

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**Plain Facts About Honesty**

LESSON TEXT FOR AUGUST 24—  
Proverbs 2:3; 11:1, 3; 12:17-22; 14:9;  
23:10, 11.

MEMORY SELECTION—Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.—1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lesson subjects and Scripture texts selected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education; used by permission.

By WILLIAM CULBERTSON, D. D.,  
Of The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

THE Bible's presentation of the subject of uprightness of living, or plain, downright honesty in everyday contacts, is recognized by all who have given any attention to what it has to say.

The high ethical standard demanded by the Word of God is another evidence of its divine origin. Were men to evolve a moral standard of their own, it is quite evident that that standard would not be very much higher than their own attainments; in fact, the probability is that the standard would be lower than the attainment of some. However, the Bible allows for no deviation from the standard.

We who by nature are the children of wrath have undoubtedly failed when we measure our lives against God's pattern. How needful is God's work of providing and effecting salvation! Those who have been born of God are then confronted with living a life that meets the divine standard.

**I. A Plea for Honesty (Prov. 2:3)**

HOW good it is when the Christian has a reputation for integrity in all his dealings. However, that outward manifestation is possible only if there is inward reality. Therefore, we move in order of emphasis to the greater truth at the conclusion of the verse. Truth is to be written upon the tablet of the heart.

Here is the plea for heart honesty. It is not enough by plausible argument or by feigned conduct to appear honest before men. It is necessary rather to have motives so sincere, to have a heart so honest, that all we do and say will reflect a character that is honorable.

It is out of the fullness of the heart that man speaketh. As the heart is, so is the man. Let us give attention therefore to this word from God.

**II. A Factual Presentation of Honesty (Prov. 11:1, 3; 12:17-22; 14:9)**

THESE passages of Scripture bring to our attention the consequences of dishonesty as well as the rewards of honesty.

For example, we know that dishonesty is an abomination to God (Prov. 11:1; 12:22); that perversity of heart has its own reward, in that the perpetrator of evil is sooner or later ensnared in his own sin (Prov. 11:3); that a lying tongue may be victorious, but that victory is short lived (Prov. 12:19).

On the other hand, the rewards of honesty are also made apparent, for we are told that probity of character is God's delight (Prov. 11:1; 12:22); that the very integrity of the upright shall be a guide to them (Prov. 11:3); that blessings to others flow from the tongue of the wise (Prov. 12:18); and that the lip of truth shall be established forever (Prov. 12:19).

**III. God and the Life of Honesty (Prov. 23:10, 11)**

THE reference here to the ancient landmark has to do with the removal of such evidences as would prove the claim of individuals to certain property.

We are to respect the rights of others. Honesty involves more than correctness of speech; it implies rightness of life. No subtlety of reasoning can lead us to the conclusion that we may have God's approval if by unfair means we take that which belongs to another.

Particular attention is given to the fact that we are to have regard for the fatherless. The Word of God constantly gives special attention to the fatherless and the widow. It would seem that God will particularly mark as unwise any unfair advantage taken over these individuals. In fact, this text stresses that God as their Redeemer will plead their cause against anyone taking advantage of them. Of course, there can be only one result when God opposes, and that is disaster to the individual who occasions his wrath.

Perhaps it is that very sense of helplessness that makes the fatherless depend upon him. It is certain that until we feel our need of God, we shall go on in our self-sufficiency without him. When our own lack of strength becomes apparent, then it is we turn to him, and then it is that he is willing to be our Redeemer.

Let us dare to face the implication of these texts. Unless we commend our God to men by our upright lives, we shall have to suffer the consequences of our dishonesty in divine displeasure.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

**ALL SET FOR LABOR DAY**



Well, here we are, folks! The greatest group in America—the family! Along with millions of other families, we constitute the backbone of American life. We are America—America at her best!

We are all set to celebrate Labor Day—a holiday set aside by our government to emphasize the dignity and importance of labor as the basis of our national and individual prosperity.

We till the soil, man the shops and factories and offices, build the homes, support the schools and churches, and aim to have the best government and greatest freedom of any nation on earth. And that is just what we have.

In any period of national crisis, in war or peace, the government turns to us—the homes, of America—the families and workers of America—and we never fail.

For our homes and our families are built on faith—faith in God's power and providence in human life. Our churches inspire us to live uprightly, to be happy and hopeful, and to build that most blessed of all institutions—the American home.

**THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH**

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church on Sunday and read your Bible daily.

Copyright 1947 by  
H. B. Kistner, Strasburg, Virginia

This series of ads is being published each week in the Duplin Times under the auspices of the Duplin County Mini-sters and is being sponsored by the following patriotic individuals and business establishments

- Expert Radiator Repair**  
**TROTT'S GARAGE**  
12 Years Experience Beulaville N. C.
- T. A. TURNER & COMPANY**  
"A Square Deal To All"  
Pink Hill, N. C.
- MCLENDON'S ESSO STATION**  
Unexcelled Service  
Phone 2566 Kenansville, N. C.
- G. H. WEST & SON**  
General Merchandise  
West Siding, N. C.
- Your Financial Friend  
**WACCAMAW BANK & TRUST COMPANY**  
Kenansville Rose Hill
- How Are Your Brakes? — We Fix Them  
**MATHEWS GARAGE**  
Drum Turning Beulaville, N. C.
- WARSAW ELECTRIC & APPLIANCE COMPANY**  
H. T. Fisher, Mgr. — Contract House Wiring  
Electrical Appliances
- I. J. SANDLIN CO.**  
General Merchandise  
Phone 213-2 Beulaville, N. C.
- WARSAW FURNITURE CO.**  
"We Furnish The Home"  
Warsaw, North Carolina
- JAMES MILLER**  
Beulaville, N. C., R. F. D.
- BEULAVILLE SODA SHOP**  
Owner - Daniel W. Lanier - Mgr. — Come and see us  
Across the Street from Model Theatre
- WELLS-OATES LUMBER COMPANY**  
Kenansville, North Carolina
- ARTHUR KENNEDY'S STORE**  
Beulaville, North Carolina
- CHAS. F. CATES & SONS**  
Falcon, North Carolina
- WARSAW DRUG COMPANY**  
Warsaw, North Carolina
- A & C RAILROAD**  
Kenansville, North Carolina
- CARBOL & RIGGS**  
Wood Work Shop  
Warsaw, North Carolina

**Attend Church**