

The Christian Century has made this statement: "Many of those most capable of appraising spiritual realities frankly declare that the Christian life of Protestant-

ism is deteriorating under the pervasive influence of the secularistic indifference which characterizes modern society." In this we find a timely warning for Baptists. It should awaken us to a necessity of a great spiritual revival in our beloved denomination.

If our practice does not measure up to our profession, missionaries will be sent sooner or later to evangelize us. Workers have already been sent to many countries which have theoretical Christianity, but which do not live in accordance with Christian principles. We are God's candles in this dark age. Arise, shine!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Co-operation with God—1 Corinthians 3:4-9

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?
5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Laborers together with God! It staggers the imagination to think what this world would be if every man were a co-worker with God, living life on the principles laid down by Jesus, doing the Father's will as he did it while on earth, consulting him, being in harmony with his plans.

What spiritual discernment would come! What perfect understanding of God's Word, what sensitiveness to spiritual beauty, what melody in our lives! What absence of blunders! He works in us, rather he wants to work in us and through us, following the spiritual laws of his kingdom just as a lily grows in conformity with the principles of nature.

Moody determined to be the man who would prove to the world what God could do through a man entirely consecrated to him. R. G. LeTourneau resolved to take God into partnership with him in business.

Gordon made up his mind to have his workshop as though Christ were present in body.

Imagine what the result would be if every magazine were written with the consciousness of co-operating with Christ, if all business were directed with the desire for his partnership, if all schools were taught as if he were at the teacher's side, and if all radios and moving pictures were a part of the great program in which God is the senior partner! This would bring about a new world.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

A Service of Love—1 Corinthians 16:13-18

13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

14 Let all your things be done with charity.

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.)

16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

"Let all that ye do be done in love" (1 Cor. 16:15 ASV). Julietta, a Brazilian friend, attended a Presbyterian mission school. Above the door of one building was this motto, "Do all things for the glory of God." A thousand times she watched those words until they became the guiding force of her life. To do all things for his glory is to be successful.

Last year there passed away the oldest member of the Burrows Memorial Baptist Church, Mrs. Mary Virginia Baccus. For more than sixty years her very life was a service of love. The pastor, Rev. Kenneth Burke, said of Mrs. Baccus, "We have never known anyone who used more fully her opportunity for service and who was more completely happy in it than she was. At the same time she was just as fully prepared for the life to come, and we are sure she will be as happy about her Father's business as she was here."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Christian Influence—Matthew 5:13-16

13 ¶ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

A Brazilian pastor said one day to the members of his church, "This city should be a better place because you pass through her streets." I have seen noble men whose very presence enriched life.

Recently I heard of the son of a missionary who, in the midst of army life, was surrounded by many temptations to evil. But one of the memories which has held him steady is that of two godly men on the mission field whose faith and holy lives

still stand up before him when temptation comes. They are bulwarks against the infidelity of those around him.

In the Land of the Southern Cross there was a fine Christian lad in a large medical school which was attended chiefly by unbelievers. It was not easy to be different in the midst of scorners. He was not aware of his influence as a Christian, but years later several of his fellow students who had become Christians attributed their conversion to him.

When one of these doctors accepted Christ, he wrote an article for the Baptist paper in which he made this statement: "We drank and reveled in our gay social life. But the one thing that stood between me and infidelity was the clean life of Jayme Andrade."

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Wall Finished. Neh. 6:1-16
T.—Ezra's Bible School. Neh. 8:1-19
W.—The Covenant. Neh. 9:1-3, 32-38
Th.—Reforms Begun. Neh. 13:10-22
F.—Esther Chosen Queen. Esther 2:8-15
S.—Christians and the Community. John 17:20-23; Acts 15:22-29
S.—Haman's Plot. Esther 4:1-14

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 2, 1945

The Christian and His Economic Relations

Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Luke 12:13-21

Explained in Daily Readings for Monday and Friday

Memory Selection: A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12:15.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The Source of our Wealth—Deut. 8:11-18

11 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which

brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy

God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Human frailties have been the same through the centuries. Moses in his farewell address called his people to watch out for a danger that had become a reality so often. He reminded Israel of God's goodness and leadership and then warned them, "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, . . . lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein, . . . then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God."

Many men when poor have looked unto Jesus for all of life's resources but have forgotten him in days of prosperity. Some of the finest institutions in our land depended upon God in their courageous beginning but later have relied upon man's intelligence and his dollars. Churches and denominations call upon Christ in their earlier days, but wealth makes them more independent and less loyal. War has driven us to singing "God Bless America" after such a period of forgetfulness. The Lord carried us on eagle's wings to days of prosperity such as no nation has ever enjoyed. Then, when we had "eaten and were full," we sat down in ease and forgetfulness.

Roger Babson estimates that four-fifths of the five hundred billion dollars—the annual business turnover in America—is in the hands of Christians. Are we faithful with this?

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

God the Owner—Psalm 50:7-11

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God.

