

HOME RELIGION.

Sun., Feb. 19.—Topic—Glorifying God in our homes. Eph. 6: 1-9.

SOME BIBLE HINTS.

The happiness of a home is founded upon rightful authority, loving but firm, and glad obedience, respectful and loving (V.I.)

When parents fail, they fail because they do not get their discipline and training from the Lord (v. 4); they would be head schoolmaster and not under-teachers.

Service is the law of a happy home. parents serving children and children serving parents and both serving all that need, within the home and outside of it (v. 6).

Humility is also a law of a happy home for when pride stalks in at the door, loves flies out at the chimney (v. 9).

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

It is as important to glorify God in our home as in our churches. Indeed we shall not do either unless we do the other also.

No home will glorify God in its heart that does not glorify Him with its mouth.

The chief end of a home is "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

That is no true home that is not felt by its inmates to be also the home of Christ.

A FEW ILLUSTRATIONS.

No home can have the fire of love upon the hearth without the neighbors knowing it.

The more brightly a house is illuminated for those inside, the brighter spot does it make in the landscape.

The most significant part of a house is the entrance, and the most important question to ask about a home is "Who is welcomed there?"

The best purifier of a house is the sunshine. No home can remain healthy that shuts itself in with itself.

TO THINK ABOUT.

What am I doing to bring Christ into my home?

Is Christ openly and daily acknowledged in my home?

What is my home doing to brighten other homes?

A CLUSTER OF QUOTATIONS.

The source and seat of the drink habit is in the home, and the most terrible havoc of drunkenness is felt in ruined homes.—Cuyler.

Each man's chimney is his golden milestone, is the central point from which he measures Every distance

Through the gateways of the world around him.

—Longfellow.

A well-regulated home is a millenium on a small scale.—Almage.

When home is ruled according to God's word, angels might be asked to stay a night with us, and they would not find themselves out of their element.—Spurgeon.

HOME SOCIETIES.

Christian Endeavor societies have been formed in some homes, and might well be formed in many others. The meetings may be daily, as the so-

ciety carries on the family prayers, or they may be only weekly. The essential feature is that, in the meetings of this home society, all the members shall take part, even the small children contributing a verse of Scripture, the recitation of a stanza of a hymn, or a short simple prayer. These home societies may become in many a home the solution of the problem of family worship, and their blessed influence toward promoting family religion and outspoken fidelity to Christ cannot be estimated.

In rural communities, at a distance from churches, these home societies may take the place of the larger Endeavor societies altogether. Sometimes neighbors join and make it a pleasant neighborhood society.

FOR DAILY READING.

M., Feb. 13. In humble duties. 1 Sam. 2: 18, 19; 3: 1-10.

T., Feb. 14.—Not slothful. 1 Thess. 4: 1, 2, 11, 12.

W., Feb. 15.—Obeying and working. Col. 3: 20-25.

T., Feb. 16.—Patient endurance. 1 Pet. 2: 18-21.

F., Feb. 17.—Faithful to trusts. Luke 12: 35-40.

S., Feb. 18. Using our talents. Matt. 25: 20-23.

CONVERSION.

I have examined my past life, said one, and remarked the faults of it; I read good books, I go to church constantly, and I say my prayers, as I think, heartily enough. I now refrain from all great sins at least; but I cannot say that I am so far affected as to live as if I did not belong to the world and kept no measure with it. Religion would be too rigorous if it left no room for some mollifying expedients. The refinements in devotion, which some persons propose to us, are carried too far, and serve only to discourage men. Such are the sentiments of a lukewarm Christian, who would purchase heaven at a cheap rate, who considers not what is due to God, nor what it has cost those who have attained the enjoyment of him. A man of this character is still far from a true conversion; he knows neither the extent of God's law, nor the duties of repentance. If he had been to make the Gospel, it would have been a different kind of institution, and more indulgent to self-love. But the Gospel is unchangeable, and by that we shall be judged at the last day.—renelon.

MURMURING.

Some murmur when their sky is clear,
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great heaven of blue;
And some with thankful love are filled
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's mercy, gild
The darkness of their night.

R. C. Trench.

Never be discouraged because the good things get on so slowly here; and never fail to do daily that good which lies next to your hand. Do not be in a hurry, but be diligent. Enter into the sublime patience of God.

A MISSIONARY'S ADVICE TO A CONVERT.

A young man who had just become a Christian was talking to the famous missionary to China, J. Hudson Taylor. He wanted to put off joining the church until he had learned more about Christ, and could be more sure of himself. "When you light a candle," asked Mr. Taylor, "do you do it to make the candle more comfortable?" "No," answered the young man, "but get more light." Then Mr. Taylor went on to ask, "Does a candle become useful only after it has half burned down?" "No," was the reply, "just as soon as it is lighted." "Then," said Mr. Taylor, "imitate the candle, and let your light shine right at the start."

HIS HABIT OF PRAYER.

"As far back as I can remember," said a wise and good man, "I had the habit of thanking God for everything I received, and of asking him for everything I wanted. If I lost my book, or any of my playthings, I prayed that I might find it. I prayed walking along the streets, in school or out of school, whether playing or studying. I did this because it seemed natural to do so. I thought of God as everywhere present, full of kindness and love, who would not be offended if children talked to him."

That man was Dr. Charles Hodge, the distinguished scholar and preacher. How happy all children would be if they were to talk with God as their father, which he did as a child; and have also the habit of thanking God! Too often when our prayers are answered we forget to give God thanks.

Christ was the highest type of man and man reaches his highest type when he is like Christ.

There is no human being who ever has known the misery of man as Jesus knows it, and so He comes to all sorrows with tender consolation. —Phillips Brooks.

He who puts his soul into his work is strong to bear weariness and brave danger for his work's sake. The thought of failure has no place in him. His reward is the joy of doing, and success the necessary result.

It is said of Christian Frederic Schwartz, the German pioneer missionary to India, that "he set himself so to live in God as by his life to compel men to think of God."

We have just one thing to do in life, and that is to build up the kingdom of God. There is no other measure of success, no other measure of responsibility, no other measure of sin.—George Albert Coe.

The beautiful mosaics that adorn so many great cathedrals are made up of millions of tiny pieces of stone each fitted to its place. Each Christian has his part to in the setting up of the kingdom. Let him know that however insignificant that work may be, it has its place, and is needed for the completion of the whole.