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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright 1916, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 3

JESUS CHRIST THE FIRST AND THE LAST.

LESSON TEXT—Rev. 1. GOLDEN TEXT—Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the living one, and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore.—Rev. 1:7, 8.

The lesson committee have departed, seemingly, a long way from a reading chronological order. Paul had nothing to do with the writing of the Revelation, yet this lesson illustrates the pre-eminence which Jesus Christ had in the mind and labors of the great apostle (Col. 1:18).

1. Introduction. (vv. 1-3.) We would suggest that all Bible students and teachers, if possible, read the introduction to the Book of Revelation in Scofield's Reference Bible. The book proper is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," John, the beloved disciple, who wrote the Gospel and Epistles, was the one who saw the visions recorded therein. Many of the things are historical, others are prophetically set forth. The latter are "shortly to come to pass." (See also I Peter 4:8.) John tells not only what God said but what he himself saw. The late Dr. J. Edgar Brooks of St. Louis omitted this book from his study for many years, until he saw the comments recorded in verse 2. "The time of the writing of this book has variously been stated as from A. D. 69 to A. D. 96; the writer was certainly John the Beloved. The place of writing was the island of Patmos in the Aegean sea, not far from Ephesus." The real author, however, is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

II. Salutation (vv. 4-8). "The servant of Jesus who records his message was John, and the message was to be to 'the seven churches which are in Asia' that is, the western portion of the Aegean sea, of which Ephesus on the Aegean sea was the principal city. These churches are ordinarily named in verse 11. There is good reason to think that these churches represented the seven suggestive aspects of church history. If so, they are, respectively, Ephesian, or Philadelphia, or Laodicean. The group favors, having kindness, is a free gift from Christ, who is here giving a threefold title, namely: First begotten from the dead, witness and pioneer.

III. Vision (vv. 9-18). "What John saw on the life of Patmos he was to write upon a parchment roll and send it to the seven churches, each of which needed a message. Under the figure of seven candlesticks are enumerated seven churches. Into the midst of these churches, actually present in them, is one like unto the Son of Man. (See also Matthew 13:20.) Like a human being, Jesus was, but now clothed with the garment of his eternal glory, strode about with the girdle worn by prophets and kings, a symbol of his power and strength (Isaiah 61:10; Eph. 6:14). His head and his hands, his feet and his eyes are all referred to, each having its symbolical significance. In his right hand are the seven stars (v. 16), the angels of the churches, pastors or leaders, possibly guardian angels (v. 20). They are held in his right hand, signifying that they are protected, upheld and controlled by his wisdom and power. (See Jeremiah 22:24). From his mouth goes a sharp, two-edged sword; the spirit of the Word of God sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). And his countenance was as the sun shining in his strength, the glory, such as was manifested in the transfiguration, such as Paul saw near Damascus, is here referred to.

IV. The Command. John had enjoyed a tender intimacy with the Lord during his earthly life and yet he was stricken down with the overpowering majesty and glory which had been revealed. Now he realized, as perhaps never before, the significance of the everliving Christ, and he is hereby specifically commanded to record this vision as he had seen it and the messages which the Lord had for the churches. The word mystery (v. 20) has reference to something which has hitherto been hidden to men and which is now about to be revealed. The revelation was to these churches, and it is to us also.

Jesus is not a mere vision but he is a living reality, unveiled for the time from the unseen. Jesus is a living fact which we are to communicate to men. The seven stars (v. 20) are messages in his own right hand. The churches are the lamp stands, Christ himself is the light, the sun (v. 16).

The messages John is commanded to deliver have a four-fold application: (1) to the churches actually addressed, but which have long since passed away; (2) to all churches in all times, admonishing them to discover their true spiritual state; (3) to individuals, "he that hath an ear" that they shall hear the promises made "to him that overcometh" and (4) they are prophetic of the different phases of spiritual history, following the days of John, the writer, (a) Beginning; (b) persecution; (c) worldliness; (d) priestly formalism; (e) reformation; (f) testimony to the word and the name.

59 YEARS OLD HALE AND HARDY

And Praises Cardui, Which She Says Pulled Her Through A Most Dangerous Period.

Mercer, Ky.—"About 15 years ago," writes Mrs. W. T. Ball, of this place. "I began suffering with change of life, and was suffering very much. . . . I began taking Cardui after having suffered for 3 years, and I was dreadfully nervous. Hardly felt like doing my work. Couldn't sleep well at nights. However, after several doses of Cardui I saw an improvement and in a few days I could do my work with ease and in two weeks I was able to walk six miles and went to the street fair at Central City and enjoyed myself. After using two bottles, I got my natural health and strength and it pulled me through that most dangerous period in a woman's life with no trouble or suffering. "I am now hale and hardy, and was 59 years old the 11th of this month. I will never cease praising Cardui, which did me so much good. It also saved my daughter's life when she had such a dreadful spell. . . ."

Over 40 years in use, Cardui has proven its efficacy as "the woman's tonic." If you are weak, and run-down, and suffer from symptoms of troubles peculiar to women, give Cardui a trial.—Adv.

Exception Noted. "I believe everything appears to Smith's sense of humor. "I ain't when he fall down on a concrete pavement and hit his tummy bone."

