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THE ANTS ARE A PEOPLE
By Joshua Stauffer

Author of:
According to Your Faith
The Wonderful Christ
Ten Aspects of Faith
Spiritual Guidance
Fourteen Sermons on Romans 8:28

1947

Published by
The Gospel Minister
Westfield, Indiana

"Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." -- Proverbs 6.6

"The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." -- Proverbs
30:25

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Digital Edition 06/26/98
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CONTENTS

Introduction

01 -- Introducing The Ants

- 02 -- Ants Are Like People
- 03 -- Ants Covering The Earth
- 04 -- Instinct Of The Ants
- 05 -- Difference Between Ants And People
- 06 -- Ants Prepare Their Meat
- 07 -- How Ants Communicate
- 08 -- Life Of The Ants
- 09 -- Courtesy Of The Ants
- 10 -- Ants Live For Others
- 11 -- Ants Love Their Mothers
- 12 -- Ants Love Their Baby Sisters
- 13 -- Personal Cleanliness Of Ants
- 14 -- Greatest Pleasure Of Ants
- 15 -- Founding A New Community
- 16 -- Guiding Factor In Ants
- 17 -- Enemies Of The Ants
- 18 -- Warfare Of The Ants
- 19 -- Slavery Of Ants
- 20 -- Possessing Their Territory
- 21 -- Feeding Their Enemies
- 22 -- Ants Are Good Samaritans
- 23 -- An Objective And Positive Delight
- 24 -- Unity And Love Of The Ants
- 25 -- The Pastoral Ants
- 26 -- The Weeding Ants
- 27 -- Mushroom Growing And Agricultural Ants
- 28 -- Rest Of The Ants
- 29 -- Ants Never Get Lost
- 30 -- The Strength Of Ants
- 31 -- Cities Of The Ants
- 32 -- Cemeteries Of The Ants
- 33 -- Going To School To The Ants
- 34 -- Grasshopper People And Ant People
- 35 -- Grandma's Religion Ant-like

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INTRODUCTION

Joshua Stauffer, the author of these sketches about ants, has been a close observer of ants, and has read carefully about their habits and activities. He has brought together here in a helpful way the results of this observation and study. They are especially adapted for children, but adults will find much pleasure in reading about ants.

These articles were first published week by week in "The Gospel for the Youth," and are here preserved in a more permanent form, as some have desired to have all the articles together.

The spiritual lessons from the ants constitute probably the most important feature of these sketches. We hope many will profit by these lessons.

The first edition, printed some years ago, having been exhausted and the demand for the book continuing, we are republishing it in this form.

The Publishers

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01 -- INTRODUCING THE ANTS

To introduce, means to bring into the presence of, to make known and cause to become acquainted. Sometimes a person is introduced to another by words like these, "Mr. Brown, meet Mr. Johnson." These men meet, shake hands and look each other in the face and say, "I am glad to meet you," or, "I am glad to know you," and so become acquainted.

In these lessons that follow, we want to introduce not any person but "a people" called ants. We want you to become so well acquainted with them, their ways, courtesies and principles, you will say, "I am glad to know the ants."

The ants belong to the insect family. There are hundreds of different insects in the world, but none are more interesting to study than the ants. Though they are very little, they are a part of God's great creation, They were made by the Lord on the sixth day of creation week. Only the Lord could make an ant and put within it the wisdom and strength which an ant possesses.

Man also was created on the sixth day. Therefore, the ants and man were made on the same day. Men and women are called "people." The ants are also called "a people." These are the only two classes of creatures that are called "people" in the Bible. This discovery was made by Solomon, the wisest of men.

All through the Bible, people are presented under various figures: the good people as sheep, cattle, lions, eagles, etc. Sinners are presented under the figures of goats, swine, dogs, donkeys, vultures, etc. It is of interest to know that none of the lower creatures are called "people" except the ants.

The ants are mentioned only two times in the Bible, each time by Solomon and each time in the book of Proverbs. First, we read, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8). The next time we read of the ants is in Proverbs 30:25: "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." Little is said concerning these little creatures, but there is much in what is said.

The Lord gave Solomon great wisdom, so that. he was wiser than all men. He wrote one thousand five songs and spoke three thousand proverbs. He also spoke of trees, shrubs and vines; of beasts, fowl, creeping things and fish. Not much of this information, however, is recorded in the

Bible, but a little is written concerning the ants. If all Solomon knew concerning ants had been written in a book, it would be very interesting indeed to read. No doubt many facts would be revealed of which we know nothing.

The one outstanding feature of the ants is their industry. Most creatures carelessly and idly spend their lives, only propagating their kind. Not so the ant. It is an indisputable fact that of all creatures, not excepting the bees, the most industrious are the ants. They work from morning to night and often through the night.

The ants are a people as we have seen. It may seem hard at first to realize that these tiny creatures which live in the ground, old buildings and trees are "a people," but this is what the Bible plainly says. In the lessons that follow we will consider the ants as such, and in doing so, I am sure that we will learn many valuable lessons. These lessons should cause us to be better people, better Christians, make Christian living more important and Christian work a greater pleasure. With these points in view, these little lessons from little creatures for little people are prayerfully sent forth.

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02 -- ANTS ARE LIKE PEOPLE

"The ants are a people" (Proverbs 30:25) People are distinguished from all other creatures and are so called because of their superior creation, intelligence, wisdom, manner of living and method of labor. They are well organized and are able to understand each other. Their manner of communication, ability in providing for themselves and possessing foresight, excels that of all other creatures. For these reasons the ants are called "a people," because they possess like qualities. In all the natural qualities which human people possess, the ants come nearer in possessing them than any other creatures in all the world. The life of the ant is superior in intelligence to that of any insect or animal.

It is claimed when it comes to carrying on civilization, construction, industry, agriculture or policy and in possessing the qualities of unity, diligence and foresight, that the ants are far superior to human beings. Our natural lives on this earth and the manner of living in comparison seems but absurd, shoddy and far inferior to that of the ants. No wonder Solomon said, "Go to the ant." In doing so, man will learn many lessons for time and eternity.

Men are called "people," the ants are called "people."

Men live in colonies and cities; the ants do the same.

Men have foresight, make plans and lay up for the future, but in this we have nothing over the ants.

Men carry on agriculture, plant seeds, cultivate crops, harvest and store up food and grain. All of these things are done by the ants.

Men build cities and in some they construct sky scrapers, making several stories underground and many above the ground, but even in this, they do nothing new for the ants do the same.

Men possess servants, house and feed them; the ants also do the same.

Men have cows, milk them, herd their cattle, feed them well and raise more, but strange to say, in this they do no better than the ants.

Men wash, brush and comb; the ants do also and that many times every day, for they are very particular in being clean.

When one man is not able to do some work he solicits the help of others to get it done and sometimes he cannot get the help he needs. If one ant cannot accomplish what she sees is possible she can immediately obtain all the help she solicits.

When men meet one another they generally speak and greet each other; again we learn the ants do the same.

Men practice courtesy and good manners, but the ants are far more courteous than men. Men have cemeteries outside their cities where they bury their dead and the ants do too. People build roads and tunnels and travel in these roads; the ants also make roads tunnels and bridges.

Men make war and subdue other tribes to be in subjection to them and the ants do the same.

Men manifest an interest and exercise a care over animals and plants. The dealings of ants with other insects and with plants, is above that of all lower creatures and in this they are "a people," and like man.

These are a few ways in which ants are like people. In the following lessons these points and others will be brought out in detail.

Ants live very careful lives, always do their best and seek to be a success in whatever they do. They fulfill their purpose in life very well. Many people are very careless, do not care what kind of lives they live, do not seek to be a success for this world nor the next. Many never fulfill the purpose of God in their lives.

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03 -- ANTS COVERING THE EARTH

When God created man, He gave Adam and Eve a command to multiply and replenish the earth, that is, fill it. The human race has been multiplying and spreading out more and more until almost every habitable part of the earth is inhabited by man. Men are living in every zone of the earth, in the frigid zone, in the temperate zone and in the torrid zone. This has been God's plan for the human race.

No doubt it was God's purpose that the fowls, creeping things and the animals as well as man, should multiply and fill the habitable earth. All creatures are not adapted to live in every country or zone of the earth. Some live in the torrid zone which could not live in the frigid zone. Others live in the frigid zone which could not live in the torrid zone. Some live on the mountains, some in the valleys, some under the ground, others in trees, etc.

Next to people, who are able to live anywhere on the habitable earth, the ants are found in the Arctic regions, in the tropics, along the sea shore, in forests, in swampy places, in deserts, on mountains, in valleys, under the ground and above the ground. Ants have invaded almost all the habitable portions of the world, excepting only the extreme north and very high altitudes. We question if there are any other creatures that come next to man in this respect.

There was a time when the earth was divided and the different nations were classified and their territory apportioned to them. This is quite generally carried out yet. The different races keep distinct and have their territory. Even in large cities where there are different races or nationalities, they live distinct from each other. The colored people have their section, the Italians have theirs and so on. Sometimes a servant of another nationality works in a home.

In the ant world these very principles are carried out. All species of ants do not mix up or are found everywhere, In some countries there are species not found in other countries. However, among the different species in the same country, some ants are taken captive from another colony and made servants.

Six thousand species of ants have been discovered and these have been classified by scientists into eight classes for the sake of convenience. Each of the different six thousand species possess their own regulations, habits, manner of living and working, and have individual characteristics, This is so with the human race. There are hundreds of different tribes of people in the world. Some are red, others black, brown, yellow or white. Some are tall, others short and some are dwarfs. This distinction is manifest in the ant world. Men, too, as among the ants, possess different tribal habits, characteristic features, mode of living and doing things.

