

ger. **Thy money perish with thee.** "Thy gold and thyself are equally on the way to destruction." **The gift of God.** God gives, but does not sell his blessings; and he gives only to those who are fitted to receive. **May be purchased.** 8. That which is born of love can never be bought.

21. Neither part nor lot. Peter sees that Simon's belief is only of the head and not of the heart, and springs from selfish motives. **In this matter.** In the enjoyment of God's grace, the Gospel of Christ. **Heart is not right.** Literally, "straight." Simon's was a crooked heart, which must be changed before Christ could enter it.

22. Repent. Not "be sorry for," but "turn from," the true idea of repentance. **Thy wickedness.** A possible sin against the Holy Ghost. **Pray God.** Rather, as in Rev. Ver., "pray the Lord," that is, the Lord Jesus. **9. When we pray to Christ we pray to God.** **If perhaps.** The doubt was not as to the power or willingness of God, but as to the depth and sincerity of Simon's repentance. **Thought of thine heart.** A thought is in the mind, but it may proceed from an affection in the heart. **May be forgiven.** Peter, though an apostle, does not presume to forgive sin, but bids the sinner turn to God.

23. I perceive. He perceived it by his act and purpose. **Gall of bitterness.** In a condition of evil as bitter as gall itself, the very quintessence of bitterness. **Bond of iniquity.** In a state of sin which binds like a chain. **10. How wretched the condition of a soul out of Christ!**

24. Pray ye to the Lord. He does not propose to pray for himself, and shows no true repentance, no hatred of sin, and no conviction of his own guilt. **For me.** 11. Many are willing to have others pray for them who will not pray for themselves. **None of these things.** He did not desire to have his sin taken away, but only its dreaded results removed. This gives us little hope for the sorcerer, who was henceforth an enemy of the Gospel.

25. Testified. The apostles gave their witness to the truth of the Gospel, and the facts of Christ's life on which its truth depended. **Preached.** Rev. Ver., "spoken." **The word of the Lord.** The Gospel message in general. **Returned to Jerusalem.** To render their report to the mother Church and their fellow apostles. **In many villages.** They tarried, on their way home, to preach in the villages through which they passed, and established churches (see chap. 9. 31) throughout the province. Thus the old enmity of Jew and Samaritan was lost in the love of Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Acts 8. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. The Spirit Received. v. 14-17.
2. The Sorcerer Rebuked. v. 18-25.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Simon the sorcerer. Acts 8. 14-25.
Tu. Simon believing. Acts 8. 5-13.

- W. The baptism of the Holy Ghost. Acts 19. 1-10
Th. The heart of unbelief. 2 Tim. 3. 1-17.
F. The heart searched. Psa. 139. 1-12.
S. The pure heart. Psa. 24. 1-10.
S. The new heart. John 3. 1.16.

Time.—A.D. 37, a few months after the death of Stephen.

Place.—The city of Samaria, in central Palestine.

Connecting Link.—The preaching of Philip in Samaria.

Explanations.—*Now when*—This was after Philip had been preaching at Samaria.—*The apostles*—They stayed at Jerusalem when the rest of the Church was scattered during Saul's persecution. *Heard that Samaria*—The people of Samaria were not Jews, but were especially hated by the Jews. *Received the word*—The news of the Gospel. *They sent*—Peter and John went to represent the apostles and Church. *Come down*—Words used because Samaria stood on ground not so high as Jerusalem. *Receive the Holy Ghost*—The same power which had come upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. *He was fallen upon none*—The Holy Spirit, a person in the Godhead. *Baptized*—They had been baptized as believers in Jesus. *Simon*—The sorcerer, one who claimed to have a power from God to do miracles and know the future, but was a deceiver. He had professed to believe in Jesus, and had been received into the Church. *Offered them money*—He thought that they were sorcerers, like himself, only possessing greater power. *Give me... this power*—He wanted to be an apostle himself, in having power. *Thy money perish with thee*—Meaning that both Simon and his money were doomed to destruction. *The gift of God*—God gives—but does not sell. *Neither part nor lot*—Not in heart one of God's people; not fit to receive the Holy Ghost. *Repent*—Turn from sin, as well as be sorry for it. *If perhaps*—If not too far gone in sin to repent. *Gall of bitterness*—In a state of sin as bitter as gall itself. *Bond of iniquity*—Fastened by wickedness as a chain. *Pray ye for me*—He did not speak of praying for himself. *Testified*—Borne witness to Jesus by preaching his word.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 193, *New Hymn Book.* L. M.

O Spirit of the living God,
In all thy plenitude of grace,
Where'er the foot of man hath trod,
Descend on our apostate race.

Give tongues of fire and hearts of love,
To preach the reconciling word;
Give power and unction from above,
Where'er the joyful sound is heard.

Baptize the nations; far and nigh
The triumphs of the cross record;
The name of Jesus glorify,
Till every kindred call him Lord.

No. 188, *New Hymn Book.* 6-8s.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire!
Thou the anointing Spirit art,