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**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**Lesson for February 16**

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**JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNALES**

**LESSON TEXT**—John 8:12-16, 31-36; 9:1-13

**MEMORY SELECTION**—I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—John 8:12.

"The Light of the World is Jesus!" Who does not remember with what delight we as children sang, "Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee . . . The Light of the World is Jesus." How precious was the truth that thus flooded our souls! Has the passing of the years dimmed the beauty and glory of that light in our hearts and lives? Do we need it renewed? God is willing and ready. Jesus is the light, and just as the sunlight sheds its glory on an awakening world at dawn, so Christ sheds abroad the light of God in the hearts of believing men. The writer of these lessons pens these words with the prayer that as this portion of God's Holy Word is studied and taught, that light may break forth on many a soul lost in the bewilderment of this dark world.

Our study centers around three simple words fraught with beauty and rich in meaning.

**I. Light (John 8:12-16).**

The text says, "Then spake Jesus." When? Just after he had silenced the hypocritical accusers of a woman taken in sin, and had spoken the word of peace to her troubled soul. She was to "go and sin no more" because she had met him who is the light of the world. They that follow him "shall not walk in darkness"; they are the children of light, they have the very light of life.

How sad it is that with the light of the world shining in all its brightness, men loved their own darkness. The Pharisees, instead of receiving the Light, had to argue, and to do it on a low, fleshly plane. They even accused Jesus of being a liar. Think of that!

So it is that men may reject the Light of God and go on into a darkness made deeper because they have seen the light.

Now we look at our second beautiful word. How sweet it sounds as we repeat it—

**II. Freedom (vv. 31-36).**

Free! Four letters, but what a depth of meaning! Chains have fallen off, prison doors are open. The one who was bound is free. But here we are concerned with an even more important liberty, the freedom of the soul. Many there are who boast of their independence, but who are merely slaves. Jesus said: "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (v. 34) not its master.

How shall they be free? Note three things in these verses. (1) A condition—"If ye continue in my word." This means not only a profession of faith, but a daily appropriation and realization of his truth in life. (2) A promise—"Ye shall know the truth." The philosophies of men profess to be a seeking after truth, but how few there are who look to the one place where it can be found—in Jesus Christ. (3) A result—"The truth shall make you free." Truth always sets free.

Men are enslaved because, as in some foreign lands, they have not had the opportunity to learn the truth (we have failed to send it), or because they have rejected it.

Freedom and light can lead only to

**III. Vision (John 9:1-5).**

This is one of the most instructive passages in Scripture. A man born blind is seen by Jesus. His disciples note his interest and begin to theorize on a theological question that he had learned so little of the compassionate spirit of Jesus that they saw in this blighted life only an illustration of a theological problem. May God help us that we may never be so blind.

Jesus goes at once to his blessed work. He was in the world to do the works of God. He and the Father always work. Let us follow his blessed example. The King's business requires haste. Let us work "while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work."

By a loving and gracious act, Jesus stirs in the heart of the man that faith which causes him to go, to wash, and, glory to God, he sees!

Such a personal experience of the divine power of the Son of God leaves no doubt in the man's mind that the One who caused him to see "is a prophet." All of a man's doubts concerning the deity of Jesus Christ disappear when he becomes his Saviour.

Do not fail to read the remainder of the chapter and note how this man's faith was victorious in the face of trials, persecution, and even of excommunication; for outside the temple he met Jesus and took him as his Lord. As Dr. Scroggie puts it, "His excommunication was a promotion. He went from the synagogue to the Saviour."

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
 by GEORGE S. BENSON  
 President—Reading College  
 Reading, Arkansas

**Young Economist**

I met a young economist in England. His thinking revealed that he would like to see the complete crumbling of the present order and the ultimate nationalization of all England. His discussion showed too that he would thoroughly salish failure of "the capitalistic order" in America, which he boldly predicted would surely come within a few years.

Notable thing about this young man is that he is very influential in the Labor government. He talked freely and with spirit, and the enthusiasm he exhibited shows conclusively which school of thought in England is on the defensive. It is unfortunate when Truth and Right are no longer on the crusade, but instead must be called to the defensive.

**Influence of Youth**

I asked this young economist the secret of the growth of the Socialist party in the United Kingdom. Displaying political acumen which is engendered only from a thorough understanding of reality and a knowledge of facts, this economist said that victory in the last election in close districts came because of the vote of the young people.

