NOTES AND QUESTIONS

FOR THE

ORAL INSTRUCTION

OF

COLORED PEOPLE.

WITH

APPROPRIATE TEXTS AND HYMNS.

BY

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WITH AN

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PREFACE.

THE need for an unpretending manual like the work which follows, has long been felt. It has been required from various quarters and with great earnestness at the hands of the Publication Society, and the writer yielding to the instances of brethren, his colleagues and counsellors in the Committee of Publication, consented to compile a Catechism for the Oral Instruction of the Colored People. He trusts that this work, prepared amid the frequent interruptions and many labors of a city pastorate, may not prove unacceptable to those whose pious interest in the condition of their children and their servants have brought it into existence.

The plan, it will be seen, is peculiar. Each lesson embraces a text, an exposition divided into two or three points, a catechism and a hymn. It was adopted after an examination and comparison of many catechisms, and after consultation with a brother whose personal acquaintance with the results and methods of oral instruction extends

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over many years. To him I am indebted for the practical suggestions which follow. They do not need any recommendation.

It was at first intended to make this Catechism a compilation from Beddome, whose exposition the first lessons closely follow. But his plan, which is that of the Westminster Assembly, was soon found to be too complicated for the purpose in view. So that the arrangement is for the most part independent. In some instances the same doctrines occur more than once. This could not be entirely avoided. And indeed it was thought advisable to return frequently to the central doctrine of the Gospel and to the sanctions of a future state. *Several important themes have sometimes been grouped together* on account of the limited number of lessons, which it was thought should not exceed the number of Sabbaths in the year. The subject of prayer is distributed, especially under "Christian characters." The questions have been so framed as never to range at less than ten or more than twenty, in a single lesson. The hymns are all selected from the Sacred Lute.

The writer commends his little work and his fellow-laborers in the enterprise to which it is devoted, to the blessing of God. May the knowledge of that holy Nature, and obedience to that sovereign Will, extend more and more widely over the earth!

E. T. W.

CHARLESTON, Oct. 1, 1857.

RESTRICTED AREA

INTRODUCTION.

THE *duty* of imparting religious instruction to those whom Providence has made dependent upon us, may be assumed.

The *practicability* of moral improvement on the part of our slaves, is placed, by actual experiment, beyond question.

Long observation has satisfied us of the beneficial effects of scripture teaching upon this class of our population. Generally, the most honest, faithful and well behaved servants, are those who have the greatest amount of religious intelligence. They understand best the relation existing between themselves and their masters, and are the most contented with it. And in those communities where the most prudent and energetic measures have been adopted for their spiritual enlightenment, the least trouble has been found in their management.

Disparaging views of the piety of our negroes, are often expressed. It is supposed by many, that "their religion is occupied entirely with the feelings." This may be so in cases where they are under the influence of ignorant spiritual guides. It could not well be otherwise. There is always a predisposition to animal excitement, where there is ignorance and rudeness. But an appeal to facts shews, that when instructed by competent religious teachers, as clear examples of intelligent faith and consistent

practice are found among them, as among any other class of professing Christians.

There is no lack among the colored people of the means of grace. There are very few who have not within their reach the preached word. But it is now generally conceded, that their religious wants are not fully met by the ordinary pulpit instructions, as dispensed to both whites and blacks united in one congregation. The preaching in such cases, seldom conveys sufficiently definite ideas to the negro mind. Those who instruct them have frequently to contend with ignorance, with obscure views of evangelical truth, and with many superstitious opinions and extravagant religious fancies. All successful teaching of them must presuppose but little knowledge of the Bible, and should enter into particulars with great minuteness. Technical phrases and subtle theological distinctions, should, as far as possible, be avoided. To bring within their comprehension the plainest doctrines and practical precepts of the Bible, requires that they be set forth in the most simple and animated language, and constantly illustrated by the daily scenes and incidents with which they are familiar, and by the parables, miracles and historical events that are found in the Bible.

In meeting these wants, the able writer of the following "Notes and Questions," has, in our opinion, been eminently successful. He has responded to the demand made upon him, by furnishing a work, which seems to us to combine all the requisites of a complete manual of instruction for the colored people of the South. Comparatively few among them can read. The work has therefore been prepared with a view to their oral instruction. Their ignorance of letters makes it further necessary, that their memories should be stored with the scriptures — for it is these, and not the words of men, that are to bless and save

them. This want is supplied by the sacred texts at the head of the lessons, and from which the succeeding instructions are drawn. But no amount of the divine word committed to memory will benefit spiritually, unless the truth contained in that word be conveyed to the understanding. This is sought to be done in the exposition that follows each text of scripture. In these expositions the fundamental truths of religion are presented and enforced in the simplest language; and these truths are still further impressed upon the mind by questions and answers based upon the exposition. The amount of scripture knowledge which can be imparted by combining in this manner expository and catechetical instruction, has given this mode of teaching the preeminence in the minds of those who, from experience, are most competent to testify on this subject. The hymn at the end of each lesson, will be a most attractive feature of the work to those for whose benefit it is designed. Their fondness for music is well known. No better vehicle of truth to them can be found, than an appropriate hymn, well suited to a pleasing tune. Their memories stored with sacred songs — and there is nothing they learn so soon — will prove a source of enjoyment and improvement which scarcely anything else can supply.

With the aid of this manual, the religious teaching of our negroes may be made both easy and general. All that is wanted to secure this, is some practical system or method of instruction. This, guided by the lights which experience has furnished, we have endeavored to present in the following suggestions for the organization and conduct of *Colored Sunday Schools*, in which this manual may be used.

There should be a Sunday School for blacks connected with every church in our southern country; and one upon every plantation and in every household to which the

church school is not accessible. The utility of these schools cannot be a matter of doubt with those who have any acquaintance with them. No mode of instruction has been found so well adapted to the mental condition of our slaves, and none which brings them under such favorable influences.

In establishing Sunday Schools in connection with churches, it is almost indispensable that *Pastors* take the lead, in calling the attention of their congregations to the subject; and in enforcing upon pious owners the duty of using their *authority* to secure the regular attendance of their servants upon this means of instruction. We may be excused from saying, that the responsibility of a minister of Christ in relation to our slave population is deep and solemn, and that without the aid here suggested, we do not see how the full measure of that responsibility is to be met.

In organizing a Sunday School, a superintendent and teachers from the white members of the church should be obtained. The school should then be divided into as many classes as there are teachers, and the classes arranged according to age and sex; the adults being always placed in classes by themselves. The whole school should be under the direction of the superintendent; whose duty it shall be to see that the classes are properly formed, and that order is preserved. The exercises should be commenced by him with singing and prayer. He should then read the text of the lesson together with the exposition given in the book, adding such remarks by way of illustration as may be deemed advisable, in which remarks he should be careful not to wander from the subject of the lesson. After the scholars have been taught by their respective teachers, the superintendent should review the whole. When teachers cannot be obtained, let the whole school be

instructed by one person, which is very easily done on the oral system. In teaching the texts of scripture and the hymns, he reads and the whole school at the same time repeat after him. In catechising, he asks the question and answers it, and the scholars repeat the answer after him, and this is continued until they can give the answer without his guidance. The same plan should be pursued by teachers of classes. Let it be borne in mind by all engaged in this work, that while adapting their instructions to the capacity of those taught by them, all *negroism* in speech should be carefully avoided. This always detracts from the dignity and influence of the teacher, and is generally offensive to the negroes themselves.

In plantation and household schools, the above plan should be pursued by the master or mistress, and their children should be encouraged to act as teachers. Notwithstanding the ignorant and unjust clamors of some to the contrary, we know that many pious owners are accustomed to impart religious instruction to their slaves. In many parts of our Southern country such schools as we have suggested have been also established by pious and energetic females, and conducted by them with encouraging success. And now that the way is opened and made easy, by this and like publications, we doubt not that the effort will be conscientiously made by many more.

Especial pains should be taken to secure the attendance of the young at these schools. There is great difficulty in conveying religious ideas to the minds of adult negroes, who have grown up in ignorance. The religious intelligence of those who have been taught in childhood, has been always found far beyond that of those who have received instruction later in life. The perceptions of the young are less obtuse than those of their elders; their memories are more retentive; their minds less occupied

with superstitious notions; their habits less perverted, and their dispositions more teachable. It is an interesting fact, that inquirers are almost universally found among the young in these schools, and when they are converted and come before the church to relate their religious experiences, instead of recounting the wild fancies and absurd dreams, so common among the more adult applicants for membership, their statements of the work of grace upon their hearts are generally clear and evangelical, and in many cases most edifying and impressive.

Let none who are disposed to engage in this work think it strange, that the doctrines of which this manual treats, should be presented to untutored minds. They are essential parts of, and unitedly make up, the great system of divine truth, and are here set forth so as to come within the reach of the most ordinary capacities. The difficulties encountered by many religious instructors of our slaves, may often be traced to their own imperfect comprehension of the doctrines they seek to impart. It should never be forgotten by such, that there is a limit to every one's attainments in knowledge, and that the wisdom of a teacher consists in ascertaining that limit in his own case, and in leading his scholars up to that point, without attempting to go beyond it.

J. T.

SUBJECTS OF THE LESSONS.

1. God.
2. Word of God.

Perfections of God.

3. Spirituality.
4. Omnipresence.
5. Eternity.
6. Wisdom.
7. Power.
8. Holiness.
9. Goodness.
10. The Trinity.
11. The Works of God.
12. The Fall of Man.
13. The Misery of Man.
14. Grace of the Father.
15. Grace of the Son.
16. Incarnation of Christ
17. Christ a Prophet.
18. Christ a Priest.
19. Christ a King.
20. Grace of the Spirit.
21. Repentance.
22. Faith.
23. Justification.
24. Adoption.
25. Sanctification.

Duty of Man.

26. Rule of Duty — The Law.
27. Spirit of Duty — Love.

The Ten Commandments.

28. Choice of God.
29. Image of God.
30. Name of God.

31. Service of God.
32. Honor to Superiors.
33. Respect for Person.
34. Respect for Family.
35. Respect for Property.
36. Respect for Truth.
37. Contentment.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTERS AND NEEDS.

38. Poverty of Spirit.
39. Pious Mourning.
40. Meekness.
41. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.
42. Mercy.
43. Purity of Heart.
44. Peace-Making.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS.

45. The Church.
46. Baptism.
47. The Lord's Supper.

LAST THINGS.

48. Death.
49. Resurrection.
50. Judgment
51. Heaven.
52. Hell.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

Of the Hymns selected from the Sacred Lute, appended to the lessons of this Catechism.

Catech.	Lute.	
16	101	Come sound his praise abroad.
19	100	Father of Mercies, in thy word.
21	107	O Lord I would delight in thee.
23	54	Lord we come before thee now.
25	102	O God our help in ages past.
28	106	Lord, Thou hast searched and seen me thro'.
30	186	Awake our souls, away our fears.
32	191	A charge to keep I have.
34	6	My God! how endless is thy love
37	117	To God the Father yield.
39	119	The spacious firmament on high.
41	308	Return O Wanderer, now return.
43	173	How helpless guilty nature lies.
46	111	Grace! 't is a charming sound.
48	50	Come ye that love the Saviour's name.
50	141	Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
52	130	Join all the glorious names
54	336	Alas! and did my Saviour bleed.
57	133	All hail the power of Jesus' name.
59	167	Come Holy Spirit! Heavenly Dove.
62	310	Sinners turn: why will ye die.

64	328	Faith is a precious grace.
66	341	Not all the blood of beasts.
68	339	Who can describe the joys that rise.
70	225	O for a closer walk with God.
73	352	In all my Lord's appointed ways.
75	223	Do not I love thee, O my Lord.
78	103	Before Jehovah's awful throne.
80	349	And must I part with all I have.
82	132	Jesus, I love thy charming name.
85	51	Lord how delightful 't is to see.
87	82	How blest the sacred tie, that binds.
90	170	Eternal Spirit we confess.
92	90	O thou who hast at thy command.
94	197	Bright source of everlasting love.
97	187	So let our lips and lives express.
99	234	While thee I seek, protecting power.
101	322	Jesus lover of my soul.
104	222	How oft alas! this wretched heart.
106	237	And can my heart aspire so high.
108	224	Come, thou long expected Jesus.
110	108	Great God of Wonders! all thy ways.
112	201	My God permit me not to be.
114	199	Blest be the tie that binds.
117	44	I love thy Kingdom, Lord.
119	358	Come Holy Spirit! Dove divine.
121	365	If human kindness meets return.
124	387	Death floats on every passing breeze.
126	386	And must this body die?
128	291	Day of judgment! Day of wonders!
130	312	Aloft to heaven our hope ascends.
133	287	When thy mortal life is fled.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON I.

GOD.

TEXT. Heb. ii : 6. He that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

I. God is the first of beings. He is the being who has made all things, and who rules and blesses all creatures. He is the great King of Heaven, and He is high above the earth. It is our duty to worship Him only; we were made to love Him with all our hearts, and to serve Him with all our powers; and we shall be indeed a happy people if our God is the Lord.

II. We shall do well to believe firmly in God, and to think often of Him. This is what the angels in heaven do. They rest not day and night, but are forever praising Him. As for us, it is shameful and sinful not to know our Maker. Those who forget God are without excuse.

III. We need not be ignorant of God. Our own souls tell us about Him. We see His works all around us in the world. Our lives are full of His judgments and His mercies. And, finally, God has given us His blessed Word, as a light that shineth in a dark place. This will teach us what His will is. And we may ask for His Spirit, so that we may understand what we hear, and become wise unto salvation.

1. Q. Who is the first of beings?
   A. God.
2. Q. What has He done?
   A. He has made all things.
3. Q. What does he do?
   A. He rules and blesses all creatures.
4. Q. What is our duty to God?
   A. To worship Him, and to love and serve Him.
5. Q. Should we believe firmly in God?
   A. Yes, and we should often think of Him.
6. Q. What do the angels in heaven do?
   A. They praise Him forever.
7. Q. If we do not know God, how should we feel?
   A. We should be ashamed and afraid.
8. Q. Has God made himself known in us?
   A. Yes, our own souls tell us about Him.
9. Q. Do we see any signs of God in the World?
   A. Yes, His works are all around us.
10. Q. How does God deal with us in our lives?
    A. By judgments and mercies.
11. Q. What teaches us most about God?
    A. His blessed Word.
12. Q. Will God help us to understand his Word?
    A. Yes, He will give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.

CALL TO PRAISE. S. M.

Come, sound His praise abroad,
And hymns of Glory sing;
Jehovah is the sovereign God,
The universal King.

Come, worship at His throne;
Come, bow before the Lord;
We are His work, and not our own;
He formed us by His word.

To-day attend His voice,
Nor dare provoke His rod;
Come, like the people of His choice,
And own your gracious God.

LESSON II.

THE WORD OF GOD.

TEXT. 2 Tim. iii: 16, 17. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable, for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

I. The Word of God is contained in the Old and New Testaments. In old times, God declared His will to His servants, and they wrote and spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. These pious men had the power of working signs and wonders, and of uttering prophecies, to convince unbelievers. They converted many souls by the preaching of the Gospel. They were willing even to be slain for the word of God. They sealed the truth with their blood. — And now, every true Christian has the witness in himself that the Scriptures come from heaven.

II. The Word of God is our rule. We have wandered astray like lost sheep, and therefore God gives us this light to our feet to guide us back to the path of duty. Hence, we must not follow the examples of men, nor even a voice from heaven, if they teach us to break this law. The law of the Lord is plain enough for us to understand it. It is very broad, so as to cover all our duties. It is perfect, so that it may convert the soul. It was intended to last forever. And if any man shall add to it, God will add to him the plagues written in this book. Its truths we must believe, and its commands we must obey.

III. We should study the Word. It is our duty to know more and more of the Scriptures. If we can read, we should read them diligently all the days of our lives, especially on the Sabbath. We should assemble to hear

them. We should receive God's words with reverence and delight, and determine to do whatever he shall say.

1. Q. In what is the Word of God contained?
   A. In the Old and New Testaments.
2. Q. How did men get this Word?
   A. In old times, God declared it to His servants, and they wrote and spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
3. Q. How did His servants prove that God sent them?
   A. They worked miracles, and foretold things to come.
4. Q. Did God give them success?
   A. Yes; they converted many souls, by preaching.
5. Q. Did they show that they were in earnest?
   A. Yes: they consented to be slain for the Word of God.
6. Q. What proofs, besides, have Christians to the truth of the Bible?
   A. They have the witness of the Spirit.
7. Q. What rule have we to govern us?
   A. The Word of God.
8. Q. May we all understand it?
   A. Yes, it is very plain.
9. Q. Does it cover all our duties?
   A. Yes, it is exceeding broad.
10. Q. Does it convert souls?
    A. Yes, for it is perfect.
11. Q. How long was it intended to last?
    A. Forever.
12. Q. If any man adds to the Bible, or takes from it, what may he expect?
    A. That God will punish him.
13. Q. How should we use the Scriptures?
    A. We should search them and hear them.
14. Q. On what day especially?

A. On the Sabbath day.

15. Q. Why should we go to church?

A. To hear what the Lord shall say.

16. Q. How should we listen to God's word?

A. With seriousness and joy, and with the purpose to obey Him.

DELIGHT IN THE WORD. C. M.

Father of mercies, in Thy word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored,
For these celestial lines.

'Tis here the tree of knowledge grows,
And yields a free repast;
Here, purer sweets than nature knows
Invite the longing taste.

'Tis here the Saviour's welcome voice
Spreads heavenly peace around,
And life, and everlasting joys
Attend the blissful sound.

O, may these heavenly pages be
My ever-dear delight;
And still new beauties may I see,
And still increasing light.