Most species of the ants are found in Africa, South America and the tropical countries. Their color varies from light yellow to jet black. Others are red, some blue and some are green.

Among the ants there is a degree of variability in their size and color, in the houses in which they live and the food they eat. In their occupation, and their mode of living, they are more like people than any other creature.

The goal of ants is to live in plenty and in happiness. They very gracefully fulfill their objects in life, then die, which is their final end. Would it not be a blessed thing for all men to live happily, seek the interest and good of each other, seek to live in peace and strive for plenty, live in the will and plan of God and fulfill the object of God, that is, a life of blessing in this world and when we die, go home to heaven to live forever with the Lord?

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04 -- INSTINCT OF THE ANTS

All animals possess an instinct. An instinct is an inward, a natural and a spontaneous impulse, moving them without reasoning toward the actions which are essential to their existence, preservation and development. This is a natural sense and an inward capacity. It borrows nothing from comparison, does not profit by experience but acts from the impulse of perfect objects on its organs of sense. Many people call it "inherited memory," but this does not fully explain it. The actions, or movings of the instinct do not need to be taught by the mother to her offspring, It is an innate wisdom. In the dawn of creation, the Creator imparted wisdom to each creature, the knowledge essential to its survival. Some animals can be trained, such as a horse or dog. This training is not inborn or passed on to the next generation. The instinct or the imparted wisdom of God, is preserved, retained and passed on from generation to generation in the ants. As we study the ants, we learn that God has put much in little. God has put great wisdom in little creatures. The ants are little in size but great in wisdom, This is why they are a great study and furnish us with many good lessons. The ants, though very little possess a powerful instinct.

The Bible states that the ants have no guide, overseer or ruler, yet they provide their meat in the summer and gather their food in the harvest. The ants are always very busy. They maintain the greatest courtesy for each other, keep perfect unity among themselves, do their duty and fill their place. What makes them do it? They simply follow the instinct of their nature. This inward moving must be heeded. The insect, bird or animal must act, that is, obey this moving, or the instinct will not move them. If a migratory bird does not migrate when the instinct moves it, that moving leaves it and the bird will have to winter alone as winter comes, for no more movings come. It is a very unusual thing for any of the animals, birds or insects to fail to obey their instinct. Their instinct is a safe leading for them to go by.

The Bible commands, "Go to the ant." Why go to the ants? By doing so, we will learn. The ants put us to shame and if we will reason and consider, they will put us under conviction. The ant fills the purpose of their lives, This they do by following the instinct of their nature. This is all they have to follow for they have no guide, overseer or ruler.

Man possesses an instinct up to a certain point, however, man also possesses reason. Reason means the comparison of one thing with another, concerns the thought and conduct of man. A man can compare things, consider what is right and wrong. He can learn from his own experiences in the past and that of others, then comparing them they will be a guide to his actions. The laws which govern reason are moral laws. Instinct is alone under physical influence. A moral law is given unto man because man alone has a moral nature. This is a nature distinct from his physical nature. The animals have only a physical law and they strictly obey that law. Sad to say, man often chooses to follow only the law of physical nature, ignoring God and that he is a moral being.

Have we ever considered what the purpose of man is? God created man to live, obey and please Him and to live for the future. Yet there are many people who do not do this. Many live to be fifty, sixty, seventy and some eighty years of age and in all these years forget God, the purpose of life and the future. Just think how much higher man is than the ants, how much more we have to

remind us, to spur us to do right, to warn and instruct, to teach us to prepare for the future and heaven. Even then most people miss heaven.

Man has a conscience, parents, teachers, preachers, evangelists, the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide, lead, teach, warn, help and save. The conviction of the Spirit is more powerful in moving man than the moving of the instinct in an ant. People have been under conviction for sin so strong they could not eat or sleep, but would not surrender to the Lord or call on Him to save them from sin and hell. We cannot conceive of such a powerful moving in the animals, birds and insects that they get sick before they obey. Just a gentle impulse upon their nature and they move with the instinct.

Let us go to the ants and learn. Let us obey those who are over us. Let us read and believe the Bible. Let us obey the voice of the Holy Spirit. Let us prepare for the Future, then and only then will we be safe for time and eternity.

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05 -- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANTS AND PEOPLE

As we pursue these little lessons from little creatures which Solomon called "a people," it will be profitable for us to study not merely how they are a people" but also how they are different from human beings. There is no relation between man and the lower creatures.

Let us ever bear in mind that man was the only creature created in the image and likeness of God. Man also was the crown of God's creation, the last work of God in the creation. Every thing was created and made preparatory to and for man. Man, and not the animals, received the divine inbreathing of God. Man was a distinct creation and stands in a class by himself.

Then again, man is far superior to the animals in that he is a threefold being, possessing a spirit, soul and body. Animals and creeping things are twofold, possessing only body and spirit and even then, the spirit of animals is only their breath. The origin and destiny of the spirit of man is vastly different than that of animals. Animals had their lungs filled with air but that was not a divine inbreathing such as Adam received. When they die, they do not exist after death as paganism teaches. Neither is there a reincarnation of any man beast or insect. There is no hereafter, no heaven or hell for ants after death, neither any other animals. Death is the last, the final end. Their object in life is to live, enjoy themselves, multiply and eventually die:

At birth, man receives eternal existence; at the new birth, he receives eternal life. Man's soul came from God, even the breath of God, and at death will go to the place for which it is fitted. Man has a higher goal in life than the beasts. God has a greater purpose for man than He does for the beasts even for this life, and then God has an eternal purpose for the redeemed in the life to come.

There is also a vast difference in the anatomy of an ant and man. An ant has six legs, a man, two. A man walks in an upright posture but the ants travel in a horizontal position.

In size there is a vast difference. The ant-queens are much larger than the workers and are bloated with eggs. The largest neuter ants fall far short of a gram in weight. It would take one hundred thousand to weigh as much as an average man. The range in size of adults is far greater than that of men. If we consider dwarfs or midgets among men, which are abnormal, weighing only twenty-five pounds when matured, and the other extreme, that is, monstrosities of fat people weighing seven hundred pounds, the largest human beings weigh no more than twenty-five or thirty times as much as the smallest. Under normal conditions, the size varies little considering the whole human race. Among ants, the tiniest ones weigh several thousand times less than their largest relatives. In length the ants vary from a few millimeters to one and one-fourth inches in length.

It is a sad fact, many people are beastly and brutish, live in greater filth and on a lower plane than some animals. All men must give an account unto God some day for the way they live this life. The object of God for man is to bear and reflect the image of God, believe on Christ, love obey and serve Him.

Man has infinitely more to live for than the ants. Man has a Bible and a Christ Who loved him and died to redeem him. God has planned a life of service for man to glorify God, with rewards and a resurrection and heaven awaiting him, Surely man has much to live for if he will live right. When we believe and accept Christ we become "the people of God." Ants live only for the present, have no soul to be saved, no heaven awaiting them, yet they live remarkable lives and live them well, even putting men to shame, which should be a lesson for us for time and eternity.

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06 -- ANTS PREPARE THEIR MEAT

The main thing the Bible says concerning the ant is she "provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest." There is the period of gathering which comes first. This is the time of harvest for the ant. Ants cannot gather food every day in the year. Then the ant provideth or prepares her meat in the summer (See Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:25). Her food must be prepared for eating. In the above Scriptures we note the words, "gathereth" and "prepare " also "food" and "meat." The "food" which she gathers is then prepared into "meat."

Solomon taught that the ants store up their food for the future, or winter. Naturalists of a hundred fifty to a hundred years ago, disputed this fact, saying, it was a myth and a popular superstition, claiming the ants did not lay up for they hibernate. In the second half of the nineteenth century a further study was made and this research led to the conclusion that the ancient and modern naturalists were both right.

Their dietary habits are varied. Bees confine themselves to nectar and pollen. Wasps live mainly upon other insects, sometimes nectar and rarely pollen. The termites are entirely vegetarians and mainly cellulose eaters. The ants eat insects, animals, alive or dead, seeds, fungi, nectar, honey-dew voided by plant-lice and many substances which they find in storehouses and kitchen cupboards.

The mouth of an ant is little and of course what she eats must yet be smaller. The vegetables, grain, fruits and game brought in must be "prepared," that is, transformed into mincemeat, or paste, or both. Especially must the food be prepared into meat, (made ready to eat) for the little ones. It requires work to gather the food and work to prepare it. Ants never are idle.

Jesus said the birds of the air do not sow nor reap, neither do they gather into storehouses. Not many creatures gather food and store it in hiding places. Some small animals like the squirrels do. But there are very few creatures that prepare their food to eat as do the ants. In this, the ants are like people. No wonder Solomon said, "The ants are a people." No creature comes so near in imitating man in cultivating, sowing, reaping and preparing food as the ants.

It requires much labor on the part of man to see that he and his family have sufficient to eat. The man cultivates the soil, sows the seeds and reaps the harvest. After the vegetables, fruits and grains are gathered by man, follows the woman's part in preparing them ready to eat. This also requires skill to mix properly, putting in the right ingredients in right amounts and baking in the oven. On the part of ants, great wisdom is displayed in gathering the food, in storing it and in preparing it for eating.

In the ant world it is different than with people. With human beings, the men are supposed to do the hardest work, cultivate, sow, harvest and gather the food. Then the women do the lighter work in preparing the food for eating. The Bible is scientifically true in that it says, "her meat," and "her food," the feminine gender being employed. The male among ants are the drones which do no work and are short-lived. The Creator has wisely designed this for the welfare of all ants. If all the males lived as long as the queens and workers, it would work too great a hardship on the worker ants. It would be as if the women would have to do all the work and the men did not work at all, but merely lived on what the women gathered. This would not do for it is all many can do to make a living by both men and women working hard. The queens lay all the eggs. The workers are females but are incapable of laying eggs. They do all the work, and know how to prepare their meat without a recipe.

