

## • FOR FURTHER PREPARATION

## Points

Darkness and danger go hand in hand, v. 2. (Compare Prov. 4:19.)

Wherever God is not, it is dark; wherever God is, it is light, v. 2.

When nations forget God, they come to grief, v. 2 (1 John 1:5).

The Light of the world is Jesus, v. 2.

God's blessing brings joy and victory, v. 3.

Who can deliver as can God, either from national calamities or from individual burdens? v. 4. (See Psalm 2; also Ps. 145:14.)

God takes no delight in war. When He shall reign in all hearts war shall forever cease, v. 5 (Rev. Ver.).

Try to reckon up what the "gift" of Jesus Christ has been worth to us and to mankind, v. 6.

"What a wonderful Savior!" to whom so many and such exalted names are given, v. 6.

How wise to make Him ours; what supreme folly to fail to do so!

Christ's rule shall yet be universal, v. 7.

Because He shall reign everywhere, there shall yet be universal peace, v. 7.

Christ's rule is a righteous rule, whether over individuals or nations, v. 7.

The Lord is always infinitely in earnest, v. 7.

"It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing" (Gal. 4:18).

## Pithy Paragraphs

There is a great word for "light" which Jesus reserves for Himself in the Gospels. John the Baptist is a "Luknos," a lamp. Jesus alone is the "Phos," the great central sun which illumines the world. (John 8:12; 9:5). Only once is this word used for

Christ's followers, viz., in Matt. 5:14: "Ye are the light of the world." Jesus is speaking there of His disciples as a body, the little "lamps" massed together and shedding forth some such "light" as He himself gives.

There have been many just wars, wars truly in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace. And there will be again; for, until all wrongs are righted, the earth has no right to peace. "We love peace," says Douglas Jerrold, "as we abhor pusillanimity; but not peace at any price. There is a peace more destructive of the manhood of living man than war is destructive of his material body. Chains are worse than bayonets."

Christ's errand to earth was of mercy and grace. Where His feet have trod there has ever been blessing to suffering, sinning man, light in the darkness. Richter says exquisitely: "The Omnipotent has sown His Name on the heavens in glittering stars, but upon earth He planteth His Name by tender flowers."

"Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

"Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

"Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be."

—In Memoriam

## TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

A CHRISTMAS LESSON.—It dates 300 years before those from Malachi, but its note is as strong and clear as to the coming deliverer—

the Lord from heaven, the Christ of God. Perhaps a good introduction would be the night scene near Bethlehem, the shepherds