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,
Be thou forever near;
Teach me to love Thy sacred word,
And view my Saviour here.

LESSON III.

THE PERFECTION OF GOD — SPIRITUALITY.

TEXT. John iv: 24. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

I. God is a Spirit. He has no shape such as ours, and He cannot be seen by human eyes. He is perfect; He has never felt any carnal passions; He has never suffered from weakness, or sorrow, or sin. He is never weary, but continually works out His wise, and good, and holy designs. We depend upon Him for life and all its blessings; but He is the Father of spirits, and does not depend upon any. And He is an immortal spirit. It is impossible that He should die.

II. This fact, that God is a Spirit, is a great lesson for us. We should not make images of God, for nothing that the hands of men can make will resemble God; and He declares that the worship of the heathen displeases him. We must not be satisfied when we worship God with our bodies, while our hearts are far from him. For He is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. And finally, we must not be content with asking God only for earthly gifts. We should pray, above all things, for spiritual blessings; and we may even ask that the Lord Himself shall be the portion of our souls.

1. Q. What is God?
   A. A Spirit.
2. Q. Has he a shape like ours?
   A. No: He cannot be seen by human eyes.
3. Q. How does He differ from fleshly beings?
   A. He has no carnal passions, no weakness, nor sorrow, nor sin.
4. Q. Does He ever give up His wise and holy designs?
   A. No: For He is never weary.
5. Q. Is God dependent upon any other being?

A. No: for He is the Father of Spirits.

6. Q. Will God ever die?
A. No. He is an immortal spirit.

7. Q. What is the first lesson from this doctrine?
A. That we should not make images of God.

8. Q. What is the second lesson?
A. That we should worship God with our hearts as well as our bodies.

9. Q. What is the third lesson?
A. That we should ask Him for spiritual blessings.

10. Q. Mention the greatest blessing that we should ask from God.
A. That He Himself would be the portion of our souls.

SPIRITUAL DESIRES. C. M.

O Lord, I would delight in Thee,
And on Thy care depend;
To Thee in every trouble flee,
My best, my only friend.

When all created streams are dried,
Thy fulness is the same;
May I with this be satisfied,
And glory in Thy name.

No good in creatures can be found
But may be found in Thee;
I must have all things, and abound,
While God is God to me.

O Lord, I cast my care on Thee;
I triumph and adore;
My great concern shall ever be,
To love and praise Thee more.

LESSON IV.

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE.

TEXT. Ps. cxxxiii: 8-10. If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there; if I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.

I. God is present everywhere; there is no place where He is not. He is in heaven, to bless the angels and reward the saints. He is on earth, where he is continually at work, ruling, and providing for, His creatures. He is in hell, where He punishes the wicked with eternal pains. God includes all things. His immense presence is broader than the earth and vaster than the sea; it is deeper than hell and higher than heaven; even the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him.

II. Let us realize this thought, that God is not far from every one of us. Let us remember, that in Him we live and move and have our being. When the burdens of life lie heavily upon us, we shall be joyful and strong, when we know that the Lord is with us. In temptation we will not dare to sin, when we remind ourselves that He is near. And we shall not shrink from our duties, when we reflect that in all our ways we are walking before the Lord. This thought sustained the soul of Abraham, the father of the faithful, Gen. xvii: 1.

1. Q. Is there a place where God is not present?
   A. No; He is everywhere.
2. Q. Is He in Heaven?
   A. Yes.
3. Q. What does He there?
   A. He blesses the angels and rewards the saints.
4. Q. Is He on earth?
   A. Yes.
5. Q. What does He there?

A. He continually rules and provides for His creatures.

6. Q. Is he in hell?
A. Yes.

7. Q. What does He there?
A. He punishes the wicked with eternal pains.

8. Q. Is God's presence more immense than heaven, or earth, or hell?
A. Yes; none of these can contain Him.

9. Q. What does this doctrine teach us?
A. That God is not far from every one of us.

10. Q. In whom do we live and move and have our being?
A. In God.

11. Q. When can we be joyful and strong under our burdens?
A. When we know that the Lord is with us.

12. Q. Will this thought keep us, in temptation?
A. Yes; we will not dare to sin when we think that God is near.

13. Q. What will make us faithful to our duties?
A. To know that we are walking before the Lord.

14. Q. What pious man was supported by this recollection?
A. Abraham, the father of the faithful.

GOD'S GRACIOUS PRESENCE DESIRED. 7s.

Lord, we come before Thee now;
At Thy feet we humbly bow;
55 O, do not our suit disdain;
Shall we seek Thee, Lord, in vain?

55 Lord, on Thee our souls depend:
In compassion now descend:
55 Fill our hearts with Thy rich grace;
Tune our lips to sing Thy praise.

In Thine own appointed way,
Now we seek Thee : here we stay ;
Lord, from hence we would not go,
Till a blessing Thou bestow.

LESSON V.

ETERNITY OF GOD.

TEXT. Ps. xc ; 2. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.

I. There is but one Being who has never had a beginning, and whose days never can come to an end. This Being is God. The great world around us had a beginning, and will at last perish. Even our souls had a beginning, when they were made by God, and they too would perish like withering leaves and fading flowers, if God did not keep them from destruction. But God's nature cannot decay or change. He is the eternal, immortal King, to whom be honor and glory forever and ever.

II. This is a glorious and awful perfection. An eternal God can do as He pleases, for all times are in His hand. Our lives cannot be compared with His ; and we ourselves are as nothing before him. But He permits us to trust in him. He has everlasting strength to help us. He loves his people with an everlasting love. And he keeps at His right hand, pleasures forevermore. We should fear to offend Him. He will always live to punish the wicked. He will banish them from His presence, and inflict upon them everlasting destruction.

1. Q. What is meant by God's eternity ?
   A. That He has neither beginning nor end of days.
2. Q. Is the world eternal ?
   A. No ; it had a beginning.
3. Q. Will it always last ?
   A. No ; it will be destroyed.

4. Q. When did our souls begin to be?
   A. When they came into the world.
5. Q. Why will they not perish?
   A. Because God will preserve them.
6. Q. Can God's nature decay or change?
   A. No.
7. Q. What name does the Bible give Him?
   A. The eternal and immortal King.
8. Q. What should be rendered to Him?
   A. Honor and glory forever and ever.
9. Q. Why can God do what he pleases?
   A. Because all times are in His hand.
10. Q. What do we learn from God's eternity?
    A. How frail we are.
11. Q. In whom, then, should we put our trust?
    A. In God only.
12. Q. Why should we trust in him?
    A. Because His strength, His love and His blessings, are everlasting.
13. Q. Should we also fear Him?
    A. Yes.
14. Q. Why should we not offend God?
    A. Because He always lives to punish the wicked.
15. Q. What punishment will he inflict upon them?
    A. He will make them depart from Him into everlasting destruction.

THE ETERNAL GOD. C. M.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home —

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

Thy word commands our flesh to dust—
"Return, ye sons of men;"
All nations rose from earth at first,
And turn to earth again.

A Thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

LESSON VI.

WISDOM OF GOD.

TEXT. Rom. ii: 33. O, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.

I. God is the wisest of beings. He perfectly knows Himself and all his creatures. All His plans are wonderful and all his works are excellent. He had no counsellor to teach Him, when he made this large and beautiful world. He does not need any help to govern it, but rules and orders all things to the glory of His great name. He has also shown His abundant wisdom and prudence in providing a Saviour for us when we were dying in our sins. He is wiser than all the men that ever lived in the world, or all the angels in heaven. Whether we look at what He has made, or at what he has done, or at what He is doing constantly, we have reason to exclaim—O, the

depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

II. We must never think that we know more than God. It is always wisest for us to do whatever he bids us. If our duties are hard, if we must give up what is dear to our hearts, if we must suffer affliction, let us meekly submit to His will. For He knows what is best. Let us be guided by His counsel always. And in times of doubt and darkness, we must remember his blessed word: If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth liberally and upbraideth not. —James i: 5.

1. Q. Who is the wisest being?
   A. God.
2. Q. What does he perfectly know?
   A. Himself and all His creatures.
3. Q. What can we say of His plans and works?
   A. They are wonderful and excellent.
4. Q. Who made this large and beautiful world?
   A. God.
5. Q. Did any one teach Him how to make it?
   A. No; He made it by Himself.
6. Q. Does He govern it by Himself also?
   A. Yes; He does not need any help to govern it.
7. Q. How does He rule and order all things?
   A. To the glory of His great name.
8. Q. What shows most of His wisdom?
   A. The plan of salvation for sinners.
9. Q. Is God wiser than all other beings?
   A. Yes, He is wiser than men or angels.
10. Q. What should God's wisdom lead us to do?
    A. To praise and to obey him.
11. Q. Should we be willing to bear hardship and affliction for God?
    A. Yes; for He knows what is best for us.
12. Q. When should we follow His counsel?
    A. Always.

13. Q. What should we do in times of doubt and darkness.
A. We should ask God for wisdom.
14. Q. Will He give it to us?
A. Yes; He will give liberally, and upbraid us not.

OMNISCIENCE. L. M.

Lord, Thou hast searched and seen me through;
Thine eye commands, with piercing view,
My rising and my resting hours,
My heart and flesh, with all their powers.

My thoughts, before they are my own,
Are to my God distinctly known;
He knows the words I mean to speak,
Ere from my opening lips they break.

Within Thy circling power I stand;
On every side I find thy hand;
Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
I am surrounded still with God.

Amazing knowledge, vast and great!
What large extent, what lofty height!
My soul, with all the powers I boast,
Is in the boundless prospect lost.

O, may these thoughts possess my breast,
Where'er I rove, where'er I rest;
Nor let my weaker passions dare
Consent to sin, for God is there.

LESSON VII.

POWER OF GOD.

TEXT. Jer. 32: 17. Ah Lord God, behold Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great Power and stretched out arm; and there is nothing too hard for Thee.

I. God is powerful. He can do all things. Nothing is too hard for Him. He has made this world with all its firm land and rolling seas. He has made the sun and moon and stars. He has made all creatures. And He upholds all things by the word of His power. His work is perfect. Yet He is able to save or to destroy what He has made. No creature in heaven or on earth or in hell, can prevent Him from doing what He pleases. For God is mightier than all.

II. God claims our trust, because "power belongeth unto Him," Ps. 62: 11. Christians have many spiritual enemies; but they have also an Almighty Guardian, whose arm is not shortened, that it cannot save. They must suffer sorrows, and pains, and sicknesses, and death, like other men; but the God whom they serve is able to deliver them from the burning fiery furnace. He is able to perform every sweet promise of His word. He will be near them in their time of need. He will give them His salvation. Trust ye in the Lord, for in the Lord is everlasting strength.

III. Let us not sin against such a God. He is stronger than we. He has sent many dreadful judgments on the wicked, while they lived in this world. And when the last day comes, they shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His Power.

1. Q. Is God powerful?
   A. Yes; He can do all things.
2. Q. What has he made?
   A. The earth and the heavens and everything that lives.

3. Q. What keeps them from destruction?
   A. The Word of His power.
4. Q. Can He do what He pleases with them?
   A. Yes; He can save or destroy what He has made.
5. Q. Can any creature prevent Him?
   A. No; for He is mightier than all.
6. Q. How should we feel towards God?
   A. We should trust in Him.
7. Q. When our spiritual enemies tempt us, what can God do?
   A. He can save us.
8. Q. When we are suffering, what can God do?
   A. He can uphold and bless us.
9. Q. Has He promised to do this?
   A. Yes.
10. Q. And what will he give us.
    A. His salvation.
11. Q. Why should we fear to sin?
    A. Because God is able to punish us.
12. Q. When will the wicked be punished?
    A. In this life and forever.

GOD OUR STRENGTH. L. M.

Awake, our souls; away, our fears;
  Let every trembling thought be gone;
Awake, and run the heavenly race,
  And put a cheerful courage on.

True, 'tis a strait and thorny road,
  And mortal spirits tire and faint;
But they forget the mighty God,
  Who feeds the strength of every saint;—

The mighty God, whose matchless power
  Is ever new and ever young,
And firm endures, while endless years
  Their everlasting circles run.

From thee, the overflowing spring,
Our souls shall drink a full supply;
While those who trust their native strength
Shall melt away, and droop, and die.

Swift as an eagle cuts the air,
We'll mount aloft to thine abode;
On wings of love our souls shall fly,
Nor tire amid the heavenly road.

LESSON VIII.

HOLINESS OF GOD.

TEXT. 1 Sam. 2: 2. There is none holy as the Lord.

I. God is a pure and holy nature. He is glorious in holiness. There is no wickedness in him — no weakness, nor malice, nor falsehood. He is a spring of holiness to all the good on earth and in heaven. Yet none are so holy as He. The best men confess that they are unclean, when they think of God's purity. The blessed angels hide their faces with their wings when they stand before the Holy One. Never could lost sinners come back to God, except through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. Never can they enter into heaven unless their hearts are cleansed by the Power of the Holy Ghost. Let us receive the Gospel, so that our sins may be pardoned, and so that our souls may at last dwell with God.

II. God is a just and holy Governor. He always does right. He is just when he afflicts us, for we are sinners, and deserve all our pains. He is just when he casts the wicked into hell: they have broken His law and deserve to perish forever. When the blessed Saviour took the sinner's place, God spared not his own Son. Let us not then complain of the sufferings with which he punishes our sins. If we are tempted to do wrong, let us tremble at His judg-

ments. If we feel that we are guilty before him, let us fly for our lives to the cross of Christ.

1. Q. Is God pure and holy?
   A. Yes; He is glorious in holiness.
2. Q. From whom do creatures get their holiness?
   A. From God.
3. Q. What do the saints, when they think of God's purity?
   A. They confess that they are unclean.
4. Q. What do the angels when they stand before him?
   A. They hide their faces.
5. Q. How can lost sinners come back to God?
   A. Through Jesus Christ.
6. Q. How can their hearts be cleansed?
   A. By the power of the Holy Ghost.
7. Q. How can they be saved?
   A. By receiving the Gospel.
8. Q. Is God a just and holy Governor?
   A. Yes; He always does right.
9. Q. What do the wicked deserve?
   A. To suffer and to be cast into hell.
10. Q. Why?
    A. Because they have broken God's law.
11. Q. When the Saviour took our place, did God spare him?
    A. No; God spared not His own Son.
12. Q. When we suffer, what should we think?
    A. That we deserve it.
13. Q. When we are tempted to sin, how should we feel?
    A. We should tremble at His judgments.
4. Q. When we know our guilt, what should we do?
   A. We should fly for our lives to the cross.

HOLY DUTIES AND RESOLVES. S. M.

A charge to keep I have —
The Lord to glorify,

Who died my ruined soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

Let all my powers engage,
This calling to fulfil;
To serve and bless the present age,
And do my Master's will.

Arm me with jealous care,
As in thy sight to live;
And thus thy servant, Lord, prepare,
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on thy grace rely;
O, let me ne'er my trust betray,
But faithful live and die.

LESSON IX.

GOODNESS OF GOD.

TEXT. Ps. 106: 1. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: His mercy endureth forever.

I. God is good and kind. He loves to see his creatures happy. He provides for them all as a loving father provides for his children. He blesses the unjust as well as the just. He sends rain upon their thirsty fields and gives them every day the light of life. More than all others He blesses his people. Not only do they receive earthly good, but pardon and grace and eternal life. How great is His goodness to the world! He has so loved it as to give His only Son to die for its salvation.

II. Why are we so unmindful of His benefits? Surely we have no other friend like God. No other has treated us so gently, or borne with our proud manners so long. We should be very sorry for our sins against him: the goodness of God should lead us to repentance. Let us remem-

ber that we may freely go and ask Him to pardon our sins. For He is a forgiving God. Let us not despise His rich goodness any longer. It is our duty to love Him and trust in Him. We must also try to be like him. If we have enemies, let us forgive them, remembering how God has forgiven us.

1. Q. Is God good and kind?
   A. Yes; He loves to see his creatures happy.
2. Q. How does He provide for them?
   A. As a loving father for his children.
3. Q. Does He bless the wicked also?
   A. Yes.
4. Q. Who receives his greatest blessings?
   A. His people.
5. Q. What does he give them?
   A. Pardon, grace and eternal life.
6. Q. What has He done for the world?
   A. He has given His Son to die for it.
7. Q. Who is the best friend we have?
   A. God.
8. Q. What should we think of our sins against Him?
   A. We should be sorry for them.
9. Q. May we ask Him to pardon us?
   A. Yes; He is a forgiving God.
10. Q. How should we feel towards this good God?
    A. We should love Him.
11. Q. How should we imitate Him?
    A. By forgiving our enemies.
12. Q. Why?
    A. Because God has forgiven us.

DAILY BLESSINGS. L. M.

My God, how endless is thy love!
  Thy gifts are every evening new:
And morning mercies from above,
  Gently distil like early dew.

Thou spread'st the curtains of the night,
Great Guardian of my sleeping hours;
Thy sovereign word restores the light,
And quickens all my drowsy powers.

I yield my powers to thy command;
To thee I consecrate my days;
Perpetual blessings from thy hand
Demand perpetual songs of praise.

LESSON X.

THE TRINITY.

TEXT. Math. 28: 19. Go ye therefore, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

I. There are three persons in the Godhead. These are the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The first person in the Godhead is the Father: He is to be honored as the Father of Christ and of all the people of Christ. The second person is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In him the fulness of the Godhead dwells; by him the Father has showed himself to us; and he with the Father is God over all. The third person is the Holy Ghost, who comes from the Father and the Son, but who is equal to them in power and glory. These three persons are one God.

II. These three, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, must be honored and worshipped in the Christian Church. For the plan of mercy was contrived by the Father — was finished by the Son — and is brought home to our souls by the Holy Ghost. We must submit to the Father as dutiful children. We must have faith in the Son as our Lord and Saviour. And the love of the Holy Ghost must be shed abroad in our hearts. Then we shall be near to God: He will be our God and we shall be His people.

1. Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?
   A. Three.
2. Q. Who are they?
   A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
3. Q. Who is the First person?
   A. The Father.
4. Q. How is he to be honored?
   A. As the Father of Christ and of Christians.
5. Q. Who is the second person?
   A. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
6. Q. What is he?
   A. God over all.
7. Q. Whom does he show to us?
   A. The Father.
8. Q. Who is the third person?
   A. The Holy Ghost.
9. Q. From whom does he come?
   A. From the Father and the Son.
10. Q. Is he equal to them in power and glory?
    A. Yes.
11 Q. What are these three persons?
   A. One God.
12. Q. By whom should these persons be especially honored?
    A. By the Church.
13. Q. Why?
    A. Because we are saved by them.
14. Q. How do we honor the Father?
    A. By obeying Him as His children.
15. Q. How do we honor the Son?
    A. By faith in him.
16. Q. How do we honor the Holy Ghost?
    A. By love to him.
I7. Q. If we do honor God will he be our God?
    A. Yes; he will be our God and we will be His people.

PRAISE TO THE TRINITY. H. M.

To God the Father yield
Immortal praise and love,
For all our comforts here,
And all our hopes above;
He sent his own eternal Son,
To die for sins which man had done.

To God th' eternal Son
Let praise immortal flow,
Who bought us with his blood,
Who saves from endless woe;
And now on high he lives and reigns,
And seeks the fruits of all his pains.

To God the Holy Ghost
Immortal honors give,
Whose new creating power
Can make the dead to live:
His work completes the great design,
And fills the soul with joy divine.

Immortal praise to thee,
O Father, Spirit, Son,
The undivided Three,
The great mysterious One:
Where reason fails with all her powers,
There faith prevails, and love adores.

LESSON XI.

WORKS OF GOD.

TEXT. Ps. 104: 24. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all.

I. In six days God made the heavens, the earth and the sea, and all things that are in them. They were made

out of nothing by his powerful word. He spoke and it was done. Then everything was very good. From the highest angels to the meanest worms, all glorified God. The great lights were kindled in the sky. The earth was full of his riches. Harmless creatures played upon its green fields. And man had a pure body and a holy soul that he might serve his Maker. All this was God's work of creation.

II. And God keeps and rules what he has made. He keeps the world from destruction. He is our guardian. When we were babes he preserved us; and when we are old and gray headed, he will not forsake us. He gives us food and sleep and holds our souls in life. He makes all things work for good to them that love him. This is God's work of Providence.

III. We belong to God, who made us and cares for us. It is our first duty to obey his commands. We must look to him for our blessings. We must be quiet and patient under the afflictions that he sends. And in all times and places we must rejoice that this great and wise and merciful God is King over all the sons of men.

1. Q. Who is the Maker of all things?
   A. God.
2. Q. How long was he in making them?
   A. Six days.
3. Q. What did he make them out of?
   A. Nothing.
4. Q. How were they made?
   A. God spoke and it was done.
5. Q. What were they made for?
   A. To glorify God.
6. Q. Did they show how good God was?
   A. Yes; for they were all very good.
7. Q. What was man made for?
   A. To serve his Maker.
8. Q. What do you call this work of God?
   A. Creation.
9. Q. Does God keep and rule what he has made?

A. Yes.
10. Q. What is he to us.
A. He is our Guardian.
11. Q. How does he take care of us?
A. He gives us food, and sleep, and life.
12. Q. How does he take care of his people?
A. He makes all things work for their good.
13. Q. To whom then do we belong?
A. To God.
14. Q. What is our first duty?
A. To obey his commands.
15. Q. What must we expect from him?
A. All our blessings.
16. Q. What must we be when he afflicts us?
A. We must be quiet and patient.
17. Q. What should always give joy to our hearts?
A. That God is King over the sons of men.

THE WORLD ATTESTS ITS MAKER. L. M.

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great original proclaim;
The unwearied sun from day to day,
Doth his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The work of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon take up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth:
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence, all
Move round this dark terrestrial ball;

What though no real voice nor sound
Amid the radiant orbs be found;
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

LESSON XII.

THE FALL OF MAN.

TEXT. Prov. 7 : 29. God made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions.

I. God made our first parents holy and happy. He put them in the Garden of Eden to tend it. He gave them to eat its choice fruits, but commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This command they broke. They listened to the tempter and disobeyed God. And God drove them from Paradise and punished their sin with labor, and sorrow, and death.

II. We have all shared in the fall. We have received the fallen nature of Adam. We have followed his wicked example. We are now far off from God. Our minds are darkened. Our holiness is lost. It is easy for us to do wrong, and hard to do right. We are by nature the servants of sin. We are under the curse of God. We are in danger of eternal damnation. Our iniquities have separated between us and our God. Unless we repent and believe in Christ, we shall surely perish forever.

1. Q. What was the state of our first parents?
   A. Holy and happy.
2. Q. Where did God put them?
   A. In the Garden of Eden.
3. Q. What should they do there?
   A. They should tend it and feed on its fruits.
4. Q. Of what tree should they not eat?

A. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

5. Q. Should we obey God's smallest commands?
A. Yes.

6. Q. Did they obey?
A. No; they listened to the tempter.

7. Q. Say what then happened.
A. God drove them from Paradise.

8. Q. How did he punish their sin.
A. With labor, and sorrow, and death.

9. Q. Have we shared in the fall?
A. Yes.

10. Q. Whose nature have we received?
A. Adam's fallen nature.

11. Q. Whose example have we followed?
A. His wicked example.

12. Q. Are we near to God now?
A. No; we are far off from God.

13. Q. Is it easy for us to obey him?
A. No; it is hard to do right, but easy to do wrong.

14. Q. What do we serve?
A. Sin.

15. Q. Is God pleased with us?
A. No; we are under his curse.

16. Q. What are we in danger of.
A. Eternal damnation.

17. Q. What has separated between us and our God?
A. Our iniquities.

18. Q. How then shall we be saved?
A. By repenting and believing in Christ?

THE WANDERER INVITED TO RETURN. L. M.

Return, O wanderer, now return,
And seek an injured Father's face;
Those warm desires that in the burn,
Were kindled by the Spirit's grace.

Return, O wanderer, now return,
And seek a Father's melting heart;
His pitying eyes thy grief discern,
His love shall peace and joy impart.

Return, O wanderer, now return,
Thy dying Saviour bids thee live;
Go to his bleeding cross, and learn
How freely Jesus can forgive.

Return, O wanderer, now return,
And wipe away the falling tear;
'Tis God who says, "No longer mourn,"
'Tis mercy's voice invites thee near.

LESSON XIII.

THE MISERY OF MAN.

TEXT. Isa. 57: 21. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

I. Fallen men receive punishment from the God of holiness. He suffers many outward evils to befall them. Their bodies are wasted by sickness and old age. They must eat their bread in the sweat of the their face. They look for much and it comes to little. Sometimes their families disappoint them. Sometimes their blessings are taken away. Sometimes their neighbors injure and reproach them. They seem born to trouble as the sparks fly upward. And at last they have the wages of their sin, which is death.

II. And they have many evils within them. The bitterness of sin reaches even to the heart. They go astray believing lies, and following vile passions which cannot make them happy. They cannot think of the great God whom they have offended, without shame and fear, and great distress of mind. And they will be more miserable after they are dead. They will lose all their blessings. They will go down quick into hell, to be punished with

everlasting pains. There is no peace saith my God to the wicked.

1. Q. What does the holy God do to the wicked?
   A. He punishises them.
2. Q. What does he send upon their bodies?
   A. Sickness and old age.
3. Q. How must they eat their bread?
   A. In the sweat of their face.
4. Q. What must they expect here?
   A. Disappointments, and losses, and troubles.
5. Q. What will they have at last?
   A. The wages of sin, which is death.
6. Q. Must they have evils within them?
   A. Yes.
7. Q. How far does sin reach?
   A. Even to the heart.
8. Q. How do they go astray?
   A. They believe lies and follow vile passions.
9. Q. Can these passions make them happy?
   A. No.
10. Q. How do they think of God?
    A. With shame and fear and great distress of mind.
11. Q. When will they be more miserable?
    A. After they are dead.
12. Q. What will happen to them then?
    A. They will lose everything, and go down to hell.
13. Q. What will become of them there?
    A. They will be punished with everlasting pains.
14. Q. Can the wicked have peace?
    A. No; my God says there is no peace to the wicked.

RELIEF IN GOD ONLY. C. M.

How helpless guilty nature lies,
Unconscious of its load!

The heart unchanged, can never rise
To happiness and God.

Can aught beneath a power divine
The stubborn will subdue?
'Tis thine, eternal Spirit, thine
To form the heart anew.

'Tis thine the passions to recall,
And upward bid them rise,
And make the scales of error fall
From reason's darkened eyes.

To chase the shades of death away,
And bid the sinner live,
A beam of heaven, a vital ray,
'Tis thine alone to give.

O, change these wretched hearts of ours,
And give them live divine;
Then shall our passions and our powers,
Almighty Lord, be thine.

LESSON XIV.

THE GRACE OF GOD, THE FATHER.

TEXT. 1 Thess. 5: 9. God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation.

I. Although we deserve to suffer and die, because we are sinners, God in his good pleasure and mercy, has provided salvation for us. Long before the world was made, he knew that men would fall into sin and misery. He resolved to help them. He resolved to send his Son to make satisfaction for sins, so that all those who are chosen in Christ, all who repent of their sins and turn to God, should be saved.

II. This plan of mercy has been carried out. Christ

has redeemed us. His gospel is sent to every kindred and tongue, and people, and nation. There is hope for the chief of sinners. The Lord Jesus will not cast out any who is willing to come to him; but will keep him in this world and will at last give him eternal life. Wherefore strive to enter in at the strait gate.

1. Q. What are we?
   A. Sinners.
2. Q. What do we deserve?
   A. To suffer and to die.
3. Q. What has God provided for us?
   A. Salvation.
4. Q. Why did he provide salvation for us?
   A. Because of his good pleasure and his mercy.
5. Q. When did he know that men would fall?
   A. He knew it before the world was made.
6. Q. What did he resolve to do?
   A. To help them.
7. Q. Whom would he send to help them?
   A. His Son.
8. Q. How would Christ help them?
   A. By making satisfaction for sins.
9. Q. Who will be saved?
   A. The chosen in Christ.
10. Q. How may we know the chosen in Christ.
    A. They are those who repent of their sins and turn to God.
11. Q. Has this plan of mercy been carried out?
    A. Yes; Christ has redeemed us.
12. Q. To whom is his gospel sent?
    A. To all men.
13. Q. May all men have it if they will?
    A. Yes; even the chief of sinners.
14. Q. If any comes to Christ, will he be cast out?
    A. No.
15. Q. What blessings shall he have?
    A. He will be kept in this world, and he will have eternal life.

16. Q. What should we do then?
A. We should strive to enter the strait gate.

GRACE ACKNOWLEDGED AND PRAISED. S. M.

Grace! 'tis a charming sound;
Harmonious to the ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.

Grace first contrived the way
To save rebellious man;
And all the steps that grace display,
Which drew the wondrous plan.

Grace led my roving feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet,
While pressing to God.

Grace all the work shall crown,
Through everlasting days;
It lays in heaven the topmost stone,
And well deserves the praise.

LESSON XV.

THE GRACE OF GOD, THE SON.

TEXT. Acts 4: 12. Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved.

I. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour. When we were in bondage to sin and hell he gave himself for us. Although he was the glorious Son of God, he came to earth for our sakes. Although he was higher than the angels, he consented to dwell with men. He took upon

himself the form of a servant. He even consented to die, that we poor, perishing sinners might live. He went up to heaven to plead for us with His Father. He sends his Spirit down to make us holy and fit to dwell with him. There is no Saviour but Jesus Christ.

II. All this had to be done to save us from ruin. Our sins could not be pardoned, if Christ had not obeyed, and suffered, and prayed for us. What a dreadful evil is sin, that such a price must be paid for it! Let us not neglect this great salvation. And how wonderful was the love of Christ, that he should be willing to do so much for his enemies! O this love should win us to our Saviour. We should feel that we are not our own. We are bought with a price. Wherefore let us glorify him with our bodies and our spirits which are his.

1. Q. Who is our Saviour?
   A. The Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Son of God.
2. Q. From what does he save us?
   A. From sin and hell.
3. Q. Where did he come for us?
   A. To earth.
4. Q. Whom did he dwell with?
   A. With men.
5. Q. What form did he take upon himself?
   A. The form of a servant.
6. Q. What did he consent to do for us?
   A. He consented to die.
7. Q. What does he now do in heaven?
   A. He pleads for us and sends his Spirit down upon us.
8. Q. Why does he send his Spirit?
   A. To make us holy and fit for heaven.
9. Q. Is there any Saviour besides him?
   A. No; there is none.
10. Q. What if Christ had not done all this?
    A. Then our sins could not have been pardoned.

11. Q. When such a price was paid for sin, what should we think of it?
A. That sin is a dreadful evil.
12. Q. Should we neglect this great salvation?
A. No.
13. Q. What makes Christ's love so wonderful?
A. Because he did all this for his enemies
14. Q. To whom should this love win us?
A. To our Saviour.
15. Q. How should it make us feel?
A. That we are not our own.
16. Q. What should it lead us to do?
A. To glorify God with our bodies and spirits, which are his.

GLORY AND GRACE OF JESUS. C. M.

Come, ye that love the Saviour's name,
And joy to make it known;
The Sovereign of your hearts proclaim,
And bow before his throne.

Behold your King, your Saviour, crowned
With glories all divine;
And tell the wondering nations round
How bright those glories shine.

Infinite power, and boundless grace,
In him unite their rays:
You that have e'er beheld his face,
Can you forbear his praise?

When in his earthly courts we view
The glories of our King,
We long to love as angels do,
And wish like them to sing.

And shall we long and wish in vain?
Lord, teach our songs to rise!
Thy love can animate the strain,
And bid it reach the skies.

O, happy period! glorious day!
When heaven and earth shall raise,
With all their powers, the raptured lay,
To celebrate thy praise.

LESSON XVI.

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST.

TEXT. Gal. 4: 4. When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

I. God told his holy prophets that Christ would come. He would spring from the seed of Abraham, the friend of God. He would be born of a virgin mother, in Bethlehem the city of David. He would appear before the Jewish state was destroyed. And he came just as the prophets had said. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. God's promise is faithful and true.

II. Christ became man. He had a body, with flesh and bones, such as ours. He was hungry and weary: he needed food and sleep: he passed through all the ages of human life. He grew in wisdom and stature. He suffered in soul. In all things he was made like his brethren, that he might feel for us and help us.

III. Yet Christ was holy, as we are not. His heart was pure. He did no sin. Satan could not persuade him to do wrong. Through his whole life he was harmless and undefiled. He gave us a patern of perfect holiness. And, when he died, he offered himself without spot as a sacrifice for our sins.

1. Q. What did God tell his holy prophets?
   A. That Christ would come.
2. Q. From whose seed should he spring?
   A. Abraham's, the friend of God.

3. Q. Who should be his mother?
   A. A virgin.
4. Q. Where should he be born?
   A. In Bethlehem, the city of David.
5. Q. When should he appear?
   A. Before the Jewish state was destroyed.
6. Q. How did Christ come?
   A. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.
7. Q. Did God's promise come to pass?
   A. Yes; God's promise is faithful and true.
8. Q. Did Christ become man?
   A. Yes; he had a body and soul like ours.
9. Q. Did he suffer and grow as we do?
   A. Yes.
10. Q. Why was he made like us?
    A. That he might feel for us and help us.
11. Q. How did Christ differ from us?
    A. He was holy as we are not.
12. Q. What is his life to us?
    A. It is our pattern.
13. Q. What is his death to us?
    A. It is a pure sacrifice for our sins.

THE INCARNATE SAVIOUR WELCOMED. C. M.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!
  Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
  And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns!
  Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
  Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
  Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
  Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

LESSON XVII.

CHRIST, OUR PROPHET.

TEXT. John 3: 2. We know that thou art a teacher sent from God.

I. Christ is the great teacher. Like Moses, he was meek and faithful and wrought many wonderful works. And yet he was greater than Moses in all these things. He taught the old prophets what they knew. When he was on earth he showed God's truth and grace to men. He pointed out the way to heaven and offered them eternal life. They could not have wished a plainer, more powerful, or more affectionate teacher.

II. Now he speaks to us in his Word and by his Spirit. All the things in the Bible were written that we might believe. And the Holy Ghost comes from heaven to guide us into all truth. Thus we learn what our duty is, and how we may be safe and happy.

III. We must learn of this teacher. He is meek and lowly. The knowledge that he gives us, will save our souls. We must receive and obey his word that we may be his disciples indeed. Let us remember that the soul which will not hear him, shall be destroyed from among the people.

1. Q. Who is the great teacher?
   A. Christ.
2. Q. Whom was he like?
   A. Moses.
3. Q. Whom did he teach?
   A. The old prophets.

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4. Q. When he was on earth, what did he show to men?
   A. God's truth and grace.
5. Q. What did he point out to them?
   A. The way to heaven.
6. Q. What did he offer them?
   A. Eternal life.
7. Q. How did he teach them?
   A. Plainly, powerfully and affectionately.
8. Q. How does he speak to us now?
   A. By his Word and Spirit.
9. Q. What do we learn from them?
   A. Our duty and our happiness.
10. Q. May we learn from this teacher?
    A. Yes; for he is meek and lowly.
11. Q. What good will his teachings do us?
    A. They will save our souls.
12. Q. When shall we be his disciples indeed?
    A. When we receive and obey his word.
13. Q. What will become of those who will not hear him?
    A. They will be destroyed.

