

International Sunday School Lesson

AUGUST 28, 1948

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CHRISTIAN GROWTH THROUGH TESTING

Memory Selection: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." — James 1:12.

Lesson Text: James 1:12-18. With this lesson, we begin a series of studies from the epistle of James. James is believed to have been the half brother of Jesus, who later became one of the outstanding leaders of the early Christian church.

The One Volume Commentary suggests: "If we approach the study of it (the Epistle of James) from the right point of view, not regarding it as a treatise on Christian theology, but rather as a practical letter on Christian ethics, treated from the standpoint of a devout Jew, we shall find it both interesting and deeply instructive."

"It is a call to repentance and wholeheartedness and reality in religion. But it goes further than this. Everywhere we feel the teaching of Christ reproduced, often almost in the very words of the Master. No doubt the sins rebuked are those to which outwardly respectable Jews were very prone, but they are sins which in this age of the Church's history also seem especially prevalent."

Thus, when people speak of practical Christianity, they often refer to the epistle of James as the source of their material. In the epistle are four main themes, as follows: 1. The value of practice as opposed to mere theory. 2. The plea for justice and respect for the poor. 3. The danger of evil speech. 4. The need for humility and sincerity.

The first chapter of James, a part of which is given for our study, contains many exhortations to Christians: Be steadfast in trials, verses 2-4; pray in faith, 5-8; wealth and poverty, 9-11; temptations, 12-18; and practical religion, 19-27.

The emphasis of our lesson for this week is on temptation, or testing. A writer points out that the word "temptation" has two meanings, or shades of interpretation — test or trial and inducement to evil. In Chapter I of his epistle, James seemed to have had in mind, when he spoke of temptations, the trials of life, even persecutions suffered for one's faith, or every hardship or trial which tests faith.

Of course, every mature person realizes that life is a series of tests. Just as tests are necessary prerequisites to perfection in the material world, so trials of one's faith are necessary to one's spiritual development. It is as one reacts to testing that the strength or weakness of his faith is revealed.

James declares that one of life's priceless possessions is wisdom and that we will need wisdom in order that we may receive our trials with the right spirit. Wisdom is not necessarily measured by the amount of education one has received; wisdom is discernment, the ability to look at a given situation and discern which is the right and proper thing to do, the wise course of action to take.

The author reminds us that if one realizes a lack of wisdom, he can ask of God and God, who gives to all men liberally and untrammelled, will give the wisdom he seeks. Wisdom is an insight which allows a Christian to understand, practice an advance in his religious life, in keeping with the law of God. Wisdom to James is what faith is to Paul, hope to Peter, and love to John — the essence of Christian living — and the four are essentially one.

Real religion must be practical, it must express itself in action. The Christian who is a real follower of Jesus Christ will try to follow the example of the Master, of whom it is said, "He went about doing good." He will realize the truth of the statement of Jesus, "Inasmuch as we did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto me." James declares, in a later chapter, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only. It is well for us to realize our-

Here Comes The Bookmobile

When I was checking circulation cards last Friday, I began to get really worried. No, the circulation isn't falling off. It is picking up steadily. But in spite of the fact that we are constantly adding books, the supply of books is gradually dwindling. Why? Because they are lying around gathering dust in someone's house. We say that because we feel convinced that if a person is going to read a book at all, they are going to do so in two or three months. At the present time there are 228 books that have been out over eight weeks. Some of these, far too many, have been out over six months. Folks, I ask you, what are we going to do? I have tried the "praise method," by publishing an honor roll of the stops that had no "overduers." But, alack! alas, it hasn't worked the way my psychology professor used to assure me it would.

If I had plenty of spare time, I could probably call for many of these long-kept books and get them. I tried that in my own home town one evening after work, and I brought in 32 books. But, I don't believe that the majority of you who really enjoy getting and reading books want me to spend my time running around gathering up books, instead of giving them out.

Well, let's see if I can be of any help. If you can't remember when I come around your way, you can tune in WWNC any morning between quarter of nine and nine-thirty, and Read Wilson will be announcing the Madison County bookmobile schedule. Or you can ask your neighbors, or you can take your books to the bookmobile stop, be it a store, or a filling station or a home. Without exception, all of these folks are most cooperative, and helpful. They always take in books, keep them and hand them to me when I do come around. "Where there's a will, there's a way."