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07 -- HOW ANTS COMMUNICATE

No doubt you have watched the ants going and coming along their own paths leading to and from their nest. When two ants meet, they stop briefly and tap one another rapidly with their antennae, as though they had something to say. Whenever an ant discovers something good, she tells the rest and soon many more follow her. They do not keep a good thing to themselves. Their motto is "Others," to tell others, help others, share with others, etc.

Different experiments have been made which lead us to believe the ants have a language peculiar to themselves in which they make themselves known. If three or four larvae are placed a short distance from the nest and fifty in another place and an ant placed by each set of larvae, she will pick up one and carry it into the nest and soon other workers will follow each ant. But several times more ants will follow the ant where there are the greatest number of larvae. The ants must therefore succeed in making their comrades understand there is more urgent need for help in one

place than the other. Other experiments could be made which would reveal the fact that they possess an intelligence that is equal to the emergencies which arise, They have a language of their own, know how to make themselves known and have no trouble in understanding each other.

Initiativeness evidently originates with individual ants. A worker hitting upon an original idea, which in her view is advantageous to the community, but is unable to carry it out single-handed, usually tries to persuade the first ant she meets to assist her. If she is dull of apprehension, which may sometimes be the case among the working class, the ant will repeat the persuasive strokes of the antennae. She will sometimes employ force by carrying the stupid or reluctant comrade in her mouth to the place of action. Soon others are converted to fall in line and the task undertaken is accomplished. The original inventor of the scheme modestly disappears in the crowd around her without claiming any distinction.

The manner of communicating is by the number of times they tap their antennae, or the strokes they make in speaking to their comrades. The message intended to be conveyed depends on the nature of the strokes, whether quick or slow, heavy or light, long or short intervals, on the top, or on the side of the head, or only on the antennae, etc. We may know very little how they communicate, or what they say, but the ants understand each other very well.

One time only one language was spoken by the whole world. When people became wicked, and followed their own sinful devices, God confused their tongues and caused them to scatter over the earth. At the present time there are over five thousand different languages and dialects. The Bible, or portions of it have been translated into more than a thousand of these.

It is a remarkable thing that God understands all of these languages. It is estimated there are two billion people on the earth. If these two billion people would all pray unto God at the same time, in the five thousand dialects, God could give personal attention and understand every one as though only one prayed to Him. If all people would pray to God it would be as if there were one great central telephone exchange, and two billion lines, all leading to one office and two billion voices in five thousand languages coming to only one operator and he answering each one in their own language at the same time. The Lord can do this very thing.

Since the Lord can do that, when He made the ants He endowed them with an ant language so that they can communicate and make themselves known to each other for their welfare. But have we ever realized what a blessed privilege is ours in prayer? God can make Himself known to us and we can talk to Him.

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08 -- LIFE OF THE ANTS

The formicaries of the ants, that is, their nests or ant-hills as they are generally called, vary in size from a small raised place to many feet high. In some countries they build their nests ten to fifteen feet high.

The ants are what we call social insects. The bees are only social by exception. Ten thousand species of bees are known to science and only five hundred live in societies. There is not a single species of solitary ants. Ants always live in colonies or societies.

Man is a social being, He was created for companionship, fellowship and friendly relationship. Man is constituted to organize and to live in communities.

The human family is largely dependent one upon another. It is not God's thought that man should be alone, live a hermit life and have no relation or dealings with other men. We are to help one another, influence others for good and show an interest in the welfare of all men. It requires an organized community, factories of various kinds, stores, business, officers, rulers and regulations, one helping the other to exist in what each does.

The ants are not constituted to live alone or to be independent, but are a social insect and dependent on each other. The population of the ant-hill consists. of queens, or fertilized females, which live as long as twelve years; there are countless numbers of workers, which are unsexed females, which live for three or four years and in some places six to seven years; then there are several hundred males, but these disappear after five or six weeks. In the insect world the male is almost always sacrificed.

The males and females alone possess wings and the female discards her wings after the nuptial flight. The males soon die. In small nests, there may be two or three queens and in large nests as many as fifty. In very large nests the number is undetermined. This is regulated by some secret council which is presided over by the united regulation of the entire ant hill.

How much this is like the human race. Colonies and cities take on their proportions according to the number of people which dwell in it. Man is a social being, does not like to dwell alone and be isolated from all other people. Human beings like to get together for social gatherings. What one man does generally affects or influences some other man in some way.

What a lovely scene it is for Christians to meet together in unity and for a time of fellowship! There is a love that binds people together: love for one's nation, relatives, family and church. When every one remains in his proper place this adds to unity and order and makes it easy for all around him. Living in our right place and in a right relation to every one around us, makes it easier for those around us as well as ourselves. David wrote, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

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09 -- COURTESY OF THE ANTS

The ants are very little, nevertheless, they are very courteous. Among no creatures is there so much courtesy and respect shown as among the ants. Whenever they meet, coming or going they greet each other. There is a language known to them in which they have no trouble in understanding each other. There are no misunderstandings, no jealousy, nor envying in an entire community of ants. They do not fall out with each other and ignore one another, or like some men who have a

misunderstanding, fall out, and from then on do not speak to each other. This great courtesy to one another extends through their entire life.

The young ants do not need to be taught the lessons of courtesy and respect for their own. They carry out these good qualities by following the instinct of their nature. They have no books on etiquette, no teacher or guide. They simply take it on themselves with such ease in being courteous as though it were a part of their lives.

We can learn much by going to the ants. It is people who come short in showing respect for each other. Often children are ill-mannered at the dining table, in school, in public and before company. These need to be instructed how to behave and conduct themselves.

Many books on etiquette have been written, teaching people how to behave, how to conduct themselves in public, in gatherings, at dinners; how to introduce others and what to say on certain occasions, etc. Parents teach their children to be polite, to say "please" or "no, thank you" etc. How often these lessons need to be repeated and taught over and then they are slow to learn. Another lesson children need to be taught is to be courteous when they meet people. We always admire young people who show respect to those who are old, who excuse themselves, who express gratitude for any little favor shown them, and who greet those whom they meet with a cheerful "Good Morning" or a "Good Evening."

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10 -- ANTS LIVE FOR OTHERS

The ants live unselfish lives. None as it were live to themselves. The ants are naturally centrifugal. That is, they live that from them -- their bodies, their labors, may flow blessings to others, that they may give to others and feed others. Their natural bent is to sacrifice themselves, to lavish themselves for the good of others. In this they find their highest happiness.

What would this world be if man, like the ants would have no other cares but those of others, no aim in life but the happiness of others, no work done for self but only working for others, no happiness but only the joy of seeking the supreme bliss of others, no thought of laying up for self only others.

Because of sin and the fall, it is impossible for man to live otherwise than centripetally, that is, for self. Self is always considered first. Everything must point to self, in name, place, pleasure, possessions -- always self. This is why socialism and communism are dangerous and precarious. This self and selfish spirit in the world leads to stinginess, oppression and hardships. This is why many lie, steal and are dishonest.

Only the grace of God can change our hearts that will make us forget self, our selfish interests and live a life for Christ and others. It is then we receive the mind of Christ and His will becomes our will. Christ died for the whole world and He wants all His people to share the knowledge with others. The way to happiness is not in living for self, in keeping possessions but in living for others, in giving up in self denial.

The Bible teaches: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God." And, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." Also, "Let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

If people were more like the ants, there would be more happiness and less sorrow. If the ants would have a motto for their ideals it could be incorporated in these words, "Seeking the happiness of others." Would this not be a good motto for people?

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11 -- ANTS LOVE THEIR MOTHERS

One of the remarkable and interesting characteristics of the ants, which is rarely found among other creatures, is the great love and care they manifest to their mothers. When we consider their relation, not merely that of parents and offspring, but that of attitude, conduct and deeds, we cannot help but acknowledge the wise design of an Almighty Creator.

The worker ants take the best and kindest care of their queens or mother. They will escort her about from place to place, guide her and carefully guard her all the time. She is fed by them and that very bountifully. Never does she lack for any good thing. The workers daily wash her, brush her many times and bestow many caresses on her. This makes it easy for her to fulfill her task, that of laying many eggs to propagate their colony.

How different this is in the human family. Children are not able to do anything to help themselves for several years. During these years they are a care but a blessed care to their mothers. It is up to mother to love, care for, dress, feed and train her children. This she does gladly, willingly and freely.

Little do children realize the care and sorrow they bring to their mother when they are naughty, fretful and disobedient. It is a fact that children, even when they grow into manhood or womanhood, do not realize how much their mother loved and cared for them until they have children of their own.

It often is the case with children, they are not good to their mother, do not love, obey, help or care for her. This brings grief and heaviness to her heart. This is not so with the ants.

Children, would it not be a good thing if we like the ants were little workers, helping mother, running errands, doing little tasks? Then, besides doing little deeds that save mother many steps, be cheerful and sweet, which will be a comfort to our parents. Many parents have become exceedingly weary by the naughtiness, fussiness and disobedience of their children. Then it would cheer your mother if you would let her know you loved her and show your love by your actions and deeds. We can if we will. Let us ask the Lord to make us such children.

What is naturally in ants, a good disposition, a love to be good always and from instinct do what is right, is not so with children. All children are born with a sinful and fallen nature. That is

the reason sometimes they are good, then other times they are naughty, fussy and disobedient and even when commanded by parents what to do, disobey and show an ugly disposition. All children who know right from wrong need to be born again and then a holy nature will be implanted within the heart that loves to do right and hates sin.