THE OFFICES OF CHRIST. H. M.

Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love and power
That ever mortals knew,
Or angels ever bore:
All are too mean | Too mean to set
To speak his worth, | My Saviour forth.

Great Prophet of my God,
My tongue would bless thy name
By thee the joyful news
Of our salvation came,—
The joyful news | Of hell subdued,
Of sins forgiven, | And peace with heaven.

Jesus, my great high priest,
Has shed his blood and died;

My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside :
His powerful blood | And now it pleads
Did once atone, | Before the throne.

O thou almighty Lord,
My Conqueror and my King,
Thy sceptre and thy sword,
Thy reigning grace, I sing :
Thine is the power ; | In willing bonds
Behold, I sit | Beneath thy feet.

LESSON XVIII.

CHRIST, OUR PRIEST.

TEXT. Heb. 4 : 14. We have a great High Priest, that is passed into the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God.

The priests of old were set apart to offer sacrifices for the people and to pray for them in the courts of God's holy temple. Thus they foreshowed what our Lord has done.

I. Christ has made an offering for the sins of the people. He offered up himself to save them from hell. They are guilty, but his blood was poured out to wash away their stains. They are enemies of God, but he died to make peace between them and their King. He was cut off, not for himself, but for our sakes. He willingly offered this precious sacrifice that he might bring us to God. And when it was done, he rose from the dead, and sat down at God's right hand. We may be saved through this great High Priest. If we believe in him we shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

II. Christ prays for us in heaven. If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father. He is able to help us. He is wise, and holy, and merciful. And in his name we may come boldly to the throne of grace to find mercy and grace in every time of need. What a comfort to know that Christ is praying for us always ! And that he waits to welcome his people to their heavenly home.

1. Q. What was the duty of the Priests?
   A. To offer sacrifice for the people and to pray for them.
2. Q. Who is the great High Priest?
   A. Jesus Christ.
3. Q. What did he offer?
   A. He offered up himself.
4. Q. For whom did he offer up himself?
   A. For our sakes.
5. Q. What blessings may we receive from Christ's sacrifice?
   A. Our sins may be cleansed and we may have peace with God.
6. Q. Was Christ obliged to die for us?
   A. No; he willingly offered himself.
7. Q. What did he do after he had made this offering?
   A. He rose from the dead and sat down at God's right hand.
8. Q. Who then is our Saviour?
   A. This great High Priest.
9. Q. If we believe on him what shall we have?
   A. Everlasting life.
10. Q. What does Christ for us in heaven?
    A. He prays for us.
11. Q. Is he able and willing to help us?
    A. Yes; he is wise, and holy, and merciful.
12. Q. What may we do in his name?
    A. We may come boldly to the throne of grace.
13. Q. Does Christ ever cease to pray for his people?
    A. No; he prays always for them.
14. Q. What will he do for them when they die?
    A. He will receive them into heaven.

SURRENDER TO A DYING SAVIOUR. C. M.

Alas! and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?

Would he devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'Tis all that I can do.

LESSON XIX.

CHRIST OUR KING.

TEXT. Zach. 9: 9. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation.

I. Christ is the greatest King. All power has been given unto him in heaven and on earth. He rules his people. He makes laws for them and puts his laws into their hearts. He appoints their officers. And they all must do as he bids. He also defends them from their enemies. He gives them strength to overcome the world; he promises that hell shall not prevail against them; their

last enemy, death itself, shall be conquered. Christ has a right to rule all men, and although so many resist him now, his peaceful Kingdom will at last cover the earth, and his throne shall be as the days of heaven.

II. We must receive Christ as our King and take his yoke upon us. We must serve and obey him. Those who will not have him reign over them he counts as his enemies, and they shall be slain before him at the judgment. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King, who gives them salvation. Let none displease him by changing the laws of his church. If we are good and faithful servants, we will enter into the joy of our Lord. He will crown us with eternal glory.

1. Q. Who is the greatest King?
   A. Christ.
2. Q. What power has been given him?
   A. All power in heaven and on earth.
3. Q. How does he rule his people?
   A. He gives them laws and puts his laws in their hearts.
4. Q. Does he appoint their officers?
   A. Yes.
5. Q. What must they all do?
   A. They must do as he bids.
6. Q. From whom does he defend them?
   A. From the world, and hell, and death.
7. Q. Has Christ a right to rule all men?
   A. Yes.
8. Q. How far will his kingdom spread?
   A. It will cover the earth.
9. Q. How long shall his throne last?
   A. It shall be as the days of heaven.
10. Q. What must we do for Christ our King?
    A. We must serve and obey him.
11. Q. What does he think of those that will not serve him.
    A. He counts them as enemies.
12. Q. What will become of them at the judgment?

A. They will be slain before him.
13. Q. Why should his people be joyful in Christ?
A. Because he gives them salvation.
14. Q. Why should they not change the laws of his church?
A. Because this will displease him.
15. Q. What will become of his good and faithful servants?
A. They will enter into the joy of their Lord.
16 Q. What will he crown them with?
A. Eternal glory.

CHRIST'S KINGLY GLORY. C. M.

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, —
A remnant weak and small, —
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all.

Ye Gentile sinners, ne'er forget
The wormword and the gall;
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng,
We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown him Lord of all.

LESSON XX.

THE GRACE OF GOD THE SPIRIT.

TEXT. Jno. 16 : 13. When he, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth.

I. When Christ went up to heaven he sent his Spirit down to earth. This Spirit was the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth. He came to teach the apostles the things of Christ and to give saving knowledge to the world. First he convinces men of sin. He teaches them how foolish, how filthy and how dangerous it is. He shows them that the greatest of all sins is the sin of unbelief. This is the only sin that cannot be forgiven. Then he convinces them of righteousness. He teaches them that Christ has gone to the Father, and that all who become members of Christ shall also have a place in heaven. And then, he convinces them of judgment, that the world is judged, that all its joys and gains are less than than the blessings of religion.

II. In this way the Spirit persuades us to embrace the Gospel. He gives new light to our minds such as we never had before. He turns our hearts to Christ and to heaven. He strengthens us to resist the world, the flesh and the Devil. He shows us the great love which God has for us, and fills our souls with penitence, and prayer, and praise. Let us not strive against the Holy Ghost, for sin against the Holy Ghost will certainly destroy us.

1. Q. Whom did Christ send from heaven?
   A. His Spirit.
2. Q. How does the Spirit act on earth?
   A. As the Spirit of Truth.
3. Q. What did he teach the Apostles?
   A. The things of Christ.
4. Q. What does he give to the world?
   A. Saving knowledge.
5. Q. What does he first convince them of?

A. Of Sin.

6. Q. What does he teach them about sin?
A. That it is foolish, filthy and dangerous.

7. Q. What is the greatest of all sins?
A. The sin of unbelief.

8. Q. Can this sin be forgiven?
A. No, it cannot.

9. Q. What then does he convince them of?
A. Of righteousness.

10. Q. How do you know that Christ was righteous?
A. Because he went to the Father.

11. Q. What shall the members of Christ have?
A. A place in heaven.

12. Q. What does the Spirit then convince men of?
A. Of judgment.

13. Q. What does he judge?
A. The world.

14. Q. What does he show the gains and joys of the world to be?
A. To be less than the blessings of religion.

15. Q. What does the Spirit give to our minds?
A. A new light.

16. Q. Where does he turn our hearts.
A. To Christ and heaven.

17. Q. What does strengthen us to resist?
A. The world, the flesh and the Devil.

18. Q. What does he show to us?
A. The great love of God.

19. Q. What does he fill our souls with?
A. Penitence, prayer and praise.

20. Q. Why should we not strive against the Holy Ghost?
A. Because this will destroy us.

THE SPIRIT INVOKED. C. M.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers,

Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

Look, how we grovel here below,
Fond of these trifling toys!
Our souls can neither fly nor go
To reach eternal joys.

In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live
At this poor dying rate?
Our love so faint, so cold to thee,
And thine to us so great?

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers:
Come, shed abroad a Saviour's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

LESSON XXI.

REPENTANCE.

TEXT. Acts 17: 30. God commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

I. Repentance is the duty of all men, for all men are sinners. We must have sorrow for sin. We must be truly grieved because we have offended God. We must be ashamed that we have treated our Maker, our Father, and our Friend so basely. We must state our sins, confess them before God, and give them up. Like the prodigal son we must go back to our Father and ask him to pity and help us. And then in the strength of God we

must begin a new life, and bring forth the fruits of repentance.

II. God calls upon us to repent. He solemnly tells us that if we do not, we shall perish. Although our sins are so great he earnestly declares that he is a pardoning God, and that if we turn to him he will have mercy upon us. Our Lord Jesus died for our sins so that we should be sorry for them. And now he reigns in heaven that he may give repentance to men. Let us ask him for this blessing. Let us cry as the publican did: God me merciful unto me a sinner.

1. Q. Is Repentance the duty of all men?
   A. Yes; for all men are sinners.
2. Q. What is repentance?
   A. Sorrow for sin.
3. Q. Why should we be sorry for our sins?
   A. Because they have offended God.
4. Q. Why should we be sorry for offending God?
   A. Because he is our Maker, our Father, and our Friend.
5. Q. How must we treat our sins?
   A. We must hate them, confess them, and give them up.
6. A. Should we go back to our Father like the Prodigal Son?
   A. Yes; we should ask him to pity and help us?
7. Q. And then, what must we do in the strength of God?
   A. We must begin a new life.
8. Q. Does God call on us to repent?
   A. Yes.
9. Q. What will become of us if we do not?
   A. We shall perish.
10. Q. Will God pardon us if we turn to him?
    A. Yes; he will have mercy upon us.
11. Q. What caused the Lord Jesus to die?
    A. Our sins.

12. Q. How should we feel for the sins that made our Saviour suffer?
A. We should be sorry for them.
13. Q. What does he give men from heaven?
A. Repentance.
14. Q. What should be our prayer to him?
A. God be merciful to me a sinner.

SINNERS CALLED TO REPENTANCE, 7's.

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?
God, your Maker, asks you why;
God, who did your being give,
Made you with himself to live.

Sinners, turn; why will ye die;
God, your Saviour, asks you why:
Will ye not in him believe?
He has died that ye might live.

Will ye let him die in vain?
Crucify your Lord again?
Why, unpardoned sinners, why
Will ye slight his grace and die?

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?
God, the Spirit, asks you why:
Often with you has he strove,
Wooed you to embrace his love.

Will ye not his grace receive?
Will ye still refuse to live?
O, ye dying sinners, why,
Why will ye forever die?

LESSON XXII.

FAITH.

TEXT. Rom. 10: 10. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.

I. The great lesson of the Gospel is, That we must believe in Jesus Christ. The Gospel teaches that God sent his Son into the world to save sinners. We must be willing to be saved by him. We must believe that he died for us. And we must take him as our Prophet, our Priest and our King. Our Prophet to teach us, our Priest to atone for us, and our King to help and bless us. And we must trust in him for pardon, holiness and eternal life;

II. We shall not be idle in duty if we are true believers. The just man lives by his faith. His thoughts rise to Christ and Heaven. He overcomes the world. He resists the temptations of Satan. His heart is full of love to the blessed God, who has sent his Son to die for sinners. He does not faint under the afflictions which God sends. He is not afraid of death, for death will take him to his Saviour. Like Abraham, the father of believers, he is strong in faith, giving glory to God.

1. Q. What is the great lesson of the Gospel?
   A. That we must believe in Jesus Christ.
2. Q. What did God do to save us?
   A. He sent his Son into the world to save sinners.
3. Q. Must we be willing to be saved by Him?
   A. Yes.
4. Q. What must we believe
   A. That he died for us.
5. Q. How must we take him?
   A. As our Prophet, Priest and King.
6. Q. What does he as our Prophet?
   A. He teaches us.

7. Q. What does he as our Priest?
   A. He atones for us.
8. Q. What does he as our King?
   A. He helps and blesses us.
9. Q. What must we trust in Christ for?
   A. For pardon, holiness and eternal life.
10. Q. Will we be idle in duty if we are true believers?
   A. No.
11. Q. How does the just man live?
   A. By faith.
12. Q. What are his thoughts fixed upon?
   A. Christ and Heaven.
13. Q. What does he overcome?
   A. The world and Satan.
14. Q. What does he feel in his heart?
   A. Love to the blessed God.
15. Q. Why does he love God?
   A. Because God sent his Son to die for sinners.
16. Q. Why does he not faint under afflictions?
   A. Because God sends them.
17. Q. Why is he not afraid of death?
   A. Because death will take him to his Saviour.
18. Q. Who is the Father of believers?
   A. Abraham.
19. Q. What is said of Abraham in the Bible?
   A. He was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

FAITH DESIRED. S. M.

Faith is a precious grace,
  Where'er it is bestowed:
It boasts a high, celestial birth,
  And is the gift of God.

Jesus it owns as King,
  An all-atoning Priest:
It claims no merit of its own,
  But looks for all in Christ.

To him it leads the soul,
When filled with deep distress,
Flies to the fountain of his blood,
And trusts his righteousness.

Since 'tis thy work alone,
And that divinely free,
Lord, send the Spirit of thy Son,
To work this faith in me.

LESSON XXIII.

JUSTIFICATION.

TEXT. Rom. 5: 1. Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Those who believe in Christ are justified. Their sins are pardoned. However great they may have been, God forgives and forgets them. Though they were as deep as scarlet, they shall become as white as snow: though they were large as mountains, God shall cast them into the depths of the sea. If we trust in the dear Saviour, we shall never be condemned. God will receive us, just as if we had never done any wrong. He will spare us as a man spares his own son. He will look kindly on all our services. He will save our souls.

II. Jesus poured out his blood to purchase for us this blessing. And God showed that the price pleased him, by raising Jesus from the dead and setting him on the throne of Heaven. And now the faithful and true God forgives the sins of the people of Jesus. If we are the disciples of Jesus, we have peace with God. And we shall know that we are pardoned by the good works that he helps us to do.

1. Q. Who are justified?
   A. Those who believe in Christ.
2. Q. What becomes of their sins?
   A. Their sins are pardoned.

3. Q. Are their greatest sins pardoned?
   A. Yes: God forgives and forgets them.
4. Q. If we trust in the Saviour, shall we be condemned?
   A. No: never.
5. Q. How will God receive us?
   A. Just as if we had done no wrong.
6. Q. How will he spare us?
   A. As a man spares his own son.
7. Q. How will he look on our services?
   A. Kindly.
8. Q. What will he do to our souls?
   A. He will save them.
9. Q. What did Jesus do, to purchase for us this blessing?
   A. He poured out his blood.
10. Q. Did God show that this price pleased him?
    A. Yes: He raised Jesus from the dead and gave him a throne in Heaven.
11. Q. Whose sins does the faithful and true God forgive?
    A. The sins of the people of Jesus.
12. Q. If we are disciples of Jesus, what have we?
    A. Peace with God.
13. Q. How shall we know that God has pardoned us?
    A. By the good works he helps us to do.

PARDON THROUGH CHRIST'S SACRIFICE. S. M.

Not all the blood of beasts,
  On Jewish altars slain,
Could give the guilty conscience peace,
  Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,
  Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name,
  And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of thine,
While, like a penitent, I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back, to see
The burdens thou didst bear,
When hanging on the cursed tree,
And hopes her guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove,
We bless the lamb with cheerful voice
And sing his bleeding love.

LESSON XXIV.

ADOPTION.

TEXT. 2 Cor. 6 : 18. I will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

I. True believers become members of the family of God. They are born again by the Holy Ghost. They receive a new disposition, the Spirit of God's sons, so that they may come boldly to the throne of Grace and serve their Father with loving hearts. They all have the temper of Christ, who is their elder brother. They all make up one divine family in heaven and earth.

II. God cares for his children. He pities them. He protects them from their enemies. He provides for them all the good things they need. He sends his angels to minister to them. He hears their prayers. If he corrects them, he does it in love. And at last they shall have the portion of sons; for it is the Father's good pleasure to give them the kingdom.

1. Q. To whose family do true believers belong?
   A. To God's family.
2. Q. How do they come into that family?

A. They are born again by the Holy Ghost.
3. Q. Do they receive a new disposition?
A. Yes: the Spirit of God's Son.
4. Q. May they come to the throne of grace?
A. Yes: they may come boldly.
5. Q. How do they serve their Father?
A. With loving hearts.
6. Q. Whose temper have they?
A. The temper of Christ.
7. Q. What is Christ to them?
A. Their elder brother.
8. Q. What do they all make up?
A. One family in heaven and earth.
9. Q. How does God care for his children?
A. He pities, protects and provides for them.
10. Q. What does he provide for them?
A. All the good things they need.
11. Q. Whom does he send to minister to them?
A. His angels.
12. Q. What does he hear?
A. Their prayers.
13. Q. How does he correct them?
A. In love.
14. Q. What shall they have at last?
A. The portion of sons.
15. Q. What will the Father give to all his children?
A. He will give them the Kingdom.

A NEW-BORN CHILD OF GOD. L. M.

Who can describe the joys that rise,
Through all the courts of Paradise,
To see a penitent return, —
To see an heir of glory born?

With joy the Father does approve
The fruit of his eternal love;
The Son with joy looks down, and sees
The purchase of his agonies.

The Spirit takes delight to view
The holy soul he formed anew;
And saints and angels join to sing
The growing empire of their King.

LESSON XXV.

SANCTIFICATION.

TEXT. Rom. 8: 9. Ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.

I. There is a new life in the believing soul. He becomes a new creature in Jesus Christ. His mind was once dark, but now it sees the truth. His heart was once stony hard, but now it is softened; God has given him a heart of flesh. He loved earthly things, but now his affections are fixed upon things above. He was disobedient, but now he says: Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? and he gives his body and his soul to the service of God.

