

caused it to be posted all round the works, that an workman heard taking God's name in vain should be instantly dismissed. He believed that no one guilty of such irreverence was fit to help in building a house of God. But if that greatman was so concerned that everyone who helped in erecting a material temple should hallow God's name on their lips, how much more should all who take part in church work or missionary effort, honor God in their hearts. If we would enjoy God's blessing on our labors or if we desire to have influence with others, we must strive earnestly to keep ourselves unspotted from evil.

I will be his father, v. 13. Many thrilling events happened in the excited times of the French Revolution. But one of the most touching, is the story of a Father's Love father's love. His son was a young man of most winning qualities, and his arrest and condemnation to the guillotine affected deeply the hearts of a wide circle of friends. But all their love put together could not equal that of his father. On the day of the execution, when the lists were being called, the father, whose name was exactly the same as the son's, answered to the name, rolled in the gloomy tumbrel to the place of death, laid his head under the fatal stroke of the guillotine, and became the victim of the law as a substitute for his boy. Such is a father's love, and God declares that He will be to us a father: and has He not proved it by coming in the person of Jesus Christ and suffering the penalty of sin for our redemption? Let us, therefore, be sons and daughters to Him, greet Him with filial love, render Him a just obedience, and place in His wisdom and goodness an unflinching trust!

Lesson Points

Our doings for God should increase in proportion with our doings for ourselves. v. 1.

There is great danger that we may mistake our own opinions for the will of God. v. 2.

God's way of answering our prayers is always better than the way we would choose. vs. 3, 4.

"Pray; though the gift you ask for

May never comfort your fears,

May never repay your pleading,—

Yet pray, and with hopeful tears;

An answer, not that you long for

But diviner, will come one day." v. 4.

The Old Testament worship was like the movable tent, not permanent, but preparatory. v. 5.

Far more than our gifts, does God value the love which they express. v. 6.

"His love in time past forbids me to think

He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink,"

vs. 7, 8.

Man must receive God's gifts before he can requite Him. v. 9.

All that we do for God is the outcome of what He has done for us. v. 10.

The builders of God's kingdom pass away, but the kingdom itself remains and grows. v. 11.

We no longer require the temple in which to meet God, because we can find Him in Christ. v. 12.

In the Father's love to the Son lies the guarantee that His kingdom will have no end. vs. 13, 14.

"I read on the porch of a palace bold

On a brazen tablet, letters cast—

'A house though a million winters old,

A house of earth comes down at last.'

Then quarry thy rock from the Crystal All

And build the dome which shall not fall." v. 14.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

David, now sure of his throne, and equally sure of the divine favor, in view of the safe conveyance of the ark to his capital, indulges in a pious day-dream.

1. *A worthy purpose entertained*, vs. 1, 2. Day-dreams, viewed as instinctive gropings towards higher service, may enter largely into the formation of character and the efficient performance of one's life work, Gen. 37: 9. It is all right to build castles in the air, if only foundations are put under them in the solid earth. "Our wishes are the forefeelings of our capabilities." Show how natural it was