

## Lesson 30

Composition Theme:

### Contentment in the Present

#### To the Teacher

Your students are probably familiar with the expression "the good old days." They may even know what it is to wish they were back in those days. But do they know that the Bible has something to say about such a desire? The theme of this lesson says it is not wise to think that "the former days were better."

Discuss several reasons for which it is unwise to think this. (1) The "former days" were really the same kind of days as the present days. They only seem more pleasant because we tend to forget the unpleasant things that we experienced in those days. (2) Too much meditation on the "former days" will cause discontentment with the present. Then we will miss the joys of today, which can be fully realized only as we make the best of each moment as it comes. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Remember, today will also be one of "the good old days" sometime. (3) Too much meditation on the "former days" will hinder our present usefulness. It will cause us to compare the present with the past rather than properly dealing with present needs. Our outlook needs to be *forward* and *upward*, not backward (Philippians 3:13-15).

List several of these points on the board, adding others as desired, and have the students use them as subtopics in essays on the composition theme. (They will probably not want to use all the points.) Remind them to develop each paragraph with suitable details, comparisons, and examples, and to make their essays as clear and readable as possible. Use the evaluation chart in the front of this book as a writing and scoring guide.