II. This new life cannot perish. It was planted by God, and it cannot be plucked up by the roots. It is watered by the Spirit, and it will grow and bring forth fruit: God puts his fear into the hearts of his people, so that they shall not depart from him. Christ prays for them, that their faith fail not. The Holy Ghost abides in them. They have the promise that they shall not be tempted above what they are able to bear. While false professors fall away, true believers are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

1. Q. What does the believing soul have?
   A. A new life.
2. Q. What does he become in Jesus Christ?
   A. A new creature.
3. Q. What change takes place in his dark mind?
   A. It sees the truth.
4. Q. What change takes place in his hard heart?

A. It is softened.

5. Q. What does he fix his affections on?
A. Things above.

6. Q. Does he now serve God?
A. Yes: with his body and his soul.

7. Q. Can this new life perish?
A. No: for it was planted by God.

8. Q. What will become of it?
A. It will grow and bring fruit.

9. Q. Why does God put this fear into the hearts of his people?
A. So that they may not depart from him.

10. Q. Does Christ pray for them?
A. Yes: he prays that their faith may not fail.

11. Q. What shall they be able to do in temptation?
A. They will be able to bear them.

12. Q. May false professors fall away?
A. Yes.

13. Q. What prevents true believers from falling away?
A. They are kept by the power of God.

A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD. C. M.

O for a closer walk with God!
A calm and heavenly frame!
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb?

Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I then enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But now I find an aching void
The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road,
That leads me to the Lamb.

LESSON XXVI.

THE RULE OF DUTY.

TEXT. Deut. 27: 10. Thou shalt obey the voice of the Lord thy God and do his commandments.

I. God made men to serve him, and he has shown us in his word, how he wishes to be served. Some things he has commanded us to do: these are duties. Other things he has commanded us not to do: these are sins. The laws of God are very broad: they cover our whole lives. They are very excellent: every commandment is holy, just and good. And they are reasonable: for God is our Maker and our Master, and has a right to rule us. If we obey him, we shall have life: if we do not obey him, he will punish us forever.

II. But God's pure law is not always obeyed by men. Our sinful hearts do not love it. The wicked will not have God to reign over them. The most pious persons must confess with sorrow that they have often failed to do their duty. It was on this account that Christ obeyed the law, and suffered its punishment for us. If we believe in Christ, guilty as we are, we shall not perish. His right-

eousness will be ours. He will even put his law in our hearts. It will direct us how to please God. We shall delight in it, and prize it more than gold.

1. Q. For what has God made us?
   A. To serve him.
2. Q. Where has he shown us how to serve him?
   A. In his word.
3. Q. What are those things he tells us to do?
   A. They are duties.
4. Q. What are those he tells us not to do?
   A. They are sins.
5. Q. What do the laws of God cover?
   A. Our whole lives.
6. Q. Are his laws excellent?
   A. Yes: they are holy, just and good.
7. Q. Why has God a right to rule us?
   A. Because he is our Maker and our Master.
8. Q. What shall we have if we obey him?
   A. We shall have life.
9. Q. What if we do not obey him?
   A. He will punish us forever.
10. Q. Why is not God's pure law obeyed?
    A. Because men's hearts are sinful.
11. Q. Will the wicked have God to reign over them?
    A. No.
12. Q. Have the best men always done their duty?
    A. No: they have often failed.
13. Q. How then can any person be saved?
    A. Only through Christ.
14. Q. What has Christ done to take away our guilt?
    A. He obeyed the law and suffered its punishment.
15. Q. If we believe in Christ, what will we receive?
    A. His righteousness.

16. Q. Where will he put the law?
A. Into our hearts.
17. Q. What will the law show us?
A. How to please God.
18. Q. Will we delight in the law then?
A. Yes: we will prize it more than gold.

HINDER ME NOT. C. M.

In all my Lord's appointed ways
My journey I'll pursue;
"Hinder me not," ye much-loved saints,
For I must go with you.

Through floods and flames, if Jesus lead,
I'll follow where he goes;
"Hinder me not," shall be my cry,
Though earth and hell oppose.

Through duties and through trials too,
I'll go at his command;
"Hinder me not," for I am bound
To my Immanuel's land.

And when my Saviour calls me home,
Still this my cry shall be —
"Hinder me not;" come, welcome death;
I'll gladly go with thee.

LESSON XXVII.

THE SPIRIT OF DUTY

TEXT. Matt. 22: 37-39. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

God gave his law to men in ten commandments, which we will soon attend to. But in our text our Lord shows

what the Spirit of the Law is. All the law is fulfilled in one word, and that word is love.

I. It is our duty to love God. God is most lovely in himself. The world that he has made shows us "how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty." And he first loved us. He loved us when we were sinners. He loved us and gave us salvation through his Son. He loves us still, and he asks us to give him our hearts. If we love him in return, he will love us still more. He will make all things work together for our good in this world. And in the world to come he will give us what eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived.

II. It is our duty to love our fellow men. Our God is the Father of all. We must look upon them all as our brethren. And we must have a special love for all that fear the Lord. We must treat them justly and kindly. We must feel for their sorrows and relieve their wants. We must reprove their sins and pray for their souls. We must even love and bless our enemies. And the God of love and peace shall be with us.

1. Q. Where is the moral law given?
   A. In the Ten Commandments.
2. Q. What is the sum of the whole law?
   A. Love.
3. Q. What is our first duty?
   A. To love God.
4. Q. Is God lovely in himself?
   A. Yes.
5. Q. Where do we see his goodness and beauty?
   A. In the world that he has made.
6. Q. Did he first love us?
   A. Yes: he loved us when we were sinners.
7. Q. What has he given us?
   A. Salvation through his Son.
8. Q. What does he ask us to give him?
   A. Our hearts.
9. Q. If we love him, what will he do?
   A. He will love us more.
10. Q. How will he manage all things here for us?

A. He will make them work for our good.
11. Q. What will he give us in the world to come?
A. The greatest blessings.
12. Q. What is our second great duty?
A. To love our fellow-men.
13. Q. Have we all one Father?
A. Yes: God is the Father of all.
14. Q. How should we look upon men?
A. As our brethren.
15. Q. Whom should we love most?
A. Those that fear the Lord.
16. Q. How should we treat them?
A. Justly and kindly.
17. Q. What should we do for sufferers?
A. Feel for them and help them.
18. Q. What should we do for sinners?
A. Reprove them and pray for them.
19. Q. What should we do for enemies?
A. Love and bless them.
20. Q. What blessing shall we have then?
A. The God of love and peace will be with us.

LOVE TESTED AND PRAYED FOR. C. M.

Do not I love thee, O my Lord?
Behold my heart, and see;
And turn each hateful idol out,
That dares to rival thee.

Do not I love thee from my soul?
Then let me nothing love;
Dead be my heart to every joy,
When Jesus cannot move.

Is not thy name melodious still
To my attentive ear?
Doth not each pulse with pleasure bound,
My Saviour's voice to hear?

Thou know'st I love thee, dearest Lord;
But O, I long to soar
Far from the sphere of mortal joys,
And learn to love thee more.

LESSON XXVIII.

FIRST COMMANDMENT — CHOICE OF GOD.

TEXT. Exo. 20 : 23. I am the Lord thy God, (* which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage :) thou shalt have no other gods before me.

I. There is one living and true God who has made us, who has kept us alive, and who has redeemed us from sin and death and hell. We are to take him as our God. We are to think more of him and to love him more than all others. Our words, our thoughts, and our actions must be according to his law. Whatever we do in our worship or in obedience to others must be done so as to please God. If we love father or mother, son or daughter more than God, we are not worthy of him.

II. The Heathen worship other gods. They make idols of wood and stone, and offer prayer and praise to senseless things that cannot save. This idolatry offends the true God. And there is another kind of idolatry: the proud man worships himself: the sensual man, who lives for pleasure, worships his body: the stingy man worships his money. None of these shall inherit the kingdom of God. If we do not like to think of God, if we do not admire and fear him above all, if we do not submit to him, there is something that we worship in his place.

* If thought advisable, the enclosed passage may be omitted.

1. Q. Whom are we to take as our God?
   A. The one living and true God.
2. Q. What claims has he upon us?
   A. He has made, kept and redeemed us.
3. Q. How are we to think of him and to love him?
   A. More than all others.
4. Q. How are we to obey him?
   A. In our words, thoughts and actions.
5. Q. What must we try to do in all our conduct?
   A. To please God.
6. Q. If we love father or mother, son or daughter more than God, what does this show?
   A. That we are not worthy of him.
7. Q. What do the Heathen worship?
   A. Other gods.
8. Q. Can these gods hear their prayers and praises?
   A. No: they are senseless things that cannot save.
9. Q. How does the true God look upon this worship?
   A. It offends him.
10. Q. Are there any others who worship false gods.
    A. Yes.
11. Q. What does the proud man worship?
    A. Himself.
12. Q. What does the sensual man, who lives for pleasure, worship?
    A. His body.
13. Q. What does the stingy man worship?
    A. His money.
14. Q. If we do not love and fear God, what does this show?
    A. There is something that we worship in his place.

GOD ACKOWLEDGED. L. M.

Before Jehovah's awful throne,
Ye nations, bow with sacred joy;
Know that the Lord is God alone;
He can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign power, without our aid,
Made us of clay, and formed us men;
And when, like wandering sheep, we strayed,
He brought us to his fold again.

We are his people, we his care,
Our souls, and all our mortal frame;
What lasting honors shall we rear,
Almighty Maker, to thy name?

We'll crowd thy gates, with thankful songs,
High as the heaven our voices raise;.
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is thy command;
Vast as eternity thy love;
Firm as a rock thy truth shall stand,
When rolling years shall cease to move.

LESSON XXIX.

SECOND COMMANDMENT — IMAGE OF GOD.

TEXT. Exo. 20: 4. 5. 6. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: (*for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.)

* If thought advisable, this may be omitted; although if

I. We must make no false images of the true God, either in our minds or with our hands. We put contempt on God when we think that he is like gold or silver, or stone, and when we try to make a likeness of him with these earthly things. This is a great sin. And we must not have false thoughts of God: especially about his justice and his mercy. He will punish wicked children just as he punished wicked parents. And all that love and serve him, though they were thousands in number, he will surely bless.

II. We must think of God as he shows himself to us in his word. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God. We must look to Jesus if we would learn the wisdom, power and love of God. When we believe in Christ, and fix our minds and hearts on him, we become like him. We are changed into the image of God. We become righteous and holy. We are prepared to live with our Father in heaven.

1. Q. How may we make false images of God?
   A. In our minds or with our hands.
2. Q. Do we honor God when we think him like gold or silver, or stone?
   A. No: we put contempt on him.
3. Q. Why should we not make a likeness of God with earthly things?
   A. Because this is a great sin.
4. Q. May we make false images of God in our minds?
   A. Yes: we may have false thoughts of him.
5. Q. What must we think of God?
   A. That he is just and merciful.
6. Q. How will he punish wicked children?
   A. As he punished wicked parents.
7. Q. How will he treat the thousands that love and serve him?
   A. He will surely bless them.

it can be memorized, it should be retained, as it shows what the meaning of the commandment is.

8. Q. What teaches us to think rightly of God?
   A. His word.
9. Q. Who is the true image of God?
   A. The Lord Jesus Christ.
10. Q. What do we see in the Lord Jesus Christ?
   A. God's wisdom, power and love.
11. Q. What change takes place in believers in Christ?
   A. They are changed into the image of God.
12. Q. What do you mean by the image of God in believers?
   A. They become righteous and holy.
13. Q. If we have this image what are we prepared to do?
   A. To live with our heavenly Father.

GOD IN CHRIST PRIZED. C. M.

And must I part with all I have,
  My dearest Lord, for thee?
It is but right, since thou hast done
  Much more than this for me.

Yes, let it go! one look from thee,
  Will more than make amends,
For all the losses I sustain,
  Of honor, riches, friends.

Ten thousand worlds, ten thousand lives,
  How worthless they appear,
Compared with thee, supremely good,
  Divinely bright and fair!

Saviour of souls, could I from thee
  A single smile obtain,
The loss of all things I could bear,
  And glory in my gain.

LESSON XXX.

THIRD COMMANDMENT — NAME OF GOD.

TEXT. Exo. 20 : 7. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

I. We must speak of God with respect. His name is glorious and fearful. We must not use it carelessly as hypocrites do, or profanely as blasphemers. God has told us his name, not that we may rashly swear by it, but that we may call upon him solemnly in prayer and praise. We may speak of him in religious conversation also. When we have found mercy in God, we may declare his name unto our brethren, calling him our God, and we may call upon the world to trust in him.

II. We must think highly of all those things by which God is made known to us. We should humbly listen to God's word; we should zealously engage in God's worship; we should admire, as David did, all God's works. And every one that names the name of Christ should depart from iniquity. In this way others also will learn to speak his praise.

1. Q. How must we speak of God?
   A. With respect.
2. Q. What can we say of his name?
   A. It is glorious and fearful.
3. Q. Who take God's name in vain?
   A. Hypocrites and blasphemers.
4. Q. How do hypocrites take God's name in vain?
   A. They use it carelessly.
5. Q. How do blasphemers take God's name in vain?
   A. They use it profanely.
6. Q. How should we use God's name?
   A. Solemnly in prayer and praise.

7. Q. May we use God's name in conversation?
   A. Yes; we may declare his name to our brethren.
8. Q. What should the world do?
   A. Trust in him.
9. Q. What things should we think highly of?
   A. The things that make God known.
10. Q. How should we treat God's word?
    A. We should humbly listen to it.
11. Q. How should we treat his worship?
    A. We should zealously engage in it.
12. Q. How should we look upon his works?
    A. We should admire them.
13. Q. Mention the name of a great king who sung of God's works?
    A. David.
14. Q. If we name the name of Christ what should we depart from?
    A. We should depart from iniquity.
15. Q. By so doing what will we teach others?
    A. To speak his praise.

THE CHARMING NAME. C. M.

Jesus, I love thy charming name;
'Tis music to mine ear;
Fain would I sound it out so loud
That earth and heaven might hear.

Yes, thou art precious to my soul,
My transport and my trust:
Jewels to thee are gaudy toys,
And gold is sordid dust.

All my capacious powers can wish,
In thee doth richly meet;
Nor to my eyes is light so dear,
Nor friendship half so sweet.

Thy grace shall dwell upon my heart,
And shed its fragrance there —

The noblest balm for all its wounds,
The cordial of its care.

I'll speak the honors of thy name
With my last laboring breath,
And, dying, clasp thee in my arms —
The antidote of death.

LESSON XXXI.

FOURTH COMMANDMENT — THE SERVICE OF GOD.

TEXT. Exo. 20: 8-11. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the Seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no work — (*thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day. Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.)

I. We must faithfully do our work, on the six days of the week. This duty God requires. He has given each one of us our place in life, and commands us to labor in it. While idleness clothes a man in rags and makes him fall into sins, God blesses the hand of diligence with plenty, and makes the sleep of the laboring man sweet.

II. The Sabbath is the day of rest. God rested on the seventh day and set it apart to himself. The Sabbath is a joyful day. On the first day of the week Christ rose from the dead, and appeared to his disciples. On this day they met for worship, and he poured out his holy Spirit upon them. All the hours of this day we must give up to God. We must not do our own work, but his. We must worship him at our own homes and among his people. We must pray to him and sing his praises. We must listen to his word and speak of him to each other.

* What is inclosed in brackets may be omitted.

And if any are poor and sick among us, we must visit and help them — thus shall we prepare for the heavenly rest.

1. Q. When must we do our work?
   A. On the six days of the week.
2. Q. Is this our duty?
   A. Yes; God requires it.
3. Q. Where should each one of us labor?
   A. In our place in life.
4. Q. What becomes of the idle?
   A. They are clothed in rags and fall into sins.
5. Q. What does God bless the hand of the diligent with?
   A. With plenty.
6. Q. What kind of sleep has the laboring man?
   A. His sleep is sweet.
7. Q. What day is the day of rest?
   A. The Sabbath day.
8. Q. Why are we to rest one day in seven?
   A. Because God rested and set one day apart to himself.
9. Q. Why is the Christian Sabbath a joyful day?
   A. Because Christ rose on that day.
10. Q. When did the Lord's disciples meet for worship?
    A. On the Lord's day.
11. Q. What did he give them on that day?
    A. His Holy Spirit.
12. Q. To whom must we give the hours of this day?
    A. To God.
13. Q. Whose work must we do?
    A. God's work, not ours.
14. Q. Where must we worship him?
    A. At home and among his people.
15. Q. How must we worship him?
    A. By prayer and praise.
19. Q. To what must we listen?

A. To his word.

17. Q. Of whom must we speak ?

A. We must speak of God to each other.

18. Q. Whom must we visit and help on the Sabbath ?

A. The poor and the sick.

19. Q. What will Sabbath duties prepare us for ?

A. For the heavenly rest.

SERVING GOD IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

L. M.

Lord, how delightful 'tis to see
A whole assembly worship thee !
At once they sing, at once they pray,
They hear of heaven and learn the way.

I have been there, and still would go,
'Tis like the dawn of heaven below.
Not all that careless sinners say,
Shall tempt me to forget this day.

O, write upon my memory, Lord,
The truths and precepts of thy word !
That I may break thy laws no more,
But love thee better than before.

With thoughts of Christ, and things divine,
Fill up this foolish heart of mine ;
That, finding pardon through his blood,
I may lie down, and wake with God.

LESSON XXXII.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT — HONOR TO SUPERIORS.