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12 -- ANTS LOVE THEIR BABY SISTERS

The Bible says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" This is a lovely picture of grown ups. We see so little of this in these days. There is strife in the home, strife on the playground, strife among the laboring class and strife between nations.

It is also very beautiful to see little children play nice and fair together, to be cheerful and enjoy themselves. Sometimes children get angry, cheat, are fussy and pout, or get too rough with some smaller child when they play together.

Infants and children are the objects of joy. They require tender care and affection. The young need the care of these who are older.

We learn much by observing the ants. The ants show the greatest affection for the on-coming generation. Attention of all kinds is lavished on the eggs. These are licked to nourish them by endosmosis. Great love and care are also bestowed on the larvae and nymphs which must be turned again and again, moved from the dark chamber to be exposed to the sun at certain hours, then returned into their chambers.

Never do they seem to tire of doing loving service for their little sisters while they are weak and helpless. Neither do they ever get impatient with their daily caressing which they bestow on them. It all is a loving and delightful task for them. It is interesting to know all they do is done by their own free choice. Since they have no guide, overseer or ruler, they do it only by the spontaneous inward movings.

It often falls to the lot of an older brother or sister to take care of little baby brother or sister. Then it is we have opportunity to manifest ant characteristics. This task may be joyfully attended to for a few minutes but soon little sister may cry and the one assigned to that duty will run away, leaving the baby alone. Or the task may not be well attended to, so mother with her tired body and many duties must lay everything else aside and entertain the baby a while then put it to sleep.

Right here is a splendid opportunity for children to help their tired mother, relieve her by kindly taking care of the baby. This may please little sister and we know it will please mother and also the Lord. Boys and girls, let us be kind to little children. Never seek fun at the expense of making a little one cry or being rough. Make little children happy at your expense, then you too, will be happy.

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13 -- PERSONAL CLEANLINESS OF ANTS

Cleanliness is a good virtue. Most creatures take pride in being clean. Dogs go into a stream to take a bath; some birds take a bath daily if they can have water, while other creatures brush themselves. Fur bearing animals will brush their fur and birds fix and oil their feathers to be well appearing.

Probably no creature of the lower creation takes as much delight and pride in being clean as do the ants. None can outdo them. In maintaining her cleanliness, she must have the assistance of her companions. With their help, she combs, brushes and polishes at least twenty times every day.

Cleanliness is a rule of the ant community. They scrub their bodies with their mandibles, so as to remove all adhering dust. The positions into which they have to get to complete their task are sometimes amusing. They as it were stand on their head or two front legs, and swing their abdomen down to their mouth to brush and stroke it.

They get along best when one ant assists another in the task of cleaning. Children can more easily wash themselves than the ants can clean themselves. What if children would have to get into different positions to clean themselves as do the ants? This would not be so easy to do. Neither would they want to wash, brush or comb twenty times a day.

Little children need to be washed and combed. Their hands and faces may need to be washed many times a day. Cleanliness is conducive to healthfulness. How unlike the ants are many children! They do not want to have their faces washed. Many children cry and get angry when mother washes their faces.

The Lord wants clean people, who are not only clean on the outside, that is, their hands and face, but a clean heart, a clean mind and a holy life. Sin defiles and leaves black stains on the heart. No unclean person can enter heaven. Disobeying parents, lying, foolish talking, being dishonest and all sins will defile any one. Every person needs to be washed by the blood of Christ to wash away their sins and make them white. Then they need to be careful not to become dirty by doing wrong.

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14 -- GREATEST PLEASURE OF ANTS

One of the most important lessons to learn concerning the ants is that at the entrance of the abdomen there is an extraordinary pouch. This is something like a crop; it is not a stomach, for it contains no digestive glands and is separate from their individual stomach. It is very elastic, occupying three-fourths of the abdomen, and can be dilated to become an enormous size. This pouch explains her entire psychology and the greatest part of her life's career.

An illustration of this fact is the honey bee. The greatest object of the bee is to work, gather honey and store it for others. The pouch of the ants which is like a leather bottle, is the living

reservoir of the community, containing liquid fluid like sweet dew. This fluid is disgorged or regurgitated and to this resort the inhabitants, they are filled, refreshed and satisfied. This forms the highest pleasure for the ants and is their object of living.

There is a fable that says, "The ant does not lend." It is claimed this is true, she does not lend for that is merely miserly, she gives without reckoning and never asks for repayment. She claims nothing, possesses nothing, not even the contents of her own body. For herself she does little eating. All that she is constantly seeking is mostly for her crop, her communal sac; for the eggs, the larvae, the nymphs, her comrades and even her enemies. O, what charity! Her sole pleasure is to offer, to whomsoever will partake. The regurgitation is an act of delight for the ant.

All this makes us think of the words of Christ, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." There is a secret of happiness which all ants know but which very few people know. The secret is, living for others; giving, unselfishness and generosity. The person that is miserly, selfish and stingy is not happy. Happiness does not consist in possessing many things or getting much but in giving up of that which we have. Would it not be well to "go to the ant" and "consider her ways and be wise" and there learn the secret of happiness? then go forth and give our lives, our means, prayers, and the gospel truth to those who do not have it that they may be saved and enjoy what we have.

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15 -- FOUNDING A NEW COMMUNITY

After the nuptial flight, the female ant lands on the ground and seeks shelter in the grass, The first thing she does is to discard her four wings. She folds one wing down, reaches a leg over it, the wing is then pulled down under her body, which drops off as if clipped. She then brushes her body, freeing herself of any dust which settled on her in the ordeal. Then she folds a wing under on the other side and in the same manner it drops off. Again she will brush herself to keep clean, In the same manner the other two wings are discarded. The wings are shed like a wedding gown at the close of a feast. She then is ready to go to work excavating the soil, makes an underground chamber, encloses it and starts to found a new colony.

Among all insects, the founding of a new colony often ends in failure. This is so among the ants, because of different odds that may be against them.

The female ant that anticipates being the mother of numberless ants will bury herself in the ground, and makes herself a prison. She has no other food than that which she carries in her body, a little honeydew. Her muscle powers and energy will be reabsorbed. A few eggs are about her and soon a larva emerges from one of the eggs, it spins its cocoon; other eggs are added, several larvae emerge, The mother feeds them, By this time she may have been buried for five or six months, and it seems she can do no more, for she is nothing more than a skeleton. What will happen? If something is not done she and the larvae will perish, It is then she eats one or two eggs, which provide energy to lay a few more eggs, or she will eat a larva, which enables her to rear two more. This is the process that we call infanticide to parturition or backward and forward, and forward, and backward, nevertheless, in doing this she slowly gains, multiplies, until two or three workers emerge, pierce the walls, seek the outside world and food, which they carry to their

mother. From then on her sorrows and hunger are over. She has nothing to do until her death but lay eggs. Prosperity replaces her famine and her prison becomes a city. This nest expands from year to year until numberless thousands abound. From this nest will go forth other females to repeat the same experiences, found new communities, which requires sacrifice and self-denial on the part of each queen leaving the nest.

This in some ways is an illustration of the spreading of the gospel, On the part of the Christian people it means a going forth. Christ said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." On the part of those who go it will mean sacrifice, self-denial and privation. Missionaries, in starting a new work often labor in poverty, trials and hardships, until they get a church started, then these often become self-supporting and even send forth preachers and workers to start more churches. So it ever should be for this is God's thought for this age.

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16 -- GUIDING FACTOR IN ANTS

Some creatures, like the birds are noted for their keen sense of sight. All creatures that do not possess good sight have a keen sense of smell. This enables them to smell what they should ordinarily see. The ants do not see very well. In their nests where it is dark and they cannot see, they know a stranger of another family. The ants are guided far more by their olfactory sense (sense of smell) than by any other sense. It is thought this sense resides mainly in the last seven segments of its funicle, which is the process at the end of the antennae. The antennae are the movable organs of feeling on the head of insects, It is thought that each of these joints is susceptible to a certain odor, such as the odor of their nest, the workers and their age, the effluvium of the queen mother, the odor of their own species and the scent with which the ant impregnates her own trail.

If any of these segments are severed, the ant is at a loss what to do and loses her usefulness along the line for which purpose it served. To illustrate, If the worker is deprived of the segment by which the ant senses the effluvium of the queen mother, she will pay no more attention to the queen or her offspring.

Some scientists believe the olfactory sense of the ant is not confined only to the antennae or localized in one organ but is distributed all over the body. The olfactory sense in the ant is what guides the ant which enables her to do the right thing, go the right place, and return to her right place, and also enables her to know where she is in her nest which is dark and full of tunnels, and different compartments.

If the Lord created these little creatures with are delicate sense that is a safe guiding factor in their lives and essential to their well being, neither has He left us in the dark as to that which we must do to get ready for the future. The Lord has given us the Bible and the Holy Spirit. These speak to the heart and conscience. We need to read the Bible, listen to and obey the voice of the Spirit, then we will not be led astray. Such Scripture texts as the following are good for our consideration: "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isa. 30:21). "I will instruct thee and

teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye" (Ps. 32:8). "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace" (Romans 14:19).

The Bible is God-given as our guide book, teaching us about heaven and how to get there. When we follow the teachings of the Bible we will not go astray.

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17 -- ENEMIES OF THE ANTS

Ants are industrious, wise and careful; nevertheless, they have enemies which prey on their lives. Ever since his fall, Satan has been an enemy of God and at the creation of man, he too, became the enemy and tempter of man. Every living thing whether man, animals, insects, or vegetation, has enemies. Some disease, germ, parasite or devourer preys on all forms of life. The ants though little are no exception, for they, too, have their enemies.

