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as it goes back and forth between its northern and its southern homes, the poet sums up the lesson in two stanzas:

Thou art gone, the abyss of heaven
Has swallowed up thy form; yet
on my heart
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou
hast given,
And shall not soon depart.

He who from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky
thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread
alone,
Will lead my steps aright."

The futility of this excessive anxiety for worldly things was very forcibly expressed by Dr. Talmage in one of his sermons. His argument ran something like this:

"One who has worn himself out in the effort to amass more money than he needs suddenly drops dead. His pastor tells a group of sorrowing friends that, by a mysterious dispensation of Providence, death has claimed the departed. Why not tell the truth about it? Why not say that the man was kicked to death by the golden calf?"

Tolstoy emphasizes the same thought in another way.

He pictures a man greedy for land who, having bought all that his means would purchase, sells it to buy a larger quantity. Then he sells this and buys a still larger tract at a lower price.

Finally he hears of a savage chieftain who offers to land hunters all that they can walk around in a day for a hundred rubles. He puts the money in his purse and seeks to make this new addition to his possession.

THE COMMON ALLOTMENT OF THE GREEDY

He finds that the promise is bona fide and is told to put the money on the ground and that he will be given all the land that he can encompass between sunrise and sunset

The man starts out, eager to get as much land as possible. He walks faster and faster still; by the time he begins the second side more than a fourth of the time has elapsed.

He increases his speed and does not turn again until after the sun has crossed the meridian. Then he must hurry still more to make the remaining sides, and before he reaches the starting point he is alarmed for fear sunset will overtake him before he has finished his journey.

But by constantly increasing effort he reaches the end of the fourth side just as the orb of day is sinking below the horizon. He wins the race, the land is his, but he falls exhausted on the spot and then he needs the common allotment for the dead—only six feet of ground.

But the two lessons preceding would not have their full force without the third—"Seek ye the kingdom of God."

If Christ had only rebuked, those who desired to follow him might have lost their way. But when Christ admonished, He also directed, and so, after He had spoken of the foolish man who glorified in his bountiful crops and planned to spend his time in ease—after converting the birds, grass, grain and the flowers into teachers of spiritual truths. Christ set before His disciples that which should be the real purpose of life.

"Seek ye the kingdom of God," or, as Matthew records it, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

There must be a paramount purpose in life to which all other purposes should be made subordinate and by which all other plans must be regulated.

What the north star is to the mariner. Christ's teachings are to

the voyagers on life's uncertain sea.

There are many stars in the heavens, but there is only one by which the pilot can steer the ship—one star that will give us our direction and by which we can locate the other stars.

THE ONE SURE RULE OF LIFE

So in life there must be a controlling purpose to which all other purposes are made subordinate—one rule by which all life's activities can be measured.

"Seek ye the kingdom of God:" those who go in this direction cannot go astray.

Not only are such protected from wanderings that waste time and consume energy, but all other good things are added.

There is no promise that we shall find the kingdom as a result of the seeking of other things, but we have the assurance that we shall find all other good things that are needful and beneficial if we first seek the kingdom of God.

While I have commented on the verses suggested for the Christmas lesson by the International Sunday School Committee, I have not forgotten that Christmas Day lies just ahead.

Only one birth is celebrated by so many hundreds of millions—proof sufficient that Christ was more than man.

On Dec. 25 we bow in humble reverence before God's greatest gift to man and manifest our gratitude in gifts of affection to family and friends and gifts of impersonal love to those less fortunate than ourselves.

May the Heavenly Father impart to us all the Christmas spirit as we greet the anniversary of our Saviour's birth.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE OR FALSE?

By WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

BIBLE TEXT—LESSON FOR DECEMBER 30

During the year soon to end, thousands of Sunday School classes throughout the Christian world have been studying the Bible. They began with some wonderful passages from the Old Testament and concluded with wonderful passages from the

YOU know how easy it is to put letters together and form words, once you have learned the alphabet. Playing a musical instrument is not very much different. Once you learn the notes, playing melodies on the mandolin, piano or violin is simply a matter of putting the notes together correctly.

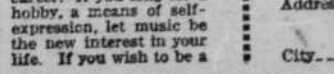
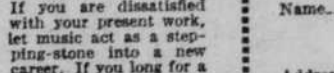
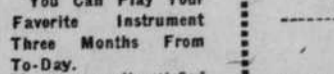
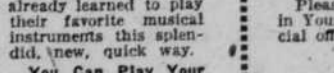
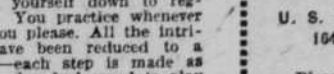
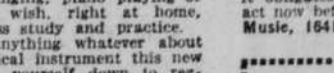
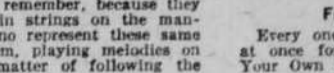
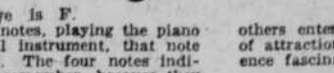
The first note shown above is F. Whether you are singing from notes, playing the piano or banjo or any other musical instrument, that note in the first space is always F. The four notes indicated are F, A, C, E, easy to remember, because they spell the word "face." Certain strings on the mandolin, certain keys on the piano represent these same notes—and once you learn them, playing melodies on the instrument is largely a matter of following the notes.

Anyone can now learn to play a musical instrument at home, without a teacher. A new, simplified method of teaching reduces all music to its simplest possible form. You can now master singing, piano playing or any musical instrument you wish, right at home, quickly, easily, without endless study and practice.

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