

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for August 29

GOD CONDEMNS INTEMPERANCE.

LESSON TEXT—Leviticus 10:1, 2, 8-11; Proverbs 31:4, 5; Isaiah 28:1-8; Romans 14:21.

GOLDEN TEXT—Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov. 20:1. PRIMARY TOPIC.—What a Wise King Said.

JUNIOR TOPIC—When a Man Drinks. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How Drinking Harms Others. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Why Beverage Alcohol Is a Social Foe.

The use of intoxicating liquors is financially unprofitable to the nation, scientifically unwise and destructive, socially degrading, and morally wrong.

I. The Problem.

The selected Old Testament scriptures which comprise our lesson present the use of intoxicants as causing four socially undesirable results.

1. Religious disobedience (Lev. 10:1,2; Isa. 28:7). Two things we may rightfully expect of those who serve the nation in its religious life: (1) a vision of God and obedience to that vision in life and service, and (2) the exercise of sound God-guided judgment in the affairs of the people. But note what happens when the prophet and the priest turn to wine and strong drink. "They err in vision" (Isa. 28:7). That is, they have no clear concepts of divine truth, and lead the people into error. Further, we see that "they stumble in judgment." To every true servant of God comes repeatedly the opportunity and the need of rendering judgment, that is, of advising and counselling those to whom he ministers. If his mind is befuddled by the use of alcohol (or, for that matter, of any other kind of worldly indulgence) he will "stumble," and cause his people to stumble.

A sad incident is related in Lev. 10:1,2 of the sons of Aaron, appointed to the priesthood and instructed in its privileges and duties, but coming with strange fire to be offered before the Lord. Swift and terrible was the judgment they received. We are not told directly that they were intoxicated, but it is implied in the fact that there is an immediate injunction against the use of wine by the priests.

Let someone think that such a thing could not happen in our day the writer mentions word which recently came to him that a leading seminary has professors on its staff who defend the so-called moderate use of alcoholic drink.

2. Political disorder (Prov. 1:5). While political leaders make sanctimonious protestations that government agencies are not influenced by the liquor interests, it is common knowledge to even those who are slightly informed that the two are closely associated. The result of that unholy alliance is rightly described in Prov. 31:5—"They forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." Much of the sad disorder in the body politic is traceable directly to the door of the makers and sellers of alcoholic beverages.

3. National decay (Isa. 28:1-6). "Overcome with wine"—stricken down, useless in life, without true ambition, such is the picture of the man who gives himself to drink. Poverty, with all its attendant social problems, follows on the heels of the sale and use of intoxicants. Some liquor dealers are beginning to sense a rising tide of opposition to their business, and are advertising, "We do not want bread money," but the fact is that it is all too often bread money that goes for liquor, and the vile stuff is still on sale where the poor man may readily spend his "bread money" for it.

4. Personal degradation (Isa. 28:8). "Vomit and filthiness" are not very nice words, but they describe accurately the ultimate condition of the drinker and his surroundings. The writer knows a young man who boasts that he never gets drunk because the "booze" makes him so sick that he vomits it up. Imagine a supposedly intelligent man drinking stuff so vile that his stomach (evidently having more sense than his head) sends it back—and then boasting of his ability to drink more!

II. The Solution, a Divine Principle (Rom. 14:21).

Thousands of Christian people have solved not only the drink problem, but practically every question of conduct and social life by applying this principle. Surely no true follower of Christ will be guilty of doing anything that will cause any brother to be offended, to stumble, or to be made weak.

Foundations

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of woman; the foundation of political happiness is confidence in the integrity of man; the foundation of happiness, temporal and eternal, is reliance on the goodness of God.—Landon.

Reading Good Books

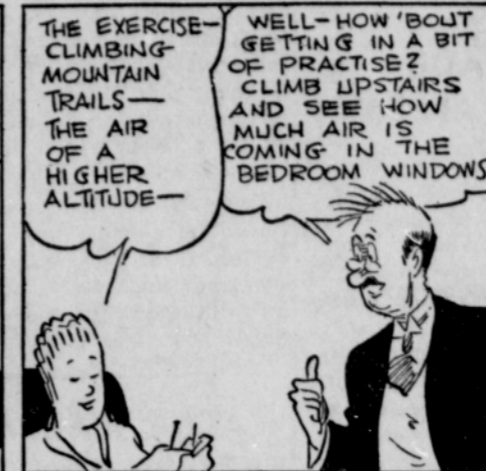
Book love is your pass to the greatest and purest and the most perfect pleasures that God has prepared for His creatures.

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



At the Peak



'SMATTER POP—A Saxophone Otta Be a Moneymaker Also

By C. M. PAYNE



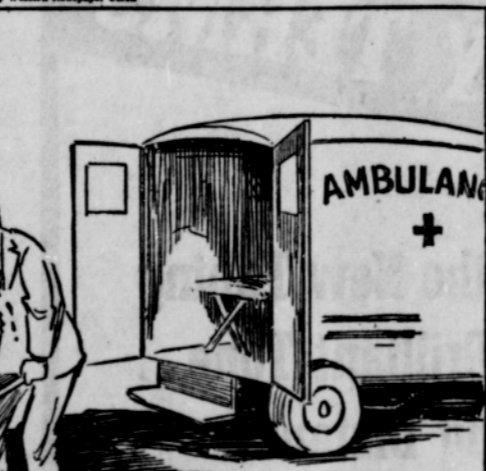
MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin

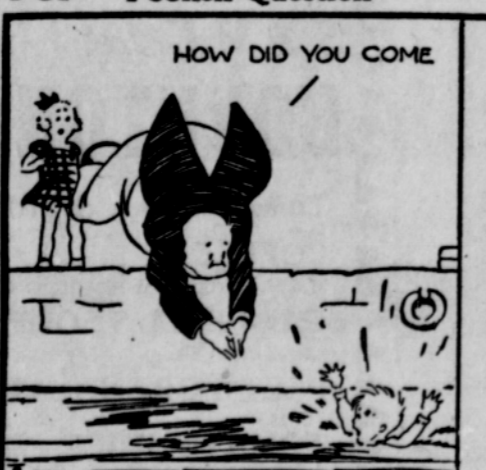


Over the Plate



POP—Foolish Question

By J. MILLAR WATT



Curse of Progress



English Lesson

It was Timothy's first day at school. He walked up to the teacher's desk and announced: "I ain't got no pencil!"

Shocked at his expression, the teacher explained, "Oh, Timothy, I have no pencil."

A sympathetic look crossed the small boy's face, and he replied: "You ain't either? Well, we're both in the same fix."

Discreet

Young Man—Why do you keep a parrot? Very Old Man—Because I like to hear it talk. The parrot is the only creature gifted with the power of speech that is content to repeat just what it hears without trying to make a long story of it.

A Baptism!

Minister (at baptism)—What is the baby's name, please? Father (proudly)—Robert William Montgomery Morgan Maxwell. Minister (to assistant)—More water, please.—Wall Street Journal.

STUDYING

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

