

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By Rev. Harold L. Lundquist, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for October 31

THE MORAL ISSUE IN THE DRINK PROBLEM

LESSON TEXT—Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21. GOLDEN TEXT—Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh—Galatians 5:16.

PRIMARY TOPIC—My Neighbors. JUNIOR TOPIC—The Greatest Law. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Why Is It Wrong to Drink Alcoholic Beverages? YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Moral Issue in the Drink Problem.

The title for our lesson is well chosen—"The Moral Issue in the Drink Problem."

First, let it be clear that there is an issue. Those who have business, social, or political connections with the liquor traffic would like to have us believe that the repeal of prohibition settled the matter once for all. But let us be sure of this fact—the liquor problem is at our very door, and it must be met.

In the second place, many would have us think that the matter of drunkenness is a social, political, or even a physical problem, without any moral implications whatever. But those who are informed know that even the supposedly innocent beer is inextricably tied up with vice and crime. A prisoner in a federal penitentiary writing before prohibition was repealed said, "Criminals hail with delight . . . the return of liquor via the beer route and the greater license that the return of the saloon will inevitably bring. With the return of beer will come open prostitution and gambling." His words were true.

I. Drunkenness Is a Work of Darkness (Rom. 13:12-14).

Just as there are darkness and daylight in the physical universe, so there are two contrasting spiritual realms, of darkness and light.

Men "loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil," according to the Lord Jesus. (See John 3:19.) This spiritual realm of darkness is directed by "rulers of the darkness of this world" (Eph. 6:12), and their purpose is "spiritual wickedness." With the "works of darkness" the believer is to "have no fellowship" (Eph. 5:11), but is to "reprove them" and bring them into the light where their true nature is made manifest (Eph. 5:13).

"God is light, and in him is no darkness at all," and those who have fellowship with him "walk in the light." (See I John 1:5-7.)

Drunkenness is a work of darkness. It separates man from God and makes him fear the glorious light of his countenance. The solution for that awful condition is revealed in v. 14. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."

II. Drunkenness Is a Work of Unrighteousness (I Cor. 6:9-11).

No drunkard "shall inherit the kingdom of God" (v. 10), and the man who takes his first drink has put his foot on the path that leads to the drunkard's grave. Of course no man plans to go that far, but the fact is that such is the tragic conclusion for hundreds of thousands of men and women—damned for time and eternity by drink.

Again in this passage we have the answer to our problem. Not reformation, not education, not culture (desirable and useful though we recognize these things to be), but being "washed," "sanctified," and "justified" in "the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of God." Try that on your town drunkard. Thank God, it works!

III. Drunkenness Is a Work of the Flesh (Gal. 5:16-24).

The flesh—that is our bodies ruled over by self-will as opposed to God's will—is revealed in the Scriptures to be thoroughly bad, and in opposition to God. Consider the appalling list of the works of the flesh in verses 19 and 20. And note that in the midst of them stands drunkenness.

It is the lowest man that responds to intoxicants. Little wonder that the Brewers' Journal came out right after the election of 1932 with the statement that "not one tenth of one per cent of American youths know the taste of real beer. We must educate them." In other words the normal taste of an intelligent person would revolt at the stuff, but once give it a chance to stir the lusts of "the flesh" and the victim is caught.

Once again, note the antidote—live in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the flesh with its lusts is crucified (v. 24). How shall we have the Holy Spirit and His power in our lives? By taking the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

Words Without Action. Few men suspect how much mere talk fritters away spiritual energy—that which should be spent in action, spends itself in words.

Killing Time. People partial to this crime of killing time might be pardoned if they'll only kill their own.

Kindness. Kindness is a language the dumb can speak, and the deaf can hear and understand.—Bovee.

TODAY and TOMORROW

(Continued from page two) against a foreign armed force.

Sea . . . melted ice. Men have never known much about the bottom of the sea. Perhaps science will never find a way to explore the ocean's floor and map all of its mountains and valleys, but new discoveries are being made all the time.

The latest of these is that the bottom of the sea has hundreds of deep canyons, or cliffs in the rocks which form the body of the earth, some of them as long and as wide as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. There isn't any way to account for these ocean valleys except by guesswork. Scientists are trying to make the most plausible guesses.

The guess which seems most likely to be true is that almost all the parts of the globe now covered by water were once dry land. The waters were frozen into ice-caps, miles high, over the two poles of the earth. As the sun grew hotter and the ice began to melt, enormous rivers flowed forth and gouged out deep channels for themselves. But in the course of millions of years so much of the ice turned to water that it filled all the lowlands, creating what is now the ocean, and those old river channels are now just deep gashes in the ocean's floor. Maybe that's true. It sounds interesting, anyway.