REMARKABLE LETTER FROM A WELL KNOWN WASHINGTON, DRUGGIST. INTERESTING EXTRACTS: "The greatest remedy for chills and fever and all malarial diseases." "What the doctor cannot cure, I have cured hereof." "This is the best medicine for Malaria and Fever." "Our customers speak very well of it." "Bene Evans, Druggist, N. W. Washington, D. C. "Elmer Babel, Druggist, addresses on St. Barthelemy Street, from Birmingham, Ala. Washington, D. C."

It is better to have an ounce of health in yourself than a pound of health in your neighbor.

World Has Suffered Through Failure of Men to Accord Women the Ballot

By REV. MORRIS H. TURK of Kansas City, Mo.

Just as now no one who is sane would think of defending slavery, so in two decades no one who is unwilling to be laughed at will attempt to give a single reason why women should not have the vote.

It is in perfect accord with every decent ideal of our social order. Women must, for the good of the race, be allowed to express their social convictions the same as men—by the vote. The world has suffered greatly through man's failure to appropriate women's sense of intuition to help man in solving social problems.

All problems are moral, social and religious. It is impossible to separate these elements. And as long as this is so, we are doing the race an injury in not taking advantage of the immense assistance women would be able to give us in solving our problems. The whole world is working toward a more democratic ideal. It is idle to attempt a true democracy when you have one-half of the race absolutely shut off. We must embrace the opportunity to have with us in our struggle the foundation of the family—the women.

What She Said. Little Ernest—I know that lady over there, mamma. She often speaks to me. Mother—Yes, darling, and what does she say to you? Little Ernest—She—she says: "Don't you dare to throw stones at my dog again, you little wretch!" The man who weighs his words usually says such good measure that he needs it on his part.

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents.

There are times when even the person imagines there is no earthly hope for the child. To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.—Adv.

He conquers twice who conquers himself in victory.—Sylvia Edith.

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Still, There Are Some. "What's the matter, son?" "I want a maid, you know that was told to me." "It's a beautiful thing, you said. This girl will give you the maid and get a coat for the maids, she'll do it."

RED, ROUGH, PIMPLY SKIN Quickly Cleared by Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Trial Free. You may see on these pages, and on every one, the many cures for this trouble. No matter how long it has been on the face, neck, scalp, arms and hands, Nothar cure it. Cuticura Soap, with its powerful, penetrating action, cleanses the pores, breaks up the crusts, and restores the skin to its normal, healthy condition. It is the only skin cure that is safe and effective. Address: Postoffice, Cincinnati, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

DRUGGISTS HIGHLY RECOMMEND DR. KILMER'S SWAMP-ROOT

Satisfied With Results Customers Speak Favorably I have been using Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root for over two months and my kidneys are always satisfied with the results obtained from the use of the medicine and speak favorably regarding it. I have used it for "pain in the back" and a bottle or two put me in good shape and made me feel fine again. I believe Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root will cure any case for which it is recommended if they are not of too long standing. Very truly yours, FRANK HINKINS, Druggist, Pflugerville, Texas. November 13th, 1915.

Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention this paper. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

Odorous Comparison. "I have such potatoes worth their weight in gold," said the man from the kitchen. "The old" exulted Miss Chrymbe, at commencing anything so precious as "potatoes to me," replied.

Bodily Housekeeping (BY V. M. PIERCE, M. D.) The subject of drinking water with meals has been understood. In recent years investigation by scientists such as Cannon, Grunzer, Payle, Fowler, Hawk, prove that an abundance of water taken during digestion is necessary in good bodily housekeeping. If your kidneys are sick, or you suffer with indigestion or rheumatism at times, pain in the back or back of the neck, take a little Anurie before meals. This can be found at any good drug store. Therefore my advice to young or old is, always drink plenty of pure water. And for long life occasionally take tablets of Anurie three or four times a day. Anurie acts much more quickly than lithia. Many find it dissolves uric acid as water does sugar.

Only a Goat Could Do It. First Goat: How did you do that? Second Goat: Sorry, but I shall be cutting my hair.

Roman Eye Pills is an antiseptic ointment, applied externally and not a "wash." Its healing properties penetrate the inflamed surfaces, providing prompt relief. Adv.

Every failure makes a man who believes it he will soon—Dickens.

Dr. Pierce's Little Blue Pills is a safe, reliable medicine for constipation and all ailments of the bowels. Sold everywhere. Adv.

It doesn't hurt to get the things you owe for.

A SOUTH CAROLINA WOMAN New Brookland, S. C.—"I had a burning under my right shoulder blade also a very severe cough with pain in my right side. My husband had four different doctors for me and none of them did me any good. Some said I had consumption and others said I should have an operation. I was down—unable to sit up from the first of April to about the latter part of September—and was getting but a few skeletons. Finally I got Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and also the Pleasant Pellets. When I had taken one bottle of the Discovery I could sit up for an hour at a time and when I had taken three bottles I could do my cooking and read to the children. I took fourteen bottles in succession and was then in good health. Weighing 107 pounds.—MRS. W. DOREN, New Brookland, S. C. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the original little Liver Pills. One for a laxative—three for a cathartic.—Adv.



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Like a million other women, you can serve coffee that he would give most anything to have—coffee which starts the day "right" for all.

Everyone loves the rich flavor of Arbuckles' Coffee. Of all the coffees in America, today, it is by far the most popular!

One woman says: "My husband used to swallow his coffee

and hurry off. Now we have Arbuckles' and you'd think it was Sunday the way he lingers over his breakfast."

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Until you try Arbuckles' you will never know what a difference good coffee can make in your home.

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