

LESSON VI—August 8th, 1897.

Working and Waiting for Christ. 1 Thess. 4: 9 to 5: 2.

(Commit to memory verses 16-18. Read 1 Thess. chapters 4 and 5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "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." John 14: 3.

PROVE THAT—The time of Christ's coming is uncertain. 1 Thess. 5: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 87. *What is repentance unto life?* A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of and endeavor after new obedience.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 111, 70, 192, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Working and waiting for Christ. 1 Thess. 4: 9 to 5: 2. *Tuesday.* The glorious coming. 2 Thess. 1. *Wednesday.* The day of the Lord. 2 Pet. 3: 1-12. *Thursday.* The coming of the Son of Man. Matt. 24: 29-39. *Friday.* Idleness condemned. 2 Thess. 3: 1-16. *Saturday.* Ready. Matt. 25: 1-13. *Sabbath.* Right use of talents. Matt. 25: 14-30. (*The I. B. R. A. Se ections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The First Epistle to the Thessalonians is the earliest of the 14 which bear the name of Paul. It was written from Corinth when Timothy arrived with a good report of their faith and steadfastness. Its aim is to encourage and confirm them amid persecutions.

LESSON PLAN. I. Working for Christ. vs. 9-12. II. Waiting for Christ. vs. 13-2.

9. Brotherly love—Real love will shew itself in kind words and deeds. **Ye need not**—A delicate compliment. Compare Phil. 19. **Taught of God**—By his Holy Spirit of love in their hearts (John 15: 12-17). **10. All Macedonia**—Thessalonica retained its missionary character for many centuries. **Increase** That is, in brotherly love. Literally, "overflow with" it. There cannot be too much of it. **11. Study to be quiet**—Make it a point of honor not to join in any disorderly popular excitement. Cultivate a restful and contented spirit. Christians should not be found amongst the idlers in the market place (Acts 17: 5). **12. Honestly** "Becomingly," "honorably"—not merely just and fair in business transactions, but shewing frankness and courtesy to everyone, especially to those who were not christian. (Titus 2: 10). **Lack of nothing** Want seldom comes to those who are industrious and mind their own business. A manly independence should characterize the true christian. **13. Which fall asleep** (R. V.) They *rest* in Christ, they *live* with him, they shall *awake* at his coming. The body sleeps but not the soul (Dan 12: 2; Ecc. 12: 7; 2 Cor. 5: 8), that is where Jesus is (Luke 23: 43; Phil. 1: 23; 2 Cor. 5: 8). **Others**—R. V. "the rest," that is, heathen (Eph. 2: 12). **14. If**—This does not imply doubt, "If we believe, as we assuredly do." **Fallen asleep through Jesus** (R. V. margin)—It is through Jesus that death is but a sleep, and robbed of all its terrors. In reference to the impenitent, who die unpardoned, we do not use the word "sleep," which

suggests peaceful repose and joyful awakening (Dan. 12: 2). **Bring with him**—When Jesus comes he will bring our dear ones back with him. They will come to fetch us home. **15. Prevent**—R. V. "shall in no wise precede them which are fallen asleep." Those who are alive at the resurrection day will have no advantage over those who have died, because, "the dead in Christ shall rise" before all ascend to meet the coming Lord (verse 17). **16. A shout**—The word of command (John 5: 28, 29). **The voice of the Archangel**—Repeating the summons (Matt. 25: 6; 24: 31). **The trump of God**—Summoning all, far and near, to the presence of "the Judge ordained of all mankind" (1 Cor. 15: 52; Matt. 24: 31; see Ex. 19: 16, 19). **Shall rise first**—Not, "before the rest of the dead," but "before the living experience any change, or advance to answer the summons." **17. Caught up together with them**—We shall clasp hands once more and ascend together to do homage to our Lord. **With the Lord**—(1) With the Lord; (2) together with the Lord; (3) forever together with the Lord, this is the "blessed hope" of the christian (Titus 2: 13; John 14: 3; 17: 24). **5: 1. The times and the seasons**—The fixed dates of future events. **No need**—Because they already knew all that could be known, namely, its certainty as an event and its uncertainty as to date. **2. The day of the Lord**—The judgment day. As a thief—There would be no forewarning of its approach (Matt. 24: 42-44; 25: 13; Luke 17: 24; 12: 39, 40).

LESSONS. 1. Brotherly love is essential to the christian character. 2. Christians should neither be idle nor meddlesome. 3. Those who "sleep in Jesus" will come again when he comes. 4. His people shall dwell with him forever. 5. His coming will be unexpected.