

The Sunday School Lesson

LIVING VICTORIOUSLY IN SOCIETY FOR NOVEMBER 11, 1973
LESSON TEXT: Romans 12:14 to 13:14.

This Lesson is dedicated towards teaching professed Christians to accept their role in the ever-expanding Gospel through their own purely personal social and work-a-day contacts: to teaching them to seize the sometimes unexpected opportunity that presents itself as they go about their daily lives, to witness for Christ. In short, to encourage awareness of what goes on around them, turning the advents of daily living into spiritual victories.

The United States of America is a continent unto itself. By its very size, it threatens the family life which was so revered in Biblical times, which is till so zealously observed in many of the world's so-called "backward" countries today.

The passages contained in Romans 12:14-21 contain good and practical counseling for those who would live in spiritual harmony with their fellowmen. For again we find Paul marking the path to Godliness for mankind: Retaliation for wrongs done unto the individual (real or fancied) was to be avoided. "Vengeance is mine!" saith the Lord. Instead, the ideal Christian attitude was to be exemplified in prayer for those who would persecute others; in impartiality of judgment of the shortcomings of mankind, as those shortcomings touched upon the lives of the Christian community; in a deeply personal sense of integrity, and a seeking of spiritual peace.

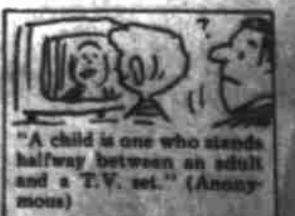
Rather than usurping God's privileges—the judgment and punishment of wrong-doing, we must submit ourselves to the will of Christ, practicing (as He practiced) forbearance towards those who do not follow our prescribed paths; countering evil with good-will, a "turning of the other cheek"; forgiveness "seventy times seven"; going that "one extra mile" that will assure fairness to our adversary and peace of mind for the Christian.

Such conduct, on the part of the believer, will surely demonstrate to all the power that is Christian commitment! To the agnostic, Death is the victor; to the believing, practicing Christian, Death is the vanquished! The life between birth and death, as the world knows it, is purely a time of transition. The measure of the man lies in what he accomplishes in this world!

How, then, shall we be judged by our peers? More importantly—how shall we be judged by God? Will our life on earth have benefitted mankind—by our witnessing for Christ...by kindnesses extended in His name that testify to the strength of the Christian faith...or will we be judged a spiritual and physical nonentity? Will the world keep on turning on its axis, unchanged by our existence on earth?

If we have so squandered the blessings of creation, of the richness of procreation, of love, of the senses of the senses of sight, and sound, and hearing that have been showered upon us by a bountiful and ever-loving God, that none mourn our passing, then we have, indeed, failed Him—the Giver of all things! For the Christian has a very special mission in life to the society in which he lives—whether it is in the community in which he was born, or the community to which he has travelled. His commitment to God and his obligations to Him dwell within himself, and go wherever he goes!

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"A child is one who stands halfway between an adult and a T.V. set." (Anonymous)

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