



LESSON X.—September 5.

## Gentiles Giving For Jewish Christians.

II. Corinthians ix., 1-11. Read chapters viii. and ix. Commit verses 6-8.

### GOLDEN TEXT.

'Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.'—II. Cor. viii., 9.

### Home Readings.

M. II. Cor. viii., 1-12.—Christ though rich became poor for us.  
T. II. Cor. viii., 13-24.—Our abundance should supply others' wants.  
W. II. Cor. ix., 1-15.—Gentiles giving for Jewish Christians.  
Th. I. John iii., 1-24.—Whoso . . . seeth his brother have need.  
F. Psa. cxii., 1-10.—A good man showeth favor.  
S. Matt. xxv., 31-46.—I was an hungered and ye gave me meat.  
S. Phil. ii., 1-16.—Let this mind be in you.

### Lesson Story.

This can truly be called a lesson on giving. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he writes concerning the collection, telling them to lay by something on the first day of each week, that there need be no gatherings when the time came to send the money on to Jerusalem. They were to give as God prospered them; their gifts were to be simple and liberal. In the second letter Paul shows them the beauty and grace and joy of giving and finally remarks that it is almost superfluous for him to remind them of their duty toward their poorer brethren, as they had already done so well by them.

But, as he had boasted to others of the generosity of the Corinthians, he could not bear to think that they might perchance have forgotten to lay up beforehand for the collection. He reminds them of the fact that the farmer who wishes for a bountiful harvest must sow with a generous hand. A stingy sowing brings a scant harvest. Then comes the warning against giving grudgingly—God wants no unwilling gifts. God loves and blesses the man who gives gladly, willingly, lovingly to him. What is given to God is never lost, for God uses all willing gifts, and more than makes up in every way for their loss. When we give our most precious treasures to God, he gives us an overflowing blessing that more than fills the place in our hearts that the treasures filled before.

He who gives to God is doubly blessed and amply repaid, for the Lord will be no man's debtor.

### Lesson Hymn.

I gave My life for thee,  
My precious blood I shed,  
That thou mightst ransom me,  
And quickened from the dead;  
I gave, I gave My life for thee—  
What hast thou given to Me?

And I have brought for thee  
Down from My home above,  
Salvation full and free,  
My pardon and My love;  
Rich gifts, rich gifts I brought to thee—  
What hast thou brought for Me?

My Father's house of light,  
My glory-circled throne,  
I left for earthly night,  
For wanderings sad and lone;  
Long years, long years I spent for thee—  
Hast thou spent one for Me?

### Lesson Hints.

'The ministering to the saints'—'It pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.' (Rom. xv., 26.)  
'Boast of you to them of Macedonia'—

urging them to follow your good example. 'Achaia'—another name for Greece.

Verse 5 is rendered thus by Conybeare and Howson: 'Therefore I thought it needful to desire these brethren to visit you before my coming, and to arrange beforehand the completion of this bounty which you before promised to have in readiness; so it be really given by your bounty, not wrung from your covetousness.'

'As he purposeth in his heart'—the amount to be settled with God by the giver. Let there be no coercion, there is no necessity to give money to God, he has untold wealth in gold mines yet undiscovered. He can make 'the widow's mite' go further than the unconsecrated millions grudgingly given. 'A cheerful giver'—literally, a 'hilarious giver.' One to whom it is the greatest joy to give. 'Abound'—overflow. Notice how the 'alls' are heaped together in this verse, reminding us of God's Almightiness. 'As it is written'—in Psalm cxii., 9. 'Ministereth'—provideth. 'Bountifulness'—ungrudging liberality. 'Causes through us thanksgiving'—we distributing the bounty which causes giving of thanks to God.

### Search Questions.

Whom had Paul sent to Corinth to see how the church was getting on?

### Primary Lesson.

What was the greatest, most valuable present ever given? The present God gave to the world nearly nineteen hundred years ago—God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Could we ever give anything to God that would repay him for his wonderful present to us? Could all the money in the world buy us everlasting life?

Money can buy nothing from God. Nothing we could give, not even the whole world could buy us eternal life. How then can we obtain it?

By believing on Jesus Christ. Believing on Jesus does not just mean to believe that Jesus lived and died for us, but to believe that he is God, and that he has all power in heaven and on earth. We must believe everything that he has said, even if no person on earth could be trusted to tell the truth, still God is true. We must be loyal to Christ and believe him and believe everything he says, then all God's most precious gifts will be free to us.

