

until he went forth on his mission eighteen years later. *Subject unto them*; habitually and constantly obedient. *Kept all these sayings*. Though she did not understand them, she remembered them, to see how they would unfold, and what the outcome would be.

V. 52. *Increased*; Rev. Ver., "advanced" (the Greek word is derived from pioneers cutting down trees in the path of an advancing army),—steadily grew like any other child, suffering temptations, which he overcame. (See Phil. 2:7.) *In wisdom*; intellectual growth. *And stature*; physical growth. *In favour with God*; spiritual growth, which won for him more approval from God. *And man*; Rev. Ver., "men"; social growth. As his God-pleasing character developed, men were more and more pleased with him. He was a universal favorite.

III. The Father's Business in Life, 2 Peter 1: 5-8.

Vs. 5, 6. *And beside this*; Rev. Ver., "Yea, and for this very cause"; since God has done all that is necessary on his part for your salvation, and what still remains is in your power, and depends entirely upon yourselves. *Giving all diligence*. Moffatt translates, "do you contrive to make it your whole concern." *In your faith* (Rev. Ver.); your trust in Christ. Each quality is regarded as a king of soil or atmosphere in which its successor is nourished; "faith is the starting point of all." *Supply* (Rev. Ver.); Moffatt, "furnish with." God's gifts (vs. 3, 4) are free, but we have to win the means of using these gifts at the cost of toil and sacrifice. *Virtue*; moral strength and resolution. *Knowledge*; "intelligence" (Moffatt), the practical power of discerning between right and wrong. *Temperance*; literally, "the power of holding oneself in," self-control. *Patience*; "steadfastness," "endurance," the power to resist attacks from without, as "temperance" curbs evil impulses within. *Godliness*; the worship of God.

Vs. 7, 8. *Brotherly kindness*; affection toward the brethren, that is, of the same Christian community. *Love* (Rev. Ver.); towards all, even enemies, not a mere emotion, but a

deliberate choice governing one's attitude and conduct towards them. *These things*; the Christian graces just named, which are the fruits of faith in Christ. In the list, we have, first, the active qualities, virtue and knowledge; next, the passive qualities of self-control and endurance; then, the attitude towards God, godliness, towards the church brotherly love, and towards all mankind, love. *Be in you, and abound*; "exist and increase with you" (Moffatt). *Neither... barren nor unfruitful*. Those who possess these qualities will be "active and fruitful" Christians.

Light from the East

By Rev. Professor R. Davidson, D.D., Toronto

"THE CUSTOM OF THE FEAST" (Luke 2: 42)—In pre-exile days it was usual if a man had an offering to present, for him to take it to some sanctuary near his home, the local "high place." But after the Jews came back from Babylon, no such thing was thought of; all offerings were brought to Jerusalem. And the national sacrifices at Jerusalem came to eclipse all private offerings. But men came to Jerusalem at the great festivals. Jerusalem was the place where men ought to worship Jehovah, so the Jews thought. In the time of Christ it was not easy to go to Jerusalem, for most Jews did not live in Palestine. If a Jew lived in Babylon or Egypt or Tarsus or Ephesus or Corinth or Rome, it might be but once in a lifetime that he could make the long and tedious journey to the holy hill of Zion. If he succeeded, it was his joy and guide all the rest of his days. (See Ps. 122.) Pilgrims from all parts of the world where Jews were scattered made their journey to Jerusalem at Passover and Weeks and Tabernacles. Peter preached to a great throng in the temple courts at the Feast of Weeks, Acts, ch. 2. Those who lived in Galilee were able to go up frequently to these sacred gatherings. The master went several times and spoke to the crowds who gathered together from all quarters in the temple area to listen to his teachings.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

The site of Jerusalem was a four-sided plateau, some 2,500 feet above the level of the

Mediterranean Sea, about half a mile in breadth and 1,000 acres in extent. Two deep

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