8 I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.

9 I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.

10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

The psalmist had learned that it is God "that giveth thee power to get wealth" (Deut. 8:18). "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. . . . The world is mine, and the fulness thereof."

Clinton Howard, in an article in *Clean Life Educator*, says, "Fifty times more is spent for gambling, liquor, tobacco, and crime than for religion in the United States."

When God possesses us, he possesses our present assets and future possibilities. He dwells in us as the source of a life divine and eternal, as the giver of every gift that is ours.

Egbert Smith says, "On our colnage is the inscription, 'In God We Trust.' Let us hereafter read it, 'In Trust for God.' Let us write these words not only on our money, our stocks and bonds, our real and personal property, but on our business abilities, our educational attainments, our social gifts and accomplishments,—nay, on life itself, with all that it has of endowment, opportunity, possibility. Let us humbly, gladly write 'In Trust for God.'"

To put over the door of all that we are and have the inscription "In Trust for God," would make us pause and take off our shoes many times in the face of temptation and would curb the tendency toward careless spending.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Commercializing Religion—Acts 19:23-29

23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

The problem of Demetrius is no new one. "By this craft we have our wealth. . . . Our craft is in danger." There is no sign here that the workmen had any other interest in making idols than the gain of money.

In my Brazilian city there was a lovely Christian girl who was to be married to an unbeliever. When he brought the engagement ring to her, he said, "I have the prospect of a good promotion in business soon. Unless we are married according to the demands of my church, I will no doubt lose this opportunity. May we be married by the priest?"

The young woman returned the ring to him, saying, "You have asked me to compromise my conviction for material gain. Consider our engagement broken."

There are many angles to the commercializing of religion: those who sell in their stores liquor, tobacco, and filthy magazines; those who use the sabbath to gain a living; students who sell out in college for popularity; social climbers who dishonor Christ for a place in society; and people who join the church for business motives.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Dealing Honestly with God—Malachi 3:8-10

8 ¶ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Do Christians believe that God is a person to be trusted and that his word is good? Then why will they use their tithes for themselves when the Bible says, "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I visited a new Christian who had joined our church in Brazil. His home lacked the usual comforts which we take for granted. Before I left, the young husband said, "Wait, I want you to explain to me about this business of tithing!"

He reached into a box on the wall and brought out a matchbox with his meager salary in it, laying its contents on the table. I was asked to separate the tithe. Then he laid aside more for a freewill offering.

Another Brazilian Christian who was ill declared that he could not afford a doctor because he did not have the means. When one of the family mentioned his tithe, he said, "That is not my money; it belongs to God." It did not occur to him to touch that which was sacred.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

A Christian's Possessions—Luke 12:13-17

13 ¶ And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:

then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

If we are not our own, what we possess is not ours, for it is part of us whether those possessions be personal charm or money. Full surrender means to give our children, time, talents, and gifts. All of life is related to the kingdom in one partnership.

John Wesley used all the resources of his great life for eighty-six years in the cause of Christ. We are told that he lived always with strict economy so that his giving might be greater. When he was paid sixty pounds, he lived on twenty-eight. Later when he was paid one hundred and twenty pounds a year, he lived on twenty-eight.

Is it not tragic for Christians whose possessions are bought with a price to hoard while the world lies in need? It could be winning Charlie Soongs and Francis Sorrens to Christ—thus starting a wave of blessings which would awaken a nation.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

The Rich Young Ruler—Luke 18:18-24

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

He was rich and he was young. He had character and was doubtless a good neighbor. All indications in this story lead us

to believe he was a respectable citizen and a faithful friend. Yet one thing he lacked. Down in the inner recess of his soul he had never surrendered all to God. The outer life was decent and respectable because of the benefit those things bring to self, not out of loyalty and love to the Eternal.

One thing thou lackest! Oh, tragedy of tragedies! The rich young ruler turned away from the Saviour that day when he might have lived in immortal glory and in the presence of God forever. When life's supreme opportunity came, he chose gold instead of God.

If that same rich young ruler could again meet the Master of men after having the experience of being separated from God, what would he do? What would he say to the youth of today? What significance would he have for the thousands who feel themselves sufficient in the abundance of material things and see no need of surrendering or making Christ pre-eminent in their lives?

Somewhere along the way of life we come face to face with a choice which decides forever our destiny—a choice between visible things which pass away and eternal realities. Lord Jesus, help us in that hour to be strong.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Source of Our Wealth—James 2:15-16; 5:1-6

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are en-

tered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

"How did America get that way?" could be asked in our characteristic language. Our country possesses 29 per cent of the world's iron, 32 per cent of the copper, 34 per cent of the coal, 62 per cent of the oil, 34 per cent of the railroads, 45 per cent of the radios, 50 per cent of telephones and 70 per cent of automobiles in the world. Is it an accident that we have so much?

Certainly it is a mighty responsibility before God. Consecrated wealth can heal the leper, erect hospitals, provide schools, build highways, care for the orphan, and send the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Unconsecrated money can make us idolatrous, ruin our children and wreck our

homes, and become a source of pride. It can make drunkards of American youth and hide from their vision every noble impulse. It can shut the doors to mission fields and leave men to die in their sins.

