

wine." Here it is an injunction to be thoughtful and alert, on account of the perils of the time. **Endure afflictions.** The Rev. Ver. is better, "suffer hardship;" just as the sailor must expect storms and the soldier heavy marching and hard fighting. **Do the work of an evangelist.** The *evangel* is the glad tidings of the Gospel, and the *evangelist* is the one who proclaims it. In our opinion it has here no reference to a special class of Gospel-workers, though there were undoubtedly such in the ancient Church. **Make full proof of thy ministry.** Literally, "fill up the measure of thy deaconship;" showing that the word *deacon* was used in a general sense, just as the word *bishop* elsewhere.

6. For. Here is another motive given to Timothy, urging him to fidelity, in the fact that his master, the apostle, is soon to be taken away, and he must fill his place. **I am now ready to be offered.** This is not so strong as the original warrants. "I am already being offered" (Rev. Ver.). He regards his death as near at hand, and does not flinch at the prospect. **Time of my departure.** He does not call his death a martyrdom nor a murder; nor does he complain at his hard fate in being slain after giving a life-time to the Gospel. He calls it a *loosing of the cable*, as of a ship ready to sail on its voyage. **Is at hand.** Rather, as in Rev. Ver., "is come." (11) *How calmly, yea, how joyfully, can the believer contemplate his own approaching end!*

7. I have fought. He speaks of it as a fight now finished, a contest over. Yet to most men the final struggle was still before him, but that, the article of

death, Paul counted as nothing. **A good fight.** Rather, as in Rev. Ver., "the good fight," for he was not characterizing his own warfare, but rather referring to that which every believer wages—the conflict with sin, the world, and Satan, which is emphatically the good fight. **Finished my course.** Rev. Ver., "The course," comparing the Christian life to a race, which he has completed. **I have kept the faith.** He regards his faith in Christ, and the entire system of Gospel truth, as a trust which he had guarded.

8. Henceforth. He speaks as from the standpoint of the scaffold, at the moment of death, and looks with in the veil. **Laid up for me.** Kept safely, and held in reserve for the victorious champion. A [Rev. Ver.,] *the crown of righteousness.* That crown which rewards those who strive after righteousness, and is righteously bestowed. (12) *Men often fail of worldly crowns, but no one strives in vain for the crown of righteousness.* **The Lord, the righteous judge.** An unjust judge might preside over the earthly tribunal, but in the final, supreme court, sits a righteous Judge. At that day. Not the day of his own death, concerning which he felt little care, but that day of days when the Lord shall come. **Not to me only.** Note the humility regarding himself, and the forethought of others, which marked the apostle. He does not claim that these rewards are for himself alone. They are equally the heritage of all who belong to Christ. **Them also that love his appearing.** Those who believe in Christ, love him, and look with hope for his coming. (13) *May we cherish this desire for our Lord's return, and instill it into others!*

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Paul's charge to Timothy. 2 Tim. 3. 14-17; 4. 1-8.
Tu. The former charge. 1 Tim. 1. 1-14.
W. Wisdom in Scripture. John 5. 39-47.
Th. Strength of the word. Heb. 4. 1-16.
F. Source of truth. 2 Pet. 1. 12-21.
S. Fight for Christ. 1 Cor. 9. 16-27.
S. Reward of the faithful. Rev. 2. 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation. 2 Tim. 3. 15.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 159, Dominion Hymnal.

No book is like the Bible,
For childhood, youth, and age;
Our duty, plain and simple,
We find on every page; etc.

No. 160, Dominion Hymnal.

Repeat the story o'er and o'er,
Of grace so full and free;
I love to hear it more and more,
Since grace has rescued me, etc.

TIME.—A. D. 67, while Paul was a prisoner in Rome the second time, and expecting martyrdom.

PLACES.—Paul at Rome, Timothy at Ephesus.

RULES.—Nero, Emperor of Rome, but threatened with revolt; Gessius Florus, Procurator of Judea, where the Jews were in rebellion; Agrippa II., King of Bashan; the Romans under Vespasian preparing for the siege of Jerusalem.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The inspiration of Scripture.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- 1. The Holy Scriptures, v. 14-17.**
What does Paul exhort Timothy?
What had Timothy known from a child?
What were they able to do?
How were the Scriptures given?
For what are they profitable?
- 2. The Faithful Teacher, v. 1-5.**
What charge did Paul make to Timothy?
Before whom is the charge made?
What kind of hearers would he have?
What additional charge is given? ver. 5.
- 3. The Crown of Righteousness, v. 6-8.**
For what was Paul ready?

- What was at hand?
What does Paul say of himself?
What was prepared for him?
To what others will it be given?

Practical Teachings.

Where does this lesson teach—

1. The profitability of Bible study?
2. The duties of the Christian teacher?
3. The reward of faithful obedience?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

- 1. The Holy Scriptures, v. 14-17.**
What advice is given to Timothy?
What reason had he for steadfastness?
By whom had he been taught? Chap. 1. 13.
In what had he been early trained?
What are the Scriptures able to do?
Through what is this wisdom obtained?
How are the Holy Scriptures given us?
How do they benefit us?
Why are they given?
- 2. The Faithful Teacher, v. 1-5.**
Of whose presence is Timothy reminded?
What charge does Paul give?
When should he preach?
How should he preach?
What reason is given for this earnestness?
What four things is Timothy exhorted to do?
- 3. The Crown of Righteousness, v. 6-8.**
What does Paul say of himself?
What of his past record?
What expectation has he?
To whom hath the Lord promised the crown of righteousness? James 1. 12.
Who shall receive it?

Teachings of the Lesson.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. The right time to begin the study of God's word?
 2. The right use of God's word?
 3. The reward of faithful service?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

After a few years of freedom what was done with Paul? **He was again made a prisoner.**
Where was he taken? **To Rome, and put in a dungeon.**
What is almost certain about Paul's death? **That he was led forth and beheaded with an ax.**
What did he write only a short time before he was put to death? **A second letter to Timothy.**
How long had Timothy known the Holy Scriptures? **From a little child.**

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