One of the enemies of ants is the ant-lion, It is not so named because it either looks like the ant or lion but because of its curious tactics. These are winged insects with a long slender body almost an inch and a half long and their wing spread is about the same. They look like a small dragon fly. Its life cycle consists of three stages: the egg, the larva and the adult. The larva is the most interesting stage. The female lays her eggs in sand and out of the eggs emerge larvae in the form of a clumsy louse a quarter to almost half an inch long, These make a pitfall for the ants in the form of little craters in dry sand or where there is a rotten log that has pulverized. These craters are very symmetrical and shaped like a cone or funnel. The ant-lion is a dusty color like the ground. He can move very fast; up, down and backward, when he makes the pitfall for the ants, pulverizing the ground and throwing it out. The craters are from one to three inches in diameter, and from an inch to two inches in depth. The size of the pit depends on the size and age of the maker. The sides of the pit are finely pulverized and smooth. In the center of the cone, hidden under the dust, lies an ant-lion, waiting for an ant to come along. The ant-lion knows that ants do not overlook anything; whether a nook, corner or hole, they will investigate and satisfy their curiosity, descending into its depths, which is to be the ant-lion's liking.

An ant comes along, nears the pit, moves first this way and then that way. She pauses and seems to be listening for something or watching something in the distance. She scurries up near the brink of the pit. Then the ant scampers off in some other direction to something more attractive to her. But very soon she returns to the brink of the pit, puts her inquisitive head over, makes an investigation, twisting her antenna in ever direction. She wonders why this thing is here, who made it and should she investigate more for the benefit of her nest. Foolish ant! She steps forward, the earth gives way. Frantically she attempts to regain her footing and retreat, but it is too late. The ant tumbles down the slope, hits the bottom and realizes she is in a trap. The jaws of the ant-lion have snapped, she is closed fast between them. She struggles with all her powers but all in vain. Escape is impossible. The ant-lion drags the ant back out of sight under the dirt and here sucks the juices from her body. Later when all the sweet juices have been drained from her body, he will drag the remaining shell for which he has no use to the pit. Then he will brace himself, slide his head under the carcass and toss it clear of the pit as he would a grain of sand.

How much this is like Satan, who also is called a roaring lion. He tempts, seduces, leads astray. He hides himself, set pitfalls to steal, kill or destroy. We need to be very careful not to yield to temptation, but rather watch and pray, read the Bible, obey the Lord and call on Him to deliver and keep us. Then we will not be caught in Satan's pitfall.

All the places of sin, such as the dance floor, picture shows, theaters and gambling rooms are to be shunned. Another good thing is, shun evil companions or bad company. Boys who smoke cigarettes, swear, run off from home, or steal are to be left alone, Stay away from evil, whether bad boys or girls, places or books, because they may prove to be one of Satan's pitfalls.

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18 -- WARFARE OF THE ANTS

The ants are the only insects that have organized armies and that undertake offensive warfare. Other insects have their soldiers by which they defend themselves. Sometimes bees of one hive will rob another which has been weakened, disorganized or where honey pours out from a broken comb. This leads not to actual battle but accidental quarreling. Ordinarily all bees respect the rights and property of other bees.

Ants are generally peaceful. Sometimes a species that is better organized and more intelligent will attack some which are less intelligent. The conquered ones become slaves to the conquerors. The weapons of the ants differ even as they differ in size and species. The offensive weapon of the ants are their mandibles. These vary in the form of shears, pincers, forceps, or like reaping sickles, They have sharp points which can pierce the skulls of those they attack.

Some species have in addition to mandibles, a stinger and a poison bag like bees. Some species can eject a vaporous poison which will paralyze their enemies. They do not often resort to this method of fighting, for they do not desire the death of their enemy and also fear they may be poisoned by their own venom.

Before making an attack, the ants send out their scouts to make a survey of the nest they wish to attack. Others advance in small bodies and gradually encircle the nest before an attack.

There are no massacres of the besieged and few victims are ever left. The occupants of the nest are expelled and forced to migrate, never to return to their homes. The nymphs are taken but little damage is done to the others. These nymphs are raised and made slaves in their own colony.

The Christian too, has battles, but battles of a different kind. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood. That is, our warfare is not directed against people. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. The enemy we fight is Satan and wicked spirits. We fight best by putting on the whole armor of God as described in Ephesians 6:10-18. Then we need to watch, stand fast, pray and study God's Word for the Word is the sword of the Spirit, in order to be victorious over sin and Satan.

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19 -- SLAVERY OF ANTS

In the world there are some men who possess more wealth and power than other people. This enables them to employ others to labor for them as servants and this in turn increases their wealth. So in the world of ants, slavery is practiced by the stronger tribes. They carry off before birth the larvae and nymphs, which are the youth of a nest, bringing them to their own nest and workers are delegated to care for, feed and raise the young of another colony in order to reduce them to slavery.

The slavery of ants is not oppressive or rigorous but can be explained to be something like an adoption. It is not the conquerors who adopt the conquered but rather the opposite for the conquered adopt the conquerors. This reminds us of love slaves. The voluntary slaves are as free as their captors, go and come as they please and are faithful to their masters even unto death. They will fight for their masters against the very stock from which they issued.

One scientist was able to induce an artificial nest of Sanguine ants to adopt and rear eight different species of ants. Each of the species did their work after their own manner, some were industrious, others skillful, while others were clumsy and not so aggressive.

Slavery was permitted in Old Testament times. The Israelites could possess foreigners as slaves. However, they could not mistreat them, be cruel or oppress them in any way. They were to be good unto them and bring them under the same regulation and laws of the home and country. Slavery among the Hebrews could be practiced under certain conditions. If a Hebrew was poor and bankrupt, he could sell himself to a near kinsman who was rich. His master paid all his debts and he became his servant but only for six years. At the end of six years he could go out free if he so desired. If he did not want to go but would rather be a servant all his life, his master bored his ear through with an awl. This branded him as a love slave.

This is a picture of Christian experience. The sinner is in debt. He is a slave to sin and Satan. He cannot free himself, but the way to get free is to sell himself to the Lord and become His servant, then the Lord will settle his old account. Then the Christian can enter into a deeper covenant with the Lord and by choice can become branded as a love slave unto Christ. The seal of the Spirit is the mark of ownership. The Lord adopts the Christian and the Christian adopts the Lord. Each wants the other and that makes it delightful to be a servant of the Lord.

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20 -- POSSESSING THEIR TERRITORY

The ants wage territorial wars. These wars are not for brutal purposes neither for the purpose of taking ants for slaves, but merely to hold and defend their own territory. Ants possess a sense of ownership even as men of what belongs to them. They claim a certain territory around their nest in which they search for food and where they pasture their aphids, They will not permit any neighboring colony to enter their territory, or steal a drop of the honeydew secreted by the

plant lice which they rear, herd, stable and tend. If ants from another colony trespass they will be attacked and a defensive war will be waged.

When a person becomes converted he is presented with a rich and valuable experience, even the gift of eternal life, Many precious promises in God's Word are his by claiming them through faith. Blessings and privileges come to him along the pathway of Christian life, These are his to possess and the Lord wants him to keep what He has given to His child. The devil who is our enemy is ever trying to get into our territory and take away what God has given us. Satan uses different methods to defeat us. He comes as a roaring lion, as a beguiling serpent and as an angel of light.

One way Satan attacks is by firing fiery darts of doubt, saying, "You are not saved," or, "You cannot hold out." Another way is by discouraging us, saying, we are a failure, we might as well give up or that it is no use for us to try.

The Lord commands that the Christian put on the whole armor of God, and then when the enemy attacks, we are to stand and not move or give the enemy any ground. No provision is made for the back. It is not God's will that we ever turn back, but that we go forward. Paul says, "Fight the good fight of faith." We fight doubts which come from the enemy. We should never listen to the enemy or believe any of his doubts.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal for our warfare is not carnal, It is spiritual and the weapons are the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, faith and prayer. To be a good soldier, we must be dressed with righteousness, peace, truth, Bible knowledge and faith. We fight best on our knees and by believing God and His Word, keeping what we have received and walking with God. Keeping up our testimony is very essential to a life of victory.

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21 -- FEEDING THEIR ENEMIES

Love is the greatest virtue in the universe. God does not merely love but He is love. Love is His essential being and make us. All He is and does is prompted by love. Love always seeks the highest good of the object loved.

Charity is one of the greatest characteristics of the ants. Their charity may become imprudent. That means, unwise or not for the best. Ants of different species will fight each other and the ones that are victor will enslave the other. Sometimes in the thick of the fight an enemy will solicit food. They are so charitable and generous they cannot resist the solicitation of a hungry enemy, but will stop fighting and give it alms which will revitalize it, then the struggle will again be resumed.

This reminds us of the teachings of God's Word. Christ said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." Again, we read, "Recompense to man evil for evil . . . If it be

possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men . . . Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

It has been said, To return good for good is friend-like; to return evil for evil is enemy-like; to return evil for good is fiend-like and to return good for evil is God-like.

Christ manifested His love toward us in giving His life for us even when we were sinners, The story of the good Samaritan is good to read to see how a man that was being despised did good to a wounded man. It would be good for children always to play fair and when mistreated by some one not to return evil but rather return good unto them and show the Spirit of Christ.

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22 -- ANTS ARE GOOD SAMARITANS

The ants cooperate and assist one another. No friction or misunderstanding exists in an ant hill. No two ants ever fall out with each other. Such cooperation and unity are probably not found anywhere else in nature. If a task is more than one ant can undertake, she will instantly solicit the number of ants which she deems are required for that task and they will assist her immediately.

When any ant is in need she is not left to herself. Each ant will manifest an interest in and affection for another ant. The welfare of one is the welfare of all. Should she become crippled or mutilated, her comrades will help her. If any are seriously or fatally wounded, and they sense there is no hope of recovery, they are carried out of the nest and left to their fate. When any become sick or are wounded, some will delegate themselves to become nurses and care for them.