AGE . . . of earth

The age of the earth is one of the questions to which men of science are ceaselessly trying to find the answer. Their general belief is that our planet is from two thousand to three thousand millions of years old, and that life has existed on it for more than two million.

Half a million years ago, there were palm trees growing in northern Greenland. Then the climate changed and that whole northern hemisphere down to as far south as the Ohio River, was covered with ice a couple of miles thick. Man and all other animals had to move toward the Equator as the ice advanced. Then the ice melted and man moved north again. Three times that has happened. The Third Ice Age has not yet ended. Every century the earth gets warmer and more of the polar ice melts and the northern regions more inhabitable.

A thousand years from now our grandchildren of the thirtieth generation may pick oranges in Canada and go to the beaches of Hudson Bay for warm winter vacations.

PICTURES . . . easier to make

I have been an amateur photographer all my life. I made my first camera when I was sixteen. There isn't anything much more fun than taking pictures, and it never was so easy for anybody and everybody to take good pictures as it is today. The largest cameras will take pictures almost in the dark. Indeed, by the use of the new infra-red plates, photographs can be made where there is no light at all, so far as the unaided eye can determine. The new flashlight bulbs make it possible to get pictures at any hour of the day or night.

By the use of pictures, newspapers and magazines are much more interesting today than they used to be when I was a young man. The old Chinese saying that one picture is worth ten thousand words may not be literally true, but it is a way of saying that we learn through our eyes easier than through our ears. I think the young folks of today know a lot more than did those of my generation, they see so many pictures, in newspapers, magazines and the movies, showing them how the world and its people look and act.

MEAT . . . to stay high

Twenty-five years ago I went out into the cattle country of the west to find out why porterhouse steak in New York had gone up to 32 cents a pound. I wrote an article in which I predicted that it would keep on going up. A couple of weeks ago anyone who wanted porterhouse steak in New York had to

A Song and Dance President



BOSTON, Mass. . . Made up as President Roosevelt, George M. Cohan opened here in "I'd Rather Be Right," play burlesquing the New Deal. Daring, yet so adroitly handled as to draw laughs from even Democrats, Cohan's part is actually named Franklin D. Roosevelt. In above scene he delivers a "travesty chat" where he comes out for a third term. In case you want to compare, insert at lower right is Roosevelt, himself.

pay 90 cents a pound for it.

The answer to the rising cost of meat is simple. The law of supply and demand is at work. The droughts of two and three years ago are beginning to have their inescapable effect on consumer prices. It takes on the average, three years to grow a beefsteak. There was not enough breeding stock left in the cattle country, after the drought, to produce a normal crop of marketable steers for this year. More people want beef; there is less beef available; hence the high prices.

I don't believe we will ever see cheap beef again. It takes a lot of capital to raise beef cattle, and a long wait for returns. In the old days of the open range beef was cheap. Now the range country has been fenced in, and the cost of cattle raising will never go down again.

BOOKS . . . an author's gamble

I have just finished writing a book. I have done little else for the past five months but work on that book. It will be published in De-

ember and then, if enough people buy copies of it, I'll begin to get my wages for the time I spent on writing it. If a whole lot of people like the book well enough to buy it, I may

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the author's living costs for the time spent in writing them.

It is impossible for anyone to predict that any book will make money for its author. Often the ones which make the big money are books which nobody expected the public to like. That is one of the reasons why the business of writing for a living is so exciting.

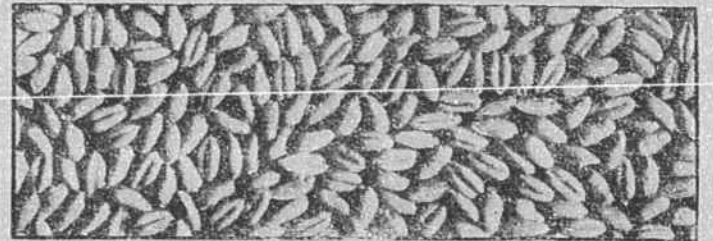
Personal Property Sale

I will offer for sale at public auction on November 11 at 10 a. m. on the premises near Bamboo, the personal property belonging to the estate of the late Oliver Hampton. The property offered will include household and kitchen furniture and many other items too numerous to mention.

S. C. EGGERS, Administrator.

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