God brought us out of the wilderness and gave us a land overflowing with milk and honey. Have we forgotten? "I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, . . . ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people" (Ex. 19:4-5).

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Mordecai Honored. Esther 6:6-14
T.—Haman Hanged. Esther 7
W.—Jews Delivered. Esther 9:1-6
Th.—John's Prologue. John 1:1-18
F.—First Disciples. John 1:35-51
S.—The Christian and His Economic Relations. Deut. 8:17-18; Luke 12:13-21
S.—First Miracle. John 2:1-11

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 9, 1945

The Christian's Place in the Life of the Nation

Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Explained in Daily Readings for Wednesday and Thursday

Memory Selection: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

A Righteous Nation—Proverbs 14:27-28, 31-34

27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

28 In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.

31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

33 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Is it possible that America in turn could use that wealth to corrupt its youth, the railroads to ship liquor, the ships to send the arms, the airplanes to go on errands of death, the schools to teach atheism, and the churches to deny God's power by an unworthy witness before the world?

The experience of the ages has verified the statement in God's Word that righteousness exalteth a nation, but that sin is a reproach, a shame, a disintegrating force, to any people.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Keeping the Law—Matthew 5:17-20

17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus kept the laws of his nation. The constraint to do so came not from fear but from love; therefore, he was perhaps the only Hebrew who ever guarded them perfectly. In the matchless Sermon on the Mount Jesus reminded his followers that they were the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and then immediately after this he told them of their duty to keep the law: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven."

True faith in Christ is not only a feeling of joy and peace in the heart but a practice of righteousness and order in the everyday life we live. The inner change has an outer expression in our duty as citizens and parents. Religion has not gone farther than mere emotion if it is only talk and enthusiasm. A real Christian is a good citizen. The constraint of love undergirds

his life and compels him to do that which is right. He recognizes the reason of law and order. Being and doing go together, and where there is no evidence of regeneration in holy living or useful service there is doubt concerning the reality of conversion.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Christian Love—Matthew 5:43-48

43 ¶ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Recently a university student was talking of a theory which had been discussed in one of his classes—the suggestion that every act in life is motivated by selfishness. This may be true of those who live carnal lives but it is far from true of those who have experienced regeneration. An unregenerated individual will not place the good of humanity above his own personal interests. A carnal man cannot love his enemy as himself. These superhuman feats are possible only for those who possess superhuman resources.

A missionary told recently of a Chinese pastor who was suspected by the Japanese of having done certain things which they had forbidden. Despite his protests of innocence they kept him in custody and subjected him to torture. Finally they took him out to execute him and asked if he had any message to leave his family. He requested that they send word to his wife that it was his last wish for their little son to follow his footsteps in the ministry. The Japanese then saw the sincerity of this

prisoner, and realizing that he had been truthful, they released him.

Christian love is not lust or bait to get advantages. It is Christlike interest in the welfare of the world regardless of anything it may cost personally.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Citizens' Duties—I Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Democracy is the highest expression of government ever worked out by man. If democracy is to succeed fully, every individual must be rightly related to God, must recognize his own worth, and must seek to do his duty. If Christianity becomes weak, democracy will lose power and vitality.

In interior Brazil there is a community which is overwhelmingly Baptist. Over half a century ago a senator on his way to the national capital learned of a plot engineered by a priest to take the life of the missionary, Dr. Z. C. Taylor. The senator went to the officials in the town, revealed the plot, prevented a murder, and accepted a Bible from the missionary. Later on this statesman sent back to his community a box of Bibles and began a transformation which is still in progress. Converted men and women sent for a missionary to baptize them. A small church was organized. This senator and his relatives gave land for a school and church, and a great industrial mission school was planted in the interior town.

Recently a health officer who passed through this section said that he found there the happiest, healthiest children to be found in all the interior of Brazil, and he added, "After investigating the reason,

I have come to the conclusion that it is here." He pointed to a Baptist pulpit.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Civic Righteousness—Titus 3:1-8

1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

It was not Germany which caused the downfall of France but sin. A greater enemy than Japan stained our flag at Pearl Harbor. Rome became rotten within before she was wrecked without. The wages of sin is death, whether it be in the life of a king or a nation. There is no escape. The soul of the nation that sinneth shall surely die.

Across all history is written indelibly, "The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish" (Isa. 60:12). Lord God, forbid that America should forget this.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Christian's Heritage—Isaiah 54:11-17

11 ¶ O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

13 And all thy children shall be taught of

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the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

14 In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

16 Behold, I have created this smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

17 ¶ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

To read the story of the descendants of Jonathan Edwards is to see how God rewards the righteousness of godly parents to the third and fourth generations. Think of the sons of Susanna Wesley. God blessed Solomon "for David's sake."

