

LESSON XII—September 20th, 1896.

Destructive Vices. PROV. 16: 22-33.

(Commit to memory verses 25-27).

GOLDEN TEXT: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 16: 25.

PROVE THAT—We should be careful of our words. Jas. 3: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 81. *What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?* A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 127, 116, 114, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Destructive vices. Prov. 16: 22-33. *Tuesday.* Sin and its results. Prov. 6: 6-19. *Wednesday.* Warning from the past. 1 Cor. 10: 1-13. *Thursday.* The way of folly. Prov. 12: 8-15. *Friday.* The right way. Isa. 30: 15-21. *Saturday.* Seeking strength. Ps. 119: 105-120. *Sabbath.* Prayer for purity. Ps. 141. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. There is no special connection between this and the preceding lessons of the quarter. We find, however, many excellent principles set forth by way of encouragement to the upright in life, shewing the necessity of possessing certain qualities of heart and mind in order to realize the grand end and purpose of our lives in this world. There are also lessons of solemn warning to the ungodly, and all that lightly esteem or hold the truth in unrighteousness. There is also inculcated in this lesson eight principles of temperance, or self-control, in all the relationships of life.

LESSON PLAN. I. Value of Experimental Religion. vs. 22-26. II. The Ungodly and Righteous Contrasted. vs. 27-33.

22. Understanding—Capable of wisely discerning between things. **Well-spring—**A fountain of life (chap. 13: 14). A perennial spring of real joy and true happiness. **Hath it—**Understanding is something to be obtained, something to be possessed. **Instruction of fools—**Not what they give but what they receive; to no purpose and without profit. **23. The heart—**The regulator of life. When filled with worthy thoughts and noble desires the words of the lips will be wisely and judiciously chosen. The heart determines the character; "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he" (Prov. 23: 7). **24. Pleasant words—**Seasonable and timely. **Sweet to the soul—**Honey extracted from the comb is delicious and greatly enjoyed. The ingrafted word of grace is more precious to the christian than even honey comb (Ps. 19: 10). **Health to the bones—**Bones add strength and give shape to the body. The word of truth gives power and formation to christian character. **25. A way—**The broad way, offering many pleasures and great rewards. **The end thereof—**How terrible the end; it leads to death spiritually and eternally. The social glass has done this, as has led to many a drunkard's grave. Death is the end of all sinful paths and pleasures. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6: 23). **26. Laboreth for himself—**He that labors honestly and faithfully labors for his own good. **His mouth craveth—**Needeth food to nourish the body. The soul needs food and hungers and thirsts for the bread of life and the water of life. We must work, for

if not we should not eat (2 Thess. 3: 10). We must also "Work out our own salvation, remembering that it is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2: 12). Work is the allotted portion of man in this world. "I must work the works of him that sent me" (John 9: 4). **27. Ungodly—**We find four words employed in this and the following two verses to designate the character of the unrighteous man: (1) Ungodly, (2) Froward; (3) Whisperer, (4) Violent, shewing that he resorts to every conceivable device to deceive, mislead, slander and sow seeds of discord. The tongue when used for evil is a "scorching fire" (v. 27 R. V.), or as James (3: 6) describes it, "it denieth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." **31. The hoary head—**Old age, when hallowed and sweetened through growth in the christian graces, is honorable and commands respect. "The glory of young men is their strength, and the beauty of old men is the gray head" (chap. 20: 29). **32. Slow to anger—**The beauty of self-control. A man who is able to curb his temper and subdue all kindling bursts of passion accomplishes a greater victory than the physical athlete. **33. The lot is cast into the lap—**A very ancient method of determining a matter by the casting of lots. **The whole disposing thereof—**"Man proposes but God disposes." There is an overruling providence that disposes of the events of life according to His own good pleasure.

LESSONS. 1. True knowledge leads to greater usefulness. 2. The wages of sin is death. 3. The beauty of self-control.