

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR SEPTEMBER:—*For the Christian Sabbath. Pray that it may be preserved as a day of rest and spiritual refreshment.*

### DAILY READINGS.

#### Speech.

First Day—Helped by God.—Jer. i. 1-9.

Second Day—Fit words.—Prov. xxv. 1-11.

Third Day—Prudent words.—Eccl. v. 1-7.

Fourth Day—Dangerous words.—Jas. iii. 1-18.

Fifth Day—Deceitful words.—Jas. i. 19-27.

Sixth Day—Pure words.—Pa. xii. 1-8.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Sept. 13.—OUR TONGUES FOR CHRIST.

Prov. xv. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 14, 23, 26, 28.

Much indeed do we need to place them at His disposal, nay, to give them into his entire control. I think if there is one member more than another Christians hold back from complete surrender, it is the tongue. I think the Apostle James must have lived in a gossiping community he speaks so feelingly on this subject. "Behold," says he "how great a matter a little fire kindleth! and the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." James, there are many who will say "Amen," to that! But what does the wise man say about it, "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools bubbleth out foolishness." Verily this is so. The wise man, and in Proverbs that means the man who has wisdom or Christ for His guide, useth knowledge aright, whether it be knowledge of his own affairs or of other people's business. But the fool, and all are fools who do not take Christ as their wisdom, bubbleth out foolishness about every body and every thing. It is heart-sickening to hear professed Christians chattering away about their neighbors as if the only theme of common interest was the private business of some one else. I believe that the devil uses the sin of gossip in the Church of Christ more effectually than any other weapon. Silly talk about the minister, the elders, the Sunday school workers, the young people; innocent perhaps in itself, but weakening influences, raising suspicions, creating doubts, separating friends, and lowering the whole tone of spiritual life. I know young people to-day who are kept from professing Christ by what they see of this hateful habit in the lives of church members. Of course the reason is inadequate, but that does not lessen the responsibility that rests upon these hinderers. What said the master? "But whose shall cause to stumble one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matt. xviii. 6. What is the remedy? Christians talk about Christ. Let your lips be filled with His praises, let your tongue be quick to tell His love. Shut your ears to stories about others. If you are interested in some one else's affairs talk to the person concerned about them, but never to other people. The King's business is your business, and with any one else's you have nothing to do.

## FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

### International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON XL—DAVID'S GRATITUDE TO GOD.—SEPT. 13.

(2 Sam. xxii. 40-51.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer."—2 Sam. xxii. 2.

CENTRAL TEXT.—Heart Praise.

ANALYSIS.—Destruction, v. 40-43.  
Deliverance, v. 44-46.  
Devotion, v. 47-51.

TIME AND PLACE.—B.C. 1040, in Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTION.—"This chapter and the eighteenth Psalm are almost identical. It has been thought that this chapter was written about the middle of David's reign after a number of notable victories, and that toward the close of his life a revision was made for public recitation which is the eighteenth Psalm. This triumph song must have been written before David's great sin, perhaps the time referred to in 2 Sam. vii. 1. In this case the time would be about B.C. 1040, and the place is doubtless Jerusalem."—*Sunday School Era*.

VERSE BY VERSE.—V. 40. "Girded me with strength."—It is well for a man to recognize the source of his strength. David knew that his past triumphs were owing to God's presence with him. When God girds us with strength, it is the strength of omnipotence. Failure is impossible if we rely on it. "Strength to battle."—It is for battle that God gives us strength; that we

may fight sin and the powers of evil, and overcome them. He does not give strength for display or mere personal enjoyment of power, but for earnest, unceasing conflict with His and our enemies.

V. 41. "Given me the necks of mine enemies."—When God gives victory it is complete. What He did for David He is able and willing to do for us. Wrong desires, evil passions, bad habits may all be assuredly and completely vanished as the enemies of David were, if we will claim His overcoming strength against them; but so long as we go struggling along in our own weakness they will have the mastery. See Rom. vi. 11-14, viii. 2, 35-39; 2 Cor. xii. 9; Eph. vi. 10-17.

V. 42. "They looked but there was none to save."—It is a terrible thought that a day will yet come when such a condition of things will exist. "Now is the accepted time" but by and by will come a time of rejecting. "None to save," oh! what a wall of agony is in those words. A lost world, without a Christ or a Calvary! Shall we not labor for souls while it is yet to-day, since the night soon cometh when no man can work. See Rev. vi. 12-17.

V. 43. "I did stamp them as the mire."—How many things there are in our lives that deserve just such treatment as this. We must not trifle or play with sin. The cherishing of an evil thought is the invariable precedent of an evil deed. Such things may only be safely treated in one way; that is trampled under foot in the mire to which they belong. See Rom. xvi. 20; Pa. xci. 13; Zech. x. 5.

V. 44. "Delivered from the strivings of my people."—Often the greatest trial to a young Christian is the lack of sympathy and even open opposition of relatives and friends. But God will give deliverance, if trust is put in Him. Then often there come doubts and discouragements because of the inconsistencies and uncharitableness of those who by reason of their profession should be sources of help and support. And here God also gives deliverance. Not until the young Christian learns to stand alone with God and be completely satisfied with His consistency will these things cease to be causes of perplexity and darkness; but when that lesson has been learned they will matter little, for the faithlessness of men cannot change the faithfulness of God. See, Pa. lxxxix. 1, 2, 24, 23, 33, 34. 2. Tim. ii. 13.

"A people I knew not."—Not least among the joys of the Christian life are its surprises. Day by day God has some new pleasure or blessing for His children, and they that trust Him shall not be disappointed. Half the happiness of life would be lost if we could see ahead of us more than a moment at a time. See, Sam. iii. 22, 23.

V. 46. "Strangers shall fade away."—Yes, such is the lot of any who remains strangers to God. Outside of Him there is no such thing as permanency of any kind; but He is the Rock of Ages that abideth forever.

V. 47. "The Lord liveth."—What a mighty sentence do these three words frame! This world with all its woe and sin would be unbearable did we not know that He lives. Suicide would almost be justifiable if we had not this assurance. But the Lord lives, and more than that, He lives for me. He died for me, and now He lives for me; and all my life journey is in His planning. While He lives, I shall live—and that means forever. "Blessed be me Rock."—Have you made personal appropriation of God as David did? Read the Psalms through emphasizing the first personal pronoun whenever you meet it, and see how they unfold them selves and become yours. "My Rock," that sounds like assurance, like security. Let us each say it from our hearts, and enter into the joyous experience of its meaning.

V. 49. "Thou hast lifted me up on high."—That is where thy Christian ought to be; dwelling in heavenly places. We have no right to be grovelling in the earth, like worldlings whose treasure is below; our privilege and duty is to live on the mountain tops of faith, lifted high above terrestrial defilement. Only there can we gain power to lift others. See, Eph. i. 3. ii. 6.

V. 50. "Therefore."—There is never a time in the Christian experience when a "therefore" for thankfulness may not be found. See, Eph. v. 20. Phil. iv. 6.

V. 51. "The tower of Salvation."—Reader have you taken refuge in it? No other place will give you safety when the storm comes, and no other tower raises its strength beyond the reach of wind and wave. Now while the door is open step within its shelter and find peace. Surely if King David needed such a refuge, you do.

Dr. Magregor met, in the great Scotch city his name and fame adorns, a little girl carrying in her arms a baby so bonny that she fairly staggered under the weight. "Baby's heavy, isn't he, dear?" said the doctor. "No," replied the winsome bairn, "he isn't heavy; he's my brother." The missionary burden is gone when the human brotherhood is realised.