The gospel on the mission field creates character, and from humble but sincere Christian homes there come sons and daughters who rise to positions of confidence and responsibility. It is not in vain that parents strive to keep their homes Christian. The reward comes in having children who will honor their names and extend the interests of the kingdom.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

God's Authority in the Nation—Romans 13:1-7

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in

vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Paul told the Roman Christians, "There is no power but of God." Obedience to parents, respect for school discipline, and keeping of the law is identified with the great Christian principle of recognizing the authority of parents and of the law. Home Missions, a Baptist monthly, says, "There are about fifty-five million people in the United States who belong to one church or another. These profess to be Christians. What would happen if these people were to begin living Christian lives? . . .

"What would happen if these, independently and individually, were to write to their legislators, congressmen, and senators telling them that they would not, under any circumstances, vote for men who did not stand for the right sort of legislation—moral and ethical as well as economic?

"What would happen if these Christians, individually and personally, would notify the boards of aldermen and administrative authorities in the cities and towns where they live that they would not countenance an administration that allowed immorality and crime to exist?

"What would happen if those who profess faith in Christ really and truly lived Christian lives? May we ask this question: How far are Christian people responsible for the evils which they could prevent if they did their Christian duty?"

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Nicodemus. John 3:1-21
T.—Woman of Samaria. John 4:1-26
W.—White Fields. John 4:27-42
T.—Lame Man. John 5:1-18
F.—Five Thousand Fed. John 6:1-14
S.—The Christian's Place in the Life of the Nation. Matt. 5:13-16, 43-48; 1 Peter 2:13-17
S.—Bread of Life. John 6:22-40

Exalting Christ in the Life of the Nation

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7; Luke 1:26-33

Explained in Daily Readings for Monday and Wednesday

Memory Selection: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Christ the Light—Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

From the time that Hitler became Germany's ruler, every institution was required to exalt him. Schools were busy teaching children; mothers told their sons to look upon him as a savior of their country. Citizens had to cry "Hell Hitler." The country became united under his direction and conscious of his leadership.

What would the next generation be if we should make our children equally conscious of Christ's worth to their individual lives and to the nation? Are we calling their at-

tention day after day to his goodness, the price he paid for our sins, the victory we can have in him? Do we show our boys and girls the difference it makes in the home when Jesus is honored and the institutions which have come about because he has reigned in the lives of men?

Jesus is the light of the world. Not all the pagans who walk in darkness and in the land of the shadow of death are in Africa. Even in some of the world's great school centers there are polished pagans who spurn the true light, and prefer to use human candles instead of the sun.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Christ, the Divine Leader—Jeremiah 23:5-8

5 ¶ Behold, the days cometh, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name wherewith he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.

7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

8 But, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

Jeremiah in no uncertain terms uttered God's condemnation of religious leaders who were false to their high calling. What a black day in Israel when wickedness sat in high places and those who were supposed to be torchbearers became corrupt and self-seeking! The very light became darkness.

The name "Pharisee" has become a symbol of scorn, and Jesus spoke the severest language he ever uttered against these "whitewashed walls," who went through forms which they did not feel. In some mission lands it has come about that the very word "priest" is held in contempt by the people of the country. Jeremiah said later (vv. 9, 11), "Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness. . . . For both prophet and priest are profane."

Jeremiah foresaw a day when God would "raise unto David a righteous Branch," one which would "execute judgment and justice in the earth," a Good Shepherd who would lay down his life for the sheep, a Man whose will and purpose would be one with the Father who sent him. That was Christ. This Pastor would place in his churches pastors who would have the spirit of their divine Leader, the spirit of love, of meekness, and gentleness. They would be holy men with spiritual power who would follow the example of their Good Shepherd.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Kingdom of Christ—Luke 1:26-33

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Over six hundred years after Jeremiah prophesied of "the righteous Branch" who would execute judgment and justice in the earth, the angel Gabriel came to the maiden of Nazareth at her quiet hour and announced, "Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, . . . and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

John the Baptist announced the approach of the ministry of Christ in the words, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2).

Jesus came to establish the principles of justice forever—the laws which are conducive to life, happiness, and well-being not only for the individual but for the nation. To come into this kingdom through rebirth and then to follow its principles is to become now a part of that eternal life and to taste the joys of heaven while our feet tarry here. Both times I have visited Ridgecrest, where practically all are Christians, the peace and joy evident there were reminders of that heavenly environment which God had in mind on earth when he proclaimed: "The kingdom of God is within [among] you."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Preparation for Blessings—Luke 1:76-79

76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Only divinely inspired lips could have uttered a hymn so beautiful as this song of Zacharias when a son had come into the world. Luke tells us that Zacharias "was filled with the Holy Ghost" (v. 67).

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people."

Zacharias and Elisabeth co-operated with God in preparing John to open the gate of

a new era, to push back an age of darkness, and to announce the coming King.

Are we as parents laboring together with God in rearing children who will smooth out the way and push back the thorns for the oncoming generation? Are we giving to them strength of character and depth of faith which will enable them to make straight the way for others? What wasted lives have resulted because parents desired nothing more for their children than to be popular and mix well with the crowds!