We think our lending policy is quite lenient. Don't you? Four weeks—regular time. Four more weeks—renewal time—no penalty. Twelve weeks — five cents per book.

Honest to goodness, friends, we don't want to sound mean, nor do we want to have to get hard-boiled, but it is our duty to look after the books which belong to the Madison County Public Library — your books. By your books, I don't mean that anyone owns the books they borrow. They own them, not individually, but in common with everyone else in the county.

If you are guilty, I hope you will resolve to do something about it, before the sun goes down. If you are innocent, I hope you will spread the word around, so some consciences will begin to prick so hard that the folks who are holding out on the book supply will be forced to act — and fast!

Do you realize that the North Carolina State Library loans us nearly eight hundred books with which to get started? These books are due back in October. How will we feel if we are short by a good many books? Well, we will be if they aren't returned to us soon.

It would be mean, just too mean, to publish the names of the persons who are thoughtlessly, carelessly, and, perhaps we might add, a bit selfishly keeping books that others want to read. But we are thinking seriously of putting a list of the stops and the number of over-due books at that stop in this column IF the situation does not improve. We much prefer to write about other things. We don't enjoy fussing. We know there are exceptional cases. We want to make every allowance possible — BUT we want 228 books back in circulation — PLEASE!

selves, in the words of James, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." If we will examine life, as we live it, we will realize the truth of James' statement. What are the "good gifts" with which we are showered by a loving, heavenly Father? Loving parents, good homes, enough food, ample clothing — all provided through love. So love is one of life's "good and perfect gifts." God loves his creatures — so much "that He sent His Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but should have everlasting life." Love gave — it still gives — and it will always give, as long as the world endures.

AF Re-Enlistment Program Producing Excellent Results

The new Air Force re-enlistment program for prior-service men which began last summer is producing excellent results, according to Sergeant J. W. Small, local United States Air Force recruiter-salesman. "With an eye to the special opportunities now offered to veterans many former servicemen of all services are re-enlisting in the Air Force," the Sergeant said. He added that the new system for determining a man's rank has enabled the Air Force to enlist the services of experienced, skilled technicians. "For those who desire them," Sergeant Small stated, "30-day advance leaves will also be given to veterans who re-enlist now." It was stressed that prior-service men who have already invested years in the Armed Forces should investigate the Air Force's liberal benefits policy before se-

Poetry Corner

Contributed by Edith Diederich Erskine

FOOD SHORTAGE
There was an old farmer from Jules
Who shipped off a carload of mules,
The car was derailed.

lecting their permanent careers. "Many will be surprised by the increased pay, retirement and family benefits, and up-grading opportunities offered now in the Air Force, in addition to dependent hospitalization and medical care in civilian hospitals after December 8th," the Sergeant concluded. For more information concerning the Air Force "accept-upon-skills" re-enlistment program, visit Sergeant Small at the Court House in Marshall each Monday between the hours of 1:00 p. m., and 4:00 p. m.

ROARING FORK

Several people of this section attended the decoration at Keenerville Church Sunday.

Marguerite Kimberly of Bluff was sick the past week but is feeling better at this writing.

Wade Gardin is on the sick list at present. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Lucy Parker returned home Saturday night after spending 2 weeks with relatives in S. C. She was accompanied home by the following: her son, Mr. Earl Parker.

What loss it entailed! For eating was one of their rules. So now this old farmer from Jules Brought suit for neglect of his mules. They ate off their tails In the car by the rails So famished they were — these poor fools! ELTA HANDE-BLANCHARD Asheville

CARD OF THANKS

We extend our many thanks to Mr. A. N. Woody for the great work he has done in giving a road to the Woody Cemetery and for the many people who have given, and worked on the road in trying to make a better way to get to the cemetery. We would like for everyone to come and look at the road, and tender their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Woody for the land and sacrifice they have made.

Thanks again for being a good neighbor and citizen! — In Ball City News.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Subscription To The News-Record took dinner Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Rochelle Parker. Mr. Jasper Gardin of Sylva, spent Saturday with his brother, Mr. Dan Gardin. Mrs. Rochelle Parker and Mrs. Farris Holt called on Mrs. Tisha Gowan Monday.

