

## GOLDEN TEXT

Matt. 10 : 28. Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.

## DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 6 : 1-15. The arrest of Stephen.  
T. — Exodus 34 : 29-35. A shining face.  
W. — Isa. 5 : 11-17. Promise of victory.  
Th. — 1 Kings 21 : 1-14. Wicked accusers.  
F. — Matt. 26 : 59-66. False witness.  
S. — Heb. 10 : 32-39. Reproaches and afflictions.  
S. — Phil. 1 : 19-30. For His sake.

## CATECHISM

Q. 10. How did God create man?  
A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors**—Name the seven deacons of the first Christian Church? By whom were they chosen? How were they set apart to their office? What were their duties? Which their special one? Of the seven names which are the two most distinguished?

7, 8 What progress was the Gospel making? In what place? Who had been crucified there? How had the apostles been treated? Which one of the deacons attracted attention? With what was he filled? Where had he received these gifts? What did he do by means of them?

9, 10 Who opposed Stephen? Why did they fail? What Spirit referred to?

11, 12 What is the meaning of "suborned"? Of what was Stephen accused? What kind of offence was it? (Lev. 24 : 15, 6.) Against whom had a similar charge been made? To what was speaking against, Moses' equal? (John 9 : 29.) Who were stirred up against Stephen? Why were the Sadducees opposed? Why the Pharisees? Where was Stephen taken?

13, 14 Who witnessed against him? What building was the "Holy Place"? Was the whole truth told?

15 What did the Council see? Where do we read of the shining of Christ's countenance? Of the same of Moses? What produced it in Stephen's case?

**Seniors and the Home Department** 1-6 What was the first complaining in the early Church? By whom made? Against whom? How was the difficulty wisely removed? How many men chosen? Give their three qualifications. What is stated about Stephen? What about Philip? (Ch. 8; Ch. 21 : 8-12)

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why is emphasis laid on the conversion of priests?

2. By what device was Stephen condemned?

3. What was his appearance?

## TIME AND PLACE

Somewhere between A.D. 31 and 37; perhaps A.D. 35, a couple of years later than the last lesson; the place, Jerusalem and the hall of the Sanhedrim.

## LESSON PLAN

I. A Man of Faith and Power, 7, 8.  
Stephen, one of the seven deacons, a worker of miracles.

II. Accused of Blasphemy, 9-14.  
Against Moses and against God, but falsely.

III. His Face as That of an Angel, 15.  
Amidst the black storm of envy and falsehood.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 97 (Ps. Sel.); 276; 283, 277, 534, 596.

7 What remarkable conversions here mentioned?  
8-10 What special power had Stephen? With what opposition did he meet? From whom? Could they resist him? (Chap. 13 : 45.)

11-14 What special charge brought against Stephen? What were the details? Was the Temple destroyed? By whom? When?

15 Of what was the change in Stephen's countenance the result? (John 11 : 23-27.) Why is it recorded of Stephen? How can we have Christ dwell within us?

*Prove from Scripture — That God's servants should bear good characters.*

**Practical Points** 1. Stephen, a man "sans peur et sans reproche" without fear and without reproach.

2. The work of the Church needs to be organized and specialized, if it is to be done as God wills.

3. What a powerful spiritual dynamo is a man "full," as Stephen was, "of faith and of the Holy Ghost." (Compare v. 8.)

4. The priests were kept away from Christ by self-interest. If He were right their craft was in danger. But the strongest self-interest breakdown before the power of the living Gospel.

5. Stephen was irresistible, because he allowed the Holy Spirit full possession.

6. The Roman soldiers in their wantonness spat on Jesus (Mark 15 : 19.) It is the Spirit that Stephen's enemies showed before the Council.

7. Dante says of Beatrice, in Paradise: "She smiled so joyously that God seemed in her countenance to rejoice."