



FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSON I.—OCTOBER 1.

Joy in God's House.

Psalms cxxii. Memory verses 6-9. Read Psalms, lxxxiv.

Golden Text.

'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.'—Psalms cxxii., 1.

Home Readings.

M. Psalm 122. Joy in God's House.
T. 2 Chron. 29: 25-31. Songs of gladness.
W. Psalm 84. Longed for.
Th. Psalm 92. A good thing.
F. Isa. 2: 1-5. Come ye!
S. Luke 4: 14-22. Christ's example.
Su. Rev. 7: 9-17. Heavenly Worship.

Lesson Story.

Supt.—1. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
School.—2. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

3. Je-ru-sa-lem is builded as a city that is compact together:

4. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Is-ra-el, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

5. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of Da'vid.

6. Pray for the peace of Je-ru-sa-lem: they shall prosper that love thee.

7. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

8. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

9. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

The Bible Class.

Gladness in the Lord.—Joel II., 21, 23: Isa. xxv., 9: Rev. xix., 6, 7: I. Pet. iv., 13: Psl. ix., 1, 2; xxxii., 11, lxiv., 10; lxxviii., 3, 4; civ., 33, 34; cxviii., 24: Deut. xxviii., 47, 48: Hab. III., 17, 18: Acts. v., 41: Phil. III., i; iv., 4: John xvi., 33.

God's house.—Matt. xxi., 13: Psl. c., 4: I Tim. III., 14, 15: I. Pet. II., 5: I. Cor. III., 16, 17.

Suggestions.

The fifteen 'songs of degrees,' or 'ascents,' (Psalms cxx-cxxxiv) are supposed to have been used as popular songs by the crowds who yearly wended their way Zionward in the days of David and Solomon, and probably also by the returning bands of exiles as they came within sight of the beloved city. This portion of the Psalter is especially beautiful and has been called the 'Traveller's Hymn-book,' and the 'Pilgrim Psalms.'

David was glad when he was invited to the house of the Lord on earth, and looked forward with the most intense delight to dwelling in the eternal house of the Lord through endless ages. There are many men to-day who neglect and even despise the house of God on earth, who yet expect to be happy in the house of God forever. The man who is not glad to belong to the church of God on earth will not really be glad to be summoned to the assembly of saints in heaven. Almost every man has some hope, however vague, of a happy eternity, but heaven itself could not be a happy place for the man who is not glad of communion with God and fellowship with his children.

The feet of the Israelites would never have stood within the gates of Jerusalem had they never started for that city, or had they taken a road leading in the opposite direction. There is only one way to reach heaven, no man can reach God the Father except through Jesus Christ the Son. Christ is the way (John xiv., 6) to heaven, there is no other name whereby man can be saved, (Acts iv., 12.) Only by the washing of our hearts in his precious blood and the regeneration of our lives by his spirit, can we be made fit for that holy dwelling place into which no unclean thing can enter. (Rev. I., 5, 6; xii., 11; xlii., 11, 12, 14, 15.)

Whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord, for a testimony unto Israel, (Revised Version), a testimony of God's faithfulness and mercy. God is glad of those who give testimony of his power in their

lives. We are his witnesses (Acts I., 8.) and our every act should be a testimony to those around us of the mercy and loving kindness of our Father. All who truly love the Lord Jesus are on their way to the Eternal Zion, and the final gathering will be a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, standing before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands, (Rev. vii., 9-17.)

'Thrones of judgment' were set up in Jerusalem by Jehoshaphat (II. Chron. xix., 8.) for the settling of all controversies by the priests, and Levites and chief of the fathers. But the throne of the house of David is set up forever in the new Jerusalem and 'great David's greater Son,' the prince of peace, rules there eternally.

