

Before the Class.

Introduction. Again we turn for our lesson to the Book of Proverbs. Review the class upon the writers, objects, and contents of the book, which have been discussed in previous lessons. This lesson naturally follows last Sunday's lesson, which was a warning lesson as well as one of promise, as it shows still more plainly what shall be the reward of those who heed the word of God to walk before him in integrity of heart and uprightness of life. It would be well thus to connect the two lessons, making this one a continuation of the last.

Development of the text. Use the following outline in developing the lesson text before the class:

Wisdom's Way:	Law.	Wisdom's Rewards:	Long life.
	Trust.		Riches.
	Consecration.		Peace.
	Discipline.		Pleasantness.
	Searching.		

The first four verses show that the way of wisdom is the way of law. God rules by law, and as we find and follow this law we shall receive the rewards attached to law. As the second verse suggests, it is the law-abiding—taken in the fullest sense—who live the longest, happiest, most peaceful lives. Bring before the class here the need of following law in the civil, social, and business worlds, as well as in the natural and spiritual realms, if one would attain peace and happiness.

But in our endeavor to follow law we must trust in the lawmaker—God—for we cannot understand all that God requires of us. We must walk in many cases by faith and not by sight (verses 5-8). A little child obeys its parent even though it does not understand fully all that it is told to do, but is obedient because it trusts in that parent's love and wisdom. So with us, wisdom's way is a way of trust in God's wisdom (verses 5, 7) and in his guidance (verse 6).

Again, this way is a way of consecration, of giving up ourselves, our all, to God and his service. In verses 9, 10, we are told to "honor the Lord with thy substance," the result being that God will honor us with an abundant increase. Here speak

of the duty and privilege of being systematic, liberal givers to the Lord's work. As we thus week by week honor God with our increase so shall God give us freely of those things which we need.

Again, wisdom's way is a way of discipline. This is a hard lesson to learn, but a most necessary lesson. Strong characters are not formed in ease and quiet, within the guarded precincts of a home where, through mistaken kindness, everything is done for the child. Strong characters are developed in God's school of discipline, the school of life, with its cares, temptations, and trials. Happy the man who does not despise the chastening of the Lord.

Lastly, wisdom's way is a way of searching. To find wisdom we must search; but the searcher will be rewarded by obtaining that which is "more precious than rubies."

The rewards to those who walk in wisdom's way are many, and our lesson mentions four of the principal ones: long life, riches, pleasantness, and peace. Show to the class that each one of these is a natural result of walking in the way of law, trust, consecration, etc. If we follow the law of our bodies, long life results; if we trust in God, peace and pleasantness are ours; if we consecrate our all unto the Lord, he will return unto us a hundred-fold.

Specific application. Many of the truths in the lesson have already been suggested in the text development. The one specific application to be made is that of the wisdom of finding and following this way, that the blessings enumerated may be ours. Jesus Christ, said, "I am the way." Follow him, then, and exemplify his teachings as laid down in the greatest of all sermons, the Sermon on the Mount; and thus enter into life, the fullness of which we shall receive at the end of the journey.

References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 3: Necklaces, 476; Tablets, 750. Ver. 8: External healing applications, 457.

B. C. 992.]

LESSON IX. THE FAME OF SOLOMON.

[Nov. 29.]

GOLDEN TEXT. Behold, a greater than Solomon is here. Matt. 12. 42.

Authorized Version.

1 Kings 10. 1-10.

[Commit to memory

verses 6-8.]

[Read 1 Kings 10. 1-29.]

1 And when the queen of She'ba heard of the fame of Sol'o-mon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions.

2 And she came to Je-ru-sa-lem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very

Revised Version.

1 And when the queen of She'ba heard of the fame of Sol'o-mon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Je-ru-sa-lem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Sol'o-mon, she communed