

Love never faileth. v. 8. It is said that if the force of a human heart, beating without cessation, could be directed against a granite pillar, it would wear the stone to dust in the course of a man's lifetime. There are many strong fortresses of evil in our own land, while in heathen countries, wickedness seems so

**Wearing Away
the Granite**

firmly entrenched that it can never be removed. But the power before which evil of every sort and all the world over will be destroyed, is the power of the love which was most fully revealed in the life and death of Jesus, and from Him flows out to the world, through the hearts and lives of His followers.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Have a talk with the class about favorite hymns of the heart, such as, "O Love Divine, how sweet Thou art" (Hymn 183, Book of Praise). Dwell upon the place which these have in the development of the devotional side of life. Make sure that the members commit to memory this glorious Lesson, the greatest hymn of the heart ever written. Ask them to read or re-read Professor Drummond's little book, *The Greatest Thing in the World*, and, better, try, like Drummond, to live in this chapter, to be at home where love is, never to get away from its embrace. Is Drummond right in calling love the greatest thing in the world?

1. The first part of the Lesson teaches that nothing else in the world is of any real value, if love be lacking, vs. 1-3. Note the things which the Corinthians believed were the greatest things in the world,—an eloquent tongue, an intellect capable of understanding mysteries, a wonder-working faith, almsgiving, martyrdom. What value does Paul attach to these things when love is lacking?

If Paul were writing this hymn to us to-day, some of these things he would not mention. The world to-day is not pining for the gift of tongues, is not courting martyrdom. What would Paul substitute for these things? He would substitute what the world of to-day prizes most highly,—wealth, intellectual culture, social standing, and such like. Get the class to modernize the passage by making these substitutions. Emphasize the truth which Paul teaches, that we may possess all these things and yet be nobodies, if love be lacking.

2. The supreme value of love is seen in

what it enables us to be and to do, vs. 4-7. Dwell upon each of these many miracles which love works. Love makes earth heavenly: it makes humans act as if they were divine,—makes them live as Jesus lived when He was here among men.

3. The best of all is, love never dies, vs. 8-13. Almost everything else that we prize here upon earth is frail and fleeting and fallible. In time the eloquent tongue becomes a poor, lisping, stammering tongue: the knowledge we possess becomes old-fashioned, out-of-date. We are told that the only thing we learn in school which will be as true in eternity as now, is mathematics. But love is a treasure of the soul which never dies, which is never out-of-date, which can never be superseded in this world or in the world to come. There will be no real gain in all our getting, unless we make sure that we get this greatest thing in the world.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The Lesson passage is so much a passage for all places and all times and all people, that it is hardly worth while to ask questions or offer information in regard to the Epistle or the occasion for its writing, especially in an Intermediate class. The boys and girls will have an ear rather to the music of this matchless hymn, and the hymn will go very straight to their hearts.

The chapter should be learned beforehand by all—teacher as well as scholars. Then let the sweetest-voiced, gentlest-hearted repeat it out loud; or it might be the subduing of some brusque, rough boy, if he were to give the chapter. If it has not been memorized, at least let it be read aloud by some one good reader, or by the class in concert. Better, perhaps, read and re-read, than spend the time in analyzing it.