

Lesson VIII.

CHRISTIAN LOVE

February 22, 1903

1 Cor. 13 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 1-3.

Golden Text—Now abideth faith, hope, charity, but the greatest of these is charity.—1 Cor. 13 : 13.



be tongues, they shall cease ; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophecy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child ; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly ; but then face to face : now I know in part ; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three ; but the greatest of these is charity.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the things which led to endless quarrels among the Corinthians was as to who among them should be called of most use in the church.

But Paul said, "You are wrong in supposing one man's gifts or talents are greater than another's. Let us leave those childish questions and follow after love, which is the greatest thing in the world."

"Now love," said Paul, "is something that we cannot see, but we can know it by the things which it does.

"First, love is truthful and takes pleasure in doing only such things as are right and good. Love is joyful and kind. Love is good tempered and patient with those who do wrong and always ready to believe the best of everybody.

"But there are some things," said the

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge ; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind ; charity envieth not ; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil ;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth ;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth ; but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail : whether *there*

apostle, "that love will not do.

"Love envieth not. If it sees some one better off or having a happier time than itself, it will not be jealous. Neither will it boast about its own strength or goodness.

"Love will not behave itself foolishly, or in any way that will bring shame upon the name of Christ."

"Love is unselfish. If some one does wrong love does not fly into a rage, but is quiet and patient, not being easily provoked. Love thinketh no evil.

"Now," said Paul, "Since love is everything, suppose I had a knowledge and could preach with the voice of an angel, yet had no love, my words would have no more meaning than the noise of a clanging gong or a tinkling cymbal.

"And though I should give all my money