Oh, that we might create such an environment in the home that Christ should abide there, such an atmosphere in the church that his presence should be felt, such righteousness in the nation that his blessings should be expected.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christ's Glory and Work—Hebrews 1:1-4

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

"God . . . spake," and he kept on speaking from Eden to Bethlehem. The writer of Hebrews says that he spoke in "sundry times and in divers manners." God spoke in the sunset, in song birds, in the hail and rainstorms. He spoke in the quiet of Eden, in the heat of the wilderness, in the pillar of fire, in the cloud on high. He spoke in thunderous tones from Sinai and in the still small voice at the mouth of the cave. He sent the prophets and priests and kings with his message to the world. But through all of these his voice was indistinct. It did not come with the revealing clearness and conviction which would cause men to change.

At last he "hath . . . spoken to us by his Son." There was no uncertainty in that voice which men heard from the mountains of Galilee, by the seaside, and along the highway. In his words and deeds there was a picture of the Father so clear and so convincing that no one had reason to doubt further. God's glory was shown through the beauty of the Son, "who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Christ's Dominion—Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Paul prayed that the Christians of Ephesus might come into spiritual understanding and catch a glimpse of "the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" and that they might know "what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power." He gave a hint of the heavenly resources in store for the Christian who is prepared to receive them and

declared that God is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

Unlimited resources are at the disposal of those who meet the conditions, but our appropriation of them is "according to the working of his mighty power" in us. He says that God has set Christ in heavenly places "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion."

God is present with unlimited strength and longs to bestow upon his followers great ability in the spiritual realm. Oh, that we might catch a vision of becoming the man Christ meant. Whether or not we shall do so depends upon the extent of our surrender and our willingness to obey. Those who pay the price of taking up the cross may sit in heavenly places with him. Marvelous resources await the child of the King.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The Exaltation of Christ—Philippians 2:5-11

5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

6 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

8 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

10 *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

11 *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

At the name of Jesus angels sang their glory songs, shepherds left their mental tasks, the Wise Men traveled far. At the name of Jesus the lame walked, the deaf heard, and the dumb spoke. At his name the cripple leaped for joy, the prison doors swung open, and lepers went away cleansed. At the name of Jesus light came to those who sat in darkness, love to those who were lonely, and life to those who were dead in sin. At the name of Jesus and by his call, fishermen on the sea of Galilee left their

nets to become fishers of men, a tax collector went out to lead souls into his kingdom, Peter lost his fear and became a force in the spread of the gospel, and Paul ceased to be a persecutor and became a power. At the name of Jesus the weeping sisters of Bethany dried their tears and the sinful woman was lifted to a new life.

What myriad glories and what marvelous grace the world has experienced through the name of Jesus these two thousand years! What peace this name brings to the missionaries on the lonely field of service! What peace he has meant to the boys on floating rafts or in foxholes! All glory and praise to this name, which is above every name.

Oh, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under earth!

LIKE THE WISE MEN

ALICE CROWELL HOFFMAN

Legend has it that the Wise Men

Were each of different race;
One was fair, another swarthy,
And one was black of face.

Legend has it that the Wise Men
Were not of one accord;
Immemorial wars within them
Distrust and fear had stored.

But God's spirit fell upon them
And made their discord cease:
Star-led, then, they went as brothers
And found the Prince of peace.

May all nations, like the Wise Men,
Lay strife and hate aside.
Forward go like brothers seeking
The Christ of Christmastide.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

M.—Facing Enemies. John 7:14-24
T.—The True Light. John 8:12-20
W.—Abram's Children. John 8:31-59
T.—The Blind Healed. John 9:1-16
F.—The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-18
S.—Exalting Christ in the Life of the Nation.—
Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7; Luke 1:26-33
S.—Lazarus Raised. John 11:32-44

The Message of Christmas to the World

Luke 2:1-14

Explained in Daily Reading for Monday

Memory Selection: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Good Tidings—Luke 2:8-15

8 *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

9 *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

10 *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

11 *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

12 *And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

13 *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

15 *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

We watch the papers dally, anxiously expecting good tidings of peace. Oh, the joy it will mean for our boys in enemy prison camps! What gladness will spring up in the hearts of mothers whose sons are in service! What happiness on the part of missionaries separated from their fields of labor and their spiritual children!

Radios, newspapers, and telegraph will herald this news across the world as rapidly as possible. However, no newspaper told the glad tidings which had dawned in Bethlehem. The news did not come to court or palace but to "shepherds abiding in the field"—to hearts which were hungry and waiting. If the tidings which came in the

silence of that first Christmas had found a resting place in the hearts of men, if human ears had been attuned to this message which never grows old, if palace and parliament had taken to themselves the full meaning of the good news of long ago, we should not need to wait with hopeful, anxious longing for this peace which leaves in the background a trail of suffering.

