

Sunday School Lesson

November 9

A. D. Cann

A CALL TO RIGHT LIVING (Temperance Lesson)

Lesson: I. Peter 1:13-23; 4:1-5

Golden Text: Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. I. Corinthians 10:3-1.

The first verse of our lesson today contains a command to be sober. Let us distinguish between being sober and being always sad and gloomy. The grace of God makes for soberness while the absence of grace makes for gloominess and sadness.

A CALL TO HOLY LIVING

"Be ye holy, for I am holy." Divine authority is equally stamped upon all of God's commandments. Since we are commanded to be holy it is not necessary to say that God is able to make us holy. To be holy in conduct we must first be holy in character, for conduct is character deep. A life of holiness springs as naturally from a holy heart as a life of sin springs from a wicked heart. The outward life of a holy man is not one in which the vital and nervous energy is keyed up to a dangerous tension, but one that is natural and easy, flowing legitimately from a purified soul. In this holy state depraved appetites are eliminated and lawful appetites gratified in legitimate ways and in proper degrees. In this state the body is held sacred as the temple of Jesus and nothing of tobacco, rum, or the indulgence of lust is permitted to defile. Since it cost God so much to make this way of holiness possible we should be satisfied with nothing less.

THE CHOICE OF HOLY LIVING

"Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth. We are rational responsible creatures. Therefore to be holy we must choose thus. The text implies that purity is our privilege. To sincere seekers of truth we would offer the following suggestions: (1) Do not seek an experience like someone else, in fact do not, strictly speaking, seek an experience at all but rather the purification of the heart and its continued occupancy by the indwelling Christ. Experience is made up of exercises of the mind, feelings of the heart in the pursuit of holiness and will take on different complexions according to the personality of the receiving subject. Let us direct our energy to the acceptance of Christ as our sanctification, together with meeting all necessary human conditions and then be assured our experience will be satisfactory. (2) Do not have such a low stand of holiness as to be satisfied when the disturbed mind and conscience are quieted. If we stop at this point we will misrepresent the cause of Holiness. (3) Let us not set the standard so high that failing to be delivered of innocent appetites and infirmities we cast away our confidence and relapse into a state of discouragement. The only way into the blessing is living on a christian level of obedience where we are candidates for the blessing.

THE DISCIPLINES OF HOLY LIVING

"He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." The way into the blessing of entire sanctification requires all that we are or ever hope to be and all that we have or ever hope to have. This is the minimum standard for retaining the blessing. Let us never fail of keeping the cross between the new life and the former way of selfish living. Regardless how saintly a christian may be the cross of self denial is still imperative. Some "measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves among themselves and are not wise." They fail to learn of Jesus, and copy after some human ideal. This practice leads to worldliness, pride and a powerless religion.

November 16

BUILDING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Lesson: 2 Peter 1:5-11; Jude 17-21:24-25

Golden Text: As ye therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord; so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him. Colossians 2:6-7.

After we have been born again and sanctified wholly, one of the greatest obligations of life is the building of christian character.

DILIGENCE ESSENTIAL TO HOLY LIVING

"Giving all diligence add to your faith virtue." Diligence is the key to success in all walks of life. God intends everyone to follow some worthy calling and to pursue it with diligence and zeal. Proper devotion to some worthy and useful business is the only natural security against vice and corruption in a moral sense and is truly essential in religious life. An aimless life or one without any objective is incompatible with virtue and true religion. A calling conducted with constancy and diligence is essential to the sanctified life. Diligence always marks the successful man in either religious or civil life.

STEADFASTNESS ESSENTIAL TO HOLY LIVING

"If ye do these things ye shall never fall." Holiness ought to be a state of constant and uninterrupted purity, deepening and permanent through the passing years. This is so if we continue to meet proper conditions. Let us notice some. (1) That Christ is our sanctification. This does not mean that Christ is our sanctification in such a sense as not to include our personal purification, but in such a sense as not to be too concerned about the peculiar experiences attending the indwelling Christ. Because Christ is our sanctification then we will not trust in any form of our own experiences, or someone else's, but in Christ. (2) The Comforter comes to abide with us forever and will do so unless we wilfully and consciously commit sin. If there is a consciousness of sins committed, there should be immediate confession and renunciation that the Holy Spirit grieved and withdrawn may return to do the work essential to the soul's purification. (3) The grace of entire sanctification should be used. God saves us for a twofold purpose, that of saving our soul, and cutting a new channel through which he reaches and saves other souls. Not to use this grace of salvation would be to defeat the purpose for which God bestowed the grace.

