



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

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"Dedicated to Teacher and Pupil

What Does Prayer Mean to You?

"Nothing should be of greater concern to the Sunday school teacher than his prayer life. What place does it have in your daily schedule? How much energy is invested in it? How much benefit is derived from it? Has prayer become a habit, or is it a sort of last resort in time of crisis or tragedy? The urgent needs of our individual personalities plus the terrific perils of a world order crashing on the rocks of greed, lust and hate should impel teachers to face anew the supreme importance of prayer. An effective prayer life calls for the investment of time. One must spend sufficient time to concentrate his thoughts upon God and become aware of the spiritual realities of which life is made. Prayer involves communion with God, and this takes time: time to listen, and God often does not speak hurriedly; time to talk to the Father, and there are numberless things about which loving children should desire to converse with Him.

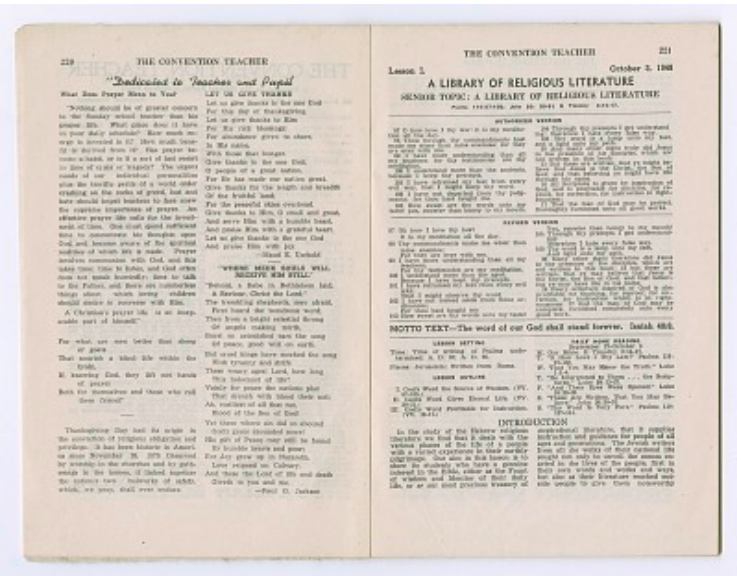
A Christian's prayer life is an inseparable part of himself."

For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
[[line]]

Thanksgiving Day had its origin in the conviction of religious obligation and privilege. It has been historic in America since November 26, 1879. Observed by worship in the churches and by gatherings in the homes, it linked together the nation's two bulwarks of safety, which, we pray, shall ever endure.

LET US GIVE THANKS

Let us give thanks to the one God
For this day of thanksgiving,
Let us give thanks to Him
For His rich blessings;
For abundance given to share,
In His name,
With those that hunger.
Give thanks to the one God,
O people of a great nation,
For He has made our nation great.
Give thanks for the length and breadth
Of the fruitful land;
For the peaceful skies overhead.
Give thanks to Him, O small and great,
And serve Him with a humble heart,
And praise Him with a grateful heart.
Let us give thanks to the one God
And praise Him with joy.
-Maud E. Uschold
[[line]]



"WHERE MEEK SOULS WILL RECEIVE HIM STILL"

"Behold, a Babe in Bethlehem laid,
A Saviour, Christ the Lord;"
The trembling shepherds, sore afraid,
First heard the wondrous word;
Then from a bright celestial throng
Of angels making mirth,
Burst on astonished ears the song
Of peace, good will on earth.
But cruel kings have mocked the song
With tyranny and strife
These weary ages! Lord, how long
This holocaust of life?
Vainly for peace the nations plan
That drench with blood their sod;
Ah, costliest of all that ran,
Blood of the Son of God!
Yet there where sin did so abound
God's grace abounded more!
His gift of Peace may still be found
By humble hearts and poor;
For Joy grew up in Nazareth,
Love reigned on Calvary,
And these the Lord of life and death
Giveth to you and me.
-Paul G. Jackson

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THE CONVENTION TEACHER 221

Lesson I. October 3, 1948

A LIBRARY OF RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

SENIOR TOPIC: A LIBRARY OF RELIGIOUS LITERATURE
Psalms 119:97-105; John 20:30-31 II Timothy 3:16-17.
[[line]]

AUTHORIZED VERSION

97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine
enemies: for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies
are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy
word.

102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
[[line]]

REVISED VERSION

97 Oh how I love thy law!
It is my meditation all the day.

98 Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies;
For they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers;
For thy testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged,
Because I have kept thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
That I might observe thy word.

102 I have not turned aside from thine ordinances;
For thou hast taught me.

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste!
Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding:
Therefore I hate every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
And light unto my path.

30 Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.

16 Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: 17 that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.
[[line]]

MOTTO TEXT - The word of our God shall stand forever. Isaiah 40:8.
[[line]]

LESSON SETTING

Time: Time of writing of Psalms undetermined. A. D. 33; A. D. 66.
Places: Jerusalem; Written from Rome.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. God's Word the Source of Wisdom. (VV. 97-105.)
- II. God's Word Gives Eternal Life. (VV. 30-31.)
- III. God's Word Profitable for Instruction. (VV. 16-17.)

DAILY HOME READING

September 27-October 3
M. Our Bible. II Timothy 3:14-17.
T. "O How Love I Thy Law!" Psalms 119: 97-105
W. "That You May Know the Truth." Luke 1:1-4.
T. "He Interpreted to Them...the Scriptures." Luke 24:13-27.
F. "And Their Eyes Were Opened." Luke 24:28-35.
S. "These Are Written, That You May Believe." John 20:30-31.
S. "Thy Word Is Very Pure." Psalms 119:137-144.

INTRODUCTION

In the study of the Hebrew religious literature we find that it deals with the various phases of the life of a people with a varied experience in their earthly pilgrimage. Our aim in this lesson is to show its students who have a genuine interest in the Bible, either as the Fount of wisdom and Monitor of their daily life, or as our most precious treasury of inspirational literature, that it supplies instruction and guidance for people of all ages and generations. The Jewish writers from all the walks of their national life sought not only to unveil the scenes enacted in the lives of the people, first in their own words and works and ways, but also as their literature reached outside people to give them noteworthy

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