Let us welcome the Christ who came to Bethlehem into our hearts with new meaning at this Christmas season! He can cast out every barrier to that fresh and glorious vision which was ours when we first accepted him!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Meaning of Christ's Coming—1 John 4:9-14

9 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

12 *No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

13 *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

14 *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

The meaning of Christ's coming! Go ask the lonely on the mission fields who come to him for rest. Go ask those who had walked the ways of sin and have found a new beauty of living. Go to the islands where cannibals once existed almost as animals and see the difference it has made. Go to the inland trails of Africa and follow the path of missions. Go to transformed

men and women everywhere who have been lifted from the slime of sin to the heritage of saints. Go to the homes out yonder where Christ's ambassadors have labored and seen the dawn of better things. Go to troubled hearts which have found peace, to broken bodies which have felt healing. Go to orphans' homes where little children are cared for. Go to the cemeteries and read the epitaphs of people who put away their loved ones with faith, and contrast these with the inscriptions of desperate hearts which have no hope.

Truly we can conclude that Christ's coming to the world and to our hearts means everything that is worth living or dying for and that life apart from him is barren and empty.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

The Prophecy by Simeon—Luke 2:25-32

25 *And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*

26 *And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

27 *And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*

28 *Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,*

29 *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:*

30 *For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,*

31 *Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;*

32 *A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

What king would not desire to see what Simeon saw and what seer would not give all to have his spiritual understanding? "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him" (Psalm 25:14).

To this humble man who believed, God showed Israel's glory and the Gentiles' light. How long had the masses waited for this day? Because of sin they could not see even when the Desire of all nations came, but Simeon who was in tune was led by the Spirit into the Temple and beholding, cried out, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

which thou hast prepared before the face of all people."

Only eyes that have seen the King can see the things of the kingdom. Only Spirit-filled hearts can understand the spiritual. Only ears that have heard his voice can catch the higher notes of life.

Mary held to her heart the precious bundle as she entered the Temple that day and people passed by her without dreaming of the greatness so near.

Truly the prayer of Paul is needed: "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know" (Eph. 1:18). We know only as life has been in the floodlight of his glory.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

God's Beloved Son—Matthew 3:13-17

13 *¶ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

14 *But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?*

15 *And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.*

16 *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

17 *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

On the day that Hudson Taylor sailed for China, his mother went to Liverpool to tell him good-by, never expecting to see him again. She went into the little ship cabin to smooth the bed, sat by his side, and knelt in prayer with her boy. Then came the whistle for embarking. Her son later wrote, "We parted; and she went on shore, giving me her blessing. I stood on the deck and she followed the ship as we moved toward the dock gates. As we passed through the gates and the separation really commenced, I shall never forget the cry of anguish wrung from that mother heart. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully until then what was meant by 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.' And I am quite sure that my precious mother learned more of the

love of God to the perishing in that hour than in all her life before."

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God loved the world enough to give that only Son. We are the recipients of that gift. Can we receive this grace without giving our best in return?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Oneness with the Father—John 14:8-14

8 *Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

10 *Believeth thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

11 *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

13 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

14 *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

Immanuel! God with us! Jesus was God in the flesh. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." There is no more heartening teaching in the Bible than that of the oneness of the believer in Christ, and Christ in God. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: . . . perfect in one" (John 17:21, 23). The full-orbed glory of this truth almost staggers one to think of—being hid in Christ, and Christ in the Father—empowered by the same divine power given the Son, endued by the same Spirit, protected by the same hand, kept by the same strength. How invincible we are against the enemy of our souls, how confident to go forward in doing his work! What courage is ours in the face of difficulty or danger, and what consolation in time of sorrow! We can say confidently, "His re-

sources are mine, for he is mine and is with me and dwells in me."

This divine union of Jesus and the believer is expressed dozens of times in the Word. Paul says, "Christ liveth in me." (Gal. 2:20). "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

Life will never be truly victorious until we wake up to the wonder of this truth and act upon it. So few understand this secret. Every person who has been born again lives in this oneness with the Father and Son. All we have to do is to recognize his abiding presence within and live as though he were there.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

The Pre-eminence of Christ—Colossians 1:9-18

9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

10 *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

11 *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

12 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature:*

16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

"That in all things he might have the preeminence"! To lose sight of self and to seek the pre-eminence of Jesus is to have a

victorious life. To turn away from our own failure or success and to look up to Christ is to live above discouragement or pride.

By looking unto Jesus we ride on the wings of the storm and keep the upward vision. Self-pity or pride in our petty achievements will be swept away. How easy it is to steal honors that belong to the Master, to congratulate ourselves for graces that come from him, to want things that rob him of men's praise! The true secret of fervent prayer is never learned until there is the deep desire to honor Christ above all else.

We had a dear, old lady in our *Eagle's Throne* in Brazil who loved Jesus devotedly. She refused to stay in a son's house during her last illness because she wanted the friends of Christ about her those days, and they could find no welcome at the son's home. Dear Aunt Julie slipped away one night, and when I asked the women who were caring for her how she died, the reply was, "She lifted herself in bed, looked up, and cried out 'Jesus,' and died." To the last moment of her life Christ was first.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Gifts for the King—Matthew 2:7-12

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 ¶ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

One night at the close of a service a seven-year-old boy came up to the altar

when the appeal was made. The pastor asked him if he wanted to give any testimony, and this was his answer: "Jesus has done so much for me, I just want to do something for him." This lad, who had nothing else to bring, gave himself.

