

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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

Lesson for October 3 CHRISTIAN SONSHIP

LESSON TEXT—1 John 3:1-6, 18-24. GOLDEN TEXT—But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12. PRIMARY TOPIC—What John Learned from Jesus. JUNIOR TOPIC—John's Way. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What Makes Us Children of God? YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christian Sonship.

"Studies in the Christian Life." What an attractive title, and what interesting and instructive studies we are to share during the coming three months!

When setting out on a journey we want to know just where we are going. Just so when we take up a new study we need to define the limits of our subject. We are to study the Christian life—not life in general, not religious life, no, not even life in a Christian land or during the Christian era. It is therefore most appropriate that our first lesson in this series should tell us who the Christian is and how he lives.

I. God's Children—Who They Are (vv. 1-6).

1. They are "Born ones" (v. 1). The Revised Version correctly translates "sons" as "children." We are sons in our position, but we are children by the new birth. A man may attain the legal relationship of a son by adoption, but he can be a child only by birth.

2. They are separated ones (v. 1). The world, that is, unregenerate man, does not belong to this family of God. How hard it is for even church people to understand that fact. They do not appreciate and cannot understand God's children, because they themselves do not know God.

3. They are glorified ones (v. 2). "We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is." What a glorious hope, realized even now by faith in the hearts and lives of God's children. The present difference between God's children and the world is to become even greater, for in that day when Christ "shall appear" (for he is coming again!) God's children shall be like him. Spiritually and morally—yes, and even their bodies shall be transformed.

4. They are purified ones (vv. 3-6). The standard whereby the Christian measures his life is the purity of Christ. The question is not "How much purer am I than my friends and acquaintances?" No, the norm for the Christian life is far higher, we are to be purified as "he is pure."

All sin is a disregard of God's law (v. 4). His children do not thus defy Him. They have taken as their Saviour the one "who was manifested to take away sins." There was no sin in him, and the one who abides in him has victory and does not live in sin. He may fall into some act of sin, but in utter misery and repentance he turns from it to his Deliverer.

II. God's Children—How They Live (vv. 18-24).

Love is the supreme test of Christian profession. "We know we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren," says John in v. 14 (R. V.). How far should love go? "We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (v. 16).

Such a sacrifice is not often demanded of us, but the writer goes on to say that we may show that spirit in daily service to those in need.

1. In loving and sacrificial service (v. 18). Words may comfort and strengthen, especially when they are words of love. Love does not stop with words, however, but acts, reflecting the spirit of God, who not only is good, but does good.

2. In the assurance of faith (vv. 19-24). Assurance is the blessed privilege of the child of God. Well may we feel condemned when we measure our lives by his divine tests. But after all, even "if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart." Salvation does not depend on either our works or our feelings. It is of God. Does this condone sin? God forbid. We are rather so to walk that "our heart condemn us not."

3. In unquestioning obedience (vv. 22-24). The hallmark of character in a child is obedience. Scripture does not countenance the unfortunate standards of men on this point. The children of God "keep his commandments" which are beautifully summed up in v. 23 as believing in Christ and loving one another.

Divine Purpose

What is it after all which gives men the energy to do things seemingly impossible? It is, and always has been, the result of the divine purpose.

Bond of Perfectness

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Honesty the Best Policy

Unimpaired integrity is an incomparable asset.

Fun for the Whole Family

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



S'MATTER POP—Willyum, He Did tha Countin'

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

No Cause to Worry



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

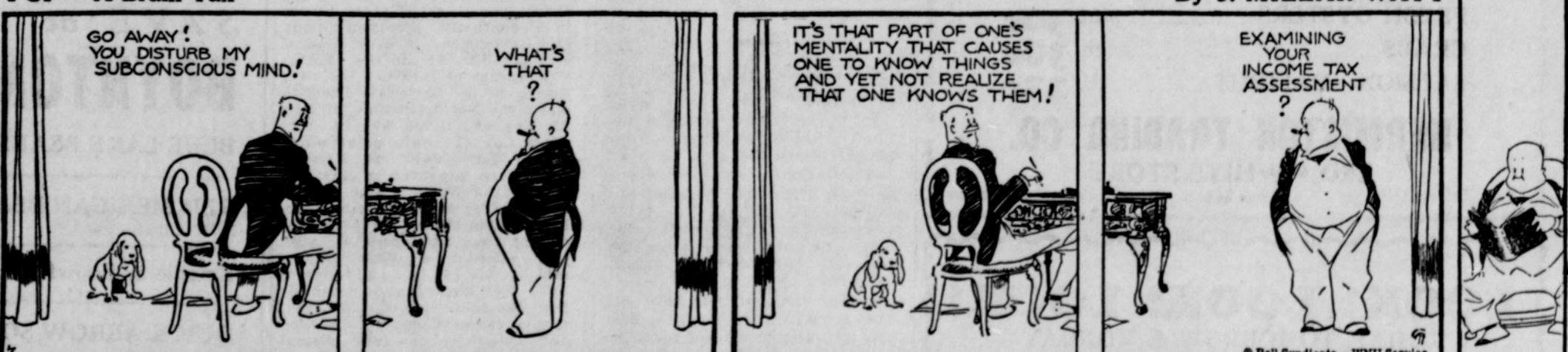
By Ted O'Loughlin

Horse Line



POP—A Brain Tax

By J. MILLAR WATT



The Curse of Progress



Proof

Two old darky men were having a heated argument. The cause of all the bother was that each accused the other of marrying a woman who was not quite a full-blooded negress. "Let me tell you," said Mose, "mah Lindy am so black dat when she cries Ah saves de tears an' uses dem for ink." Sambo laughed sarcastically. "Bo," he replied, "dat ain't nuff'n at all. Mah Dinah am so black dat ebery time she sneezes de room am sure filled with soot."—London Answers Magazine.

Not Up to Standard

"Jimmy, dear," whispered the burglar's bride, as he started on his evening's work, "try to be a little quieter when you come in tonight." "Certainly, kid," replied the husband. "Did I wake you up last night?" "No, but you wakened mother. And I don't want her running up to the prison and complaining to father that I married an amateur."—Stray Stories Magazine.

HELP IN PARKING

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

