

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. *Se'lah.*

6 For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found; surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. *Se'lah.*

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord;

And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. *[Se'lah.]*

6 For this let every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: Surely when the great waters overflow they shall not reach unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou wilt preserve me from trouble; Thou wilt compass me about with songs of deliverance. *[Se'lah.]*

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will counsel thee with mine eye upon thee.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: Whose trappings must be bit and bridle to hold them in,

Else they will not come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: But he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: And shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

THE PENITENTIAL PSALMS.—This is one of the so-called penitential psalms, the others being Psalms 6, 8, 51, 102, 130, 143. It is generally believed to have reference to the great sin of David's life (see 1 Kings 15, 5), and to be designed to extol the mercy of God in granting him forgiveness. In that case it had a notable relationship with Psalm 51, in which we read the earnest pleadings of a broken and contrite heart, acknowledging terrible guilt, confessing bloodguiltiness, and praying for mercy and pardon. When Nathan convicted David of his sin the king did not deny, but confessed his deep guilt, and cried out, "I have sinned against Jehovah" (2 Sam. 12, 13). Psalm 51 is but an expansion of these words. Then Nathan responded, "Jehovah also hath put away thy sin: thou shalt not die." Psalm 32 is assumed to be David's celebration of that most gracious act of Jehovah. A comparison of the seven penitential psalms will be of great advantage to the student.

HOME READINGS.

- M. David's Confession and Forgiveness. Psalm 32.
 Th. The sinful nature. Rom. 7, 14-25.
 W. Hope for the penitent. Joel 2, 12-19.
 Th. Confession of sin. Ezra 9, 5-15.
 F. Prayer for forgiveness. Psalm 51, 7-19.
 S. Cleansing. Ezek. 36, 22-31.
 S. Praise for pardon. Psalm 103, 1-18.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 124. New Canadian Hymnal.
 Oh, for a heart to praise my God,
 A heart from sin set free!

No. 126, New Canadian Hymnal.

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
 I want thee forever to live in my soul.

No. 127, New Canadian Hymnal.

Blessed be the Fountain of blood,
 To a world of sinners revealed.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. Confession of Sin, v. 1-5.

- When is a sinner blessed?
 What experience is suggested by these verses?
 Does the second verse mean that there are men who do not sin? (Psalm 14, 2, 3.)
 What is David's own testimony on this point?
 What, then, can the meaning be?
 How did David feel when he hid his sin? (Verse 3.)
 What was the effect of God's hand upon him?
 To whom did David speak, and for what purpose?
 What was the result?
 What assurance has everyone who makes confession? (1 John 1, 9.)
 What should be the prayer of every sinner? (GOLDEN TEXT.)
 Wherein lies the worth of confession?
 Why will not God forgive without a man's confession?

2. Confidence in God, v. 6-11.

- What promise of God makes the assurance of verse 6 doubly sure? (Isa. 55, 6, 7.)