Back of every gift should be that childlike spirit of wanting to present something to the One who sacrificed all for us. Love is ever expressed in giving. I have seen children in mission fields go out and gather up bottles, paper, and iron to sell in order to have a part in a mission offering. One woman in our church began to live much closer to Christ than she had done, and as a result, she refused to put on again a fur which was more expensive than the other members could wear. Some sold all of their possessions which were not essential to life and health. A poor widow sold a lot, the only thing of any value which she owned.

Our gifts for the King should not be the unnecessary leftovers but the best. Love will be measured by the extent of the sacrifice. Gold, incense, and myrrh for the Bethlehem Babe—these gifts have left their trail of perfume through the ages as symbols of love and devotion.

QUESTION

PAULINE TYSON STEPHENS

God has given me
So many lovely things:
Gulls dipping in the sea,
With swift, sun-silvered wings;
Ripe fruit and golden grain;
Tall mountain peaks, cool glades;
Trees lifted in the rain;
Sunsets of changing shades.

God's gifts to me
No time or tide can stem,
For they are free.
What have I given him?

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

For Individual Devotions

- M.—A Good Witness. John 11:45-53; 12:9-10
T.—We Would See Jesus. John 12:12-33
W.—Christ Teaches Humility. John 13:1-15
Th.—The Comforter Promised. John 14:1-16
F.—The Vine and the Branches. John 15:1-15
S.—The Message of Christmas to the World. Luke 2:1-14
S.—The Farewell Prayer. John 17:1-17

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 30, 1945

World Fellowship of Christians

Acts 10:23b-29, 34-35

Explained in Daily Reading for Friday

Memory Selection: There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. Romans 10:12.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

The Gospel for All—Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 ¶ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

It has been said that you do not have to prove the existence of God to a little child, for he accepts this fact as naturally as he accepts the love and presence of his parents. It is equally true that the gospel in its purity is never foreign in any soil. There is no necessity of changing anything about it to make it native to a particular country. A high-class Hindu once suggested to Stanley Jones that missionaries give the gospel without adulterating it. The simple Word is acclimated to any people.

The good news of the gospel was intended for all. God meant it thus and Jesus' command was "Go ye into all the world" (Mark 16:15). Its teachings work out the same way in any country. At Ridgecrest last summer when so many from all over the world came together, quite often someone would arise and say, "Are you talking about China or Africa?" Regeneration and revivals came about in the same way, through prayer, confession of sin, and obedience to the Holy Spirit. The results were the same: new life, a general awakening, open confession of wrong, restitution, and radiance of Christian living.

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof" (Psalm 97:1).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Universal Worship—Psalm 72:1-11

1 Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

2 He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

3 The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.

4 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

5 They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

7 In his days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

9 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

One Christmas in Belo-Horizonte, Brazil, the children in one of the churches put their gifts around a fir tree, sang songs of praise to Christ, and later sent the tree to the orphanage farm, to be kept there as a reminder of their devotion to those who do not have fathers and mothers. This little evergreen grows in the front yard as an expression of that love which is a part of the spirit of Christmas everywhere.

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This is a day of a thousand memories "when the love that lies behind the years" warms the heart anew—a time of praise and prayer, hallowed with the thoughts of golden gifts to the King, of angels' songs, and the peace of Bethlehem hills. It is a time of planting again our evergreens across the desert places of the world in memory of the Christ who taught us that worship was to be offered everywhere by any heart which waits in his presence. "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

The Vision of Cornelius—Acts 10:1-8

1 *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,*

2 *A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.*

3 *He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*

4 *And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

5 *And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:*

6 *He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*

7 *And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;*

8 *And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.*

There is nothing new about race problems. They are as old as the world. Special revelation was necessary to bring together Peter a Jew and Cornelius a Gentile. The Lord had a difficult time convincing Peter not to call common anything that God had cleansed. Nothing but the grace of Jesus can take from our hearts the feeling of superiority and no missionary is ready for foreign service while there is a trace of it in his heart. It will crop out regardless

of all efforts to hide it and will stand as a barrier between lost souls and their Saviour.

Cornelius went as far as human resources could go and then God stepped in to lead the rest of the way. He was pious and God-fearing, kept his household faithful, prayed, and was generous in giving. The Heavenly Father saw his faith and rewarded it by making it possible for him to have contact with someone who knew Christ. Peter was sent to explain the way of salvation.

Over and over on the mission fields when a person has lived up to the light which he has had, the way has been opened up for him to know the gospel. Even priests who have sincerely sought to know God's will have found a road to true light through a Bible or through contact with a believer.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

The Vision of Peter—Acts 10:9-16

9 ¶ *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the house top to pray about the sixth hour:*

10 *And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,*

11 *And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:*

12 *Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.*

13 *And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter, kill, and eat.*

14 *But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

15 *And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

16 *This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.*

It was not easy for Peter to respond to the appeal of Cornelius and to go into the home of a Gentile. God had to convince him that it was all right. The love of Christ in our hearts breaks down every barrier between races. God's Spirit within us enables us to see not the color but the character of a man.

