

## LESSON VII.

## CHRIST'S DIVINE AUTHORITY

Feb. 12, 1899

John 5: 17-27. Commit to Memory vs. 24-27. Study Chap. 5: 1-28.

17. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh (1) hitherto, and I work.

18. (2) Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath. (3) but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

19. (4) Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father (5) do: for what things soever he doeth, these (6) also doeth the Son likewise.

20. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

22. (7) For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Revised Version.—(1) Even until now; (2) For this cause, therefore; (3) Also called God his own Father; (4) Jesus therefore answered; (5) Doing; (6) The Son also doeth in like manner; (7) For neither doth the Father judge any man; (8) All may honor the Son; (9) Which sent Him; (10) Eternal; (11) Cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life; (12) Even so gave He; (13) Also; (14) Gave him; (15) "Also" omitted; (16) Marg., A Son of man.

23. That (8) all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father (9) which hath sent him.

24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath (10) everlasting life, and (11) shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26. For as the Father hath life in himself; (12) so hath he given to the Son (13) to have life in himself.

27. And (14) hath given him authority to execute judgment (15) also, because he is (16) the Son of man.

## GOLDEN TEXT

"This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." John 4: 42.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—John 5: 1-9. Healing at Bethesda.

T.—John 5: 10-16. Enmity and persecution.

W.—John 5: 17-27. Christ's divine authority.

Th.—John 5: 28-35. John's testimony.

F.—John 5: 36-47. Testimony of the Scriptures.

S.—2 Peter 1: 10-18. The Father's testimony.

S.—Heb. 1: 1-9. Glory of Christ.

## LESSON PLAN

## CHRIST'S DIVINE AUTHORITY.

## I. A BOLD CLAIM, 17, 18.

"My Father"; Which affronts the Jews as blasphemy.

## II. ITS EXPLANATION, 19, 20.

The Son does what He sees the Father do; The Father has shown Him because He loves Him; And will show Him greater things still.

## III. ITS DETAILS, 21-27.

In raising men from the dead and in the last judgment

## TIME

Uncertain, but possibly three months after the last lesson, spring of A.D. 28, Feast of Passover (ch. 5: 1).

## PLACE

Jerusalem, at or near pool of Bethesda, recently identified, near church of St. Anne, at northern angle of city.

## CATECHISM

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words [before me] in the first commandment?

A. These words [before me] in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

LESSON HYMNS 24 (Ps.) 90, 242, 149, 598.

## CONNECTING LINKS

Jesus is again at Jerusalem. It is probably three months after the healing of the nobleman's son and the Feast of the Passover. At the Pool of Bethesda, and on the Sabbath day he heals a man who had been crippled and helpless for thirty-eight years. It was done quickly and quietly. Jesus said "Take up thy bed and walk," and the man did what he was told to do. It was a capital opportunity for His enemies; for the healing was done on the Sabbath day. Jesus had bade the man carry his bed and that was, according to their interpretation of the law, a breaking of the Sabbath. They make it the occasion of a fierce onset. "For this cause did the Jews persecute Jesus because he had done these things on the Sabbath day." The lesson gives part of the controversy which followed and contains marvellous words by this Son of man concerning His relationship to God.

## EXPOSITION

## I. A BOLD CLAIM, 17, 18.

V. 17. "My Father worketh hitherto and I work." In substance, "I am only doing what God My Father does. No day of rest appointed for weary mortals that they may be refreshed in body and in spirit prevents Him from continuing His unceasing kindness and mercy to

men. His sun shines, His rain falls, on the Sabbath as on other days. His merciful Providence never rests. In healing the cripple I am but following in His footsteps. The very essence of the Sabbath law demands the doing of acts of mercy on that day, even as it gives special leisure and opportunity for the doing of them."