TEXT. Exo. 20 : 12. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

I. Our duties to parents are put down in the same ta-

ble with our duties to God.* God is our father. As such he would have us respect and love him. And he even invites us to call upon him as our Father in Heaven. And now God has given this honor to parents to stand in his place, and to act for him. The faith, hope and love of children must first be put in their fathers and mothers. We must first honor the father whom the Lord has set over us, and the mother who has borne us in her arms and on her heart. If we do not honor them, we cannot honor God. We must be thankful for their kindness. We must attend to their advice and obey their commands. We must do them all the good in our power. In the same way wives should honor their husbands; servants should honor their masters, and citizens should honor their governors. Thus shall they have God's blessing.

II. On the other hand, parents should treat their children with kindness. They should teach them the law of God and reprove them when they go astray. They should feel and pray for them. They should set them a good example. So husbands should care for their wives, masters should care for their servants, and governors should care for the citizens under their charge.

1. Q. Where are our duties to parents put down?
   A. Among our duties to God.
2. Q. What is God?
   A. He is our Father in Heaven.
3. Q. What honor has he given to parents?
   A. To stand in his place and act for him.
4. Q. Whom do we trust and love first of all?
   A. Our fathers and mothers.
5. Q. What does the Lord bid us render them?
   A. Honor.

*It is not proper that we should here give the proof of this fact, asserted by the ancient traditions of the Jews, and now admitted by the latest and best writers upon the subject. See Fairbairn Typol. Vol. II, Ch. 2; and Forbes's Symmetrical Structure of Scripture, p. 141–145. Duty to parents is a part of piety, not of brotherly love; it belongs to the first table of the law

6. Q. How should we honor their kindness?
   A. We should be thankful for it.
7. Q. How should we honor their advice?
   A. We should attend to it.
8. Q. How should we honor their commands?
   A. We should obey them.
9. Q. What must we do to them through life.
   A. All the good in our power.
10. Q. Whom should wives honor?
    A. Their husbands.
11. Q. Whom should servants honor?
    A. Their masters and mistresses.
12. Q. Whom should citizens honor?
    A. Their governors.
13. Q. What shall all have who do this duty?
    A. They shall have God's blessing.
14. Q. How should parents treat their children?
    A. With kindness.
15. Q. What should the child be taught?
    A. The law of God.
16. Q. When should the child be reproved?
    A. When it goes astray.
17. Q. Should parents feel for their children?
    A. Yes; they should feel and pray for them.
18. Q. What should they set before their children?
    A. A good example.
19. Q. Whom should husbands care for?
    A. Their wives.
20. Q. Whom should masters care for?
    A. Their servants.
21. Q. Whom should governors care for?
    A. The citizens under their charge.

HARMONY OF A PIOUS HOUSEHOLD. L. M.

How blest the sacred tie that binds
In sweet communion, kindred minds!

How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes are one.

To each the soul of each how dear!
What tender love, what holy fear!
How doth the generous flame within
Refine from earth, and cleanse from sin!

Nor shall the glowing flame expire,
When dimly burns frail nature's fire;
Then shall they meet in realms above,
A heaven of joy, a heaven of love.

LESSON XXXIII.

SIXTH COMMANDMENT — RESPECT FOR PERSONAL RIGHTS.

TEXT. Exo. 20 : 13. Thou shalt not kill.

I. God has given us our life. It is a great blessing. While we have it, we enjoy many pleasures and we may prepare ourselves for eternity. If we serve God in this world we shall have everlasting peace and joy in the world to come. Life is so important that God has done many things to guard it. He has created medicines in plants and in the earth. He has brought men together so that they may take care of each other. He has made us all afraid to die. And he has solemnly commanded us not to take life. If we kill a man by strength or cunning, or if we kill ourselves, God will punish us.

II. Nor must we do anything that will hurt men's lives : we must not insult or injure men. We must not give way to wicked tempers, or use abusive language, or hate our fellows in our hearts. But we must love them and be kind to them; for they like us were made in the image of God. And we must do nothing that would shorten our lives. We must take care of our health. We must not be drunkards or unclean persons; but be tender

of our own lives, as we are tender of the lives of others. Otherwise we shall be murderers, and no murderer can inherit the kingdom of God.

1. Q. What great blessing has God given us?
   A. Life.
2. Q. While we have it, what do we enjoy?
   A. Many pleasures.
3. Q. What may we prepare for?
   A. Eternity.
4. Q. If we serve God, what shall we have in the life to come?
   A. Everlasting peace and joy.
5. Q. Has God done many things to guard our lives?
   A. Yes.
6. Q. What has he created to cure our sicknesses?
   A. Medicines in plants and in the earth.
7. Q. Why has he brought men together?
   A. So that they may take care of each other.
8. Q. What has he made us afraid of?
   A. Death.
9. Q. What has he solemnly commanded us not to do?
   A. Not to take life.
10. Q. If we murder another or kill ourselves, what will God do?
    A. He will punish us.
11 Q. May we do anything to hurt men?
   A. No; we must not insult or injure them.
12. Q. What must we not give way to?
   A. To anger, hatred and abusive words.
13. Q. How must we treat men?
   A. We must love them and be kind to them.
14. Q. Why?
   A. Because they were made in God's image.
15. Q. May we shorten our own lives?

A. No; we must take care of them.
16. Q. What sins will shorten our lives?
A. Drunkenness and uncleanness.
17. Q. What are those persons guilty of, who take life?
A. They are guilty of murder?
18. Q. What does God say of such persons?
A. They cannot inherit his Kingdom.

THE PASSIONS CONQUERED BY GRACE. L. M.

Eternal Spirit, we confess
And sing the wonders of thy grace;
Thy power conveys our blessings down
From God the Father, and the Son.

Enlightened by thy heavenly ray,
Our shades and darkness turn to day;
Thine inward teachings make us know
Our danger and our refuge too.

Thy power and glory work within,
And break the chains of reigning sin;
Our wild, imperious lusts subdue,
And form our wretched hearts anew.

The troubled conscience knows thy voice;
Thy cheering words awake our joys:
Thy words allay the stormy wind,
And calm the surges of the mind.

LESSON XXXIV.

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT — RESPECT FOR FAMILY.

TEXT, Exo. 20 : 13. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

I. We must think highly of marriage. God made those persons who are married, for each other. He makes

them one. He commands that they shall cleave to each other until they are parted by death. We must not separate them, by taking one from the other or by tempting one of them to do any wrong to the other. For such conduct is very sinful, and those who act so, will be punished in hell forever.

II. We must seek to be pure in our bodies and souls. Our bodies were made to be temples for the Holy Ghost to live in. And our Lord Jesus Christ poured out his blood to cleanse our souls from sin. We must not cherish unchaste thoughts. We must not speak filthy words. We must not do immodest actions. We must not keep loose and wanton company. But pray to the God of all grace to preserve us from these base and evil things. Then we shall not degrade ourselves, or disgrace our own families, or put our neighbor's family to shame.

1. Q. What must we highly think of?
   A. Marriage.
2. Q. Has God made married persons for each other?
   A. Yes; he has made them one.
3. Q. What has he commanded them?
   A. To cleave to each other.
4. Q. How long must they cleave to each other?
   A. Until they are parted by death.
5. Q. May we separate two married persons?
   A. No; we must not take one from the other?
6. Q. May we tempt one to do wrong to the other?
   A. No; such conduct is very sinful.
7. Q. Where will God punish those who act in this way?
   A. He will punish them in hell forever.
8. Q. Must we seek to be pure?
   A. Yes; in our bodies and souls.
9. Q. What were our bodies made to be?
   A. Temples of the Holy Ghost.
10. Q. Why did the Lord Jesus pour out his blood?

A. To cleanse our souls from sin.

11. Q. What must we not cherish?
A. Unclean thoughts.

12. Q. What must we not speak?
A. Filthy words.

13. Q. What must we not do?
A. Immodest actions.

14. Q. What sort of company must we keep from?
A. Loose company.

15. Q. To whom may we pray to preserve us from these base and evil things?
A. To the God of all grace.

16. Q. If we pray earnestly to God, what will he preserve us from?
A. From disgrace.

17. Q. Will we then shame our families or the families of others?
A. No; we will not put them to shame.

THE AFFECTIONS CONFORMED TO GOD'S WILL. L. M.

O thou who hast at thy command,
The hearts of all men in thy hand!
Our wayward, erring hearts incline
To have no other will but thine.

Our wishes, our desires control,
Mould every purpose of the soul;
O'er all may grace victorious be,
That stands between ourselves and thee.

Twice blest will all our blessings be,
When we can look through them to thee,
When each glad heart its tribute pays
Of love and gratitude and praise.

And, while we to thy glory live,
May we to thee all glory give,
Until the joyful summons come
That calls thy willing servants home.

LESSON XXXV.

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT — RESPECT FOR PROPERTY.

TEXT. Exo. 20: 15. Thou shalt not steal.

I. God is the Maker and Owner of all things. But he has given the earth to the children of men. He bids us toil for its blessings in the sweat of our brow. We must be diligent in business. This is the only way to prosper. We are not to get what we want by robbing other men of their property. But we must be just, honest and industrious, in all our callings. Then the blessing of the Lord will rest upon us.

II. We must not defraud ignorant men, nor oppress poor men, nor betray those who trust us. If we have borrowed anything we must return it. If we are in debt to any person we must repay him. If we have property, and a neighbor has need, we must generously help him. And we must not forget that it is God who has given us all things to enjoy. While we thank him for his blessings we must give to his cause, so that the Gospel may be supported and may spread in the world.

1. Q. Who is the Maker and Owner of all things?
   A. God.
2. Q. What has he given to men?
   A. The Earth.
3. Q. How are we to gain its blessings?
   A. In the sweat of our brow.
4. Q. May we get what we want by taking it away from others?
   A. No: we must not rob other men of their property.
5. Q. How must we act in all our callings?
   A. We must be just, honest and industrious.

6. Q. If we act so, what will rest upon us?
   A. The blessing of the Lord.
7. Q. How must we treat ignorant men?
   A. We must not defraud them.
8. Q. How must we treat poor men?
   A. We must not oppress them.
9. Q. How must we treat those who trust us?
   A. We must not betray them.
10. Q. What must we do if we have borrowed anything?
    A. We must return it.
11. Q. What must we do if we are in debt to any person?
    A. We must repay him.
12. Q. If we have property, and our neighbor is in want, what must we do?
    A. We must help him.
13. Q. What should we thank God for?
    A. For all our blessings.
14. Q. Why should we give to his cause?
    A. That the gospel may be supported and spread in the world.

GOD'S GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED AND DEVOTED TO HIS SERVICE. C. M.

Bright source of everlasting love,
  To thee our souls we raise,
And to thy sovereign bounty rear
  A monument of praise.

Thy mercy gilds the path of life
  With every cheering ray,
And kindly checks the rising tear,
  Or wipes that tear away.

What shall we render, bounteous Lord,
  For all the grace we see?
The goodness feeble man can yield
  Extendeth not to thee.

To scenes of woe, to beds of pain,
We'll cheerfully repair,
And, with the gifts thy hand bestows,
Relieve the sufferers there.

The widow's heart shall sing for joy;
The orphan shall be glad;
And hungering souls we'll gladly point
To Christ, the living bread.

Thus what our heavenly Father gave
Shall we as freely give;
Thus copy him who lived to save,
And died that we might live.

LESSON XXXVI.

NINTH COMMANDMENT—RESPECT FOR TRUTH.

TEXT. Exo. 20: 16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

I. We have seen that we must not hurt our neighbors by our actions. This text teaches that we must not injure them by our words. A good name is a great blessing. We must not take it away from any person if we can help it. We must cover their faults and reprove them in private. We must not be quick to take up any evil report about them. We must never speak falsely against them. False witnesses condemned our Lord. Matt. 26: 60.

II. It is our duty to speak the truth always. God is a lover of truth, and those who tell lies cannot please him. We must not say what is false, either in jest, or to gain some good. We must not make promises when we intend to break them. Even when we have done wrong, it is better to confess it candidly than try to cover it with falsehood. And it is best of all not to do anything that we would be ashamed to own. Ananias and Sapphira suf-

fered death for telling a lie. Acts 5 : 3. All liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

1. Q. May we injure our neighbors?
   A. No: neither by acts nor words.
2. Q. Why should we prize a good name?
   A. Because it is a great blessing?
3. Q. May we take away any one's good name?
   A. Not if we can help it.
4. Q. What must we do when we see their faults?
   A. We must cover them, and reprove them in private.
5. Q. What should we do when we hear any bad reports about them?
   A. We should not be quick to believe.
6. Q. How should we never speak about them?
   A. We should never speak falsely about them.
7. Q. Who condemned our Lord?
   A. False witnesses.
8. Q. What should we always speak?
   A. The truth.
9. Q. Why should we always speak the truth?
   A. Because God loves the truth.
10. Q. Must we never say what is false?
    A. No: not even in joke.
11. Q. May we tell a lie to gain some good for ourselves?
    A. No: we may not.
12. Q. When should we not make promises?
    A When we will break them.
13. Q. When we have done wrong, what is it best to do?
    A. To confess it candidly.
14. Q. And what should we always keep from doing?
    A. What we would be ashamed to own.
15. Q. Who suffered death for telling a lie?
    A. Ananias and Sapphira.

16. Q. What shall be the part of all liars?
A. Their part shall be in the burning lake.

THE TRUTH RECEIVED AND EXEMPLIFIED. L. M.

So let our lips and lives express
The holy gospel we profess;
So let our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine.

Thus shall we best proclaim abroad
The honors of our Saviour God,
When his salvation reigns within
And grace subdues the power of sin.

Our flesh and sense must be denied,
Passion and envy, lust and pride;
While justice, temperance, truth, and love,
Our inward piety approve.

Religion bears our spirits up,
While we expect that blessed hope,
The bright appearance of the Lord,
And faith stands leaning on his word.

LESSON XXXVII.

TENTH COMMANDMENT — CONTENTMENT.

TEXT. Exo. 20: 17. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house: thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife: nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

I. We may not only do wrong in our actions and our words. The thought of evil is sin. We must not even wish for those things that belong to other men. If we wish for another man's house, this will tempt us to take it and to kill the owner, as Ahab did. 1 Kings, 21. If we

wish for another man's wife, this will tempt us to take her from her husband, as David did. 2 Sam. 11. If we wish for another man's property, this will tempt us to steal. We cannot be holy before God unless we keep sin out of our thoughts.

II. We must not love the world too greatly. Its pleasures and its goods cannot make us truly happy. They would be of no advantage to us, if we gained them all and lost our souls. We need but little here below. Let us be satisfied and thankful for what God has given us. Let us submit to his holy will when he takes away his gifts. Thus like the faithful Apostle, we shall learn in every state to be content. Phil. 4 : 11. We shall not covet anything that is our neighbor's.

1. Q. May we do wrong in our thoughts?
   A. Yes: the thought of evil is sin.
2. Q. How should we look on the things that other men have?
   A. We should not even wish for them.
3. Q. If we wish for another man's house, what will this tempt us to do?
   A. To kill the owner.
4. Q. If we wish for another man's wife, what will this tempt us to do?
   A. To take her from her husband.
5. Q. If we wish for another man's property, what will this tempt us to do?
   A. To steal.
6. Q. What must we do to be holy before God?
   A. We must keep sin out of our thoughts.
7. Q. What must we not love too greatly?
   A. The world.
8. Q. Can its pleasures and its goods make us happy?
   A. No; they cannot.
9. Q. Why cannot they make us happy?
   A. Because we might gain them all and lose our souls.

10. Q. How much do we need in this world?
A. We need but little.
11. Q. How should we look on what God has given us?
A. We should be satisfied and thankful.
12. Q. When he takes away his gifts, what should we do?
A. We should submit to his holy will.
13. Q. What does the faithful apostle teach us?
A. In every state to be content.
14. Q. If we are content in every state, what will we not do?
A. We will not wish anything that is our neighbor's.

THE CONTENTED SOUL. C. M.

While thee I seek, protecting Power,
Be my vain wishes stilled;
And may this consecrated hour
With better hopes be filled.

Thy love the power of thought bestowed,
To thee my thoughts would soar;
Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed;
That mercy I adore.

In each event of life, how clear
Thy ruling hand I see!
Each blessing to my soul more dear,
Because conferred by thee.

In every joy that crowns my days,
In every pain I bear,
My heart shall find delight in praise
Or seek relief in prayer.

When gladness wings my favored hour,
Thy love my thoughts shall fill;
Resigned, when storms of sorrow lower,
My soul shall meet thy will.

My lifted eye, without a tear,
The gathering storm shall see;
My steadfast heart shall know no fear;
That heart shall rest on thee.

LESSON XXXVIII.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTERS. 1. POVERTY OF SPIRIT.

TEXT. Mat. 5: 3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

I. The poor in spirit are those who know their great sins and their many wants. They do not think highly of themselves, but are very humble before God. They feel that in them dwells no good thing. They confess that God alone is good. Hence they give him all glory, and desire that all men should live to his praise. This is the meaning of the prayer they offer: Hallowed be thy name.*

I. Proud men, who boast like the Laodiceans, that they have need of nothing, will find at last that they are wretchedly poor. Rev. 3: 17. But the poor in spirit shall have a large and glorious possession. They think little of themselves: but God thinks much of them. He gives them heavenly blessings and joys while they live in this world, and when they die he will take them to himself. They shall reign as kings and priests unto our God forever and ever.

1. Q. What do the poor in spirit know?
   A. Their great sins and their many wants.
2. Q. Do they think highly of themselves?

* Forbes, in the work already referred to, p. 86, has brought out the striking correspondence existing between the seven beatitudes and the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. We have only hinted at the subject.