While praying, Peter beheld a vision which showed him that all men were ac-

ceptable unto God. After he awoke and while he was meditating on the vision the servants sent by Cornelius appeared at the gate. They explained their mission and Peter understood. He went to the home of Cornelius and held there one of those preaching services so familiar to missionaries when the family, kin, and friends come together to hear God's man who may not pass that way again for months or years. Many were converted and baptized.

Senhor Barbosa, a pharmacist in the state of Rio, received into his home one day a humble evangelical pastor and invited his friends to hear him speak. His heart seemed to be prepared for the things which he heard, and he was converted that very evening. At midnight the visiting pastor was shown a place to rest but at five o'clock Senhor Barbosa knocked at his door and asked for baptism. In a stream at the back of his home this new Christian followed Christ. In spite of the fact that he suffered much in persecution he became a very useful and widely known believer.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

A Gentile Believer—Acts 10:44-48

44 ¶ *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*

45 *And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

46 *For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,*

47 *Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*

48 *And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

Could it be that Peter remembered the prayer of Jesus when Cornelius and his friends were being converted—that plea spoken somewhere between the upper room and Gethsemane, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word"? (John 17:20). Cornelius and his friends were the first-fruits of the Gentile world. This centurion was apparently a man of wealth. According to Jerome, he built a Christian church

at Caesarea and was a believer of wide influence. The first Gentiles were not led to Christ in churches but in homes.

Many of our Brazilian churches have had their beginnings in homes which were opened to the preaching of the gospel. The members of the famous Rizzo family were converted in this way. The elder Miguel Rizzo took into his home one night a persecuted Presbyterian minister and opened his large attic to all who would come to hear the gospel. The family was converted and gave to Brazil one of the most outstanding groups of men and women who hold up the cross in our Southern Hemisphere—preachers, writers, and ministers' wives.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Children of God—Galatians 3:26-28

26 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

27 *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

"Have we not all one father?" (Mal. 2:10), the prophet asked. The Portuguese translated it: "Have we not all the SAME father?" Paul said to the Galatian Christians, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. . . . And if ye be Christ's, then . . . heirs."

In the pioneer days of Brazil the vast interior was opened up by brave "bandeirantes" going out on journeys from which most of them never returned. One man after long years returned to his home town. They had taken him for dead, and neither his wife nor his children recognized the stranger who came back. Finally they discovered that he was their father. What a difference it made!

The discovery that our God is father of all saved men regardless of race or color and that his love is the same for them makes a difference in our consideration and sympathy. When the spiritual eyes of understanding are opened, we shall look at men as our God beholds them, considering not their conditions of poverty or culture but their power and possibility. At a memorial service for L. M. Reno someone told

the story of an impudent boy who sang a parody to make fun of this great man. Reno's only comment was: "How I should like to get hold of you, lad. I would make something out of you." He saw the boy in relation to his God-given possibilities.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Love, the Test of Sonship—I John 3:7-11

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

The beloved John very bluntly describes how to distinguish God's children by two tests. One of them is LOVE. Certainly he does not mean a passive tolerance of others,

merely avoiding trouble. Toleration is cold, a sort of endurance test, while Christians "take it upon themselves" and suffer with a sympathy that is godlike. A definition has been given of saved men: "Christians are those who care." We talk much about being broadminded but we need to stress being broadhearted. Christ-likeness depends not so much on the stretch of the mind as the size of the heart.

What trophies love has laid at the Master's feet through the years! Forced allegiance will not stand. Only love can win real triumphs and permanent service. True devotion can achieve what peace treaties can never accomplish, do what good neighbor policies can never bring to pass, and discover what will not be known to spies or investigators. Love will open among tribes doors which have been closed to culture and commerce and will make intrigue unnecessary. There is no road to reformation except by way of the heart.

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION READINGS

- M.—Peter Denies His Lord. John 18:15-27
- T.—The Trial. John 18:28-40
- W.—The Crucifixion. John 19:17-27
- T.—The Burial. John 19:28-42
- F.—The Resurrection. John 20:1-18
- S.—Christians Building Interracial Good Will. Acts 10:23b-29, 34-35
- S.—"And Peter." John 21:15-25

MOTHER IN NAZARETH

CLARENCE EDWIN FLYNN

Strange, wondrous things she treasured in her heart
While going about her tasks in Nazareth.
While others gossiped she remained apart,
Pondered her thoughts, but did not give them breath.
They were too deep and meaningful to waste
They were of things too beautiful and true
To speak in common carelessness and haste.
She was the Teacher's mother, and she knew.

She came to one conclusion, and her word
Was brief and simple. It is so today.
The mother of our everlasting Lord
To those who listened had but this to say,
Brief and beyond mistaking in its call
"What he says to you, do it." That was all.



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