

The Peace of God.

BY ALEX. A. B. HERD.

FATHER, the peace, the perfect peace
Of him who's mind is stayed on thee,
That calmly keeps his soul at rest
While all around unrest may be.

Father, that peace I only ask;
Whate'er my lot, whate'er thy will,
In quiet confidence of heart
To love, and trust and serve thee still.

Father, I cannot hide from thee,
My sinful self's unworthiness,
But for his sake who died for me,
Pity and help my helplessness.

Give me, not as the world can give,
But lasting sure, divinely free,
Thy peace, on earth for thee to live,
Thy peace through all eternity.
SOMENOS, Vancouver Island.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A.D. 30] LESSON III. [APRIL 15

CHRISTIAN WATCHFULNESS.

Matt. 24. 42-51. Memory verses, 42-44

GOLDEN TEXT.

And what I say unto you, I say unto all,
Watch. Mark. 13. 37.

OUTLINE.

1. The Faithful Servant.
2. The Evil Servant.

TIME.—30 A.D. The Wednesday of Passion Week.

PLACE.—The Mount of Olives.

RULERS.—Same as before.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Jesus had on the day before left the city behind him. He had given his last public teaching. He now, in the two days that remained before his crucifixion, gave some last necessary teachings to the twelve, and of these the lesson forms a part.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The good man of the house*—Or simply the occupant of the house. *To be broken up*—That is, forcibly entered by the thief. *Be ye also ready*—The duty of Christian watchfulness against every form of sin so as to be prepared for Christ's second coming. *Ruler over his household*—The custom alluded to is that of appointing a steward to provide for the wants of the family of one with a large estate. *Shall make him ruler*—The same moral as in the parable of the talents: promotion for fidelity. *Shall cut him asunder*—Or, cut him off, or utterly deprive him of every thing honourable, and give him to punishment for his offences.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Faithful Servant.

To whom were the teachings of this lesson directed?

What was the great duty that was here inculcated?

Why were the disciples bid to "watch?" How had Jesus in this same teaching described his own coming?

What impression did this figure, of a householder and a thief, make upon Peter? 2 Peter 3. 10.

How did Peter explain the apparent long delay of Christ's coming? 2 Peter 3. 8.

What is the reward which earthly masters give for fidelity?

By what parable did Christ very soon teach the nature of heavenly reward for fidelity?

2. The Evil Servant.

What will be the language of the unfaithful servant?

On what ground will he base his wicked action?

Give the steps in wickedness which characterize the evil servant?

Among whom does Jesus here class the intemperate, or as he calls them "the drunken?"

Is there to be any mercy for such an evil servant?

What is to be his portion?

Is there a hint here of another opportunity for watchful and faithful service? What is the evident teaching of Matthew's Gospel concerning future punishment?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

There is nothing more sure than that Christ is coming again.

We may not live to see him come in clouds. But to each of us he will come. When? We cannot tell. "Watch therefore."

Watchfulness will make us patient, faithful, honest, trustworthy, gentle, temperate, discreet, guarded, and ready for what may come.

Here is blessing for fidelity. Here is weeping for infidelity. Which is yours? Once more, watch.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Look at the prophecy in vers. 1 and 2 of this chapter.
2. Find when this prophecy was fulfilled, and how.
3. Find what led to the discourse of Jesus.
4. Write down the things that a watchman stationed at a post of danger, ought to be. For example, a flagman at a railroad crossing; or a sentinel on a rampart; or a picket outside a camp.
5. Find how many of these qualities are shown in Christ's picture of the faithful servant.
6. Commit to memory all these verses.
7. Find and learn three other texts which say "watch," beside ver. 42.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What does Christ say might happen to the householder who did not guard his house? It might be broken up. 2. What did he say would happen to the evil servant who neglected his duty? He would be cut asunder. 3. What lesson did Jesus teach from these two illustrations? Therefore be ye also ready. 4. What did he call such an one as was always ready for his coming? A faithful and wise servant. 5. Were these teachings meant for more than the twelve to whom he spoke? "And what I say unto you," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Fidelity.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

21. How is it proved that the Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament Scriptures? Chiefly by the words of our Lord and his apostles.

Matthew xxii. 43. He saith unto them, How doth David in the Spirit call him Lord? 2 Peter i. 21. Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Ghost.

A.D. 30] LESSON IV. [APRIL 22

THE TEN VIRGINS.

Matt. 25. 1-13. Memory verses, 10-13

GOLDEN TEXT.

And they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Matt. 25. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. The Wise.
2. The Foolish.

TIME, PLACE, RULERS.—The same as in the last lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Ten virgins* . . . went forth—An allusion to Oriental marriage customs. After the bridegroom had received the bride at her father's house he led her to his own home, usually at night, and was met by some who waited to escort him. This fact furnishes the parable. *Lamps, and no oil*—Each party took something, one party that which would make a show for the time being. *Lamps and oil*—Prepared for any service. *The bridegroom tarried*—Delayed in the house of the bride. *They all slumbered*—They nodded and fell asleep over their waiting, so long the bridegroom delayed. *Trimmed their lamps*—Replenished and lighted their torches and were ready to meet the bridal procession.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY

1. The Wise.

From what custom is the figure of our lesson drawn?

