

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

1. *No confession of Christ which does not accept him as the Son of God is pleasing to him.* The Jews were willing to accord him the very highest place amongst men, even to acknowledge that he was the greatest of the ancient prophets returned to earth, but they would not acknowledge him as divine. Yet one less than the Son of God would be no Saviour. We do not need a new prophet to tell us our duty. Nor a perfect example who should reduce precept to practice for our guidance. But one clothed with divine saving power who can impart to us the will and ability to repent, believe and obey.

2. *The kingdom of Christ is founded upon his sufferings and death.* "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." The attractive power of christianity lies in the cross of Christ. As a system of moral truth the gospel is unrivalled. It is perfect. Its ideas of God and man's destiny are the loftiest conceivable. But these alone would never subdue the world. The story of redeeming love alone has power to melt the heart and inspire with ardent love to God. This wonderful, yet simple story, has regenerated human society again and again, and is to-day lifting nations out of barbarism. Eventually the whole world will be made morally new by its influence.

3. *Self-denial, not self-indulgence, must mark the follower of Jesus.* The command of the spiritual over the fleshly nature should be carefully maintained. Not only must the christian deny himself whatever is wrong, but he should not make the pleasing of self, the gratification of his own appetites, ambitions and desires, a controlling motive. To follow Christ is to take him for our master, our teacher, our example; to believe his doctrines, to uphold his cause, to obey his precepts. It is not merely to do right, but to do right for his sake, under his leadership. Therefore, his will, not our own, should govern our lives.

4. *Worldly gain or pleasure will not compensate for the loss of the soul.* Yet commonly the interests of the soul are made quite second-

ary to those of the body and outward estate. Men do not apply the ordinary business rules to their religious interests. Many who would not suffer themselves to be overreached in a bargain, are paying a tremendous price for the worldly success which they enjoy. The spiritual faculties are not exercised. The deepest and holiest emotions are not stirred up. There is no heart fellowship with Christ and holiness. Such persons are sacrificing the best part of themselves, "forfeiting themselves," in order to gain what death must deprive them of at last.

5. *It is a shame to be ashamed of Jesus.* Dr. Norman Macleod says: "Tom Baird, the carter, the beadle of my working man's church, was as noble a fellow as ever lived, God-fearing, true and unselfish. I shall never forget what he said when I asked him to stand at the door of the church, and when I thought he was unwilling to do so in his working clothes. 'If,' said I, 'you don't like to do it, if you are ashamed—' 'Ashamed!' he exclaimed, as he turned round upon me. 'I'm mair ashamed o' yersel', sir. Div ye think that I believe, as ye ken I do, that Jesus Christ, who died for me, was stripped o' his raiment on the cross, and that I—Na, na, I'm proud to stand at the door.'"

ADDED POINTS.

1. The duty of private prayer.
2. We should confess Christ as the Saviour.
3. Christ willingly suffered for sinners.
4. We should daily follow Christ.
5. Our crosses are to be cheerfully borne for Christ's sake.
6. The welfare of the soul should be our first and chief concern.
7. There is no reason why anyone should be ashamed of Christ, but many why he should be ashamed of us.
8. He will one day display his glory and honor those who have honored him.
9. What are you doing to advance the kingdom of God?

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

What miracles followed the raising of Jairus' daughter? (Matt. 9: 27-34). What reception did Jesus meet with on his second visit to Nazareth? (Mark 6: 1-6; Mat 13: 54-58). For what purpose did Jesus send out his disciples? (Matt. 10: 5-8). What instructions did he give them? What did Herod say when he heard of the fame of Jesus? (Mark 6: 14-16). Describe the martyrdom of John. What miracle did Jesus perform near Bethlehem? (Matt. 14: 13-23; Mark 6: 30-46; Luke 9: 10-17; John 6: 1-15). Why did Jesus send his disciples away without him? Under what circumstances did he rejoin them? (Mark 6: 47-56; Matt. 14: 24-36). What discourse did Jesus deliver on the following day? (John 6: 22-58). Read our Saviour's teaching in regard to inward purity in Matt. 15: 1-20 and Mark 7: 1-23. To what region did Christ now retire for a time? Mark 27: 24). What miracle did he perform there? Returning to the east side of the sea of Galilee whom did he cure? What miracle, resembling that at Bethsaida, did he perform? (Mark 8: 1-10). What second miracle did he work at Bethsaida! (Mark 8: 22-26). To what part of the country did he then go? Why did he remain so long out of Galilee?