

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

Editor: REV. B. COCHRANE, Seal Cove, G. M., N. B.

SUGGESTED STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN

By Rev. H. L. Robertson

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. The Author:

"To the Apostle John is ascribed the authorship of five New Testament books: The fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and Revelation." (H. T. Sell.) He was the son of Zebedee and Salome, Mark 1:19-20, Matt. 20:20. He is also called the "beloved disciple." Jn. 13:23.

A few references to the apostle's fitness to write the fourth Gospel. John first became a disciple of John Baptist: John 1:35-40. (Clark points out that the author studiously endeavors to conceal his own name wherever he might receive honor).

"After this, John seems to have gone back to his old employment of fishing, from which he was again called by Christ to become an apostle of Jesus." Matt. 4:21. (Sell).

The Narrative shows that John was present at some special miracles of Christ. The raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration, and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

"The two principal elements of John's character are ruggedness and tenderness. Mark 3:17; John 21:20.

John followed the Christ to the Cross, and was there to receive His last words. To accept the author's own words we have the proof of first-hand knowledge. "This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true." John 21:24. Again the apostle's proximity to the Cross was such that he distinguished between the water and the blood which flowed from the riven side of the Lord. This is pointed out by Adam Clark. "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." John 19:34, 35.

John was not only among the first of the disciples that visited the sepulchre after the resurrection of Christ, but was also present with the other disciples when Jesus shewed himself to them on the evening of the same day on which he arose. John 20:19-29.

B. To Whom was the Gospel Written?

The Gospel according to St. John was written mainly for believers, (John 19:35; 20:31) to build them up in the belief of the Lord's Deity. The theme of the book, therefore, is Christ the Divine Son; the key verse being chapter 20:31, which reads as follows: "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name."

C. Place and Time at Which it was Written:

"Ephesus and Patmos are the two places mentioned by early writers, and the weight of evidence seems to be in favour of Ephesus." Smith's Bible Dict. "Irenaeus, the pupil of Polycarp, who was a disciple of St. John, states that John wrote the Gospel in Ephesus, after the other Gospels have been written, probably sometime between A. D. 78 and 100 A. D."

D. The Purpose of St. John's Gospel:

"The purpose of the author in writing the fourth Gospel is declared by himself (20:31): "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name." This object he keeps in view throughout, selecting from the life and words of Christ that material which best forwards his design. John writes to convince men that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. He does not expect that men will believe this stupendous truth on mere words, so he sets himself to reproduce the life of Jesus. He believes that what convinced him will convince others. In simplest language he tells us what Christ said and what he did, and lets us hear what this or that man said to him." Marcus Dods. "Finally, the last doubter among the disciples cries out, "My Lord and my God!"

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG MEN

The Alliance and Young People's Association are co-operating again this year to continue the good work of beautifying Beulah Campground. For the past three or four years this work has been going on, and many declared that that our lovely Campgrounds were more beautiful last year than they have been for many years past. To briefly outline the plan: Four young men go to the Campground ten days before the Alliance opens, (June 24th this year) and under the supervision of Brother Noah Hicks, chairman of the "grounds" committee, work ten full days in clearing away fallen trees, cutting undergrowth, etc. As a reward for their labours, these young men receive free board and lodging during the Campmeeting, and are free to attend all the services, providing they work the allotted time before the meetings begin. The Y. P. A. contributes the sum of twenty-five dollars annually to this project, and the Alliance pays the remainder involved in the expense of the undertaking. Our Y. P. A. desires that, if possible, we have one young man from each of our four districts to enjoy this opportunity. It is time now that our plans for this year were being made, so if you desire to apply for a place in this work, write at once to the Editor of the Y. P. Page, stating what Y. P. Society you belong to, and whether you could be at the Camp Ground by June 24th.

THE FOUR PLANTS

A wise old tutor was once taking a stroll through a forest with a shiftless youth by his side. The tutor suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants close at hand. The first was a tiny sprout, just coming up out of the earth. The second had rooted itself quite firmly in the fertile soil. The third was a small shrub. The fourth had grown into a well-developed tree. The tutor said to his companion, "Pull up the first plant."

The youth pulled it up easily with his fingers.

"Now pull up the second."

The youth obeyed, and with a slight effort the plant came up, roots and all.

"And now the third."

The boy pulled with one hand, then the other, but it would not come. Then he took both hands, and the plant yielded to all his strength.

"And now," said the master, "try the fourth."

The youth grasped the trunk with all his might, but hardly a leaf shook. "I cannot move it," he exclaimed.

"Just so, my son," said the tutor, "with our bad habits. When they are young and small, we can cast them out, but when they are full grown, they cannot be unrooted."

IT'S EASY TO QUIT

It is easy to quit. Anyone can say, "The hill is too high," or "it's too far away." Anyone can say, "I'm too tired to keep on," And stop halfway there. But don't be that one. Whenever life gives you a task hard to do, Don't stop in the middle, but see the thing through.

It is easy to quit. Any fool can explain To himself and his friends why the struggle was vain.

It doesn't take brains, when you start cutting loose

From a difficult task, to think up an excuse. There is always a plausible, soothing excuse

On the tongue of the chap who says "It's no use." —Author Unknown

NEW SICKNESS KEEPS CHURCH MEMBERS HOME

A new sickness has appeared recently and is known as Morbus Sabbaticus, or Sunday sickness. It is a disease peculiar to church members. The attack comes suddenly every Sunday. No symptoms are felt Saturday night. The patient sleeps well, and eats a hearty breakfast, but about church time the attack comes on and continues until services are over in the morning.

Then the patient feels easy and eats a good dinner. In the afternoon he feels much better and is able to take a walk, talk about politics, and read the Sunday papers. He eats a hearty supper, and about church time he has another attack and stays at home. He retires early, sleeps well, and wakes up on Monday morning refreshed and able to go to work, and does not have any symptoms of the disease until the following Sunday. —Sel.

GO STRAIGHT TO YOUR POST

"Go straight to your post." Nathan did. God said, "Go and speak"; and he went straight away, and spoke as he was commanded. Even so, let there be no excusing yourself about your inability and want of voice, or courage, or time, or something else, which too often means that you are too proud or worldly, or are altogether too ashamed of Jesus Christ and His cause, to be known to be on His side. No running away in some other direction, Jonah-like, and only squaring yourself up to duty after some kind of three days' solitary confinement in the belly of some whale or other. No! No! No! Go off at once.—General William Booth.