

Sunday School Lesson

October 5, 1947

A. D. Cann

THE BETTER REVELATION

Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-3; 8:6-11

Golden Text: Jesus saith . . . he that hath seen me hath seen the Father. John 14:9.

The book of Hebrews was written primarily for the Jews, but has a dynamic message for all. It is designed to show the superiority of christianity over Judaism.

A BETTER REVELATION

"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." As wonderful as was the ministry of prophets and angels, the ministry of the Son is better. Prophets could tell about God, but they had no power to establish right relations between a holy God and sinful man. Hence they had no power to produce fellowship between God and man. Relationship here is man's fundamental need. Hence the need of a greater ministry. There are several ways by which the Son of God speaks to us. (1) By the Bible. In the Bible we have the law, which is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. By the law is the knowledge of sin. Hence the Bible finds us as we are, exposes our sin and in turn, reveals him who is able to save and cleanse us from all sin. (2) By the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit arrests us because of our attitude toward the Son. It is not God's purpose to condemn us but rather to reveal his Son to us in order that we may be saved. God's message to us through the Holy Spirit is always in harmony with his message to us through the Bible. (3) By providence. God often speaks to us through providence. Thus God spoke to Gideon and enabled him to know his will concerning his life. God still speaks to us through the Bible, the Holy Spirit and Providence. If we are careful to listen we can know his will.

A BETTER OPPORTUNITY

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." With every opportunity there is a corresponding responsibility. Never in the history of the world were there better opportunities to hear the glorious Gospel of Christ. In most every town and village it is preached in the church, tabernacle and street corner. Every day it is broadcast by radio. There is an abundance of literature, showing all, the way of salvation. In spite of the many opportunities, it is too often passed by through neglect or wilful rejection.

A BETTER COVENANT

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much more also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Let us consider why a better covenant. (1) It was established by a better mediator, even Jesus Christ. Being human, he represented humanity, being Divine he fulfilled the requirements of Deity. (2) It makes a radical and fundamental change in man's nature. Grace places something within man that makes his nature to correspond with God. (3) It provides direct access to God without the aid of human priests. It is universal, for both Jew and Gentile. (4) It is final, and can never be superseded.

October 12, 1947

CHRIST THE MINISTER OF BETTER THINGS

Lesson: Hebrews 2:14-16; 7:26-27; 9:23-26; 10:11-14

Golden Text: He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25.

Our lesson today begins with a comparison between the high priest of old and Christ our great high priest.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Sin forbids man coming into the presence of God in his own right. Hence the need of a priest or mediator. Since Jesus is sinless he therefore can come into the presence of God. Being also human he therefore stood where I stood, he saw what I saw, he heard what I heard and was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. This being so in His name we can come boldly unto a throne of grace and find mercy for our weaknesses and grace for our necessities.

THE ATONEMENT OF CHRIST

"Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." The great purpose of Jesus in coming to the world was to put away sin. To accomplish this great purpose he gave up his life unto death. Said he—"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit." The life of each grain that is sown in the ground does not die, but is separated from the seed and lives in the new plant that springs up. The root meaning of death is separation. The teaching of the New Testament is that Christ died for sin, that God laid on him the iniquity of us all. We cannot comprehend the significance of his death or sacrifice but we can have the inward assurance that our sin is gone. Those who experience the benefits of the atonement will be in that group who look for him in his second coming without sin unto salvation.

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST

"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." All those who trust in the Blood of Jesus for pardon and purity have no need for any other offering as this is a complete, final atonement and title to eternal life. It does not mean that the perfecting of character is automatic. It does mean that Christ's death is the meritorious ground upon which all spiritual blessings are bestowed. The priest's sacrifices were not final because both they and the people were not without sin, hence the sacrifices were repeated year after year. Not so with Jesus, for he with his own blood hath entered into the veil which separated Jehovah's abode from the earth. When he did so, the veil of the temple was rent in twain by God himself. Now the entrance into the holiest of all is laid open to all believers "By the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh;" Jesus is fitted to stand before God and man as is no other mediator. He has the right to do so both because of what he is and what he has done. Because Jesus is divine and eternal therefore his office is everlasting.

October 19

THE CREATIVE POWER OF FAITH

Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-8-39, 40; 12:1, 2

Golden Text: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

The two preceding lessons from Hebrews were doctrinal, while the lesson today is experimental. The first verse of the lesson defines faith while the body of the lesson illustrates faith in action.

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO TESTIMONY

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death: and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Faith is basic in all christian experience and comes easily and naturally when human conditions are met. The reason Cain did not have faith was because he did not meet conditions. Faith is essential if our life

and testimony correspond as was the case with Enoch. Says the Hebrew writer—"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks in his name." Sacrifice is an essential feature to testimony. If we do not deny ourselves then we deny Christ. Between the christian and the self life must always appear the cross of self-denial. Have we faith? Then let us show it by our testimony, by our own life and by our works.

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING

"By faith, Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." It matters not whether it is building a life, a christian character, a home, a church, a Sunday School, or a nation, faith is equally indispensable. Noah's contemporary only lived to satisfy the lusts of the flesh, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In spite of Noah's best efforts to minister grace unto the people, his message was rejected. In these days of Antichrist let us hold fast the profession of our faith. Like Noah, let us continue to build, regardless of whether it be churches, schools, etc., until Jesus comes.

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO OBEDIENCE

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went." It is said that Abraham did not know where he was going but he knew with whom he was going. The most important thing in a decision is not always the temporal advantages, but rather is God the author of the choice? If God is leading then we cannot go wrong. Did you ever think what would have happened had Abraham disobeyed God's call? Certainly he would have been the loser, not only in temporal advantages, but also in a heavenly destiny.

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO HOLINESS

"Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us." True christians are moving upward and onward with a holy swiftness. Therefore let us throw off all that weighs us down or dampens the vigor of our souls. Though the christian be saved and sanctified he still has a body with abnormal appetites which must be controlled lest they be weights to our christian progress. Let us be through with sin and unload every weight.

YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY—

- For doing your best.
- For hearing before judging.
- For thinking before speaking.
- For standing by your principles.
- For being generous to an enemy.
- For promptness in keeping your promises.

—Unknown.

OBITUARY

William Tedford, a highly respected citizen of Port Maitland, N. S., died recently at the age of 77 years. He had been a great sufferer for several months and his death was not unexpected.

Immediate relatives surviving the deceased are three sons, Bradford, Lawrence and Otto, two daughters, Mrs. C. J. Westerfelt and Finnie, and three sisters, Mrs. Fred Sollows, Mrs. J. S. Southern, and Mrs. Winnie Lewis.

The funeral was held from the Port Maitland Reformed Baptist Church, of which Mr. Tedford was a member, and was conducted by Rev. H. S. Mullen, assisted by Rev. E. T. McKnight. A mixed quartette of the church sang favorite hymns.

Committal took place at Island Cemetery.