

## Sunday School Lesson

December 21

A. D. Cann

### THE PRINCE OF PEACE

**Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7; Revelation 11:15; 15:2-4**  
Golden Text: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

As we approach the Christmas season it is with renewed appreciation of the gift of God to the world. Isaiah portrayed the Christ in language which has never been surpassed in any age. The lesson is beautiful but we need the illumination of the Spirit in order to appreciate it fully.

#### THE SON PROMISED

"They joy before thee according to the joy in harvest." Isaiah writes in a time when there was great moral and spiritual darkness. His writings cover a long period of time commencing before the captivity and reaching down through the centuries including the first and second coming of Christ. His prophecies though not fully appreciated by the people, yet were grasped sufficiently to produce hope and courage when everything seemed dark and unpromising. Said he concerning the Messiah—"He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground." Darkness and dryness seemed to describe the age of the Messiah. The world needed a Saviour and what joy when the promise came.

#### THE SON GIVEN

"Unto us a Son is given." This is the greatest gift. Anything less would not have met the need and a greater gift could not be given.

It is significant to note that the source of man's salvation is entirely through God's unmerited mercy and love. Humanity has nothing to pay, for the whole world full of silver and gold would not justify us in the sight of God. Yes, the Son is given and he or his eternal benefits can never be bought, Jesus alone paid the price. The sinless one took on his strong shoulders the sin of the whole world. He bore our sins in his own body upon the tree, and only through him can we be saved. We accept salvation as a gift or we do not have it at all. Nothing that I can do or hope to do will ever make me acceptable to God. It is strange how many seem to think that salvation consists of "doing the best we can." If such were true then there would be no need of Jesus or the grace of God. On the other hand some seem to think that because God has given His Son to the world we therefore have no further obligations. This also is false for it is not God's love that saves us but His grace.

#### THE SON DESCRIBED

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Jesus is wonderful in His character. Though in the world and mingling among sinners yet He Himself never sinned. He walked with sinners yet lived on a level infinitely above them. He is the great counsellor. Those who seek "the mind of Christ" will lead the most eventful and useful lives. The everlasting Father represented the highest of the high and in his lowly birth he represents the lowest of the low. His sinlessness enabled him to make an atonement and his deity enabled him to forgive. He is the personification of peace and good will. He is the Saviour that the world needs today.

December 28

### GOD'S ETERNAL RULE

**Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7; 22-27**

Golden Text: Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Psalm 145:13

Our lesson today is a brief description of future events. It points to a new heaven, a

new earth, a new city, a new ruler and a new government.

#### PERFECT POSSESSION

"God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." While in the body we suffer many limitations of which sickness and pain are the greatest. The lesson points to the day when the curse shall be lifted and the redeemed shall be in possession of perfect health. Death is an enemy and we resist this enemy with all our strength and intelligence. Death finally wins out hence we cannot speak of a total redemption until the believer is glorified. This, however, is to be a glorious reality. We all like new things and to think that some day we will have a whole new body is more than we can comprehend. Yes, we look forward to being able to sing, testify, etc., in a way that we have not been able to here owing to the limitations of the body.

#### PERFECT SUPPLY

"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Notice the subject: "I." The supply is divine and God-given. The tense of the verb, "will give," expresses promise and purpose. In the remainder of the sentence we have the opportunity of partaking of the fountain of the water of life. (1) First we would notice that the fountain will never run dry. (2) That it is for those that are athirst. Jesus said—"blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." It is next to impossible to make an animal drink if it is not thirsty. It is equally difficult to lead people into the fulness of the Spirit while they still cherish the world and its lusts. (3) That it is freely given. Recently we corrected one of our children saying—do not waste the water—it is hard to get. Said he: "Does not God give us the water?" Yes, that is true but it costs to have a plumber lay a pipe and bring it into the house. So likewise God has given us the Gospel but it costs something to get its message to the minds and hearts of the people. If everyone who has heard the message would be a channel in giving it to others it would soon cover the globe. The supply is unlimited but the laborers are few.

