

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VIII.—Fourth Quarter,
For Nov. 24, 1907.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Rom. xiv, 12-23.
Memory Verses, 19-21—Golden Text,
Rom. xiv, 13—Commentary Prepared
by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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How wondrously beautiful is the
sweetness of this marvelous book! Last
week in the book of Judges we saw
the necessity of a consistent life and a
clear testimony, with our eyes ever
upon our Leader, and in a previous les-
son the exhortation was to consider
how great things He has done for us
and serve Him in sincerity and truth.
Now we pass over to this New Testa-
ment epistle for a lesson, and it is to
consider Christ as our Judge that we
may deny self and live unto Him, seek-
ing to deliver others from the great
enemy, the oppressor and destroyer,
and hasten the reign of Christ in
righteousness on this earth.

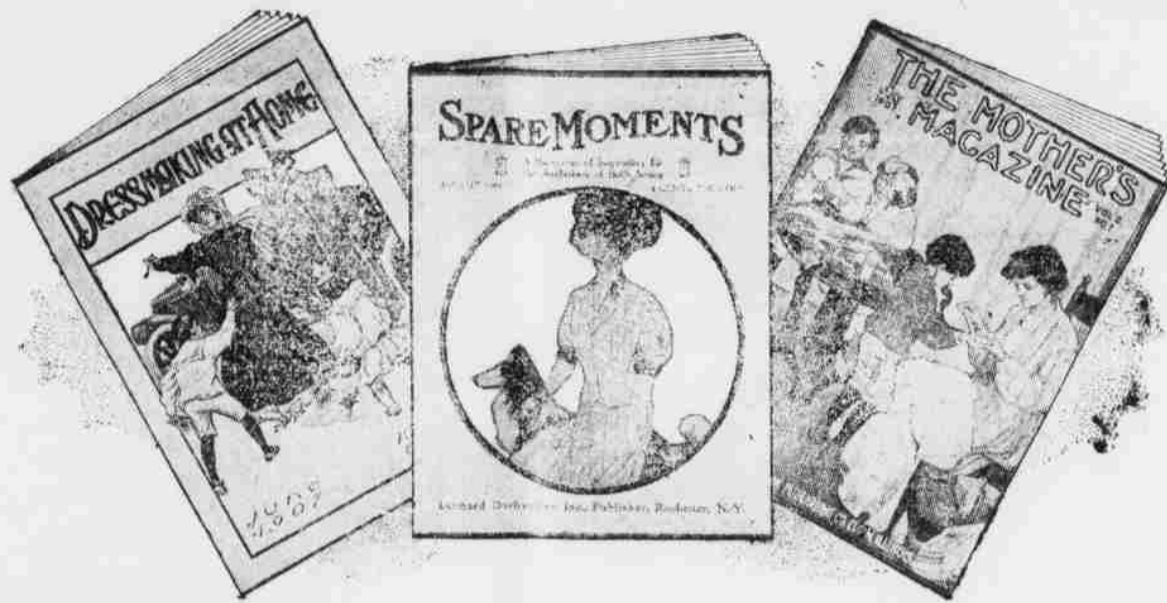
It is still the world's night, and peo-
ple are living in rioting and drunken-
ness, and the children of God seem to
be asleep, as Jonah was when the sail-
ors were calling upon their gods, but
the time of the kingdom is ever draw-
ing nearer, and it becomes the child
of God to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh,
to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. xiii,
11-14).

We can neither convert this world
nor remove iniquity from it—our Lord
will see to that at His coming again
and will begin at Israel (Isa. lx, 21;
Isa. lxii, 1, 2)—but we can as individuals
abandon ourselves to Him that He
may accomplish in and through us that
which He has purposed. If every be-
liever would, in view of the fact that
all believers must appear before the
judgment seat of Christ and every one
of us give account of himself to God,
lay to heart and live out the words of
verse 8, "Whether we live we live unto
the Lord, and whether we die we die
unto the Lord; whether we live, there-
fore, or die we are the Lord's," we and
others through us would be greatly
blessed and made a blessing. I do not
know how to account for the unbelief
of, and the ill treatment the word of
God receives from, many preachers,
professors in theological seminaries
and innumerable members of churches
unless it be that they ignore the judg-
ment seat of Christ, where every be-
liever shall give account of himself to
God. Compare II Cor. v, 10, 11; I Cor.
iii, 13-15.

The sin of judging others may not
seem to be as great as the sin of in-
temperance, yet here is an exhortation
as plain as "be not drunk with wine,"
"Let us not therefore judge one an-
other any more" (Eph. v, 18, and lesson
verse 15). Compare Matt. vii, 1, and
I Cor. iv, 5. "Judge not that ye be not
judged" and "Judge nothing before the
time until the Lord come," and let us
learn to obey. This talk of doing as
we please and not being responsible
for the weaknesses of others is wholly
selfish and intemperate and most un-
Christlike, for "even Christ pleased
not Himself" (Rom. xv, 3). If our
thought is to win men to Christ, "by
all means to save some" (I Cor. ix, 22),
we will not think of pleasing ourselves.
It seems to me that our lives as fol-
lowers of Jesus Christ will be holy or
otherwise in proportion to our knowl-
edge of the kingdom of God (verse 17).
The kingdom of God for which we
pray when we say "Thy kingdom
come" is nothing less than the will of
God done on earth as in heaven and
will be a reality after our Lord has
been reigning a thousand years and
has subdued all things to Himself, the
last enemy, death, having been de-
stroyed (I Cor. xv, 25-28). If the hast-
ening of this kingdom is our first aim,
according to Matt. vi, 33, we may be
sure that He will see to our having
sufficient food and raiment, as He
promised.

All classes of unrighteous people, in-
cluding drunkards (I Cor. vi, 9-11), are
excluded as such from the kingdom,
but there is righteousness for them also
they will turn from their sins and
receive the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.
He has made peace for all by the blood
of His cross (Col. i, 20), and there is
one who may not have His right-
ness and peace and joy. If we who
have these gifts by His grace are
taking more of our own enjoyment
than of helping others to re-
ceive them and instead of commend-
ing Him and them are found disputing
about what we consider our rights in
the matter of eating and drinking, how
much the love of God in us? If we
are right with God, our question will
be "may I do this or that, but how
can I win some one to Christ, and if
I think that anything, however law-
ful for us, will prove a hindrance or
scandalous black to some weak one we
will for Christ's sake and for the
Church's sake gladly refrain.

Our hearts will tell us quickly if the
law is quite right in the sight of God,
for our heart condemns us, God is
wiser than our heart and knoweth
our mind; if our heart condemns us
then have we confidence toward
God (John iii, 20-22), and verse 22 of
the same chapter. The main topic of the
lesson is love, and "love worketh no
ill to neighbor; therefore love is the
fulfilling of the law" (xiii, 10). If
we love the world on this so called
"peace" Sunday there could
be no worldwide proclamation of the
love of God in Christ Jesus to all sin-
ners and His readiness to give right-
eousness, peace and joy to all through
His precious blood, what a great day
it would be.



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ern record pattern for every design; it gives suggestions for making over clothes, and offers
individual advice to subscribers and in fact, hundreds of ideas and helps for the women of
the home.

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