

# SUMMARY SCHOOL LESSON

## Cultivating Good Will

LESSON TEXT FOR SEPTEMBER 14  
—Proverbs 3:30, 31; 15:1, 1a; 22:24, 25;  
23:16, 21, 22; 24:20, 21; Matthew 5:9;  
James 3:17.

MEMORY SELECTION — Blessed are  
the peacemakers: for they shall be  
called the children of God.—Matthew 5:9

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lesson subjects  
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IT IS true that the Christian life  
gives offense on occasion. When  
a controversy exists between men  
and God, the Christian has no other  
course of action than to align him-  
self on God's side. As he takes  
his stand in such cases, he should  
do it in love, but nevertheless with  
firmness.

The Bible nowhere commends a  
critical spirit or a perverse attitude.  
It rather emphasizes the necessity  
of firmness in the course of right,  
a firmness that loses nothing of its  
intensity through being tempered in  
the fires of love.

The Christian beyond all others  
should give himself to a life man-  
ifesting sympathy, kindness and  
charitableness. Thus he will open  
avenues of opportunity, of wit-  
ness, and of service in which the  
Lord may be greatly magnified.

I. Contributing Factors to the  
Marking of Good Will (Prov. 3:30,  
31; 22:24, 25; 25:18; 26:20, 21).

VARIANCE and strife mar good  
will (Prov. 3:30, 31). Notice that  
this strife is unoccasioned. When  
we strive with men to no purpose;  
when men have not harmed us, and  
with bitterness of spirit we turn  
upon them, we of course forfeit ev-  
ery opportunity to influence them  
for good.

The man of variance similarly  
should be passed by. We are not  
to emulate him; we are not to  
envy him; we are to choose none  
of his ways.

A wrathful spirit also mars good  
will (Prov. 22:24, 25). A man of  
anger is not to be followed by the  
child of God. This passage enjoins  
us to have no friendship with such  
individuals, for there is danger  
that we shall learn their ways and  
their ways will then be a snare to  
our souls.

Another way in which we mar  
good will is to be the purveyors of  
untruth (Prov. 25:18). The false wit-  
ness is characterized as a large  
hammer or a sword or a sharp ar-  
row, for he wounds his neighbor,  
often grievously.

The man or the woman who in  
gossip has maliciously wounded  
another loses all opportunity to  
influence him for God. The culti-  
vation of good will involves the  
speaking of truth.

Let us with all diligence, with  
the help of God, banish from our  
hearts and minds all of these  
attitudes which hurt and mar.

II. Contributing Factors to the  
Making of Good Will.

IN THE first place, the soft answer  
of the controlled spirit will estab-  
lish good will (Prov. 15:1, 18). The  
soft answer does turn away wrath.  
The man who is slow to anger ap-  
pears soft.

Let us not confuse a soft answer  
with an unconvincing one, or with  
that mealy-mouthed procedure  
that we commonly call double  
talk. Happy is that man who  
knows how to present the truth  
convincingly, who can make men,  
despite his opposing standards,  
understand that he has their good  
at heart. Of course, there is one  
absolute requisite to such a tes-  
timony, and that is a life wholly  
lived for God.

Another factor in making good will  
is the act of kindness (Prov.  
25:21, 22). This passage, you will  
remember, is quoted in Romans 12.  
Here is the opportunity for us, in  
all matters of personal injury, to  
place our case in the hands of God  
rather than to seek revenge. By  
such acts of kindness, as we trust  
God, we shall be obeying the Lord;  
and who knows but that our ene-  
mies may thus be turned to him.

A third contributing factor in  
making good will is that of making  
peace (Matt. 5:9). So often this  
business of attempting to make  
peace is a thankless task, but that  
thanklessness is only from human  
sources. So far as God is con-  
cerned, he has placed his seal of  
approval upon every child of his  
who seeks to lead men into peace  
with God and to make peace be-  
tween men.

God speaks of them as being  
"called" sons of God. It is one  
thing to be a son of God; it is an-  
other thing to be acknowledged as  
a son of God.

III. The Source of Good Will  
(James 3:17).

THAT wisdom will be character-  
ized by purity, peaceableness,  
gentleness, approachableness,  
meekness, and will be without par-  
tiality and without hypocrisy. This  
wisdom which is from above is  
concentrated to those who know  
him who has been made into us  
wisdom (1. Cor. 1:30).

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# Education...FOR WHAT?

Thoughtful people are becoming increasingly aware that what is commonly called an education is not enough. Of course we need the training that sharpens our wits and develops our skills. But real education must go deeper than that! Somehow, somewhere, we must find direction to life, so that wit and skills will be employed not only for self but for the common good.

For some fortunate persons this emphasis is made in the home. Where this takes place, under Christian guidance, there is a lasting quality to the training that time can seldom efface. Sometimes the college or university offers this valued guidance and the student, as he sits before a Christian professor, learns more than books and lessons. He catches here some of the deeper overtones of life's true meaning.

In a special way this extremely important instruction is imparted by the Christian Church, the mother of education. Through worship, study, fellowship, activity, we learn that noble purposes are infinitely superior to mere things, and through fellowship with God we are made strong for every test that life can throw against us.



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the building of character and good citizenship.  
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strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization  
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every person should attend and support the  
church of his choice. 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.

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