

HOME READINGS.

- M.* The triumph entry. Mark 11, 1-11.
Tu. The rejected son. Mark 12, 1-12.
W. The two commandments. Mark 12, 28-37.
Th. The command to watch. Mark 13, 28-37.
F. The anointing at Bethany. Mark 14, 1-9.
S. Before the council. Mark 14, 55-65.
Ss. Jesus crucified. Mark 15, 33-39.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. 1 Cor. 8, 13.

AUTHOR OF THE EPISTLE.—Paul.

PLACE OF ITS COMPOSITION.—Ephesus.

TIME.—58 A. D.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian liberty.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 239, Dominion Hymnal.

See, the Church of Christ arises,
 Smile or frown of man despises.

No. 241, Dominion Hymnal.

Wake from intemperance!
 Hear ye mercy's song!

No. 243, Dominion Hymnal.

'Tis but the social, friendly glass,—
 This is the song of youth.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. Knowledge.

What was the custom to which ver. 4 indirectly alludes?

What decision had the first great Church council reached on this point?

What value did Paul attach to the mere act of eating?

On what knowledge would he base his personal action, if he should eat things offered to idols? ver. 4.

Does the knowledge that others have of our acts affect at all our standing as to right or wrong?

Can any man be absolutely independent of social interpretation of his acts?

Did not Paul's knowledge of the nature of an idol make it allowable for him to eat such food if he chose?

What is the great principle that seems to have governed him?

2. Liberty.

What is personal liberty?

How far can a man exercise his right of personal liberty?

What is the principle on which all government and law are based?

What danger did Paul foresee as liable to occur from too broad an application of the principle of personal liberty?

What practical case did he give as liable to occur?

What would be the inevitable moral result of this, 1. To the weak brother. 2. To the principal actor?

What warning did Paul therefore give?

In Paul's view, how should a Christian regulate his conduct?

What was his decision for himself?

In what directions will this line of argument apply to-day?

Practical Teachings.

No place for self in Christianity, except at the altar of sacrifice.

An idol is nothing, says Paul.

A glass of wine is nothing, says Moderate Drinker.

But idolatry is sin, says Paul.

The wine-glass is also sin, says the world.

I can eat meat offered to idols without harm, says Paul; and he adds, But I will not, lest my example harm.

I can drink wine, says Moderate Drinker, without harm; and he adds, And I will.

Shall I help destroy a brother for whom Christ died? says Paul. Not while the world stands.

Shall I never build a fire, because some fool builds one and burns to death? says Moderate Drinker. For all him I will do as I please.

Student, what do you say?

Hints for Home Study.

1. Pray well over this lesson, that God will help you to understand it.

2. Think of all the effects of personal influence on others of which you know.

3. Study out Paul's argument in this chapter. Is it logical? Are his conclusions sound?

4. Apply this argument in your own words to matters of personal liberty—wine-drinking; card-playing; theater-going, etc.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Knowledge, vs. 4-8.

About what eating does Paul here speak?

What do we know about idols?

What about the only true God?

Whom do we know as the true God?

Who is our only Lord?

What knowledge do some lack?

For lack of knowledge into what sin do they fall?

What effect has our eating on our character before God?

In what does the kingdom of God consist? Rom. 14, 17.

2. Liberty, vs. 9-13.

What warning is given against the abuse of liberty?

Why ought one not to eat in a heathen temple?

What plea does Paul make for a weak brother?

Against whom do we sin if we offend a brother?

What rule of self-denial does Paul lay down?

What is a wise rule of Christian charity for all? Rom. 14, 21.

Teachings of the Lesson.

From what in this lesson are we taught—1. That things innocent in themselves may become evil by association? 2. That a Christian ought to set an example which any one may safely follow? 3. That we ought to deny ourselves when our example would injure others?

Home Work for Young Bereans.

Find a warning against wine as a deceiver.

Find a warning to a king's son against using wine.

Find a picture of the sorrows that come to the drunkard in this life.

Find what the word of God says about the future doom of the drunkard.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

To whom did Paul write a letter? **To the Christians of Corinth.**

What does he write about in this lesson? **The eating of meats.**

What had some Christians eaten? **Meats that had been offered to idols.**

What did others think? **That it was wrong.**

Who is the one true God? **Our Father in heaven.**

Who is his dear Son, our Saviour? **Jesus.**

What does he teach us to do? **To love one another.**

What does love teach us? **To help one another.**

Did Paul say it was wrong to eat this meat? **No.**

What did he say was wrong? **To harm a weak brother.**

How might a weak brother be harmed? **By seeing a Christian eat the idol-meats.**

What does love forbid us to do? **To use strong drink.**

Why? **Because our example might lead others to do it.**

Who died for weak, as well as for strong? **Jesus.**

If we love him, what will we do? **Deny self for his sake.**

Words with Little People.

What self does—Takes his own way. Does not look out for others. Does not care if others suffer.

What love does—Love is ready to give up. Love thinks about others. Love wants to keep others from going wrong. "Love seeketh not her own."

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What does Paul say an idol is? **Nothing in the world.** 2. To whom does he use these plain words? **To Corinthians, former idolaters.** 3. Who does he say should only be worshipped? **God, the Creator of all things.** 4. What harm did he think might come from eating things offered to idols? **Some weak one might be ruined.** 5. If Christian example effected a brother's ruin, how would God regard it? **As sin against him.** 6. What then is plainly a Christian's duty? **"Wherefore, if meat make," etc.**