A. No: they are very humble before God.

3. Q. Do they feel that they are good in themselves?

A. No: they feel that no good is in them.

4. Q. Whom do they confess to be good?

A. God only.

5. Q. What do they give to God?

A. All glory.

6. Q. What do they wish that all men should do?

A. That they should live to God's praise.

7. Q. What is the prayer that they offer to God?

A. Hallowed be thy name.

8. Q. How do the proud in spirit feel and boast?

A. That they need nothing.

9. Q. What will they find out at last?

A. That they are wretchedly poor.

10. Q. What will the poor in spirit have at last?

A. A large and glorious possession.

11. Q. They think little of themselves: does God think so too?

A. No: God thinks much of them.

12. Q. What does he give them in this world?

A. Heavenly blessings and joys.

13. Q. What will he do to them when they die?

A. He will take them to himself.

14. Q. What will he give them?

A. The kingdom of Heaven.

THE ONLY REFUGE. 7's. (Double.)

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the raging billows roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life be past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
  Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
  Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed,
  All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
  With the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want!
  More than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
  Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
  I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin, I am,
  Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
  Grace to cover all my sin:
Let the healing streams abound,
  Make and keep me pure within:
Thou of life the fountain art;
  Freely let me take of thee:
Spring thou up within my heart,
  Rise to all eternity!

LESSON XXXIX.

2. PIOUS MOURNING.

TEXT. Matt. 5: 4. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

I. They that mourn, *feel* their great wants and sins. They suffer as other men do; but they mourn not only for their sufferings, but for the cause of them. They feel that they deserve all the evils they bear, because they are such guilty sinners. They grieve to think that they have of-

fended their Heavenly Father, and caused the Son of God to die upon the cross. They remember with shame how often they have broken their promises to God and his holy law. They weep over their hard hearts. They are weary and heavy laden with their sins.

II. God will give these mourners the comfort they need. They want righteousness and peace and joy. Their prayer is: Thy kingdom come! The prayer shall be granted. God's sweet, rich grace will enter into their sorrowing hearts. He will put a song of praise into their mouths. And in heaven he will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

1. Q. What should we mourn most for?
   A. Our great wants and sins.
2. Q. Do we deserve to suffer.
   A. Yes; for we are guilty sinners.
3. Q. Whom have our sins offended?
   A. Our heavenly Father.
4. Q. What did they cause the Son of God to bear?
   A. The death of the cross.
5. Q. What have our sins made us break?
   A. Our promises to God and his holy law.
6. Q. What has made us do so many sins?
   A. Our hard hearts.
7. Q. How should we feel when we think of our sins?
   A. Weary and heavy laden.
8. Q. What do mourning souls want?
   A. Righteousness and peace and joy.
9. Q. What should be their prayer?
   A. Thy kingdom come.
10. Q. Will God hear their prayer?
    A. Yes; he will give them the comfort they need.
11. Q. What will he put into their hearts
    A. His sweet, rich grace.
12. Q. What will he put into their mouths?

A. A song of praise.

13. Q. What will he do for them in heaven?

A. He will wipe all tears from their eyes.

SIN DEPLORED. C. M.

How oft, alas! this wretched heart
Has wandered from the Lord!
How oft my roving thoughts depart,
Forgetful of his word!

Yet sovereign mercy calls, "Return:"
Dear Lord, and may I come?
My vile ingratitude I mourn;
O, take the wanderer home.

And canst thou, wilt thou, yet forgive,
And bid my crimes remove?
And shall a pardoned rebel live
To speak thy wondrous love?

Thy pardoning love, so free, so sweet,
Blest Saviour, I adore;
O, keep me at thy sacred feet,
And let me rove no more.

LESSON XL.

3. MEEKNESS.

TEXT. Mat. 5: 5. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the eart

I. The meek are those who submit to God's will. They patiently suffer affliction and wrong. If they suffer at the hands of God they do not murmur or complain against him. They are sure that God corrects them in wisdom and mercy. They trust that their troubles will be for their eternal good. If they suffer at the hands of men, they

are not carried away with passion. They do not take revenge into their own hands. In every time of distress they cast their cares on him who careth for them.

II. The meek shall receive a rich blessing. Their prayer is: Thy will be done. They desire that God will do with them as he pleases. They submit their wills to his. And he in return blesses them on earth. He causes things present and things to come to work for their good. They bear reproach like the meek and lowly Saviour: and they shall have their portion in that new world where Christ reigns, the prince of glory and the captain of their salvation.

1. Q. Who are the meek?
   A. Those who submit to God's will.
2. Q. How do they bear affliction and wrong?
   A. Patiently.
3. Q. How do they act when they suffer at the hands of God?
   A. They do not murmur or complain.
4. Q. How does God correct them?
   A. In wisdom and mercy.
5. Q. What will all their troubles end in?
   A. Their eternal good.
6. Q. How do they act when they suffer at the hands of men?
   A. They are not carried away with passion.
7. Q. What do they in times of trouble?
   A. They cast their cares on God.
8. Q. Why do they cast their cares on God?
   A. Because he cares for them.
9. Q. What is the prayer of the meek?
   A. Thy will be done.
10. Q. How do they wish God to deal with them?
    A. As he pleases.
11. Q. How does God treat them?
    A. He blesses them.
12. Q. What blessing do they have on earth?
    A. All things work for their good.

13. Q. Who are they like on earth?
A. Like the meek and lowly Saviour.
14. Q. Where shall they have their portion at last?
A. In the world where Jesus reigns.

THE CHASTENED SON. C. M.

And can my heart aspire so high
To say, "My Father, God?"
Lord, at thy feet I fain would lie,
And learn to kiss the rod.

I would submit to all thy will,
For thou art good and wise;
Let every anxious thought be still,
Nor one faint murmur rise.

Thy love can cheer the darkest gloom,
And bid me wait serene,
Till hopes and joys immortal bloom,
And brighten all the scene.

"My Father," — O, permit my heart
To plead her humble claim,
And ask the bliss those words impart,
In my Redeemer's name.

LESSON XLI.

4. HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS.

TEXT. Matt. 5 : 6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

I. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness are those who strongly desire spiritual blessings. They know

that in themselves they are guilty before God and exposed to his punishment. They would have their sins hidden with Christ's righteousness. They would have their guilty souls filled with the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit. They would have a final and a full salvation. They cannot be satisfied with less than this.

II. When such persons pray: "Give us this day our daily bread," they do not pray for their bodies only. They ask food for their souls. They can never say they have enough, but are constantly asking for more. They live upon God's grace as the Israelites lived on his bounty, when he rained manna from heaven every morning. God gives them his rich blessings, pardon and holiness and eternal life. These are the true bread and the water of life for hungering and thirsting souls.

1. Q. Who are those that hunger and thirst after righteousness?
   A. Those that strongly desire spiritual blessings.
2. Q. What do they know of their state before God?
   A. They know they are guilty.
3. Q. What are they in danger of?
   A. Of punishment.
4. Q. How would they have their sins hidden?
   A. With Christ's righteousness.
5. Q. What would they have their souls filled with?
   A. With the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
6. Q. What is the only thing that will satisfy them?
   A. A full salvation.
7. Q. What is the prayer such persons offer?
   A. Give us this day our daily bread.
8. Q. Do they pray for their bodies only?
   A. No; they ask food for their souls too.
9. Q. What food do their souls live upon?
   A. God's grace.
10. Q. How often do they pray for it?

A. Constantly.
11. Q. What rich blessings does God give them?
A. Pardon, holiness and eternal life.
12. Q. How did God feed his people in the desert?
A. With manna from heaven.
13. Q. What makes God's grace better than manna?
A. It is bread for hungry sōuls.

CHRIST DESIRED. 8's & 7's.

Come, thou long expected Jesus!
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee:
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints thou art:
Dear desire of every nation —
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver:
Born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

LESSON XLII.

5. MERCY.

TEXT. Mat. 5: 7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

I. Those who have prayed for mercy and have received it from God have merciful hearts. If they see others in distress, it reminds them that God has pitied

their own distresses. If they see others in want, they remember how poor they were when God gave them the riches of his grace. If they see their enemies in trouble they will help them, because God's dear Son died for us when we were his enemies. They live to bless the world.

II. And the merciful shall also find mercy. When they feel the kind temper of Christ in their hearts they may be sure that their sins have been pardoned. They may go boldly to the throne of grace to find mercy in every time of need, and say: forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Whatever God does to them is done in mercy. And they shall find mercy in that great and terrible day when all the world shall be judged before the bar of God. The righteous judge will say to the merciful: Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Enter ye into the joy of your Lord.

1. Q. When shall we have merciful hearts?
   A. When we feel God's mercy.
2. Q. When Christians see others in distress, what will this remind them of?
   A. Their own distresses.
3. Q. Did any one help them in their distress?
   A. Yes; God pitied them.
4. Q. When they see the poor, what will this remind them of?
   A. Their own poverty.
5. Q. What did God give them when they were poor?
   A. He gave them the riches of his grace.
6. Q. When they see their enemies in trouble, what will this remind them of?
   A. Their enmity to God.
7. Q. What did God do for them when they were his enemies?
   A. He sent his Son to die for them.
8. Q. Will these thoughts make believers merciful?
   A. Yes; they will live to bless the world.

9. Q. When they have the kind temper of Christ, what may they be sure of?
   A. That their sins have been pardoned.
10. Q. What prayer may they offer?
   A. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
11. Q. What shall they find at the throne of grace?
   A. Mercy for every time of need.
12. Q. Where shall they have mercy when they have left the world?
   A. At the judgment seat of Christ.
13. Q. What will he say of every act of mercy?
   A. Ye have done it unto me.
14. Q. What invitation will he give to the merciful?
   A. Enter ye into the joy of your Lord.

GREATNESS OF MERCY. L. M. (6 lines.)

Great God of wonders! all thy ways
  Are matchless, godlike and divine;
But the fair glories of thy grace,
  More godlike and unrivalled shine:
Who is a pardoning God like thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

In wonder lost, with trembling joy,
  We take the pardon of our God,
Pardon for sins of deepest die;
  A pardon sealed with Jesus' blood;
Who is a pardoning God like thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

O may this strange, this boundless grace,
  This miracle of sovereign love,
Fill the wide earth with grateful praise,
  And all the angelic choirs above:
Who is a pardoning God like thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

LESSON XLIII.

6. PURITY OF HEART.

TEXT. Matt. 5 : 8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

I. God is pure. He that would see and enjoy God must be pure also. He must keep sin out of his thoughts and out of his heart. He must strive and pray against it. He must earnestly use the prayer: Lead us not into temptation. He must carefully avoid all those things which may cause him to fall into sin. He must always try to follow the example of the holy Jesus, in faith and love and good works. And he must cherish the Holy Spirit in his soul. Then he will be pure.

II. And he will see God. While he lives on earth he will draw near to God and God will draw near to him. He will be full of peace and joy; for he will be sure that God, his dear Father, loves him. And when he passes from the earth he will leave all sin and sorrow behind. He will enter into God's glorious presence, and there he will dwell in holy happiness forever.

1. Q. If we would see and enjoy God, what must we be?
   A. We must be pure.
2. Q. What must we keep sin out of?
   A. Our thoughts and our heart.
3. Q. How must we do this?
   A. We must strive and pray against sin.
4. Q. What prayer must we use?
   A. Lead us not into temptation.
5. Q. What must we carefully shun?
   A. Everything that would cause us to sin.
6. Q. What example must we try to follow?
   A. The example of the holy Jesus.
7. Q. How must we try to imitate Jesus?
   A. In faith, and love, and good works.

8. Q. What must we cherish in our souls?
   A. The Holy Spirit.
9. Q. If we lead such a life, whom will we draw near to?
   A. God.
10. Q. And what will God do?
    A. He will draw near to us.
11. Q. What will we be sure of?
    A. That God, our dear Father, loves us.
12. Q. How shall we feel?
    A. Peaceful and joyful.
13. Q. Will we have peace and joy when we die?
    A. Yes; we will leave all sin and sorrow behind.
14. Q. Where will the pure in heart go?
    A. To God's glorious presence.
15. Q. Will their holy happiness ever end?
    A. No; They will see God forever.

LONGINGS FOR PURITY. L. M.

My God, permit me not to be
A stranger to myself and thee;
Amidst a thousand thoughts I rove,
Forgetful of my highest love.

Why should my passions mix with earth
And thus debase my heavenly birth?
Why should I cleave to things below,
And let my God, my Saviour, go?

Call me away from flesh and sense;
One sovereign word can draw me thence;
I would obey the voice divine,
And all inferior joys resign.

Be earth, with all her scenes, withdrawn;
Let noise and vanity be gone:
In secret silence of the mind
My heaven, and there my God, I find.

LESSON XLIV.

7. PEACE-MAKING.

TEXT. Matt. 5: 9. Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.

I. Those whom God adopts into his family receive peace. This is a blessing which their father gives them. Their hearts are peaceful: they no longer are tossed with wild passions; they are no longer shaken by guilt and fear. Their lives are peaceful; they will not quarrel with others and wrong and abuse them. They try to reconcile men, and they offer to the world, peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus they follow Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

II. These peace-makers are the children of God. Satan is the author of discord: and the wicked who are his children have no peace. They are unquiet in their souls and in the world. But the prayer of God's children is: "Deliver us from evil." And their heavenly Father hears their prayer and gives them peace. They are known by this sign. And he will acknowledge them as his in that great day when the wicked are separated from the just.

1. Q. What gift does God bestow on all his family?
   A. The gift of peace.
2. Q. How do they have peace in their hearts?
   A. Their passions are quieted.
3. Q. What are they no longer shaken by?
   A. By guilt and fear.
4. Q. How do they have peace in their lives?
   A. They will not quarrel with others.
5. Q. How do they make peace in the world?
   A. They try to reconcile men with each other and with God.
6. Q. Whom do they follow when they make peace?

A. Jesus the Prince of Peace.

7. Q. Whose children are the peace-makers?
A. They are children of God.

8. Q. Who provokes anger and quarrels among men?
A. Satan.

9. Q. Who are the children of Satan?
A. The wicked.

10. Q. Have they any peace?
A. No; they are unquiet in their souls and in the world.

11. Q. What is the prayer of God's children?
A. Deliver us from evil.

12. Q. Does their heavenly Father hear their prayer?
A. Yes; he gives them peace.

13. Q. Are they known by this sign?
A. Yes.

14. Q. What will God do to peace-makers at the last day?
A. He will acknowledge them as his children.

15. Q. What will become of quarrelsome and wicked persons?
A. They will be separated from the just.

THE CHURCH, THE HOME OF PEACE. S. M.

Blest be the tie that binds
  Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
  Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
  We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
  Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
  Our mutual burdens bear;

And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way;
While each in expectation lives,
And longs to see the day.

LESSON XLV.

THE CHURCH.

TEXT. 1 Pet. 2: 5. Ye, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

I. The word, church, sometimes means the whole body of Christ's people, whether in heaven or on earth. But a particular Gospel Church is a company of believers who meet regularly to worship God, and who keep the ordinances as they are laid down in his word. They are joined together in one mind. They love and help each other. They support the ministry of the word. And they all submit to Jesus Christ as their head and Lord.

II. The Church has officers as well as members. These officers are called and qualified by the Lord; they are appointed by the church, and they are set apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. They are of two kinds. The first class consists of pastors, who are also called "Bishops" and "Elders." They have the care of the Church. They must watch for souls. They must give themselves up to the ministry of the word and to prayer, and be examples to their flock. The second class con-

sists of deacons or "helps." Their business is to attend at the Lord's table and to see that the wants of the minister and the poor of the church are not neglected. They take charge of the secular affairs of the church as the pastor takes charge of the spiritual affairs.

1. Q. What does the word church sometimes mean?
   A. All Christ's people in heaven or on earth.
2. Q. What is a particular Gospel Church?
   A. A company of believers.
3. Q. Do they often come together?
   A. Yes; they regularly meet to worship God.
4. Q. How do they keep the ordinances?
   A. As they are laid down in the word.
5. Q. How are they joined together?
   A. In one mind.
6. Q. How do they treat each other?
   A. They love and help each other.
7. Q. What do they support?
   A. The ministry of the word.
8. Q. Who is their head and Lord?
   A. Jesus Christ.
9. Q. Is the church made up of members only?
   A. No; it has officers too.
10. Q. How are these officers appointed?
    A. Christ calls them and the people choose them.
11. Q. How are they set apart?
    A. By prayer and laying on of hands.
12. Q. How many kinds of officers are there?
    A. Two; pastors and deacons.
13. Q. What must the pastors watch for?
    A. They must watch for souls.
14. Q. What must they give themselves up to?
    A. The ministry of the word and prayer.
15. Q. Must they lead a holy life?
    A. Yes; they must be examples to the flock.

16. Q. What must the deacons do?
A. They must serve tables.
17. Q. What tables do the deacons serve?
A. The tables of the Lord, of the pastor, and of the poor.
18. Q. What is put into their charge?
A. The business of the church.

LOVE FOR THE CHURCH. S. M.

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God;
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus, thou friend divine,
Our Saviour and our King,
Thy hand, from every snare and foe,
Shall great deliverance bring.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven.

LESSON XLVI.

BAPTISM.

TEXT. Matt. 28 : 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

I. Baptism is an ordinance which Jesus Christ has commanded his people to observe. It is a sign that their sins are washed away by the blood of Christ, and that they give themselves up to God to live a new life. None should be baptized but those who repent of their sins, who believe in their Saviour, and who promise to serve him as long as they live. There is no command for infant baptism and no example of it in the Holy Scriptures.

II. Baptism is administered by immersion, or the dipping of the whole body in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. When our Saviour was baptized he went down into the river Jordan, and afterwards came up out of the water. He has appointed that all his disciples should be buried with him in baptism. There is but one baptism; and those who have had water sprinkled or poured upon them, are not baptized.