God does not want our money without our love, but if we love him we will be anxious to give him everything we possess, first we give him ourselves, then every thing we have will belong to him. How can we give our money to God? In the book of Proverbs, written by Solomon, we find this verse and others like it: 'He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.' And the words of Jesus are more precious still: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

So we see that giving our money a time to people that need it, is really giving it to God. If Jesus stood before you and held out his hand wouldn't you be glad to put in all you have? And when the collection plate is held out before you, what you put in you give to our Lord just as much as though he were standing there.

Always ask Jesus to bless your little gift, for he can do more with one cent that has been gladly and lovingly and prayerfully given, than he can with ten dollars given grudgingly or without love and prayer.

### SUGGESTED HYMNS.

'All for Jesus,' 'My all is on the altar,' 'God loved the world,' 'There is a green hill far away,' 'Jesus paid it all.'

### Practical Points.

BY A. H. CAMERON.

(II. Cor. ix., 1-11.)

Three blessings accompany Christian giving: A blessing on the giver, on the receiver, and on those who are stirred up to do likewise. Verses 1, 2.

Paul shows considerable tact in announcing the mission of his messengers. The Christian must be educated to give, and the best education along this line is based upon a knowledge of Christ's person and work, and a sympathy with the needs of men. Verses 3-5; also Matt. xxv., 40.

The cheerful, bountiful giver is counted

mad by the world, which seeth not the glorious harvest. But God's love is far more desirable than the applause of this present evil world. Verses 6, 7.

When God in his grace takes us into partnership with himself, we belong to no limited company. Christ is our senior partner; his righteousness is eternal and his liberality is proverbial. Verses 8, 9; compare James i., 5.

God ploughs the heart with his spirit, then supplies the seed which is the Word of God. Watered by the prayers of God's people, warmed and quickened by the Sun of Righteousness, the seed begins to grow, till at last the fruits of righteousness appear, conspicuous among which is the grace of liberality. Verses 10, 11.

Tiverton, Ont.

### Christian Endeavor Topic.

Sept. 5.—Our gifts from God; our gifts to God.—Rom. viii., 26-29.

### Junior Prayer-Meeting Topic.

Sept. 5.—What does God give us, and what should we give God?—Rom. viii., 31-39.

## How Can Our Scholars be Interested in Missions?

The first step must be the conversion of the scholars themselves. How can one unconverted person be interested in the spiritual condition of another unconverted person? As well try, with Dean Swift, to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, as expect to interest unconverted children in unconverted heathen. Remember, too, that God (I say it reverently) cannot make saints at the adult end of life as fast as satan breeds sinners at the childhood end. As in the old cook book, therefore, in giving a recipe for cooking a hare, the author says: 'First catch your hare'; so I say, first secure the conversion of your scholars if you would interest them in the conversion of others.

Well, that done, then what? Why, next they must be instructed. Children, like the 'Arabian Nights,'—make missions like the 'Arabian Nights'; children are absorbed in 'Robinson Crusoe'—make missions like 'Robinson Crusoe.' There is no more romantic story in fiction than the history of missions. It is travel, adventure, heroism—exhausts human experience.

Fire the enthusiasm of your scholars. Make them catch the contagion of Henry Martyn and Adoniram Judson. Then urge them to show their feeling in a practical way.

Individualise your scholars' interest. Give them specific cases. We love persons, not abstractions. An excellent method is the support by the Sunday-school of some missionary, who engages to render frequent reports of his work. This, as Shakespeare says of imagination:

— bodies forth  
The forms of things unknown,  
— and gives to airy nothing  
A local habitation and a name.

A Sunday-school which supports a missionary, or which pays for the tuition of some scholar in a missionary school, is a Sunday-school which will be deeply interested in the cause. Interest will thrive on knowledge, and knowledge reacting will intensify interest, which will increase not by simple addition, but in cubic ratio.

Of course, all this will depend, under God, upon the superintendent and the teachers. If they are intelligent, the scholars will be intelligent. If they are awake, the scholars will be awake. Young people demand animation and movement. Some teachers are alive only in the jaw—they talk religion; but there is no life in the hands—they never act it. Alas, for schools where religion is dispensed—and dispensed with! A good teacher will always lead the class, and not resemble that captain of militia in the civil war who said to his company:—'Boys, charge!'—then got behind the nearest stone wall to see how it worked.—Rev. C. Martyn, D.D.

'God knows. Take that truth for your sheet anchor in all the storms of life, and it will hold firm. He understands. He is infinite and may be trusted to do all things well. What he does now you know not, but you shall know hereafter.'