

RELIGION FOR THE MODERN WORLD



SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 1-2; 8:6-13; Matthew 3:16, 17; John 14:9-11. DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalms 40: 1-3.

Better Revelation

Lesson for October 5, 1947

WITH Sunday's lesson we turn into another field of Bible study for the concluding quarter of the year—messages from the Epistles, other than those of Paul.

This lesson, and the next two, are from the Epistle to the Hebrews—one of my favorite books in the Bible. The passages of study for this lesson are Hebrews 1-2; 8:6-13; with kindred passages in Matthew 3:16, 17 and John 14:9-11. Suggested devotional reading for the lesson is Psalms 40: 1-3.

Dr. Newton The title of the lesson has reference, of course, to Christ—the better revelation of the Son of God in his appearance to bring the father's plan of redemption nigh unto all men.

The Father's Son

GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him; and a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased," Matthew 3:16, 17.

Could there be a more beautiful and impressive manifestation of God's acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as his son?

Love Is the Key

IN THIS better revelation of Jesus Christ, we find that love is the key that opens the door into the brightly lighted room. "The father loved the son, and hath given all things into his hand," John 3:35.

Love is the key. It is ever so with all the revelations which God makes of himself to his trusting children.

And this revelation of God in Jesus Christ carries the further truth that "all things" have been placed in the hands of our blessed Saviour. We read elsewhere that "all things consist in him," which means that all things held together in him—the world itself. Jesus said, "All power hath been given unto me, in heaven and on earth."

It is not a picture of passive love, but a picture of perfect love in action, with all things committed to his administration. Again we can sing, "This is our father's world."

Christ Reveals God

NOT only does Christ reveal himself, but also the father, for they are one. Reading now into the second chapter of Hebrews, we find these words: "God also bearing them (angels) witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will."

It is God's own will that he be revealed, and he must do the revealing. Turn to John 14:9-11, where we read again that revealing incident when Jesus patiently reassured Thomas and Philip, declaring "He that hath seen me hath seen the father."

The better revelation of God in Jesus Christ brings us far beyond the revelations of God in the Old Testament, dramatic and impressive as they were.

A New Covenant

THE better revelation means "a more excellent ministry," because Jesus Christ has now become "the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises," Hebrews 8:6.

The first covenant was imperfect, because it was manifest through humanity. Only the perfect son of the perfect God could manifest the better covenant. Jeremiah foresaw the better covenant. See Jeremiah 31: 31-34.

Now that the better revelation is our portion, what shall be our response? One cannot be excused today by claiming ignorance of God's proffered salvation unto all men. He has revealed his love in the death of his only begotten son on the cross. He has revealed his love in abounding and forbearing mercies.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

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IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Ever run into a friend in Tokyo, or meet one of your neighbors in Amsterdam? Maybe not—but such things are happening every day!

It makes you stop and think—the way this world is shrinking. It makes you wish that the men and women who live on opposite sides of the globe had more things in common.

There can be no more unifying force in the world than a common belief in God. And toward that ideal we are rapidly progressing. Christians the world over are feeling and expressing their unity of faith and purpose.

Next Sunday is World-Wide Communion Sunday. On that day, within the space of a few short hours, Christians in every land will reverently participate in the Lord's Supper which has been a mark of Christian faith for almost two thousand years.

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NEXT WEEK: ANOTHER BIBLE LESSON

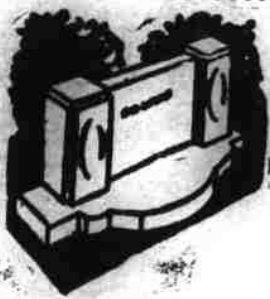
STATE COLLEGE ANSWERS TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

Q. What procedures should I follow in renovating and fertilizing my strawberry patch? A. The strawberries should be fertilized immediately in case they have not been fertilized within the

last month or 6 weeks. If the beds are heavily matted, it may pay to plow out the middles, leaving a matted row bed not wider than 18 inches. The fertilizer may then be distributed in shallow furrows on each side and covered by cultivating the soil back toward the plants.

Q. What are the advantages of mixing several crops for hay mixtures?

A. Mixing several crops for hay is often used to increase the yield; to give variety and improve the hay's palatability; and to change the nutritive ratio of the hay.



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