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LOCAL NEWSPAPER BIBLE STUDY CLUB

Suggestive questions on the Sunday school lesson by Rev. Dr. Linscott for the International Newspaper Bible Study Club.

December 5th, 1909

Paul on the Grace of Giving—II Cor. viii:1-15.

Golden Text—Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts xx:35.

Are these words in the Golden Text quoted from Jesus hyperbolic, that is, a rhetorical over-statement, or is it literally true, that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and if so, why? (This question must be answered in writing by members of the club.)

Verses 1-6—Is it according to animal nature, or to average human nature, to give to others outside of kith or kin?

Is giving liberally, intelligently and systematically, to religion and charity always a "grace," that is an inclination Divinely imparted?

What is the relation between giving and loving?

If we are in need or "affliction" ourselves will the grace of giving still operate in us, if our hearts are right?

May "deep poverty," great "joy" and rich "liberality" be in the same life, and is such a combination natural or supernatural?

There was great poverty and suffering among the Christians at Jerusalem, and the liberality of the poor churches at Macedonia to relieve their need is what Paul here refers to; contrast the evil at Jerusalem with the resultant good grace of giving developed at Macedonia, and say which is the greater; that is did the result do as much good, or exceed the evil done by the cause?

Titus, it would appear, was appointed to present to the Corinthians the need of the Jerusalem Christians, to take up a collection and to develop them in the grace of giving; why is there no work more noble, or duty more imperative, than for ministers and teachers to teach the people the duty and joy of giving?

Verses 7-8 Paul apparently assumed that a person may abound "in faith and utterance and knowledge, and in love," and not abound in the grace of giving; but is he right, for how can such a thing be possible?

Paul states that he did not urge the grace of giving by "command-

ment;" is it therefore any less the duty, and privilege of every Christian rich and poor, to abound in this grace?

Verse 9—What should be the supreme motive, and what is the greatest inducement to give liberally?

What is the chief grace in the resplendent character of Jesus?

Did the giving of Jesus of himself, and all he had for us, imply permanent poverty for him, or was it the surest way to all that great wealth is supposed to stand for?

Why does giving of all kinds finally result in getting more of that which we give, than would be possible if we kept it? (Think of money, love, knowledge, experience, encouragement, etc.)

Verses 10-11—What is the difference in promising a subscription to religion or benevolence and not paying it, and not paying your grocer or baker?

Verses 12-14—What is the proportion of our income which the Bible demands of us, as a minimum?

What are some of the many advantages of the tything system?

Verse 15—What reason is there to believe that if we give systematically to God's cause that we ourselves shall never lack?

Lesson for Sunday, Dec. 12th, 1909. Paul's Last Words, II Tim. iv:1-18.

Oregon Agricultural College Winter Courses

January 4th to February 18th, 1910

Practical work, lectures and demonstrations will be given in such vital subjects as General Farming, Fruit Culture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry-keeping, the Business Side of Farming, Forestry, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Mechanical Drawing, Cooking, Sewing, Dress-making, Home Management, etc.

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