The above facts remind us again of the fact, "the ants are a people." The principles of the ants are not carried out by the animals. Only the fittest survive among them. When any become crippled or are sick, they are despised, attacked and run over by their own. This is as much as to say, they are not wanted any more.

These tiny creatures that are so wise and so much like people, remind us of the good Samaritan. Though he was despised, yet he had a good nature and good will toward others. Especially was he moved with compassion toward the man who was robbed, wounded and left half dead, on his way to Jericho, The priest came along and passed by, not being moved with compassion nor moved to help him. The Levite did the same. The Samaritan came along, stopped, helped, and poured in the oil and the wine, then placed him on his own beast took him to an inn and paid his bill.

This is a picture of Jesus Christ Who came into the world. He was moved with compassion. He came to this world that was robbed by Satan, where people are half dead, (dead spiritually) and He pours in the wine, that is, by His blood redeems the lost. The oil represents the Spirit. He paid the price of our redemption. He promised to return again and then He will reward all of His servants who have taken care of those who have been rescued from sin.

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23 -- AN OBJECTIVE AND POSITIVE DELIGHT

A great and precious lesson that can be learned from the ants, is their happiness, They are far more sensible to pleasure than they are to pain. If a leg of an ant is amputated or her body crushed, she does not turn away from her path, but hastens to her nest as though nothing had happened. In returning to her nest, if she is met by one of her sisters, she will stop and share with her the delight of regurgitation.

Happiness with them consists not merely in what happens to them, but above all things, happiness is positive and active in that which they do for others. The ant cannot be happy unless she is giving happiness to those around her. She has no other joy than the joy of accomplished duty. She can only be happy as she helps another.

Most people are unlike the ants. With them happiness is mostly negative and passive. This kind of happiness is hardly recognized only in the absence of unhappiness. It is contracting and soon absorbed. They can only enjoy themselves as pleasure comes to them from others, by others doing for them, or giving to them.

The happiness of ants is enlarged and they multiply it and lavish it upon all the ants around them. This is a splendid quality. We wish more people possessed this good quality. How do the ants know it is more blessed to give than to receive? Who taught them this principle? Of course they do not know that Christ said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." But the One Who said it is the Creator of all things. He made the ants and when He made them, He instilled a nature in them to live for others, to help others, to feed others, to make other ants happy. In doing so, she fills her God ordained place and is happy.

The reason many are not happy is because they live selfish lives, lives only for self, lay up for self and keep everything, They have not learned the secret. Solomon said, "Go to the ant." Let us go to the ant and consider her ways and be wise, do as she does and be happy.

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24 -- UNITY AND LOVE OF THE ANTS

When it comes to unity and love, getting along well with each other without any friction, misunderstanding, quarreling or jealousy, the ants are in a class by themselves and are in the lead. None of the lower creatures maintain as perfect unity and harmony as do the ants. This unity is maintained by their reciprocal affection for each other and their common affection for their larvae.

The republic of ants is a republic of mothers. Though there are only a few queens in a small ant-hill, the numerous workers or citizens are virgins, yet all feel themselves to be mothers by delegation more lovingly and seriously than the queens that lay the eggs. No where in nature is there found such strong maternal love as among the ants. The hen will defend her chickens against any danger but does not love her eggs.

The experiment has been made with a worker ant that was trying to save a cocoon (the egg laid by a queen) by cutting off her two hind legs. It was observed that she with her four remaining legs, even without releasing her hold, dragged her body behind her, refusing to die or give up till the larva was safely deposited. Such is the love of the ant.

No two ants of the same colony have been known to fight or quarrel, to lose patience or to forget to show respect and courtesy for each other. Surely this is wonderful when we consider that several thousand ants, all in one small nest, will respect their mother, treat her well, feed her, caress her and manifest love and affection for the eggs which will be the oncoming generation. Throughout all their lives, they never quarrel, nor are jealous of each other; complain, or do their duty unwillingly. It also is interesting to know they patiently and lovingly care for their younger sisters.

If all boys and girls would love their parents so well as to never disobey, or need to be told over and over what to do and what not to do; never grieve them and always do what is right, what a comfort that would be to them! Then in addition to this, if children would play nice with each other, never quarrel or play unfair and always be good and take good care of little brother or sister, how happy would be their parents and that home. Only strong love will enable them to do so.

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25 -- THE PASTORAL ANTS

Again it is, that we consider the ants as "a people" in that some species possess, care for, raise and pasture, what to them are cows, which provide them with milk. These cows are what we call plant lice or aphids. These aphids can be seen on some tender grass shoots. Sometimes, upon observation the stem of some plant or shoots of trees are thickly covered with lice and also ants. The aphids exude a sweet fluid that is relished very much by the ants. This provides them with food. Each plant louse will exude many drops of sweet secretion every hour. The ants pass continually to and fro between their nests and the pastures where the plant-lice are feeding.

The plant-lice are herded by the ants as men herd cattle. They surround their herd with great precaution. Guards are appointed to keep watch over them. Some tribes of ants amputate the wings of the plant-lice in order to prevent their escape. The ants fence them in, build paths for them and prepare shelters in which they take refuge when it rains. Some species stable their cattle in their nests and feed them there.

Still another species of ants have discovered plant-lice which live exclusively on the roots of certain plants or trees. These ants adapt themselves to the needs of these lice, assist them by driving tunnels through the soil which make it possible to have access to the roots and herd the plant-lice in the bottom of their nest. There they live in comfort and luxury. They will collect the eggs and rear the young of the aphids and when they are disturbed will save them even as they would their own offspring.

Thus we see the ants are good to their cattle in providing for them, protecting them, even feeding and sheltering them. Their cattle in turn are good to the ants and provide food for them. How much this is like men and their cattle.

Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. Both occupations were good and needful to the existence of men. Cattle and sheep are the two most useful animals unto man. Oxen can be worked to cultivate the ground for man. Milk cows will provide man with milk, cream, butter and cheese. When slaughtered, will provide man with meat, and hide for shoes. In their life and in their death, cattle are beneficial to man. Surely they deserve the kind care of man, for the better he feeds and cares for them, the more he will derive from them. Surely the ants, even as men are wise little creatures, to so successfully carry on a pastoral life.

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26 -- THE WEEDING ANTS

In the States of Texas and Mexico, are found the Weeding Ants. These ants when molested will sting, which is very painful, In the plains where there is heavy grass and vegetation, these ants go to work and clear a round space about their nest. In this cleared space they permit nothing to grow but a single species of grass, known as ant-rice or needle-grass.

These little creatures are much like pioneers, settlers and farmers. With their mandibles they saw the tall weeds, which to them are like trees. When the weeds are cleared, this allows the ant-rice to grow. As soon as any weeds start to grow they are cut down, thus keeping their gardens and fields clean.

The grain of the ant-rice is stored in their granaries. This provides them with food. When rain falls for several days and some seeds germinate and threaten to grow in their nest, the ants hurriedly carry those out and deposit them in their refuse-heaps where they take root and grow.

These little creatures certainly are wise and teach us a good lesson. If we would succeed in raising vegetation we must keep down all weeds and other seeds that spring up. The farmer or gardener that would raise good crops must cultivate the soil, destroy all weeds, plant his seed, then keep the ground clean by destroying all weeds that keep coming up. Weeds are much easier destroyed when they are little.

This all teaches a spiritual lesson so important for all Christian boys and girls to learn. Sins are very much like little weeds. Weeds do not need to be planted to grow. The ground is full of weed seeds. They grow of themselves, neither do they need to be cultivated in order to grow. The Word of God is the good seed and is planted in the human heart in conversion, After the seed has been planted in the heart it must be cultivated or weeds will choke it so it will not grow. Good deeds and righteous acts must be cultivated, but evil acts or habits must be destroyed, pulled up by the roots so that they will wither and if any temptations to evil come, like little weeds springing up they need to be destroyed.

Would it not be nice if we like the ants would not allow evil words, deeds or thoughts to grow, only that which is good and holy; that we keep our lives, minds and bodies clean! This will require watchfulness and prayerfulness. The Lord will help us if we ask Him.

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27 -- MUSHROOM GROWING AND AGRICULTURAL ANTS

After the fall of Adam, the Lord God said to him, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground," and sending him out of the garden of Eden, commanded him "to till the ground from whence he was taken." Agriculture is a divinely commanded occupation and humanly a necessity for the welfare and existence of man. This command was given for a twofold reason: to provide a living for man and to keep man busy so that he would be employed and not be idle. All men are dependent on that which they eat in order to live. What we eat comes forth of the ground. What comes from the ground must first be planted, cultivated and then harvested. This involves labor, sweating, and weariness. Well were it for the human race if more people tilled the ground for a livelihood and to help others, than to labor to be rich, It is better to work to live than work to be rich. If this were done, the laborer and others would be benefited by their labor.

There are several species of ants in America that raise mushrooms. They take no food besides the fungi which they cultivate. Their lives are greatly taken up with their subterranean gardens. Their fungi do not grow without cultivation, When an ant sets out to found a new community, in her nuptial flight she carries with her a little of her native soil in the form of a little ball of mycelium, which she sows in the chamber which she will then cultivate. After the nest of ants is formed, the workers sow the spores, work the ground, fertilize it, all of which requires great skill. Any one who has attempted to raise mushrooms can attest the fact of the skill required. The ants are greatly rewarded in their labor.

