

# Sunday School Lesson

AUGUST 10, 1947

By Dr. Paul Caudill

Topic: "Purity of Heart And Life"  
Scripture Lesson: Prov. 2:10-17; 4:23-27; James 1:13-15

"My strength" said Tennyson, "is as the strength of ten; because my heart is pure." Even so, men of all generations have been able to measure their moral strength—and even their physical strength, at times—in the scales of heart purity.

Jesus placed a premium upon the purity of heart and life: "Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

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but I say unto you, that everyone that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:27-28). He then goes on to say how it is better for a man to go through life with one eye or with one hand, but with a pure heart, than to go through life with a whole body but stumbling because of personal impurity.

**The Fruits of Wisdom**  
The first passage of Scripture in our lesson calls attention to the security and virtue which one finds in the pursuit of wisdom. "For wisdom shall enter into thy heart, and knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall watch over thee; Understanding shall keep thee; To deliver thee from the way of evil, From the men that speak perverse things" (2:10-12). The writer is saying that wisdom will keep us from the company of those who speak perversely, who forsake the paths of uprightness, and who walk in the ways of darkness. It is only reasonable to suppose that by keeping company with evil doers

one may sooner or later find himself in their paths of evil. If it is true that we are a part of all that we come in contact with, then we need to guard against the perverting influences of evil doers.

Those who are unmindful of, and forgetful of, the covenant of God can make little contribution to our lives. Moreover, if we walk in their company too often, we may find our own standards shaped according to their ways of thinking.

God does not expect us, in our quests for uprightness, to live the life of a hermit. He does not want us to withdraw from the motley throngs of humanity. He does expect, however, for us to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and to guard against the evil influences of those who know not the ways of Jehovah.

Wisdom enables one to see beneath the shallow veneer of the hypocrisy of evil doers. Wisdom teaches one to think for himself—to stand on his own feet in making life's appraisals.

Wisdom seeks to know the ways of truth even when truth cuts across the traditional pattern of thought in a painful way. Knowledge, true knowledge, however much of reproof or rebuke it may contain, is "pleasant" unto the soul of the wise man.

**The Issues Of Life**  
"Keep thy heart with all diligence," said the wise man, "For out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). A man's real character is determined by his thoughts—his inner life. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. That is why Jesus put such an emphasis upon the thought life of His followers. He was interested not only in the act but in the thought which is father to the act.

"Put away from thee a wayward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee" (4:24). It is not an easy matter for one to bridle his tongue, but it is a task which the follower of Christ should ever seek to accomplish. There is no excuse for wayward mouths. Perverse lips do not belong in the company of the upright. They are not the product of the life-giving ways of wisdom.

The upright man will seek to remove his foot from evil. He will turn neither to the right hand nor to the left (Prov. 4:27). He will seek to keep in the midst of his heart the sayings of Jehovah.

**Temptation**  
James, in the opening verses of his practical message to the tribes of the dispersion, deals at great length with the matter of temptation. His discussion may be regarded as the classic utterance of the Bible on the theme. He begins by saying "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to them that love him" (1:12).

The Christian is constantly face to face with temptation. Wherever he goes he must make decisive choices that involve not only the destiny of his own soul but the destiny of countless others. It is his responsibility to endure temptation. He is not to permit the pull of circumstance to rob him of his Christian witness. The Apostle Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content" (Phil. 4:11). In other words, Paul came to the place in his Christian life that he was able to exercise a certain independence of material circumstance. He was able to say, and that in truth, "I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). James goes on to say, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempteth no man" (James 1:13).

When a man is tempted, says James, he is merely drawn away by his own lusts, and enticed. He places himself in the way of temptation by permitting his own lusts to run riot.

"Lust when it hath conceived," sayeth James, "Beareth sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, bringeth forth death." A tragic picture of the end of those who give way to temptation. This passage of Scripture ought to be committed to memory by every youth in the land, and by fathers and mothers, too.

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## Window Fashions Topic of Meeting

Mrs. Claude Whittington was hostess to the Lewis Fork Home Demonstration Club, which met at her home Friday afternoon, July 25th. The president, Mrs. Travis Eller, called the meeting to order and the members stood and sang, "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Mrs. Denzil Dyer was in charge of the devotional. The secretary, Mrs. Vernon Dyer, read the last meeting's minutes. She then called the roll, all members being present except two who were away on their vacation. Several visitors were also present.

Mrs. Essa D. Shaw, acting home agent, and Mrs. John Idol, home furnishings leader, gave an interesting demonstration and

discussion on "Fashions for Windows." The club discussed and made plans for the August meeting, which will be a picnic for the members and their families at Mrs. A. J. Proffit's on Saturday, Aug. 23rd.

During an informal social hour, jelly rolls and Coca-Colas were served by Mrs. John M. Yates and Mrs. Ray Miller. After the refreshments were served, pictures were taken on the lawn by Mrs. Shaw. The club has enjoyed and appreciated Mrs. Shaw's presence and aid in the flourishing of our new club and takes this means to thank her.—Mrs. Claude Whittington, reporter.

July 1 prospects indicated that yields for North Carolina's 1947 corn crop will equal the all-time record of 27 bushels per acre harvested in 1946.

## Ezekiel A. Caudill Taken By Death

Funeral service was held Tuesday at the home for Ezekiel Arlington Caudill, 71, well known resident of Walnut Grove township who died Sunday, Rev. Coy Walker conducted the last rites.

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