

Lesson IX.

A LIVING SACRIFICE

November 26, 1916

Romans 12 : 1-8. Study Romans, ch. 12. *Scripture Memory Verses.

GOLDEN TEXT—Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.—Romans 12 : 1 (Rev. Ver.).

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, ¹ that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable ² unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not ³ conformed to this world : but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is ⁴ that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace ⁵ given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think ; but ⁶ to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to ⁷ every man the measure of faith.

Revised Version—¹ to present ; ² to God ; ³ fashioned according to ; ⁴ the good and acceptable and perfect will ; ⁵ that was given me ; ⁶ so to think as to think soberly ; ⁷ each man a measure ; ⁸ even as ; ⁹ the members ; ¹⁰ who are ; ¹¹ severally members ; ¹² And having gifts ; ¹³ was given ; ¹⁴ our faith ; ¹⁵ give ourselves to our ministry ; ¹⁶ to his ; ¹⁷ to his exhorting ; ¹⁸ liberality.

LESSON PLAN

I. Consecration of Life, 1, 2.

II. Consecration of Powers, 3-8.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—A living sacrifice, Rom. 12 : 1-8. T.—A living sacrifice, Rom. 12 : 9-21. W.—We owe all to God, Ps. 133 : 1-11. Th.—“Gave their own selves,” 2 Cor. 8 : 1-9. F.—Acceptable sacrifice, Ps. 51 : 7-17. S.—The perfect sacrifice, Heb. 10 : 1-14. S.—“Yield yourselves unto God,” Rom. 6 : 1-14.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 126. What will happen at the Judgment Day ? At the Judgment Day the dead

4 For ⁸ as we have many members in one body, and all ⁹ members have not the same office :

5 So we, ¹⁰ being many, are one body in Christ, and ¹¹ every one members one of another.

6 ¹² Having then gifts differing according to the grace that ¹³ is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of ¹⁴ faith ;

7 Or ministry, let us ¹⁵ wait on our ministering : or he that teacheth, ¹⁶ on teaching ;

8 Or he that exhorteth, ¹⁷ on exhortation : he that giveth, let him do it with ¹⁸ simplicity ; he that ruleth, with diligence ; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

will be raised to life again ; and Jesus will separate the good from the bad.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 76-78.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : The “Great Hymn of the Church”—Primary, 595 ; Junior and Upward, 438, 111, 79, 66 (Ps. Sel.), 210, 240.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 84 ; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher’s Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 389, Book of Praise ; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, M. P. 601, Christian Mother Exhorting Her Daughter to Martyrdom (and the Golden Text). For Question on Missions, T. R. 56, A Christian Family. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Splendid Altar of St. Paul’s-Outside-the-Walls, Rome (Order from Underwood & Underwood, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City ; further particulars, see page 527).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Lesson Setting—To-day’s lesson, like that of two weeks ago, is from the Practical section of the Epistle to the Romans, which extends from ch. 12 : 1 to the end of the epistle, following the Doctrinal section, chs. 1-11.

I. Consecration of Life, 1, 2.

V. 1. *I beseech you.* Paul makes a loving appeal to his readers. *Therefore* ; because of all that has been told them in the epistle about what God has done to save and bless mankind. *By the mercies of God* ; the mercies which he has shown in redeeming the world through Christ. *Present* ; place entirely at God’s disposal. *Your bodies* ; yourselves, your whole personalities, all that you are. “The body is in view here as the instrument by which all human service is rendered to God. *A living sacrifice* ; “living,” in con-

trast with the slain animals offered by the Jews. All our members and all our powers are to be used for God. *Holy* ; set apart. *Acceptable* ; Rev. Ver. Margin, “well-pleasing.” *Reasonable service* ; no mere formal profession, but service that comes from the heart.

V. 2. *Be not conformed . . . be ye transformed* ; “do not adopt the external and fleeting fashion of this world, but be ye transformed in your inmost nature.” The Greek word for “transformed” is used also of Christ’s transfiguration (see Mark 9 : 2-10). *By the renewing of your mind.* The change is to be inward and real, not merely outward and formal. *That ye may prove* ; be true and exact in judging on moral questions. *Will of God* ; “that which is in accordance with God’s will.”

* The Scripture Memory Verses for each Sunday are from the General Assembly’s Lists of Scripture Memory Passages, for the correct recitation of which Certificates, Diplomas and Seals are awarded by the Assembly’s Sabbath School Board. The passages and awards are graded according to the ages of the scholars ; and the various QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS, both Uniform and Graded, give the passages appropriate to the ages represented. Write to us for the complete Lists ; and for Form of Application for the awards, to Rev. J. C. Robertson, B.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.