In South America there are several species of ants that make aerial gardens. They build their nests, which are round as balls, in the crotch of two or three branches of a tree. These nests are remarkable from the fact that the ants sow in them the seeds of epiphytes. Epiphytes are plants as moss or lichen, that grow on other plants but derive the moisture for its development from the air. The ants plant these seeds in their nests, not for the sake of their flowers or foliage but to consolidate their nest. The rootlets of this plant are fibrous and their tangle growth holds their nest together, keeping out both the tropical sun and tropical rains. Truly the ants possess great wisdom which they apply to their every day living. No ants are idle, all are busy. They make the best of everything around them. Every country has its advantages and disadvantages, some things which are pleasant and others which are not. The ants are wise enough to take advantage of the best.

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28 -- REST OF THE ANTS

Everything earthly becomes old and wears out. This is a law none can escape. All living things, such as plants, trees, insects, animals and men need sleep and rest. Sleep and rest are

essential to all creation for growth and recuperation. While we work, our bodies are torn down and while we sleep they build up again. Sleep is one of the best medicines there is for the body. It is nature's remedy for weariness. While we sleep, we rest the best. This is true of the ants. Though they are very busy day by day and also work at night, they find it necessary to withdraw and cease their labors for a while in order to recuperate their energy.

When the ant returns to retire for rest, all her comrades understand her need. She is met by her companions who guard the entries, demand that she regurgitate her booty, which is the very object and delight of her life. She then is cleansed of the dust that covers her, is caressed, then is led into a sleeping chamber which is reserved for the exhausted workers. This sleeping chamber is away from the tumult of the crowd in a quiet part of the nest. Every care is dismissed and her slumber is so sound, she is not aroused unless an attack is made on the nest and then she will not fight, but rouses only enough to seek her escape.

The mind as well as the muscles needs rest and relaxing. For this reason, in school at certain hours the classes are dismissed and all go out to play. The playground is a good place to relax and play wholesome games.

It is interesting to know the ants, too, have times when they cease from their work. They have been observed on the sunny side of their hill to play friendly games, hold kindly contests and sport of a harmless nature. They never become impatient, cross with each other or play unfair. This cannot be said of children, at play at home, or on the school ground.

Rest, to man is sweet, refreshing and pleasant. It is essential for the physical body to have rest. Rest and sleep are the relaxation of the body, a cessation of labor. Rest and sleep are more easily induced after we have done our best, our duty and have finished our task. Then nothing will prey on the mind to disturb sweet rest. Peace of mind and soul are a great aid to good rest and sleep.

Soul rest can only be obtained by coming to Christ, confessing our sins and accepting Him, that is, His finished work. Every person should and could come very easily into possession of soul rest, Christ has died, the price has been paid, the work on God's part has been done. We accept His finished work. There is nothing for us to do but accept and rest. Christ said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

After this life is over for the Christian, he ceases from his labors of the body and goes to rest. He lays his armor down and goes home to the Lord. Heaven will be home and an eternal rest. Even after the resurrection, the Christian will do glorified service, yet will never get tired but enjoy an endless rest.

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29 -- ANTS NEVER GET LOST

Have you ever wondered if ants get lost? We have followed a trail of ants which led five or six rods from their nest. Their nest was up in a hollow log in an old building ten feet from the

ground. Their trail led down the post, along the rail, down another post and along several more rails. At a distance of six rods, their trail reached the ground where they went into a pasture field seeking forage. The remarkable thing about the observation was, all ants coming and going, followed a trail unseen by the human eye. All followed every curve, turn, and descent on the rails and posts as though they were following a well beaten path. When any obstruction was placed across their trail, they stopped a little while on either side, then turned sharply aside and going around came directly back into their trail, then went on to and from their nest. Their trail was distinguished and more easily followed by them than people follow a paved highway.

The fact is, the sight of ants is very feeble, so the antennae of the ants largely takes the place of eyes. The ants impregnate their own trail. They do not get lost, When they go out, they backtrack themselves, picking up their own trail by scent. An ant whose antennae has been amputated, loses her sense of direction. She then cannot pick up her trail but is left to wander anywhere and so goes astray.

Ants do not lose their way. This cannot be said of people. Sometimes people do get lost and cannot find their own way. People have been known to be lost in big timber and after wandering about several days become very frantic and some almost lost their reason.

All sinners are lost and going astray and away from heaven. If left to himself, man will never come to God. Isaiah said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." The Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd came into the world to give His life a ransom for many and to seek and save the lost.

Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." When we accept Him, we have the way and are in the way that leads to heaven, are on the way and the way is in us. If we accept Him, we have the truth because He is the Truth. By following Him we make no mistake nor will we go astray or miss heaven, Also, when we accept, we receive life, spiritual life and eternal life. Following Christ is safe, for then we will not go astray or lose our way.

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30 -- THE STRENGTH OF ANTS

The ants are very tiny, therefore, are not powerful such as an ox or a lion, but for their size they are strong. We do not think it is an exaggeration to say they are stronger for their size than any other creature. With the greatest ease they will carry an object several times their own size, many times their own weight. They greatly ignore the laws of gravitation, walking up, down or upside down, on a wall or tree and at the same time carry some object.

In 1902, A. R. Miller made the following observation concerning the strength of ants: "While walking on the University Campus the other day, my attention was arrested by what appeared to be a grasshopper moving along the sidewalk without using his hind legs. Upon closer examination, I saw that the grasshopper was dead and was being dragged by a small ant. The difference between the size of the little laborer and his load was so extraordinary that I thought it

might be of interest to know the exact weight of each. I accordingly weighed them carefully on an analytical balance and obtained the following figures:

"Weight of ant, -- 3.2 mg.

"Weight of grasshopper, -- 190.0 mg.

"Thus the ant was dragging a load that weighed approximately sixty times her own weight. This is equivalent to a man whose weight is one hundred fifty pounds dragging a load of four and one half tons, or a horse of twelve hundred pounds dragging a load of thirty-six tons."

Ants are a bundle of muscles and nerves. They can work day and night and keep it up for a long time without any rest.

Their health and vitality are not to be compared with other creatures, for it seems unfailing. They have been known to live for twenty days after they were decapitated, and four out of seven revived and seemed none the worse after being under water for a whole week. It is hard to know when they are dead.

As to their courage, scientists have accepted it as a proven fact that the ant is one of the noblest, the most courageous, most charitable, most devoted and the most altruistic creature on earth. This is saying much for an ant. Now read the aforesaid sentence again and consider it carefully. Is it any wonder when Solomon acquired so much wisdom that he spake of beasts, of fowls, of creeping things and of fishes, that he did not say to go to any of them, only, "Go to the ant!"

An experiment showing the strength and persistence of ants was as follows: Larvae were placed in a saucer and all but one ant cut off. From early morning until about ten at night, she carried larvae without stopping until the task was finished, making one hundred eighty-seven trips.

Another experiment by the same person, relates he placed an ant in a bottle which was kept there for six days without food or drink. When set free she was placed beside a heap of larvae far from her nest. What did she do? She took one larvae to the nest, then for half an hour fed, rested, groomed and returned to the work without a break until the task was finished.

Would it not be nice for every boy and girl to possess good qualities like an ant? Well, we may if we will. First, we must become soundly converted. Then we must covet and cultivate good qualities. Reading the Bible will tell us of good qualities as, "Be strong and of a good courage." See how many good qualities you can discover and make a list of them.

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31 -- CITIES OF THE ANTS

We all no doubt have seen an ant-hill that has been uncovered. Upon careful observation, we noticed many small objects looking like grains of rice or wheat which were gathered up by the

worker ants and taken down into their nest. These are supposed by many to be the eggs of ants, but they are not, for the eggs are very small and seldom are noticed. These grains carried by swarming workers are larvae which have emerged from the very small eggs. These are sometimes bare, but often in a cocoon which develop into nymphs. These emerge by their own effort or by the assistance of the workers, a perfect insect, males, females or neuter which are the workers. The decision whether the females shall be neuter or worker ants is made, by whom we know not, when it was still in the egg or the larvae state.

The ant-hill is mostly built in a dome shape. This allows the water to run off when it rains. Some ant hills are six feet high and at the base are thirty feet in diameter. In the center of these domes the temperature is always ten degrees higher than that of the outer temperature. In these warm centers, incubation takes place and might be compared to artificial incubators.

The style and material of the houses built by man differ in different countries. Each being built according to the material obtainable and then largely to every man's individual liking, This is so even with the ants. Men build houses of ice, mud, logs, grass, brick, cement, steel or lumber. Ants build their nests of twigs, pine needles, leaves, of earth or wood. However, the ants that build on the ground generally have a subterranean nest. This means underground and hollowed out in the sand or loamy earth. Their house extends above the ground and also below the ground. The part above the ground contains as many as twenty stories and that many below the surface. Each story serves its own purpose, has its own use. Each story is connected with the others. The use of each story is determined mainly by the temperature, for some stories are warmer than others.

Some stories form the granaries, some store houses, feasting rooms, rearing chambers, etc. Everything is carefully arranged by the ants. Near the summit, all the eggs are carefully arranged and in the next lower story, the larvae are all classed in order of their size, below, in a third chamber, the cocoons, etc. All in order and unity.

The God of heaven and earth and Creator of all things has given the Bible to man, teaching him the way of salvation and the way into heaven. Since the little creatures possess such great intelligence, and man possess a greater intelligence, there is no need for any one to miss heaven.

The ants build cities and men build cities. God, too, is building a city. Nothing can compare with the city God is building. The name will be New Jerusalem. The streets will be pure gold, and twelve foundations, all garnished by beautiful stones will support and adorn the city. In it will be the river of life, the tree of life and the throne of God. This city will be the eternal home of the redeemed.

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32 -- CEMETERIES OF THE ANTS

The ants, like all other creatures, die. Nevertheless, for insects they live long, often six or seven years. this is an unusually long life for an insect. Many species of insects live only for one season of the year, others live only a few weeks.

