

Sunday School Lesson

By Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

"Keeping Life's Priorities Straight" is a matter of considering the many things in life and understanding what is more important. This is not always easy, for many things are important.

We are not entirely without bias. If we like something, we may give it more time and importance than it deserves; and if we find something unpleasant we may put it far down in our scale of priorities.

We all need food, clothing, and shelter. These needs are so constant and so urgent that we spend about a third of each day in work that provides these things for us. There is nothing wrong with that. The Bible teaches us to work for a living just as surely as it teaches us to pray. Providing for one's family is a Christian duty no less important than reading the Bible.

Nearly every day we find that day too short for all the good things we ought to do, and want to do. We sacrifice hours of the sleep for the sake of fun and friendship, or helping a neighbor, or reading the Bible. Or we sacrifice some of these other things for the sake of our sleep. How can we know what is better to sacrifice?

"Well, religion does make a person very rich, if he is satisfied with what he has. What did we bring into the world? Nothing! What can we take out of the world? Nothing! So then, if we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wondered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:6-10).

It is possible to be too easily contented, to rest when we should be working, to become lazy and ineffective. On the other hand, it is possible to be too discontented, too critical, too anxious. Thus we not only annoy those about us, but also endanger our own physical and mental health. This is one of the problems of priority.

Paul says that godliness with contentment is more profitable than all the offerings collected by the lively debaters. A reverent and obedient attitude toward God is worth more than great riches if we can learn to be content without a lot of worldly wealth. Paul himself learned such contentment and he recommends it to us. (Philippians 4:11-13.)

We can't take our money beyond the grave; if we could, what would it be worth in a city where gold is used like blacktop to pave the street? Why should we give top priority to getting rich when our riches must soon be left behind? When we have all we really need, why fret about the attractive things we do not need? Our happy relationship with God is worth more than all the unneeded riches of the world. Let's give top priority to the happy relationship.

"But you, man of God, avoid all these things. Strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you when you firmly professed your faith before many witnesses. Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who firmly professed his faith before Pontius Pilate, I command you to obey your orders and keep them faithfully until the Day when our Lord Jesus Christ will appear. His appearing will be brought about at the right time by God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of Kings and the Lord of lords. He alone is immortal; he lives in the light that no one can approach. No one has ever seen him; no one can ever see him. To Him be honor and eternal power! Amen." (1 Timothy 6:11-16.)

How can we be free from the love of money and all the multiplied evils that grow from it? Paul puts the answer in one word: Flee. (King James Version.) Avoid all these things. (Good News Version.) Turn your back on all such things and get far away from them. There's no way to live in our society without using money, you say? All right. Use it, but don't love it. Love God. Love people!

In figurative language Paul has charged Timothy and us to flee covetousness, to follow after righteousness, and to fight. In today's lesson he drops the figures of speech and continues his charge in plain language. Solemnly he calls on God and God's Son to witness the charge he is giving. It is God who quickeneth all things. To quicken is to make alive. God gives life to everything that lives, and He will give eternal life.

When one has all the money he can use, he soon learns that it can buy almost anything he wants. It can supply all the material things necessary for life, plus all the luxuries that appeal to him. It can take him halfway around the world in a chartered jet, and bring him back when he is ready to return. Year after year his wealth never fails him. How can he keep from being highminded, from looking down on people who respond to his every whim? Paul reminds us that riches are uncertain. If one uses them unwisely and he becomes an alcoholic, they do little for his hangover. They cannot save him from a crash if he drives when he is drunk. They scarcely dull his grief when a loved one dies.

So the rich man had better keep his priorities straight. It is God, not money, who never fails. It is God, not money, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. Trust is misplaced if it is not placed in God.

A rich man has vast opportunities to do good. Distribute and communicate both mean share, and a very wealthy man can share much without coming to poverty. But good sharing is not so easy as one might think. If a man distributes money thoughtlessly he hurts people by destroying their initiative. Wise giving requires much care and thought. Some who are willing to share are not willing to take the time and effort to be sure they are really doing good. But the challenge is there to challenge them: Do good - be rich in good works.