"In fact, the percentage of young people who voted the Socialist ticket was greater than the percentage of older people in the ranks of Labor," he told me, adding a fact I knew already: that the growth of Socialism has been more rapid among young people and among skilled workers. The influence of higher education, he stoutly affirmed, was a definite factor in the spread of Socialism throughout the Kingdom.

I did not encourage him in this regard about America, but the parallel was clear. I found myself wishing that our own high schools and colleges were doing a better job of building into the very fiber of American youth a deep appreciation for the fundamental principles of our American way of life, lest our youth some day lead this nation down that same unfortunate road. Strange irony it is, that wealth created by honest work is used in the form of taxes and in grants as means to destroy the philosophy which begot our freedom and our wealth.

**Competition Needed**

Even the government officials in London do not seem quite sure that the principle of nationalization is sound. Some uncertainty exists, for they are already detecting basic weaknesses. During the week of July 15 a London newspaper quoted the London County Council as saying that the London Transport (a government monopoly operating street-cars and buses) needed competition. In the same week another writer stated his opinion that the British Broadcasting Corporation, the weaknesses of which were at that time under fire in Parliament, needed the competition of other broadcasting companies in England.

Failure of the private enterprise system in America, our young economist said, would soon come because of the inability of business to operate at a loss. This thing the government could do indefinitely, just for the sake of maintaining employment, he affirmed, insisting there is no limit to deficit financing available to government-owned economy.

I have never been able to convince myself that Socialistic and Communist minded economists could be sincere in advocating this philosophy, characteristic though it is of their thinking. If the principle were workable, why does not some Communist nation issue a million dollar credit to each of its citizens and let them all enjoy wealth in a nation that cannot go broke?

**State College Hints To Homemakers**

It is a mistake for the housewife to keep all the wood ashes cleaned from the fireplace. The ashes should be kept level with the andirons to provide a bed for glowing charcoal which yields steady heat and helps to ignite new logs as they are added.

Before laying the fire, put a log on the floor of the hearth against the backwall. This keeps the draft from drawing the fire directly into the masonry and wasting heat.

Split wood kindles easier than round wood.

Softwoods make a quicker and hotter fire but burns up faster than hardwoods.

A combination of hard and soft wood, such as oak and pine, makes a successful fire. Green wood is poor in heat value because of the moisture it contains.

Dry seasoned wood kindles more quickly and is easier to tend than wet or green wood.

Woods that throw off sparks are chestnut, butternut, tamarack and spruce. These should be burned only behind a screen.

**Attention World War II Vets**

**SPECIAL**

North Carolina veterans of World War II, who desire to take co-operative farm training under the GI Bill, must be enrolled for instruction by a vocational agricultural teacher prior to March 1 in order to receive benefits under the VA training program.

Officials of VA said that tuition costs and subsistence allowances will not be paid in case of veterans who enroll after the end of this month. Farm training -- a co-operative program of organized instruction and actual on-the-farm

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**President Plans Fire Prevention**

Faced with an average annual toll of 10,000 deaths from fire, together with property loss which exceeded \$560,000,000 in 1946, President Truman is sponsoring a nationwide effort to cope with the fire menace.

Representatives of municipal and State governments, Federal agencies, and of non-official organizations with a basic interest in fire prevention have been organized into a coordinating committee to draft an agenda for the Conference and to appoint committees which will prepare recommendations to be submitted to the Conference as a whole.

The fire toll has been rising since 1934, and 1946 was the most destructive year with a property loss of \$561,487,000.

Committees will be appointed to make advance studies of special aspect of fire prevention, including law enforcement, law revision, building codes, inspection, fire fighting services, education, and to draft recommendations for the Conference, which will be in session three days during which, it is hoped, a coordinated program will be formulated that will revitalize

**Consideration Is Given P. O. W Vets**

Special consideration will be given to disability claims filed by veterans who were interned in enemy prison camps during World War II, the Veterans Administration has announced.

Former prisoners of war who have any reason to believe they are suffering from a disability as a result of their confinement may file a claim with the VA.

A study of the effects of malnutrition on former American prisoners of war has revealed that near-starvation diets in certain prison camps may have physically impaired prisoners and caused nervous disorders.

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**State College Answers Farm Questions**

Q. How can I rid my house of cockroaches?  
 A. The most practical material is a ten percent DDT dust. The pest is killed by coming in contact with the dust, so every possible hiding place must be thoroughly treated. Make sure that all food and cooking

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