

LESSON 20

TEMPERANCE.

WINE is a mocker, strong drink is raging :
and whosoever is deceived thereby is not
wise.—*Prov.* xx. 1.

Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we
will fill ourselves with strong drink ; and to-
morrow shall be as this day, and much more
abundant.—*Isa.* xxxvi. 12.

Be not among winebibbers ; among riotous
eaters of flesh : For the drunkard and the glut-
ton shall come to poverty : and drowsiness shall
clothe a man with rags.—*Prov.* xxiii. 20, 21.

Wo unto him that giveth his neighbor drink,
that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him
drunken also, that thou mayest look on their na-
kedness ! Thou art filled with shame for glory :
drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncov-
ered : the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be
turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be
on thy glory.—*Hab.* ii. 15, 16.

Wo unto them that rise up early in the morn-
ing, that they may follow strong drink ; that
continue until night, till wine inflame them !
And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe,

and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Wo unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!—*Isa.* v. 11, 12, 22, 23.

Who hath wo? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—*Prov.* xxiii. 29–32.

HUMAN FRAILTY.*

MAN that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thy eyes upon such a one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as a hireling, his day.

For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As

* The following several sections are fitted for funeral services, and for the visitation of the sick.

the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up, so man lieth down and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.—*Job* xiv. 1–12.

Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey. If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself: I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.—*Job* ix. 25–28.

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.—*Psalms* ciii. 15, 16.

Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his Maker? Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly: how much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it? Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.—*Job* iv. 17–21.

Go to now, ye that say, to-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy, and sell, and get gain : whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life ? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.—*James* iv. 13–15.

But this I say, brethren, the time is short : it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none ; and they that wept as though they wept not ; and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not ; and they that buy as though they possessed not ; and they that use this world as not abusing it ; for the fashion of this world passeth away.—1 *Cor.* vii. 29–31.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—*Eph.* v. 15, 16.

Lord, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, what it is ; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as a hand-breadth ; and my age is as nothing before thee ; verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.—*Psaln* xxxix. 4, 5.

END LESSON 20