

LESSON VIII. THE NATURE AND FRUITS OF REPENTANCE, Jonah 3 : 1-10.

An obedient prophet, a repentant city, a relenting God make up this lesson. Jonah has a brief but striking message of doom. Nineveh the great city is moved to its very centre. The throne trembles. The king leads in the way of repentance. God responds as he always does to true repentance.

LESSON IX. THE PLACE OF FAITH IN THE RELIGIOUS LIFE, Heb. 11 : 1-10, 12 : 1, 2.

This is a lesson filled with great names. They are the names of men who did things on earth because they believed in a God in heaven. There is a great challenge also in the lesson. God needs heroes to-day. The heroic begins with looking to Christ.

LESSON X. OBEDIENCE A TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP, Matt. 7 : 16-29.

Fruit according to inward life. This is the law of both nature and grace. The programme of Christ without his spirit avails nothing. A good beginning, a sure foundation, this is the great necessity of him who builds a house or a character. There is always a foundation test.

LESSON XI. THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF PRAYER, Luke 18 : 1-5, 9-14.

The persistence of a poor widow moves an unjust judge. Will a loving father refuse to hear his children? Therefore pray without ceasing. Pray also without pride. Pride builds walls of separation from God. But humility and contrition build ladders to God. Need is our great plea with God.

LESSON XII. THE STRONGEST BOND BETWEEN MEN AND NATIONS, 1 Cor., ch. 13.

This lesson is filled with the praise of one thing,—love. Eloquence, prophecy, knowledge, faith, liberality, martyrdom, are all nothing without love. Love is everything without these. Love abides when tongues, knowledge and prophecy pass. And amidst the things that abide like faith and hope, stands supreme over all.

THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—God our Creator, Gen. 1 : 26-31.

A coin lost in the gutter may be trampled on by the heedless passer-by and covered with mud and filth. But the coin bears stamped on it, the king's head. In like manner, every human being bears the image of God. However sin may defile and deface that image, it is never quite destroyed. It can always be restored by divine grace.

Tuesday—Obligation to God, Ps. 116 : 1-9.

Deliverance is the ground of duty. Because God has saved us, we are bound to serve him. Gratitude for the manifold mercies that crowd our days is the constraining power that keeps us steadfast in obedience.

Wednesday—Gracious invitation, Isa. 55 : 1-3.

The gospel is as old as God himself. From the very beginning he has been inviting sinners to come to him that they might be saved.

Thursday—Response to God's love, Phil. 3 : 7-14.

God's love has withheld from us nothing that love could give. When the heavenly Father gave his only begotten Son, he gave to the uttermost. Our giving to God should be patterned after his giving to us.

Friday—Prayer to God, Matt. 6 : 5-15.

God is "Father," therefore he will supply all our needs. God is "Our Father." All others are his children as well as we. They are our brethren, with claims on our interest and affection.

Saturday—Obeying God, Gen. 12 : 1-9.

It is God's to choose the way for us ; it is ours to walk in at his bidding. And the way of obedience leads surely to a happy end.

Sunday—Love to God and man, 1 Cor. 13 : 1-13.

"What . . . God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." True religion looks both Godward and manward. No one can love God who does not love his fellowmen.

A PRAYER

Father, we thank thee that we have been with thee in the secret place, and that thou hast honored us by telling us of thy greatness, thy love, our need of thee, and thy longing to satisfy our needs. Teach us to profit by the lessons we have studied, and to live always to thy glory. Amen