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THE AMERICAN UNION

for it has more news of Caroline County and the Eastern Shore in it than any the paper published in Caroline County.

Examine carefully the papers of Caroline County, count the number of columns of local news in each and see for yourself that the above statement is true. Our aim is to give the news, ALL the NEWS of the county.

We have each week two columns of news for the house wife, which are written by a specialist in her line. These two columns are well worth the price of the paper themselves.

On the first page of The American Union each week is an article written in prose-poetry, taking up some thought along life's highway which is very interesting and well were a little afterthought.

Another section of the paper is devoted to items from all over the Eastern Shore, which gives an idea of what is going on among our neighbors.

For those who like to smile we have a joke column under the heading "Chips" which we endeavor to keep filled with sayings worthy a smile.

All through the paper you will find columns of news from the various sections of the county, giving the comings and goings of your friends and neighbors.

As this section is primarily devoted to farming, we print each week much news of interest to farmers, poultrymen, hog raisers, etc., which comes either from the government, College Park, or some other approved source, and is calculated to save you time, money and energy. Here again we outrun the other papers, in the amount of such news printed each week.

We are glad to receive suggestions at any time. If there is something you want to know, some question you want to ask, some way in which we can help you, just let us know, and we will do our best to help you.

SUBSCRIBE NOW—THIS WEEK—TODAY—Let us send you this paper which has the most news and the most helps for the farmer and his household.

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DENTON, MD.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR MAY 20

ELIJAH, THE BRAVE REFORMER

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 18:17-46.

GOLDEN TEXT—Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—Joshua 24:15.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Malachi 4: 5, 6; Matthew 11:14; 16:14; Luke 1:17; John 1:21-25; James 5:17, 18.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Elijah and the Poor Woman.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Elijah's Wonderful Victory.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How Elijah Defied Wickedness.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Modern Reformers Can Learn from Elijah.

I. Elijah Meets Ahab. (vv. 17, 18). At the Lord's command Elijah showed himself to Ahab. When Elijah last was seen by Ahab he announced that rain would only be given by his word (17:1). In connection with the prophet's appearance before the king, rain was promised.

1. Ahab's Question. "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (v. 17). Ahab's aim was to intimidate Elijah, to awe him into submission.

2. Elijah's Answer. (v. 18). He denied the charge and boldly declared that the calamity which had befallen the nation was caused by the idolatry of Ahab and his family.

II. Elijah's Challenge. (vv. 19-24).

1. The People Assembled. (vv. 19, 20). The king convened the people at the urgent request of Elijah.

2. Elijah's Ringing Call to Decision (vv. 21-24). (1) The question asked, "Who is your God, Baal or the Lord?" (v. 21). Many of the people had not wholly forsaken God. They attempted to worship both God and Baal. Many today are halting between two opinions. They are halting between self and Savior, sin and holiness, mammon and God. (2) The silence of the people. (v. 21). This may have been because of fear of the king or of ignorance, for many were of the opinion that to be religious was the only thing necessary, irrespective of the being worshiped. There is all the difference between merely worshiping and really worshiping God that there is between hell and heaven. (3) The method of decision (vv. 22-24). Two sacrifices were to be provided—one to be offered to Baal, the other to God. The god who answered by fire was to be the God. The people consented that this was a fair test. Accepted sacrifice is the grand and supreme test by which God is calling upon men everywhere to make the decision between Christ and the heathen gods.

III. The Test Applied. (vv. 25-29).

1. The Offering by the Prophets of Baal (vv. 25-29). Elijah gave the prophets of Baal the first opportunity to prove to the people as to whether Baal was a real god. The real difference in the issue of prayer is the person to whom prayer is made.

2. The Offering by Elijah (vv. 30-39). (1) The people invited near (v. 30). His object was for them to see the entire proceedings in order to fully grasp the genuineness of the test. (2). The altar repairs (vv. 30-32). Elijah took twelve stones representing the united nation. (3). The offering on the altar (vv. 33-35). After the bullock was in place he had four barrels of water three times emptied upon the sacrifice and the wood so as to fill the trench about the altar. So sure was Elijah that God's power was sufficient that he heaped difficulty upon difficulty. (4). Elijah's prayer (vv. 36, 37). (a) It was based upon covenants (v. 36). The foundation upon which all real prayer rests is covenant relationship. (b) Its object was God's exaltation (v. 36). Elijah was jealous for God's glory. His supreme desire was to honor and magnify the Lord. (c) It was for the salvation of the people. (v. 37). His heart yearned after Israel. He was most desirous that they should come to God. (5) The result (vv. 38, 39). (a) The fire of the Lord fell and consumed not only the sacrifice but the wood, stones and dust, even licking up the water in the trench. (b) The people fell on their faces and confessed that the Lord was the God.

IV. The Execution of Baal's Prophets. (v. 40).

The reason for this drastic action was that Israel's government was a theocracy. God was their king. Idolatry was treason against the king. These false prophets were traitors to God and therefore should die.

V. God's Prophet Vindicated. (vv. 41-46).

The proof that Elijah was God's prophet was incomplete till rain came. Israel under his ministry had now turned back to God and God made known unto them His graciousness.

How Much Is Lost.

Would that we could at once paint with the eyes!—In the long way from the eye, through the arm, to the pencil, how much is lost!—Lessing.

Our Wants.

The stoical schemes of supplying our wants by lopping off our desires is like cutting off our feet when we want shoes.—Swift.

Deserving Trust.

He deserves small trust who is not privy counselor to himself.—Ford.

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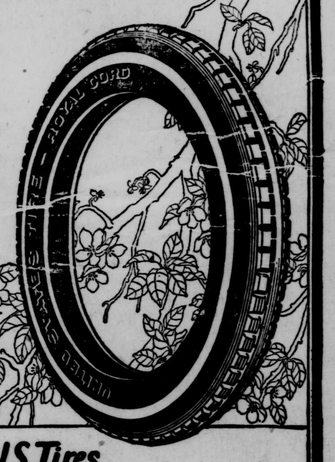

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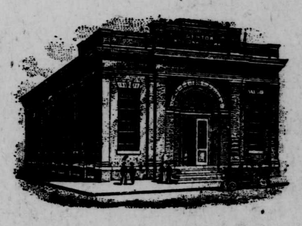

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