Fellows! ... Here are all your favorites in Watson's top

BACK-TO-SCHOOL VALUES



A. Boys' popular broadcloth sport shirts. Long sleeves, inexpensive, easy to launder. A wonderful selection of assorted patterns and colors. Sizes 6-16.
B. Here's a long sleeve sport shirt made of soft, warm flannelette... styled to please the most particular young men. Assorted patterns. Sizes 6-16.
C. Look at this star special, boys! All gabardine long sleeve sport shirt in popular fall colors: charcoal, tan, maize, light blue, pink. Sizes 6-16.

Watson's STAR SPECIAL 100 EACH

D. Here's one of our finest sport shirts of long-wearing cotton broadcloth. Assorted patterns that are sure to please. Sizes 6-18. 1 98
E. Boys' quality-knit long sleeve polo shirts. So easy to care for. Popular blazer stripes; wide assortment. Sizes 6-14. 98c
F. Boys' 10-oz. western dungarees of Sanforized® blue denim. Zipper fly; copper rivets; bar tacked at strain points. Sizes 6-16. 1 98
G. Another star special! Boys' 10-oz. Sanforized blue denim dungarees. Copper rivets; zipper fly; bar tacked at strain points. Sizes 6-16. 1 39



H. Star Special! Boys' famous Blue Ridge 13 1/2-oz. western dungarees. Sanforized denim in faded blue and dark blue colors. Zipper fly; copper rivets; bar tacked at strain points. Sizes 6-16. 2 29
I. Mom! ... these "Casey Jones" kiddie boxer longies will take lots of rough wear and tear. Sanforized 7 1/2-oz. blue denim. Sizes 1-8. 1 00
J. Star Special! Boys' ivy league pants of 8 1/2-oz. washable drill. Heavy drill pockets; brass zipper. Ivy league snaps and buckie. Black and tan. Sizes 8-18. 2 98

For The Small Fry ... K. Boys' pinwale corduroy longies. Durable, long-wearing. Red, navy, starfire, brown. Sizes 3-6.
L. Children's pinwale corduroy crawlers; ideal for a toddler's active days. Red, starfire, coral, maize. 9-18 mos.
M. Children's durable pinwale corduroy bib overalls. A real bargain at Watson's low, low price. Red, starfire, charcoal, pumpkin. Sizes 2-3-4.

Your choice of above items 100 EACH

SWEATERS, JACKETS and SPORT COATS



Boys' quality zipper jacket by Kiddie Kapers. Popular colors: charcoal, brown, red, navy. Sizes 8-14. 3 99
Here's a fine bargain in a boys' zipper jacket. Choose from navy, brown, or charcoal. Sizes 3-8. 3 98
Boys' zipper surcoat... so popular with the young set. In navy, brown or grey. Sizes 3-8. 3 98
Boys' reversible jacket, rugged enough for the toughest wear! In assorted colors. Sizes 8-18. 5 95
Boys' reversible jacket at a down-to-earth price. Versatile for all-around outdoor wear in assorted colors. Sizes 8-18. 5 95
Boys' plastic jacket repels wind and rain. Knitted cuffs and waistband for extra warmth. Charcoal or black. Sizes 8-18. 6 95
Men's reversible jacket that leads two lives—twice as handsome, twice the wear! In assorted colors. Sizes 34-42. 6 95
Men's heavy duty wool sport coat. Packed with the warmth and wear you'll want this winter. Assorted colors and stylish full patterns. Sizes 34-44. 15 95
Boys' orlon long sleeve V-neck sweater. Washable, wear-resistant — knitted on waistband and cuffs. Light blue, beige, red, maize. Sizes 8-18. 3 95
Men's heavy duty wool sport coat. Packed with the warmth and wear you'll want this winter. Assorted colors and stylish full patterns. Sizes 34-44. 4 95

FINE SELECTION OF BOYS' PANTS

Boys' club sheep pants... tailored to take the hardest wear. Brown or navy. Sizes 8-16.
Boys' comfortable print flannel pants. They'll give him wear and service you never thought possible. Blue or brown. Sizes 8-16.
Boys' solid flannel pants. Warm, comfortable and so practical for school wear. In grey or olive blue. Sizes 8-16.
Your choice of above items only