TWIN CLAIMS CPCC SCHOLARSHIP

Helen King's tuition, books, and other college expenses are free this quarter, thanks to Ellen King and an unusual scholarship at Central Piedmont Community College. Helen and Ellen, both nursing students at CPCC, are twins. And when Helen King went to the Financial Aid office earlier this month, she learned that CPCC's Foundation offered a \$200 scholarship to a twin whose sibling also was a full-time student at the college. The 19-year-old women are daughters of Joyce and Edward King of Charlotte. Helen is enrolled in Registered Nurses training at CPCC. Ellen is in

Licensed Practical Nurses training. "As much as anything, I think Helen was surprised that she didn't have to fill out a lot of forms and do a lot of paperwork to get the money," said Powell Majors, executive director of CPCC's Foundation, which raises money for scholarships and other college needs. "I told her we'd write her a check on the spot. I just don't know which girl to make the check out to." In the true spirit of sibling rivalry, Helen laughed and said she would keep the whole thing. Ellen guaranteed the money would be split down the middle.

School Of Nursing Open House Planned For Sunday Afternoon

When the Sisters of Mercy opened a hospital in 1906, they also opened a nursing school to ensure a steady supply of well-trained, competent nurses to staff their new hospital.

Mercy Hospital has grown from 25 beds to 371 in its 80-year history. The Mercy School of Nursing has also grown, from four students in 1906, to nearly 100 currently enrolled in its 30-month diploma program of nursing.

On November 14, the Mercy School of Nursing is holding an Open House for anyone interested in a career as a Registered Nurse. From 2 to 4 p.m. instructors, students, and recent graduates will be available to answer questions and lead tours of the school, and of Mercy Hospital, located adjacent to the school on Vail Avenue.

"One of the best things about the school is its size," said Mrs. Lynn

Holly, RN, director of the School of Nursing. "We have small classes, and the students get a lot of individual attention."

"The close relationship between faculty and students, and the Mercy tradition of a competent, caring nursing staff, is a most valuable asset which, I believe, adds significantly to the school's success," she said.

Shuttle Bus Service

Free shuttle bus service will be available to the Mint on Sunday, November 10, for the dedication ceremony and festival celebrating the opening of the Dalton Wing of the "new" Mint. Four special city buses will bring visitors to the museum from the Square, Cotswold Shopping Center, Eastland Mall, and Freedom Mall. The shuttle service will begin at 12:30 p.m. and run continuously all afternoon. The buses will make their final trips from the museum at 6:30 p.m. at the conclusion of the festival.

The special shuttle bus will pick up visitors at the following locations: The Square, the main entrance of Cotswold Shopping Center on Sharon Amity, the main entrance to Freedom Mall on Ashley Road and from the lower lot beyond J.C. Penney at Eastland Mall.

Each bus will have a special guide to answer questions and provide information on the activities scheduled for the festival afternoon.

In addition to the shuttle bus service, parking will be available at the Eastover Medical Park and the Charlotte Surgery Center across Randolph Road from the museum. Due to the number of visitors expected, only handicapped parking will be available at the Mint.

Bag Fallen Leaves

Autumn brings beautiful color and large quantities of leaves to Charlotte. To help clear the way, the City Sanitation Division collects bagged or containerized leaves from curbsides on Wednesday. All leaves must be bagged or placed in cans with a lid. Piles of leaves or open top containers are unacceptable. Cans or bags of leaves should not be placed on the curb until noon on Tuesday. Residents who rake, sweep, or blow leaves into the street are in violation of the litter ordinance and may be issued a citation. Wet leaves are a traffic hazard and cause drainage problems when allowed to accumulate in the catch basins.

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Salem Spirit

Share the spirit.
Share the refreshment.



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.