

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for September 20

CHRISTIAN LIVING

LESSON TEXT—Romans 12:1-3, 9-12. GOLDEN TEXT—Christ liveth in me. Galatians 2:20. PRIMARY TOPIC—How Jesus Wants His Friends to Act. JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul Explains How to Act. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What Is Christian Living? YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How to Live as a Christian.

As a fitting conclusion to a three-month study of the Spread of Christianity to the gentle peoples of Western Asia, we consider the teaching of the great apostle to the Gentiles concerning "Christian-Living."

The early chapters of Paul's epistle to the Romans present the greatest exposition of profound Christian doctrine ever written. But even as it is true that the fruit of Christian living can grow only on the tree of Christian doctrine, it is equally true that the knowledge of Christian truth should result in Christian living. "Faith without works is dead."

Our lesson pointedly presents the true Christian life as being

I. A Life Yielded to God (Rom. 12:1-3).

A recognition and deep appreciation of the mercies of God leads to a yielding of body and mind in living sacrifice to God. If we are Christians our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We must not lend our bodies to activities which destroy their usefulness or hinder our service for God but rather yield the body with all its abilities to God! But after all "it is the inside of a man that counts." The presenting of the body in living sacrifice is possible only when there has been the inner transformation by the renewing of the mind. One cannot live physically without being born; it is equally impossible to live a Christian life without having been born again.

The Christian life is yielded to God not only for its own peace and satisfaction, but it is to be

II. A Life of Service (vv. 9-15).

We are not saved by serving but we are saved to serve. In the first place the Christian serves the Lord. He abhors evil, but his life is not merely negative, for he cleaves to that which is good. He is not lazy, but diligent. His spirit is aglow with zeal for God and his cause. He is full of joy and hope, patient under trials, a man of steadfastness in prayer. Such a man will not fail to serve his fellow-man. He will really love the brethren, not merely make a hypocritical show of loving them. He will seek the honor of others rather than his own glory. He will be given to the almost lost art of hospitality. He will be ready to stand by his brother, in the day of joy or of sorrow. He will go even further, for he will bless those that persecute him. The measure is not yet full for we note next that the Christian lives—

III. A Life of Humility (v. 16).

In these days when we are urged to assert ourselves, to demand our rights, to "succeed" at any cost, and when men are measured by their worldly achievements, it sounds rather old-fashioned to talk about humility, about condescending to lowly things, of not being "wise in our own conceits."

But humility is still the crowning grace of a truly Christian life. Those who follow the lowly Jesus, in fact as well as in profession, are still strongest when they are weak, and mightiest for God when they are humble. Note also that we follow a victorious Christ who calls us to

IV. A Life of Victory (vv. 17-21).

It is possible to talk much about the victorious life—to discuss it at length as a theological question—and have little real victory. Paul speaks plainly. The Christian is honorable in all things. He meets every obligation. He is a man of peace. He is not concerned with avenging himself upon one who has done him wrong. Spite fences, boundary disputes, family quarrels, are not for him. Evil is not to overcome him. God gives the victory. A great lesson, and one that we cannot study without some disquieting thought. Christian, how does your life and mine appear as they are held up to the mirror of God's Word? Let us make a covenant that by God's grace and power we shall go forward in real "Christian living."

A Human Being

There cannot be a more glorious object in creation than a human being, replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself more acceptable to his Creator by doing most good to his creatures.—Fielding.

Visions of Better Life

It is well to have visions of a better life than that of every day, but it is the life of every day from which elements of a better life must come.—Maeterlinck.

WORLD'S BEST COMICS

Lighter Side of Life as Depicted by Famous Cartoonists and Humorists

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



No Comeback



QUACK



S'MATTER POP— Here's a Test—If in Doubt About Your Breath

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

And a Good Time Was Had by All



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

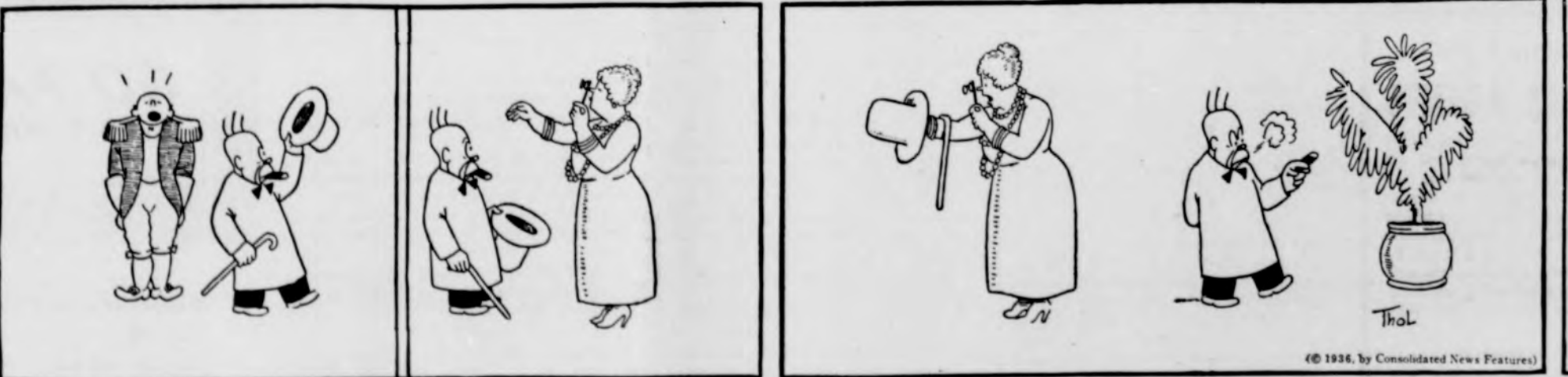
By Ted O'Loughlin

Circumstantial Evidence



ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES

Going High-Hat By O. JACOBSSON



The Curse of Progress



Caveman Style

A woman who was having a house built detected one of the bricklayers halving the bricks with his trowel. With a triumphant gleam in her eyes she approached him swiftly and said: "Isn't that rather a primitive way of cutting a brick in half?" The man looked up, smiled and said: "Lor' bless yer dear heart, lidy, there's a far more primitive way than this, believe me." "Really, and what's that?" she inquired. "Biting it, lidy, biting it."

Useless Clock

Pat always was late for work, and the foreman advised him to buy an alarm clock. The Irishman did so, but still he continued to put in a belated appearance at his job. "Why can't you turn up at the right time, Pat, now you've got an alarm clock?" asked the foreman. "Bedad," replied Pat, "it's no good; it goes off when I'm asleep." —Exchange.

RESTLESS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

