

See Deut. 4: 9, 10; 6: 7; Psalm 78: 5-8; Eph. 6: 4. The parent should not hand over the training of his children exclusively to the Sabbath School Teacher, but should co-operate in the work. The Sabbath School with the active co-operation of parents becomes in very truth the hope of the church. If God makes a covenant with us we must be faithful to our part in the covenant and discharge our covenant duties prayerfully and faithfully.

III. THE COMPASSION OF GOD. 20. "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah"—The moral demand which sin makes for punishment. (Gen. 4: 10). We use the expression "a crying shame," meaning something peculiarly disgraceful. Com. ch. 13: 13; 19: 13. Sin is always followed by vengeance and punishment. The greater the sin the greater the cry. Sin has a voice of recrimination against the one committing it and shows that there is a necessary connection between sin and punishment. The sins of Sodom were very grievous, very aggravated, very atrocious, and the cause of grief on account of their flagrancy and heinousness. What is sin? Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous? Dwell upon the answers to these two questions. 21. "I will go down"—"I will examine fully whether the corruption of the people is as universal and hopeless as rumor says: in that case they must be exterminated; otherwise I shall inflict a mitigated punishment." When God is represented as deliberating in this way, we are taught that he never punishes sin without being fully satisfied of the guilt of the sinner; that he does not send the final penalty before every hope of reformation is gone; that he gives a last opportunity for repentance ere the doom falls; that he invites his people to intercede for the transgressors. Ezek. 18: 23; Jer. 18: 7, 8. Compare ch. 11: 5; Ex. 3: 8; Job 34: 22; Ps. 14: 2; 90: 8; Heb. 4: 13. Here God is speaking after the manner of men and accommodating himself to our manner of acting and thinking. Jehovah here too has assumed the appearance of a man and this makes it all the more appropriate. God's long-suffering, mercy and patience are shown. He does not punish in haste but gives man due time to change and repent of his evil ways. See his treatment of the world before the deluge. Their cup of iniquity is now full and punishment can no longer be delayed.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

Notice God's grace and condescension in speaking with man. God takes the initiative in every step in man's redemption. It is all of grace. We love him because he first loved us. Notice that although God is love, yet the day of judgment for sin will surely come as it came in the case of the world before the deluge, in the case of the inhabitants of Canaan and in the case of Sodom. Imitate the hospitality of Abraham. A kind word, a kind act go a long way. A cup of water is not forgotten when given in the right spirit. Let us make a faithful use of what God has given us as in this way we shall receive still greater blessings. Family religion and pious training are the hope of the church and the safeguard of the world. Ye are the salt of the earth. Let your light so shine before men that they seeing your good deeds may glorify your Father which is in Heaven. God does not condemn men in haste or unjustly. The ancients represented justice as lame and therefore slow in overtaking transgressors. Justice is also represented as blind to denote impartiality. God's punishment of sin seems often slow and tardy but the day of retribution will certainly come. The consequences of sin are far-reaching and cause injury frequently to the innocent. All in Sodom were not equally guilty, but all except Lot and his (wife and) two daughters were overwhelmed in the destruction of the cities. Illustrate by the sin of intemperance. Sin if persisted in will eventually destroy not only persons but whole nations. Britain's stronghold is her strong religious sentiment. And she will stand just so long as she recognizes and acts upon this principle. A nation is made up of individuals. Let us then each one in his place do what in him lies to promote that righteousness which exalteth a nation and to do away with that sin which is a reproach to any people.