

Ver. 15. "Say," feeling first, then we shall say, this is to be our habit of thought and life; it is not that we need always put the D. V. to our announced purposes, but it must always be in our thoughts, "if the Lord will;" it is that upon which we and all our plans depend, which really determines our purposes, and not our own will.

Ver. 16. "Boastings:" Rev., "glory in your vauntings:" as to what they were going to do, proud of their schemes and of their wisdom, plans formed as if it was certain they would live to see them through, and that nothing would happen to frustrate them. "Such rejoicing," or vaunting, "is evil." It puts God out of your lives. It sets your own will and intentions in the place of God. It will certainly lead to evil, to failure, disappointment, and loss of God's blessing.

Ver. 17. "Knoweth to do—doeth not:" the sin alas! of multitudes; to them comes this concluding warning—it is sin—"do good," or do well, in opposition to the wrong of the last verse; the first idea is, perhaps, to cease from such boasting, but there is a wider and more general thought: that whatever a man knows he ought to do, towards God or man, and does it not, he commits sin, omission to do good is positive transgression.

#### HINTS TO TEACHERS.

Prefatory.—In the lesson you have the essentials of a Christian life shown, partly in the negative, by what unrighteous men do, and partly, by contrast, in the positive, what they ought to do. A few illustrations to such thoughts will help your scholars to a more ready understanding of the truth.

Topical Analysis.—*Living as in God's sight*, includes (1) Submission to God and humility (vers. 7-10); (2) Resisting temptation (verse. 7); (3) Purity of heart and life (vers. 8-9); (4) Love to the brethren (vers. 11-12.) (5) A constant sense of dependence on God (vers. 13-17).

1. *Submission—Humility.*—These two are inseparable before God. The opposite is strikingly illustrated in the life of Saul, which we studied a few weeks ago; he was rebellious and proud; the word of God that had gone out against him so worked upon his pride that he was driven to insanity and suicide, a terrible beacon to warn us from the rocks of setting up our own will in opposition to the will of God. Draw the contrary picture of the great apostle of the Gentiles, who renounced all his Pharisaic pride, and placed himself in the hands of God as a little child; or that Divine Master who, standing before the agony of the cross, could say: "not my will, but thine be done."

2. *Resisting Temptation.* Temptations will come to all. Christ was tempted right through His life, but he resisted the devil. David was tempted to slay Saul, as we saw in one of the beautiful lessons of last quarter. The victory in that trial arose from the fact that he was conscious of living in God's sight. Your scholars, every boy and girl will meet the tempter; tell them how to obtain the victory, and point them to the promises, "to Him that overcometh," which the Spirit gave by John to the Seven Churches, Rev. 2:7-11, 17-26; 3:5-12, 21, a promise to every church.

3. *Purity of heart and life.*—God searches the heart; He knows its inmost thoughts, if there be sin it is all open to Him. How then should we strive to guard the gates of the soul? Read Bunyan's "Holy War," and then tell your scholars how needful it is to guard "Eye-gate" and "Ear gate," there comes in impurity and unholy thoughts. Caution them earnestly against bad books and bad companions. John Angell James, the author of that blessed book, "The Anxious Enquirer," once said that when he was a boy he read an impure book, and he had never been able to efface it from his mind. It would come up sometimes in the midst of his holiest services. Others have borne like testimony. Touch no moral pitch—you cannot wash it from the hands of your soul. Remember the bene-

dition of Jesus: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8.)

4. *Love to the brethren.*—John, also, strongly enforces this, "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" One of the striking characteristics of the Early Church was the love of one another; the opposite of this is speaking evil of one another, judging one another. This is far reaching. We must not attribute improper motives, must not suggest evil, but have the love that "hopeth all things," "believeth all things," good of others.

5. *A constant sense of dependence on God.*—How the great number, even of Christian men and women, fail in this; how many project their intentions far into the future without a thought of the will of God. The history of our own times abounds with instances of intentions cut short by death. Take books alone, how many books, some of them important, have never been finished by their authors—death has stopped the pen. Of a grand architectural work in the city of London, opened with regal pomp some months ago, it was said, in a parenthetical line, that he whose genius planned and brought it far on its way, did not live to see its completion. Not only for life but for health, for a sound mind, and for all the blessings of life, do we depend upon God. Teach this, impress it. The light-heartedness of youth may forget it for a time, but it will come back again in season, and God may make the thought an anchor of the soul to Him.

Truths and Teachings.—All who trust God will be guided by Him.

If we look to God for salvation, we must look to Him daily for all things.

God's will may be opposed to our plans, but all is for the best if we trust Him.

If we fight against Satan the battle is God's.

The judgment of our actions and the actions of all men is with God.

It is not wrong to "get gain," but it should be sought in submission to the will of God.

How great the guilt of those who know God's will and do it not.

Main Lesson.—Ever seek to realize the presence of God. Gen. 16: 13; Psa. 11: 4; 51: 4; 139: 1; Heb. Luke 15: 21; 4: 13.

NOTE.—We regret that the lesson for February 3rd was unavoidably crowded out. The INDEPENDENT for February will, however, be issued a few days earlier in order to afford time to teachers and scholars to study the omitted lesson.

## Official Notices.

### C. C. FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The following sums are acknowledged: Lanark church, \$30; T. R. Gillingham, Newfoundland, \$2; A Friend, per A. P. C., Toronto, \$10; Embro church and Sunday school, \$18; Sunday school, 10th con. Kincairdin, \$9.20; Rev. Thos. Baker, Hamilton, \$40; total, \$109.20. B. W. ROBERTSON, Treasurer.

### C. C. HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

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N.B.—We need an average of \$600 per month to meet our present need. H. N. BAIRD, Treasurer.