PRAYER ESSENTIAL TO HOLY LIVING

"But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." All true praying is in the Holy Ghost. It is He who builds us up and enables us to pray. There are said to be three levels of praying. (1) That of communion. It is just as natural for the christian to pray as it is to breathe. It sustains spiritual life and to cease to pray is to die. (2) That of intercession. This is pleading or intreating in behalf of others. It is spoken of the intercession of Christ. (Isaiah 53:12) Of the Holy Ghost in God's children. (Romans 8:26) Man interceding for temporal benefits. (Jeremiah 7:16) Man interceding for spiritual benefits. (I. Timothy 2:1) Intercession is necessary for the spread of the Gospel and is the life of the church. (3) That of soul travail. "He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." Isaiah 53:7. This is the highest prayer level. This is reached when we become identified with Christ in his spirit and passion for a lost world. Intercession and soul travail are essential for precipitating genuine revivals. May we have more intercessors who will become identified with Christ in his passion for a lost world.

A week filled up with selfishness, and a Sabbath stuffed full of religious exercises, will make a good Pharisee, but a poor Christian.

Temperance Column

WORSE THAN WAR

Like the sulphurous lava boiling beneath the slumbering volcano seconds before it explodes, that's it. Payday, 11,000 men on leave, 486 saloons, streets jammed, free drinks, men staggering from bar to bar, vice, brawls . . . Pearl Harbor, 2,897 dead, terror, destruction . . . China undermined with opium, America with liquor.

Worse than war? "War is hell," said General Sherman. War has taken a back seat. Liquor has decided the fate of the most important battles of history. Alexander the Great died in a drunken debauch, conquered by liquor. The Saxons drank and caroused the night before being beaten at the Battle of Hastings. The 1776 war of liberty was won when Washington and his ragged little army surprised the Hessians who had spent Christmas Eve drinking and carousing. The Battle of Waterloo, 1815? Napoleon's chief marshal was put to bed in a drunken stupor. Napoleon was defeated. World War 1, 1918? Germans in sight of Paris . . . two German divisions fell upon a supply of French whiskey and celebrated their near victory. That inevitable retreat was the turning point of the war. World War II, 1941? French army best trained in world . . . French per capita liquor consumption highest among European nations. French Republic collapsed. Liquor, It's the first foe, World Enemy Number One.

Worse than war? One million alcoholics in the United States, fifty thousand chronic cases added per year, fifty thousand alcoholic deaths per year. Liquor kills 8,000 persons each year in automobile wrecks. It kills thousands annually in home and industrial accidents, suicides, homicides, and disease. Liquor for national revenue is alcohol for national suicide. Worse than war? It's worse than the plague of any of the thirty-one infectious diseases.

Worse than war? Daddy returns home a drunkard. Which is worse—to be captured and die a prisoner of the enemy or become shackled for life, a liquor addict, while in the service of one's country? A magazine published by the brewers said: "Here is a chance for brewers to cultivate a taste for beer in millions of young men who will eventually constitute the largest beer-consuming section of our population." The liquor crowd shouted their 100 per cent brand of patriotism and waved the flag for liberty; then they went all-out against America as a sabotage agent manufacturing and selling poison to our citizens.

Worse than war? Listen, liquor testifies: "I kill one out of every five who die in fatal automobile accidents. I've always had much trouble with the law, and I'll lead you to jail. I shorten life and increase the death rate. I endanger future generations. I break up families and increase the divorce rate. I cause juvenile delinquency. Immortality and crime follow me wherever I go."

You be both the judge and the jury. What is the verdict? What do you say? Guilty! Liquor is our first foe, our nation's greatest saboteur, man's most horrible deathmonger, disease's greatest boom, juvenile delinquency's cradle, crime's most perfect setting, immortality's important collaborator, and youth's deceptionist. It's our World Enemy Number One. Liquor is worse than war!

—Gospel Trumpet.