How did the five wise virgins show their wisdom?

What does the taking of oil show concerning the habits or character of these five?

What is the character which in this lesson

and the last Christ depicts as acceptable to God?

What were the advantages which the action of the wise virgins secured for them?

From what annoyances or fears were they delivered?

What is meant by the tarrying of the bridegroom?

In the present day who are represented by the wise virgins?

2. The Foolish.

How did the foolish virgins show their folly?

What does their action show concerning their character?

What trait of character is shown by their request in ver. 8?

What must have been their state of mind while going to buy?

To what mortification were they subjected by their folly?

Is there any hint here that the door was ever opened?

To whom in the present day can we compare the foolish virgins?

What similarity do you discover between the ending of this lesson and the beginning of the last one?

What great truth must have formed the burden of these teachings of Christ?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

There are wise ones in the world. There are also foolish ones. The wise reap reward. The foolish suffer loss.

It is of no use to buy oil after the bridegroom comes.

Preparation for the coming of Christ is an individual affair; it cannot be passed on from one to another. I cannot have oil enough for you and me both. No other man's righteousness will help you.

Is your lamp trimmed? There was a door that was shut on the foolish virgins. Jesus himself says the kingdom of heaven is like that.

Will you enter with the bridegroom, or will he say, "I know you not?"

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Begin by carefully reading this lesson three times over, slowly, thoughtfully, and with a purpose to remember it.

2. Now tell it over as accurately as you can without the aid of the book.

3. Write five questions, next, on each part of the Outline.

4. Now compare these questions with the questions of the Question Book.

5. Make a note of such things as you want to know about, and cannot find any thing about. Give it to your teacher.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How does Christ illustrate the principles of the last lesson? By the parable of ten virgins? 2. In what respects were they alike? They all took lamps and went forth.

3. In what respects did they differ? Five were prepared, five were not. 4. What was the result of the wise preparation of the first? They went in to the feast. 5. What happened while the foolish tried to repair their mistake? "The door was shut."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—True Wisdom.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

22. How is it proved that the New Testament is inspired by the Holy Spirit?

The Saviour told his apostles that they should be witnesses of him, and promised that the Spirit should bring his words to their remembrance, and teach them things to come.

St. John xv. 26, 27. When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me; and ye also bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

It will be just a thousand years before the three 8s come together again, A.D. 888, 1888, 2887. Could we not work out an equation suggests *The Interior*, by comparing the past period of eights with the second? As 888 with the dark ages then prevailing, is to 1888 with the 19th century enlightenment, so will 2888 be to the millennial glory.

A BUNDLE OF LETTERS

TO BUSY GIRLS ON PRACTICAL MATTERS

Written to those girls who have not time or inclination to think and study about the many important things which make up life and living.

BY GRACE EL. DODGE.

12mo, cloth, 60 cents.

This is a book of practical sense that should be in the hands of every girl. As is well known, Miss Dodge is a member of the New York Board of Education, and no one knows better than she does just what girls need to know and how to tell it to them.

"Josiah Allen's Wife" says of this book: "It is one of the best and most helpful books for girls I ever read. It is written with charming directness and simplicity."

The N. Y. Herald says: "The letters are written in the frank, familiar style which makes all Miss Dodge's talks so delightful. There is no conventionality, no formality about them, but every word is as though spoken from heart to heart."

The Congregationalist says: "They are plain-spoken, sensible, earnestly Christian, and in every way thoroughly valuable."

— GET —

For your S. S. Library, for gifts to your friends, for home reading,

Amelia Barr's Books

The Bow of Orange Ribbon, \$1.00.

Jan Vedder's Wife, \$1.00.

The Squire of Sandal-Side, \$1.00.

A Daughter of Fife, \$1.00.

The Christian Union says of one of the above:—"After so many novels of realism and analysis, one reads such a romance as with the zeal which one puts a cup of clear, cold water to his lips after a journey through a dry and dusty land."

SPECIAL OFFER.—We will supply Sunday School Teachers with any of the above books at a discount of 20 per cent.

READING THE BIBLE

WITH RELISH;

Or, Brief Bible Readings for Daily Home Worship, Daily Prayer-Meetings, Daily Chapel Readings, Daily School Exercises, Daily Bible Lectures.

Traversing the whole Bible in a year, in chronological order, by selected passages, requiring about five minutes daily for reading, omitted portions being concisely summarized to preserve the connection and tininess, secured by admission of the elections to the peculiarities of the months, and to the various holidays. With appendix containing Bible markings from Moody's Bibles.

By REV. WILBUR F. CRAFTS,

Author of "Talks to Boys and Girls about Jesus," etc., etc.

✻ Pocket size, paper covers, 15c. each, net. Post free.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

78 & 80 KING STREET EAST TORONTO.
C. W. COATES, Montreal. S. F. EUSTIS, Halifax.