

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

(By Cale K. Burgess)

Lesson for Sunday, August 3, 1947

This week the topic for our International Sunday School Lesson is "Parents and Their Children." The Golden Text is found in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

This is a timely topic, because a study of Parents and Children is a study of the Home; and surely it is urgent that we give prayerful thought to the present status of our Homes in America. The present shameful records of our divorce courts bespeak the appalling need for the rehabilitation of our Homes. And we do not believe that amendments to our marriage and divorce laws will solve this tragic problem. Of course, it would help for us to revise our marriage laws to prevent hasty marriages; and it would help to revise our divorce laws so that the idea of separation and divorce might be discouraged, delayed and prevented as much as possible. However, we do not believe that these changes in laws would be very effective in preventing discord, unhappiness and failure in our Homes. The integrity of our Homes cannot be created or preserved by the enactment of

laws. The religion of Jesus Christ is the only power that will bring harmony and happiness in our Homes. And, if the integrity and helpful influence of our Homes are restored and preserved, we must have a great revival along religious and spiritual lines. Parents cannot discharge their obligations to their children, unless they have the spirit of Christ in their lives. A Home in which Jesus does not abide cannot properly nurture children. The home might be expensive and beautiful and it might be filled with all modern gadgets and conveniences; but, if the Lord dwelleth not therein, it is a failure as a Home.

The important matter for us to consider is how we can improve the spiritual quality of our Homes, how can we bring Christ into our Homes? As one aid to this end, we suggest Home Dedication. Often times, when we build a new Church or finish paying a mortgage on an old Church, we plan a special occasion; we call it "Dedication of the Church." And sometimes, when an impressive office building has been erected or an elegant clubhouse has been built or some other unusual structure has been erected for business or social uses, impressive public ceremonies are had to dedicate this particular structure. And we suggest that we extend this same idea to include the Dedication of Homes. When a young

couple marry and set up for house-keeping, it would be helpful to have an impressive ceremony to dedicate their Home. Such a ceremony would help to impress upon the new home builders the dignity and the significance of their Home. It would help to bring Christ into the Home before the arrival of children.

And there are many other ideas that might be practiced to help create a spirit of consecration and reverence in the Home. It would be helpful to practice the ancient custom of "saying grace" before each meal. If every family would hesitate for a mere moment before each meal to invoke divine blessings, this simple ceremony would add greatly to the spirit of reverence in the Home and in the lives of all members of the family. And this increased sense of reverence and consecration would help in the improvement of the spiritual atmosphere of the Home and help in bringing Christ into the Home.

Daily scripture reading in the Home would help greatly. The Homes that have daily devotionals are so few that many of our families have never heard of the Family Altar. Sometime ago we were speaking in one of the largest churches in one of the cities of our State. During our address, we had urged the Family Altar as one of the aids for the bringing of a spiritual revival in our land. After the services, several persons came to the Altar to express

their appreciation of our message; and these handshakes included a young business man who happened to be the Superintendent of the Sunday School in that Church; and he was very expressive of his appreciation of the message. This young man happened to be in the furniture business; and, while he was expressing his appreciation of our address, he remarked that he had especially what we said about the Family Altar and during the following week he was planning to go to High Point to attend a furniture exposition and while in High Point he intended to buy a Family Altar. This prominent young business man in that splendid city, Superintendent of the Sunday School in a large church, one of the leaders in the religious life of his Church, was so ignorant of religious history and so barren in his spiritual experiences, that he had never heard of that ancient and glorious institution, the Family Altar.

Parents should provide for their children a Home that is as beautiful and comfortable as they can afford. They should utilize the discoveries of modern science in providing proper food, recreation, medical care, schooling, and vocational guidance and training for their children. And, more important than any of these material things, parents should provide for their children a Home in which the spirit of the Lord abides—a Home dedicated to God, a Home in which the Bible is read, "Grace is

said," and Family Worship is practiced. Psalm 127:1, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

**N. C. CIVIL WAR RECORDS IN RALEIGH**

Ten volumes of regimental clothing books for North Carolina volunteers in the United States Army during the Civil War have recently been turned over by the National Archives in Washington to the State Department of Archives and History, it was announced by Christopher Crittenden, director of the department.

Set up alphabetically according to companies, these books comprise accounts of clothing and money issued to individual soldiers during the years 1861-1865. The records give name, rank, command, date and place of enlistment, type of wearing apparel, value of clothing or amount of money, date of issue, signature of person receiving, witness to the transaction, and name of officer in command.

In older times, British men-of-war were actually the property of the King; His Majesty's Ships. Although the U. S. S. is still used to denote British warships, American men-of-war have always, from the beginning of our Navy, been "United States Ships." The letters, USS, are more than a tradition; they are symbolic of the citizens' ownership, for every taxpayer is a stockholder in the investment of national defense.

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