#### PERFECT DAY

"And the gate of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." There will be no need of the lesser light to rule the heart. How much evil has been done in the world under the cover of darkness. Because of this fact in many sections there is a dread of the night. Probably for this reason darkness has been the symbol of sin. Thank the Lord that we do not have to have darkness in our souls. Indeed we can have perfect day in the midst of perfect darkness. Said John—"the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."

#### GRACE AND TRUTH AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas brings the happy reminder of the coming to earth of the One who was said to be "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Perhaps nothing more significant was ever said of Him. And certainly this could not be said of any one else in all the long history of humanity.

Apart from Christ men have told the truth, or fought for the truth, or propagated truth. But only Christ is able to say, "I am the truth."

To be full of truth would be to leave no room for error or evil, for either intentional or unintentional wrong.

Among men there are degrees of identification with truth. Some believe in it, but do not follow it. Others follow it, but do not embrace it. How many failures in leadership there have been through failure to apprehend it.

In Christ truth dwelt in fulness. He was forever truth—in word, in silence, in character, in knowledge.

Now, truth of itself conveys to us nothing of hope or promise. It is as rigid and uncom-

promising as righteousness. As we look at His truth we see our own failure. But, thank God, the Christ of Christmas is also full of grace.

Grace without measure, without limit in Christ! That is what "full of grace" must mean. There is no room in Him for anything opposed to grace. Kindness, gentleness, consideration, love, all of these are included, no doubt.

The entire fact is that both truth and grace dwell in Him and He is full of each. The balance is there. The condemnation truth would bring is met by the "Go and sin no more" of grace.

"Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17) is a further word in this matter. These qualities had never, in fullness, been seen before. Yes, it might be said, "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."—Moody Monthly.

#### A LITTLE PRAYER

Day by day,  
Dear Lord, of Thee,  
Three things I pray:  
To see Thee more clearly,  
Love Thee more dearly,  
Follow Thee more nearly  
Day by day.

## OBITUARY

On Wednesday, Nov. 19th, at his home in Woods Harbour, **Mr. Desmond Stoddard** at the age of 71, passed away following a lingering illness.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. L. T. Sabine on the Sunday following.

To the widow and the family of eight children sympathy is extended.

**Albert L. Hopper**, of Lewisville, passed away at the Moncton City Hospital Nov. 10th, 1947, at the age of 76. He had been ill only two weeks and his passing came as a great shock to the bereaved family, the mother having predeceased her husband only six months ago.

Mr. Hopper was a member of the Reformed Baptist Church, Moncton, and was a fine Christian man, loved and respected by all who knew him. He is survived by eight daughters and six sons. The daughters are: Mrs. Forest Wilson, Parkside; Mrs. Roy Leaman, Lewisville, N. B.; Mrs. Wickcliffe Lutes, Parkside, N. B.; Mrs. Wallace Lutes, Hildegard, N. B.; Mrs. Sydney Chatten, Lakefield, Ont.; Mrs. George Coneen, Lakeville, N. B.; Mrs. E. E. Lansdale, Hamilton, Ont.; and Mrs. Murray Chappell, Lewisville, N. B. The sons are Charlie, Montreal, P. Q.; Frank, Sunny Brae, N. B.; Harold, Detroit, Mich.; Carl, Lakeville, N. B.; Warman, Humphrey, N. B.; and George, St. John, N. B. A sister, Mrs. Jane Steeves, also survives; also forty-three grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. The funeral was held from Tuttle's Funeral Parlors Nov. 13th, and was largely attended. Rev. B. C. Cochrane, of the Reformed Baptist Church, conducted the service, assisted by Rev. E. J. Chisholm, of the Lewisville U. B. Church, and the choir of the Reformed Baptist Church. The choir sang "My Saviour First of All" and "Does Jesus Care". The pallbearers were the six sons of the deceased. Burial was in Elmwood cemetery. The beautiful floral tributes expressed the high esteem in which the late Mr. Hopper was held.