Again we consider "the ants are a people." This is manifested in the manner in which they dispose of their dead. Most creatures attack, fight and even kill! the wounded, the sick and weakly of their species. This has given occasion for the saying, "The survival of the fittest." It is not often that a sickly, weak or wounded wild beast or fowl is seen. Very seldom is the carcass of a wild fowl or beast discovered which died from natural causes. When they sense death is approaching they will hide and die in seclusion.

The ants love, cherish and nurse their wounded and sick comrades. When any die, the living ones properly dispose of their dead.

Man being the highest of all creatures on earth, the most intelligent, possessing the greatest capacity to love; grieves and sorrows when his own or relatives die. They are embalmed and decently buried in family lots. We call these places cemeteries.

The most ancient account of a death and burial is given in the Bible in Genesis, chapter twenty-three. This account relates the death of Sarah, Abraham's wife, the purchase of a burial place and her funeral.

Ants do not tolerate any dead in their nests, for that would taint the air with an offensive odor. When. any die, they are carried out of the nest to an outside place away from their home. They have their cemeteries and the dead are laid out on the ground in rows, one beside the other.

An Englishman in India, once observed where ants had been exterminated in a bathroom in a bungalow. The dead were so many that only a few survived. The remaining few could not remove the dead, so placed them neatly in rows on the floor, with all their heads in the same direction before they left the house.

Because of their personal cleanliness, they of necessity must have cemeteries, which contain empty pupa cases and any debris of the nest. The fact has been discovered by the ancient naturalists that ants bury their dead. Pliny maintained that the ants alone of all creatures bury their dead as men do.

One scientist says that the Mexican honey ants possess funeral chambers inside their dwellings for their deceased "honey-pots" (ants). Still another scientist says one American species possesses a cemetery for the dead of their own species and a separate one for their dead slaves. The corpses of the slave ants are merely piled in a heap with the refuse of the nest while their own deceased relatives are decently laid in rows in a special cemetery.

These facts regarding the intelligence of these little creatures again make us think of what Solomon said, "The ants are a people."

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It is compulsory in this country that all able-bodied children go to school. Every child has much to learn and good schools are a good thing to help young people succeed in life. There are many school houses in this country, along country roads or in cities within reach of all, and where there is not one in walking distance, school buses come to take them to school.

It is good to have good buildings which are well lighted, ventilated and heated. More important than having a good building are good teachers and good text books from which to learn. I suppose that all of you who read this have gone to public school day after day at the appointed hour, and that you also go to Sunday School every Sunday and have a Christian teacher who teaches Christ and the Bible to you.

Have you ever gone to school to the ants? The Bible says, "Go to the ant." The person that is singled out and commanded to go to the ant is the sluggard. The sluggard is a person who is slow, lazy, that does not want to work or learn his lessons, that has no objective in life, that puts off doing what needs to be done now until some other time.

It would do us all good to go to school to the ant and let the ant be our teacher and we be the pupils. Ants have more practical wisdom, good principles, and keen foresight than many college professors. Students should go to the ants, learn and come away wiser.

Let us go to school to the ant. We start out, not down the road, but across the field. Going ten or fifteen rods, we come to an ant hill, we stop. No bell rings to call us to order. We must sit or stoop down, for the way to learn at ant school is not by what we hear, but what we see. We will let the ants be the professors and we the pupils.

School is on. Here come many little Professors. Every one is a great teacher. What are they doing? All are busy, some come, others go. They are gathering food for winter and their future after the harvest is over. There is not one lazy ant among them. There is no friction, no quarreling, no misunderstanding, no shirking of duty. They teach by example. This is the practical way to teach.

We see many ants passing, each one stops to greet her sister when they meet, as if to say something good, an encouraging word or inform her where there is something good. Each one is doing her very best without being told what to do or what not to do. They obey their instinct.

Now do you see, there are more lessons to be learned than to read, write or solve problems. One lesson the ants teach us is industry -- be busy, do something useful, seek to be a success. Another lesson is that of foresight. They are continually looking ahead and working with the future in view. Many people need to learn this lesson because man has a future before him in this life and a future after death. If he does not learn to find God's thought for his life, he will be a failure for two worlds. The lesson of unity is very important, that is, how to get along well with others without quarreling, to respect the rights of others, to be fair unto all, to be unselfish, is a great and profitable lesson worth going to the ants many times in order to learn. The lesson of courtesy is also learned by watching the ants and we do well to emulate them along this line.

In the spring of 1937, we heard Bud Robinson preach, and in his sermon he mentioned the following:

"There is not a lazy muscle in the ant and they have more wisdom than many college professors and many students should go to the ant, learn and come away the wiser.

"In a certain city I was in a campmeeting and walking up the streets, I looked on the sidewalk and what do you think I saw coming to meet me? A cricket was coming down the sidewalk and not one leg of the cricket was moving. Never before had I seen a cricket move without moving his legs. I stopped and watched. I wanted to know the secret, so I looked and what do you think! Under the cricket was an ant and she was pulling the cricket along. This was in the harvest time. The Bible says, ants gather their food in the harvest. She was doing what the Bible said. Harvest time is cricket time. You never see a cricket in the winter, That is not the time to find them. The ants know that much.

"This little ant carried that cricket into her nest and stored it up. The next winter she feasted on cricket legs and fared well."

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34 -- GRASSHOPPER PEOPLE AND ANT PEOPLE

The ants teach us a great lesson -- a lesson for eternity and the future. They are busy all summer, laying up, providing for the future -- the winter. Their summer and harvest time is not spent idly but wisely and every provision is made for the winter time of cold and barrenness. Ants are continually living with the future in view.

How different are the grasshoppers. They live for the present, for today, or momentarily. They sing chirp and play all day long, They think not, care not, provide not nor do they lay up for the future. When Fall and cold weather comes, they will freeze and starve for they have no home, no food.

Some years ago, there appeared in a First Reader, a fable concerning the ants and a grasshopper. The ants were busy all summer, providing food and laying up for Fall and Winter, The grasshopper went about all summer, chirping, playing and dancing.

At last Fall came with cold weather and the grasshopper became wet, cold and hungry. Coming to the ants and knocking at their door, the ants from within inquired,

"Who is knocking?"

The answer from without came, "Mr. Grasshopper."

"What do you want?" inquired the ants.

"I am cold and hungry. I want food and shelter, let me in," he replied.

"What have you been doing all summer," they asked.

The grasshopper replied, "Chirping, dancing and playing."

The ants said, "Go away, continue to dance and play, we will not give you any food, for he who does not work shall not have anything to eat."

The grasshopper hopped away and died of hunger and cold.

This fable teaches a good moral. It illustrates how all people live. There are some ant people. These are concerned how they live, how they spend their time, how they will die and where they will spend eternity. They accept Christ as their Saviour and make every preparation for death, the coming of the Lord and eternity, so are safe and sure in life, in death and will be in eternity.

Then there are many grasshopper people. They care nothing for death, the great judgment and the great future of eternity that is coming. For this they make no preparation, but only live in sin, pleasure and the present. Let us not be like the grasshopper, but rather like the ants, accept Christ and be saved for this life and for eternity.

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35 -- GRANDMA'S RELIGION ANT-LIKE

The one great spiritual lesson which we learn from the ants is to store up for the future. The ants live merely for time. They do not possess a soul like a man, neither is any eternity awaiting them as there is for man.

The ants store food for the barren season of the year, the Fall and Winter. Since man has a spirit soul and body, it is essential for him to store up food for his body for Winter. Then it is essential for man to store up the spiritual food for his soul in old age and eternity. The spiritual food that is to be stored up, is the Word of God. This storing up must begin with the new birth, which is a passing from death unto life -- the impartation of the divine life of the Son of God, the Living Word, into the heart of man. After this a continual feeding upon and storing up of God's Word is essential.

The preparation for the soul and its eternal destiny, or the storing up of Christ, the Living Word, and the Bible, the written Word of God, is as far superior and important over the storing up of food for Winter, as eternity is longer than time. There comes a time when all that is physical and earthly will fail and come to an end. Then it will be comforting to possess that which is eternal and which gives eternal assurance and hope to the soul.

All earthly things will fail. Health will fail, physical life will fail, memory will fail, sight will fail, hearing will fail, but he that doeth the will of God shall abide forever. Many saints who have walked with God for many years when they came to the end of their earthly life, and all

earthly things were slipping away, discovered that which they had stored up was abiding, sustaining and comforting. Some whose memory failed, could not recognize their own loved ones, but when the name of Jesus was mentioned, revived and smiled.

An old lady who had been converted in early childhood, and like the ants which stored up for the future, stored up the spiritual food and graces all through the following years. In her eighties, her mind failed. She was not insane at all, but her mind was very much worn out. Nevertheless, she was happy in her soul. When the preacher would ask her, "Grandma, how old are you?"

"Seventeen years old," she replied.

The next time he met her, he again asked, "Grandma, how old are you?"

Grandma replied, "I am one hundred twenty years old." She did not know, she could not remember.

When the minister talked concerning heaven, eternity or the Bible, her countenance would lighten and her answers were as clear as a bell.

One day her minister tested her clearness of experience and soundness of doctrine, by asking her, "Grandma, how do we get to heaven?"

Her quick response was, "We get to heaven by being regenerated and sanctified, and then we must "walk in the light."

"Were you not sanctified first and then regenerated afterward?" the preacher asked.

Quickly she responded, "No no, we are regenerated first and afterward we are sanctified. We cannot be sanctified until we are regenerated."

This dear saint of God was wise. What she had laid up was hers and would be hers eternally.

Let us all be wise like the ants, make sure the salvation of the soul for time and eternity, lay up the spiritual food and the eternal realities, then when everything earthly fails, that which we have laid up will abide with us, give peace in old age and death, and a hope of heaven.

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THE END