

LESSON VIII.—November 21st, 1897.

The Christian Armour. Eph. 6: 10-20.

(Read the whole chapter. Commit to memory verses 13-17.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." Eph. 6: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should pray always. Eph. 6: 18.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 103. *What do we pray for in the third petition?* A. In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*) we pray, that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 246, 256, 260, 262. (Old Hymnal, Nos. 120, 122, 121, 119.)

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Christian armour. Eph. 6: 10-20. *Tuesday.* The warfare. Rom. 7: 12-25. *Wednesday.* Our weapons. 2 Cor 10: 1-6. *Thursday.* "It is written." Matt. 4: 1-11. *Friday.* The enemy vanquished. Rev. 20: 1-10. *Saturday.* The arm of salvation. Isa. 59: 12-21. *Sabbath.* Our refuge. Psalm 46. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The *Epistle to the Ephesians* was the first of those written at Rome. Its date is probably A. D. 62. The parts of the Roman soldier's armour referred to in the lesson are: (1) The *girdle*, made of leather, covered with metal scales. (2) The *breastplate* covered the shoulders and breast. (3) The *sandals* were thick soles, studded with nails and fastened to the foot by thongs. (4) The *shield* was about four feet long and 2½ broad. It was held on the left arm. (5) The *helmet* was of leather, covered with metal and often ornamented by a plume. (6) The *sword* of the Roman soldier was short, straight, and two-edged.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Christian's foes. vs. 10-12. II. The Christian's armour. vs. 13-18. III. The Christian's comrades. vs. 19, 20.

10. Strong in the Lord—The Christian's strength in his conflict with evil comes from union with Christ. **II. Whole armour—**Gr. "panoply." Do not leave any part defenceless. **Of God—**Do not try to fight Satan with human weapons, but with those that God gives. **Wiles—"Stratagems."** Satan is a cunning and deceitful enemy. **12. Flesh and blood—**Men like ourselves. With such we would fight on fairly equal terms. **R. V.** "Against world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." By "this darkness" is meant the moral obscurity of heathenism, prevalent then over the whole world. The "world-rulers" of this, are the powers of evil and these of high rank and position, "they are darkly eminent in place and dignity." By "heavenly places," is meant that these evil spirits are of a higher grade of being than we are, celestial, though fallen. They are spiritual hosts, not terrestrial, and they are marshalled for wicked ends. **13. The evil day—**The day of trial and conflict. **14. Truth—**The girdle of truth, means the agreement of our convictions with the Bible. We must fully accept and inwardly hold fast all that God tells us. **Righteousness—**The breastplate of righteousness means "The righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith." With this we answer all the demands of God's holy law. Christ obeyed the law for us. **15. Gospel of peace—**The sandals mean that peace of conscience, and confidence towards God, which a belief in the gospel gives. This produces a joyful alacrity in God's service. **16. Faith—**The shield, is unwavering confidence in God and His grace. The "fiery darts of the evil one" (R. V.) are the fierce onslaughts of Satan in the shape of evil thoughts, unholy passions, suggestions of wickedness, &c. Our only defence against these is to lay hold of the strength of God by a fresh exercise of faith in Him. **17. Salvation—**The helmet means the assurance that we are saved by the blood of Jesus. Knowing this we may boldly face our great enemy and defy his malice. **The word of God—**The sword is the weapon by which we wound and slay the adversary. The Bible answers all doubts and drives away all fears. **18. Always—**(R. V.) "At all seasons." Prayer is not to be restricted to set times. **All prayer—**Every kind of prayer. While fighting pray and be on your guard against neglecting this duty. In prayer for yourself join petitions for others, beset by the same foes and fighting under the same banner. **19. Utterance—**Paul does not tell them to pray that he may be set at liberty, but that he might have divine help to preach the gospel with freedom and boldness. **The mystery of the Gospel—**Its glorious truths were beyond human conception until revealed in the message of mercy with which Paul was charged. **20. An Ambassador—**One who speaks in the name of a king. All ministers of Christ hold this high and sacred office. In bonds—(R. V.) "In chains." He was chained by the wrist to a soldier who guarded him.

LESSONS. 1. We should ask God for strength and not trust to our own. 2. We have spiritual enemies which are much stronger than we are. 3. We need to be armed at all points. 4. Watch and pray while fighting. 5. Pray for others too.