1. Q. What is baptism?
   A. An ordinance of Jesus Christ.
2. Q. Who are to observe it?
   A. His people.
3. Q. What is it a sign of?
   A. It is a sign that sin is washed away.
4. Q. Does baptism itself wash away sin?
   A. No; the blood of Christ cleanses from sin.
5. Q. What do we when we are baptized?
   A. We give ourselves up to God.
6. Q. What do we promise when we are baptized?
   A. We promise to lead a new life.
7. Q. Who should be baptized?
   A. Only those that repent and believe.

8. Q. Should infants be baptized?
   A. No; God has not commanded it.
9. Q. Is there any case of infant baptism mentioned in the Bible?
   A. No; not one.
10. Q. How must baptism be administered?
    A. By dipping the whole body in water.
11. Q. In whose name?
    A. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
12. Q. Was our Saviour dipped in the Jordan?
    A. Yes; he went down into the river and then came up out of it.
13. Q. Must we be baptized in the same way?
    A. Yes; we must he buried with him in baptism.
14. Q. How many baptisms are there?
    A. There is but one.
15. Q. What then must we say of those who have had water only sprinkled or poured on them?
    A. They are not baptized.

BAPTISMAL SIGNS AND BLESSINGS. L. M.

Come, Holy Spirit, Dove divine,
On these baptismal waters shine,
And teach our hearts, in highest strain,
To praise the Lamb, for sinners slain.

We love thy name, we love thy laws,
And joyfully embrace thy cause;
We love thy cross, the shame, the pain,
O Lamb of God, for sinners slain.

We sink beneath the mystic flood;
O, bathe us in thy cleansing blood;
We die to sin, and seek a grave,
With thee, beneath the yielding wave.

And as we rise, with thee to live,
O, let the Holy Spirit give
The sealing unction from above,
The breath of life, the fire of love.

LESSON XLVII.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

TEXT. 1 Cor. 10: 16. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

I. On the night when our Lord was betrayed, he appointed the ordinance of the Supper to be kept by the Church to the end of the world. It is to be observed in the giving of thanks and in the use of bread and wine. These are the signs of his death for our sakes: the bread reminds us of his broken body, and the wine of his spilled blood. They both remind us of a Saviour whose love was stronger than death. He was offered once to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

II. When we thus see Christ in his ordinance, our faith is strengthened. Our love to him becomes more tender and true. While we weep for the sins that have made our Saviour suffer, we renew our vows of obedience to him. We grow in grace, by receiving new gifts of the Holy Ghost. We must observe this ordinance with joy, and yet with seriousness of mind. Those who observe it in a disorderly and indecent manner as the Corinthians did, are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, and eat and drink condemnation.

1. Q. When did our Lord appoint the ordinance of the Supper?
   A. On the night when he was betrayed.
2. Q. By whom was it to be kept?
   A. By his Churches.
3. Q. How long?

A. To the end of the world.

4. Q. How was it to be kept?
A. In the giving of thanks, and the use of bread and wine.

5. Q. What are the bread and wine the signs of?
A. His death for our sakes.

6. Q. Of what does the bread remind us?
A. Of his broken body.

7. Q. Of what does the wine remind us?
A. Of his spilled blood.

8. Q. What do they teach us of the Saviour's love?
A. That it was stronger than death.

9. Q. What did he die for?
A. For our sins.

10. Q. If we look for him, what will he give us when he comes again?
A. Salvation.

11 Q. What does the Lord's supper strengthen in us?
A. Faith and love.

12. Q. What does it cause us to mourn for?
A. For the sins that made our Saviour suffer.

13. Q. What does it make us renew?
A. Our vows of obedience to him.

14. Q. What do we receive at this precious season?
A. New gifts of the Holy Ghost.

15. Q. How must we observe this ordinance?
A. With joy and seriousness.

16. Q. If we keep it in a disorderly and indecent manner, will it do us any good?
A. No: it will condemn us.

REMEMBERING CHRIST. C. M.

If human kindness meets return,
And owns the grateful tie;
If tender thoughts within us burn,
To feel a friend is nigh; —

O, shall not warmer accents tell
  The gratitude we owe
To him who died our fears to quell,
  And save from endless woe?

While yet his anguished soul surveyed
  Those pangs he would not flee,
What love his latest words displayed!—
  "Meet and remember me."

Remember thee! thy death, thy shame,
  The griefs which thou didst bear!
O memory, leave no other name
  But his, recorded there.

LESSON XLVIII.

DEATH.

TEXT. Eccl. 12: 7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.

I. We must all die. Our souls and bodies which have kept company so long, will be separated. The body that was made from the ground will become dust again: the spirit that was given by God will go back to him. Death is painful and fearful to all men, but they cannot escape from it. For they are all sinners, and the wages of sin is death. Even those who believe in Christ must die, for alas! they too have sinned. But after the pangs of death are over, it will be better for them. When absent from the body, they will be present with the Lord.

II. Death takes us to another state of being. We must prepare for it. We must not be proud of our birth, of our dress, of our riches, or indeed of any bodily good, for these things will soon be of no advantage to us. We must not put our happiness in earthly pleasures, for we shall soon lose them all. But we must seek for those blessings that will never be lost. We must seek to be born again, to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ, to have

heavenly riches and spiritual pleasures. Let us live, in a word, for our souls and not for our bodies. And the blessings that God will give us shall be ours forever.

1. Q. What is death?
   A. The separation of the soul from the body.
2. Q. What was the body made from?
   A. From the ground.
3. Q. What will the body become?
   A. It will become dust again.
4. Q. By whom was the spirit given?
   A. It was given by God.
5. Q. Where will it go?
   A. It will go back to God.
6. Q. How do all men look upon death?
   A. It is painful and fearful to all.
7. Q Why must all men die?
   A. Because all are sinners.
8. Q. Ought Christians to be afraid of death?
   A. No; it is better for them than life.
9. Q. What becomes of them when they are absent from the body?
   A. They are present with the Lord.
10. Q. What should death teach us?
    A. To prepare for eternity.
11. Q. What will become of our earthly blessings?
    A. We shall lose them soon.
12. Q. How should we look upon our earthly blessings?
    A. We should not put our happiness in them.
13. Q. What blessings should we desire most?
    A. Those that death cannot take away.
14. Q. What should we desire to be clothed with?
    A. The righteousness of Christ.
15. Q. What sort of riches should we seek first of all?
    A. Heavenly riches.
16. Q. What sort of pleasures should we be most fond of?

A. Spiritual pleasures.

17. Q. What is most precious, our bodies or our souls?

A. Our souls.

18. Q. If we gain blessings for the soul, can death ever take them away?

A. No; they will be ours forever.

DEATH NEAR. C. M.

Death floats on every passing breeze,
And lurks in every flower;
Each season has its own disease,
Its peril every hour.

We daily see the rosy light
Of youth's soft cheek decay;
And life depart in sudden night,
Ere scarce has dawned the day.

Look downward, then; thy danger know;
Where now thy foot may tread,
List to the warning from below:
There lie the buried dead.

Look upward, too; by faith apply
The truth divinely given;
On Jesus and his word rely,
And fit thy soul for heaven.

LESSON XLIX.

THE RESURRECTION.

TEXT. Jno. 5: 28, 29. The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and come forth.

I. At the last day, Our Lord Jesus Christ will call the sleeping dead from their graves. The trumpet will sound

in the heavens. The bodies that have fallen into dust will rise. They will be the same bodies that we loved and cherished on earth. They will be the same bodies that once served God, or served Satan, in this world. They will be united again to our souls. They will die no more.

II. If we are alive when the Lord comes, we shall be changed. Although we will have the same bodies, they will be made spiritual. They will need no longer the pleasures they enjoyed in this life. They will live without food or drink. They will neither marry nor be given in marriage. The bodies of the righteous will be like Christ's glorious body. While the wicked will rise to shame and everlasting contempt. The righteous will triumph over death, and will be fully adopted into the family of God. Rom. 8 : 23. The wicked will be lost without hope and without end.

1. Q. Who will come at the last day?
   A. Our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Q. What will the Lord do when he comes?
   A. He will call the dead from their graves.
3. Q. How will he call them?
   A. With the sound of the trumpet.
4. Q. Will they obey the call?
   A. Yes; the bodies will rise from the dust.
5. Q. Will these be the same bodies that were put into the grave?
   A. Yes; the same bodies that we loved and lost.
6. Q. What did the saints do with theirs?
   A. They served God.
7. Q. What did the wicked do with theirs?
   A. They served Satan.
8. Q. What will our bodies be united to?
   A. To our souls.
9. Q. Will our bodies and souls ever be separated again?
   A. No; they will die no more.
10. Q. What change will take place in our bodies?
    A. They will be made spiritual.

11. Q. How will the bodies of the righteous be changed?
A. Like Christ's glorious body.
12. Q. How will the bodies of the wicked arise?
A. To shame and everlasting contempt.
13. Q. What will the righteous triumph over?
A. Over death.
14. Q. What will they be adopted into?
A. Into the family of God.
15. Q. How will the wicked be lost?
A. Without hope and without end.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE IN DEATH. S. M.

And must this body die?
  This mortal frame decay?
And must these active limbs of mine
  Lie mouldering in the clay?

God, my Redeemer, lives,
  And often, from the skies
Looks down, and watches all my dust,
  Till he shall bid it rise.

Arrayed in glorious grace
  Shall these vile bodies shine,
And every shape, and every face
  Look heavenly and divine.

These lively hopes we owe
  To Jesus' dying love;
We would adore his grace below,
  And sing his power above.

O Lord, accept the praise
  Of these our humble songs,
Till strains of nobler sound we raise
  With our immortal tongues.

LESSON L.

THE JUDGMENT.

TEXT. 2 Cor. 5 : 10. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

I. God has appointed a day when he will judge the world by Jesus Christ. He humbled himself to the earth to do the will of the Father. Wherefore God has highly exalted him. He has given him all power. He has appointed him the Judge of the living and the dead. All men will stand before his glorious throne. They must give an account of their words, thoughts and actions. And they will be judged according to what they have done in the body, whether it be good or bad.

II. We must make ready for this great and terrible day. To the wicked our God is a consuming fire. In that day, they cannot escape his justice, they cannot deceive his wisdom, they cannot resist his power. We must judge ourselves now, that we may not be judged then. We must repent of our sins; we must cling to the Saviour; we must live in the fear of God. Then will he say to us, Come, ye blessed of my Father! when he drives the wicked into Hell

1. Q. By whom will God judge the world?
   A. By Jesus Christ.
2. Q. What did Christ come to the earth to do?
   A. The will of the Father.
3. Q. What reward has the Father given him?
   A. He has highly exalted him.
4. Q. What has he appointed him to be?
   A. The Judge of the living and the dead.
5. Q. Who will stand before his judgment bar?

A. All men.
6. Q. What must they give an account of?
A. Their words, thoughts and actions.
7. Q. How will their case be decided?
A. According to what they have done.
8. Q. What should we do in view of this terrible day?
A. We should make ready for it.
9. Q. What is God to the wicked?
A. A consuming fire.
10. Q. What makes his justice terrible to them?
A. They cannot escape it.
11 Q. What makes his wisdom terrible?
A. They cannot deceive it.
12. Q. What makes his power terrible?
A. They cannot resist it.
13. Q. How must we make ready for the judgment?
A. We must judge ourselves.
14. Q. Of what must we repent?
A. Of our sins.
15. Q. To whom must we cling?
A. To the Saviour.
16. Q. How must we live?
A. In the fear of God.
17. Q. What will Christ then say to us at the judgment?
A. Come, ye blessed of my Father.
18. Q. Where will he drive the wicked?
A. Into hell.

THE GREAT ASSIZE. 7's 8's & 4's.

Day of judgment, day of wonders!
Hark! the trumpet's awful sound,
Louder than a thousand thunders,
Shakes the vast creation round
How the summons
Will the sinner's heart confound?

See the Judge, our nature wearing,
Clothed in majesty divine;
You, who long for his appearing,
Then shall say, "This God is Mine;"
Gracious Saviour,
Own me in that day for thine.

At his call the dead awaken,
Rise to life from earth and sea;
All the powers of nature, shaken
By his looks, prepare to flee;
Careless sinner,
What will then become of thee?

LESSON LI.

HEAVEN.

TEXT. John 14: 2. 3. In my Father's house are many mansions. . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.

I. Christ went up to take possession of Heaven as our home. It is the dwelling place of blessed angels and of pious men who have left the earth. There they see a world of unutterable riches and beauty. There they possess joys and glories beyond all our thoughts. Their sorrows and their sins are past. They have obtained eternal victory over death. All darkness is vanished. They see God. They are like him and they shall be ever with their Lord.

II. Heaven should be the object of our desire. We can seek for no blessing so great as to be with God, and to have God as our eternal portion. Let us fix our thoughts and our affections upon things above. As we do our earthly tasks for God, let us rejoice, remembering the splendid rewards with which he will bless his poor servants. Let us willingly bear all the sorrows of this

present life. For the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory which will be revealed in us.

1. Q. Where did Christ go when he left the earth?
   A. He went to heaven.
2. Q. Who have their home in heaven?
   A. Blessed angels and pious men.
3. Q. What do they see around them?
   A. A rich and beautiful world.
4. Q. What do they have there?
   A. Unspeakable joys and glories.
5. Q. Can they have any suffering there?
   A. No; all sorrow and sin are over.
6. Q. Can they be in darkness again?
   A. No; for they see God.
7. Q. What is their chief happiness in heaven?
   A. They are like their Lord, and shall be ever with him.
8. Q. Why should we seek for heaven?
   A. Because it is the greatest blessing.
9. Q. How should we seek for heaven?
   A. By fixing our minds and hearts on it.
10. Q. How does God encourage his servants to work for him?
    A. By setting before them rich rewards.
11. Q. How does he encourage them to suffer for him?
    A. By offering them endless and matchless glories.

INVITATION TO HEAVEN.* P. M.

Aloft to heaven our hope ascends —
Home of Christ, precious home:
Away to heaven our path extends —
Home of saints, blessed home!

* This hymn is sung to the well-known tune, "Will you go." dan's

Though here we wander in distress,
Amid the howling wilderness,
Onward by day and night we press,
Till to thee we shall come.

To heaven, the scene of palmy throngs,
We shall come; we shall come;
To heaven, the choir of ceaseless songs,
We shall come; we shall come;
Where, mid their thrones of rainbow light,
God's kings and priests, arrayed in white,
To Christ their sounding hymns unite —
Hymns of praise, songs of home.

Our brethren they — the crowned and blest,
In that high, sacred home;
And ours thy triumphs and thy rest.
Home of saints — joyful home!
Who then along the mounting road,
Will seek with us our fair abode,
With us, who march to heaven and God,
Who will come? who will come?

Christ, from his throne resplendent, cries,
Who will come, let him come;
Saints chant in sweetest symphonies,
Will you come? will you come?
O ye, who weep with earthly pains,
For you saints call and Jesus reigns;
They woo you to the heavenly plains —
Home of love, happy home!

O ye, the sons of sainted sires;
To be theirs, will you come?
O ye, who shrink from penal fires;
To be saved, will you come?
For you ascend our prayers on high;
For you the Saviour dared to die;
To you are grace and glory nigh;
Will you come? will you come?

go." If found too difficult, substitute the hymn, "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand."

LESSON LII.

HELL.

TEXT. Ps. 9 : 17. The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all the nations that forget God.

I. Hell is the home of the wicked. Fallen angels and sinful men will dwell forever in that land of darkness and despair. They will be tormented in fire; they will cry in vain for a drop of water to cool their parching tongues. The worm of a guilty conscience will gnaw into their souls. They will be driven from the presence of God. They will have no good, and no hope forever. Their misery will be everlasting.

II. O let men be wise in time! Let them not serve Satan, lest they share in his awful punishment. Let them not cling to the sins that will sink them into an eternal Hell. Now is the time of grace for sinners. They shall never be condemned if they now take Christ Jesus as their Saviour. O let them not say to God: Depart from us, lest he shall say to them, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

1. Q. Where shall the wicked have their home?
   A. In hell.
2. Q. What is hell?
   A. A world of darkness and despair
3. Q. Who live in hell?
   A. Fallen angels and sinful men.
4. Q. In what shall they be tormented?
   A. In fire.
5. Q. Will they also suffer from a guilty conscience?
   A. Yes; it will be like a gnawing worm in their souls.

6. Q. From what shall they be driven?
   A. From the presence of God.
7. Q. What will be taken from them?
   A. All good and all hope.
8. Q. What will they bear forever?
   A. Misery.
9. Q. What should this fact teach us?
   A. To be wise in time.
10. Q. If we serve Satan what will become of us?
    A. We will share in his punishment.
11. Q. If we cling to sins, what will they do to us?
    A. They will sink us into an eternal hell.
12. Q. What is the time of grace for sinners?
    A. Now is the time.
13. Q. How may sinners be saved from hell?
    A. By taking Christ as their Saviour.
14. Q. If they bid God to depart from them, what will he say to them at the judgment?
    A. Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

THE SINNER AT THE JUDGMENT. 7's.

When thy mortal life is fled,
When the death-shades o'er thee spread,
When is finished thy career,
Sinner, where wilt thou appear?

When the world has passed away,
When draws near the judgment day,
When the awful trump shall sound,
Say, O where wilt thou be found?

When the Judge descends in light,
Clothed in majesty and might,
When the wicked quail with fear,
Where, O where, wilt thou appear?

What shall soothe thy bursting heart?
When the saints and thou must part?
When the good with joy are crowned,
Sinner, where wilt thou be found?

While the Holy Ghost is nigh,
Quickly to the Saviour fly;
Then shall peace thy spirit cheer,
Then in heaven shalt thou appear.

END.

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