

We are dealing with all sorts and conditions of pupils. Some are thoughtful and sincere, others are thoughtless and careless, but to all we are bringing one important message viz.—The love of God for his children. We have to teach them of God, of Sin, of Heaven, of Redemption through Christ. Surely the first practical preparation that the teacher should strive to possess is an accurate knowledge of the English Bible. You are teaching pupils about God. In the Bible is the only revelation that God has made of himself. I have been careful to say that there should be an accurate knowledge of the Bible. A mere general knowledge of the salient texts that deal with Salvation is not sufficient—a systematic knowledge gained by patient study is necessary. Both old and New Testaments are necessary. The great truths and facts of the New Testament are but the wholesome fruits that have been developed and refined on the tree of the Old Testament. A knowledge of both is necessary for these two parts of God's word are both complementary and supplementary to each other. The Bible is moreover the History of God's dealing with man. The lives depicted in it are representative of lives in all time. Before you in your classes are children having the same thoughts, same passions, same weaknesses, same temptations, same spiritual longings as they had whose biographies are told in God's word. Where can you get better illustrations of God's dealing with our needs, with our longings, with our difficulties. Your pupil asks a question that has puzzled him. Your Bible knowledge stands you in service. As an answer you put your finger on an exact instance in Holy Scripture. Thus, you say, God dealt with Saul when he sinned, thus He blessed David for obedience, thus Jesus answered one whose difficulties were precisely the same as your difficulties.

Of course such an accurate knowledge only comes with time and through constant use. The best book that I know of to help in the acquisition of such knowledge is "Pinnock's Analyses of the Old and New Testament." They are a little old fashioned but as analyses of Bible History they have never been surpassed. Let me urge upon you the advisability of your possessing these books and reading your Bibles under the valuable aid that they supply. In them the whole Bible is systematized and while they are concise they are at the same