

# LESSON IN HONESTY IS TAUGHT BY THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY TEXT

By Rev. W. L. Deming

International Bible school (e) on for January 25th, 1920. Subject: Peter Stands up for Truth and Honesty. Lesson Text, Acts 5:1-11.

Golden Text. Lying lips are abomination to the Lord, but they that deal truly are His delight. Proverbs 12:22.

While the above subject has been selected by the International Committee for this text, I prefer to treat it as a lesson on Church Discipline, which is emphatically is; nevertheless the true character and courage of Peter stands out conspicuously.

The lesson naturally divides itself into four heads, and we should always allow the Scripture its natural divisions. 1. The Lie. 2. The Denunciation. 3. The Punishment. 4. The Result. With these four headings in our minds let us carefully trace the story and apply its teachings.

The first church (The Jerusalem Church) was made as near perfect as it could be with human materials. This implies that exceptions would be found in the case of individuals. So, in the course of time one of its greatest virtues became a source of temptation and sin to two weak members. One day, while Peter was presiding at the meeting, a brother named Ananias walked forward, and laid at his feet a sack of silver which contained, he said, the price of a piece of land which he and his wife had sold for the benefit of the poor. If the disciples of that age had been as demonstrative and irreverent in the Lord's house as are some of our modern assemblies, I think there would have been general and very hearty hand clapping and perhaps stamping of the feet at this deed.

What then was the consternation of the brethren, when they saw a frown on Peter's brow and a stern look come to his face, and heard from him these blistering words: Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Thou has not lied unto men, but unto God." While they listened and gazed, Ananias falls to the floor, and the cry is raised, He is dead. A few hours later the wife of the dead man walks in and shares the same fate, because they had agreed together to tempt the Spirit of God.

What awful work this was; and how quickly done. Nothing but solemnity and awe like that of the judgment day. And whose work was it? Not that of Peter, but of the great Head of the church, who thus exercised discipline in His church, so as to show those to whom it would afterwards be entrusted, the promptness with which crying sins must be rebuked if the church would please Him. This is a divine intimation on the subject of discipline. Shall we learn the lesson, or shall we continue, as so many churches have long been doing, to keep the ungodly in the church, under the vain delusion that we are exercising forbearance and mercy which heaven will approve, or under the idle impression that we have a better hope of saving a wicked man in the church, than if we cast him out. Don't you think that God knows more than we do about you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which they received from us." 2 Thess. 3:6.

And again: "But now I have written

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unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." 1 Cor. 5:11-13.

Such discipline did not scare everybody away from the church as some might suppose, but gave everybody to understand that this was a church in which open and manifest sin could not be tolerated. Nor did the reputation of the church suffer prodigiously, for we read, just as we might expect, that: "Great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things," (vs 11); "And believers were the more added to the Lord, Multitudes both of men and women" (vs. 14). Just so it will ever be.

Let us lay aside our compromises with sin, and boldly follow the model church (God's pattern in the mount) in keeping a high wall and a deep ditch between the church and the world, while we open the gates in the precise words of Holy Writ to those who are in earnest about their soul's salvation.

## SAN FRANCISCO SHOW TO BE BIG

Motorists of Sunny South to See Great Galaxy of New Cars

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24—The spotlight of public interest in the Southwest will be turned on the automobile industry during the week beginning February 21, with the fourth annual Pacific automobile show at the Exposition auditorium in San Francisco.

As one of the national expositions of the motor car industry, the San Francisco show this year, under the auspices of the Motor Car Dealers' association, is attracting one of the greatest number of feature exhibits in the history of the industry in the West. Hundreds of motor car enthusiasts and Pacific coast dealers have volunteered their cooperation to insure its success.

This will be San Francisco's first major entertainment in the new year and the city will don her festival garb for the motorists' week.

## 10 Year Old Velie As Good As New Today

By Rolla Ralston

You hear it said ever and often, "Where do all the old automobiles go?" and well can one ponder over that question, as there are upwards of a million cars traded in or re-placed every year and the old models must go—somewhere.

The majority of old cars go to the junk man, of course. They were improperly built originally and did not stand up as well as the cars of today; they were too expensive to operate, and nit at all comfortable or efficient. Those old cars deserve to be melted up and used again.

Then there are the fairly good cars which are converted into trucks and serve a period of usefulness before being finally claimed by the scrap man. Then, the majority of cheap cars, whose short life is the joy of the iron dealer, and finally the old cars that are still serviceable and going strong.

Our company is endeavoring to locate the oldest Velie car in service, and while the search is not yet ended this story is interesting.

Dr. William B. Vail of Wayne, Neb., writes us follows: "My Velie is ten years old, bought in 1909; the original paint is still in elegant shape and luster. I have driven it more than 102,000 miles at a cost of not more than \$65 and am still using it every day in my practice. I wish you could see me climb hills on high with my Velie, that tax the stamina of new cars."

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

(Saturday, January 24, 1920)  
Centenary of the birth of Henry J. Raymond, one of the founders of the New York Times, and also noted as an orator and statesman.  
Centenary of the birth of Gen. John M. Thayer, civil war commander, U. S. senator and governor of Nebraska, and governor of Wyoming Territory.  
Today is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the disaster to the steamship

Chicora, the mystery of the disappearance of which in Lake Michigan, with all on board, has never been fully solved.  
The cornerstone for New York's new "Civic Auditorium, or "Town Meeting Hall," to be erected by the League for Political Education and similar bodies, is to be held today by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.  
Sunday, January 24, 1920  
Scottish societies the world over today will observe the birthday anniversary of Robert Burns.  
The Most Rev. Edward J. McCar-

thy, archbishop of Halifax, celebrates his seventieth birthday.  
Child Labor Sunday will be observed today with special sermons in many churches throughout the United States.  
The American Tract Society has designed today as "Christian Literature Sunday," in order to rally the nation for conserving moral and spiritual lift.  
**WHEN ANSWERING classified ads, kindly mention the Democrat.**



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