

The Sabbath School.

LESSONS FOR OCTOBER.

FIFTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Friends and Foes of Jesus, John xv. : 11-19. Golden Text, James iv. : 4.*
This lesson is a continuation of the discourse that is commenced in the xivth chapter, Christ's farewell discourse to His disciples. Here as indeed all through, His words are very tender, and very comforting.

V. 11.—*These words have I spoken, &c.* The words preceding, especially those immediately preceding, contained in vs. 9 and 10, concerning His love to them. *My joy.* Christ's joy in the Father's love, or the joy of which He was the possessor that was to be the disciples! That joy was henceforth to be in their souls as a new and resident vital principle. And as the result their joy was to be full or perfect. They were to be joyous up to the measure of their capacity. How great their happiness!

V. 12.—Christ here declares how this joyousness is to be reached and preserved. It is by loving one another. His love to them shewing itself in their love to each other. *As I have loved you,* that is the standard or rule according to which they are to love their brethren.

V. 13 is the utterance of a general truth viz., this truth, that death for or in the room of any one is the highest expression that love can take.

V. 14 is the application to the disciples of this truth. I look upon you as friends for whom I die; but ye too must prove yourselves my friends by doing after my commandment, i. e., loving one another as, &c.

V. 15.—*Servants,* that is in the sense of unwilling or joyless servants or slaves. For in those days servants and slaves were one and the same. *The servant knoweth not, &c.* See Lev. xxv. : 39. *Friends,* made acquainted with his mind, trusted, loved. "The exaltation of the disciples from Christ's service to friendship is accomplished by his confiding to them the fundamental idea of this life, this sacrificial death of love in accordance with the loving counsel of God; it was by this confidence that he sought to arouse them to a loving activity that should rejoice in sacrifice."

V. 16.—"A wholesome memento after the lofty things he had just said about them." *Ordained,* placed or appointed. Admitted to this friendship they should go forth under the impulse of love, and bring forth fruit—fruit that would abide.

V. 17 last part is a summing up of the fundamental thought presented vs. 11-17.

Vs. 18, 19.—The world's attitude towards the disciples. It hates them. And that is not strange. It hated Christ first; Christ most; and them because they were Christ's. See 1 Peter iv. : 12 : 1 John iii. : 13, 14.

LESSONS.

(1.) Wherever there is love to Christ shewing itself in love to His people there, there will be joy. Joy follows upon the exercise of love.

(2.) Obedience to Christ, especially in the law of love—brotherly love—shews that we are His friends.

(3.) If we are Christ's true friends the world will hate us. It cannot do otherwise.

(4.) Therefore it is impossible to have the friendship of Christ and the friendship of the world at the same time.

How is it with us? Let us ponder well the golden text for the day, James iv. 4.

LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER.

FIRST SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*The work of the Spirit, John 16, 7-11. Golden Text, John 11, 26. Par. passages, John 16, 13-14, 1st John 2, 20, 1st Peter, 1, 2.*

The first point in this lesson is the departure of the Saviour. The prospect of it had filled the disciples with sorrow. For more than three years they had listened to His words and witnessed His mighty deeds. As a friend, a teacher, and a guide, they believed that His loss was irreparable; but He tells them that in this they were mistaken. His departure would be not an injury, but a benefit. It was expedient for them that He should go away. In the salvation of men each person of the Trinity had a special part to perform. The Father arranged the plan and provided the Saviour, the Son made the atonement, and His special work on earth was finished on the Cross of Calvary. Then the Holy Spirit took up the great work of man's redemption, and ever since His descent on the day of Pentecost has been applying, and till the last redeemed soul shall have been brought home, will continue to apply Christ's salvation to the hearts of men.

Secondly, we have the promise of the Spirit's advent. Our Saviour states that it could not take place till after His departure and that he would Himself send the Spirit. The following are some of the reasons why it was desirable that the Saviour should depart and send the Spirit. 1st. His work on earth was done, but He still had to carry the great work of intercession by entering into Heaven itself, and there appearing in the presence of God for us, Heb. 9, 24. 2ndly. The great facts of His death, resurrection, and ascension, were to be used as the Spirit as means of showing the disciples the real nature of Christ's kingdom and the design of His coming. Hitherto they were blinded by prejudice, but we learn from the Acts of the Apostles that the Spirit guided them, on this as on every other point "all truth." 3rd. If Jesus had stayed on earth, He could have been in but one place at one time; but some agent was needed who could apply the work of Christ to every where. 4th. As this was the Spirit's peculiar province, we find that it was