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem' is interpreted as a call to prayer for the church of God throughout all the world. But as Jerusalem primarily belonged to the Jews, and to the Jews only, so the benefit of these prayers should surely be 'to the Jew first' (Rom. II., 9-11.) The Jews are God's ancient beloved people and are still beloved of Him. Though for their unbelief and disobedience they are being sorely punished yet the time is coming when they shall recognise their Messiah and 'all Israel shall be saved.' (Rom. xi., 26.) Let us not put ourselves on the side of the heathen who incur God's wrath by 'helping forward the affliction' of God's ancient people, while he is punishing them (Zech. I., 14-17.) Let us rather cry to God for the sake of his Son who took upon himself the form of a man, a Jew, that he will with a mighty hand save his ancient people.

Primary Lesson.

A song of Ascents, or going up! Every year the people of God, the Jews, had to go up to Jerusalem to rejoice before the Lord and praise him for all his goodness and faithfulness. The going up to Jerusalem has long been used as a picture of the life of a Christian on the road to heaven.

A going up! Our life is a continual going up, going and growing, our bodies grow, our minds grow and our hearts grow. We can see how our bodies go up, growing taller from year to year. We can tell that our minds are growing because we can understand more each year, perhaps we are promoted in school, and we begin to feel that we know quite a little. But what about our hearts, how are they growing? Some persons' hearts grow small as they grow older because they are drawn in by selfishness or pressed down by cares and petty ambitions. Such hearts are going down instead of going up. When a heart is given to God he washes it, and takes away those things which keep it from growing and immediately it begins 'going up.' Going up in sweet communion with God, going up and out in sweet efforts to help and bless others, going up in daily strength to please the Lord Jesus at home, at school, at play.

Suggested Hymns.

'Pleasant are Thy courts,' 'Come ye that love the Lord,' 'Oh, worship the Lord,' 'I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,' 'All people that on earth do dwell,' 'Praise Him! Praise Him!' 'Stand up and bless the Lord.'

C. E Topic.

Oct. 1. Our own church; what can we do for her? Ps. 122: 1-9. (A meeting to discuss denominational work, led by the pastor.)

Junior C. E.

Oct. 1. Some right and wrong uses of the tongue. James 5: 12-20.

The duty of parents in the work of securing the attendance of their children at the public services of the church is of special importance. Neglect of duty on the part of the parents will have a very baneful effect, an effect which nothing will be able successfully to counteract. There should be proper instruction in the home with regard to the proper relation of the Sunday-school to the church. Let the preaching of God's word be exalted above every other work of the church. If children show an unwillingness to attend public worship parental authority should step in and compel them to go. Parents should be careful never to criticize the pastor in the presence of their children. This will do untold injury. Help the pastor to gain an influence over the minds and hearts of your children in every possible way.—Evangelical Sunday-School Teacher.



Tobacco Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER XVII.—EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON BOYS.

1. Q.—What advantage has a boy who does not smoke over one who does?

A.—He is cleaner, healthier, stronger, happier, and he has more money to spend on other things.

A boy who smokes rarely has money, and if he has no one to look well after him, falls into slovenly habits.

2. Q.—How can boys save themselves and help others to leave off tobacco?

A.—By joining Bands of Hope, Loyal Legions, Anti-Tobacco societies, and influencing others to do so.

3. Q.—What do young triflers of the town usually do and say?

A.—They sneer at our Band of Hope and Loyal Legions, and ask 'What good can these young things do?'

But who cares for the trifter's sneers, and derision?

4. Q.—When a bad boy says with a sneer, 'It is cowardly to be afraid to smoke or drink,' what will you answer?

A.—That they might as well declare it was cowardly to be afraid to commit burglary or murder.

It is never cowardly to keep out of danger when no good is done by rushing in.

5. Q.—What advice do the slaves of tobacco always give to the young when asked?

A.—Never use or touch the unclean, unhealthy, and expensive thing.

6. Q.—Is it almost as bad for a boy to use tobacco as it is to drink?

A.—Nearly, because they are twin evils; one vice is rarely seen without the other, they go hand in hand, it is scarcely possible to separate them.

7. Q.—How should we advise our boys about tobacco?

A.—Keep your lips free and pure from contact with tobacco in every form and do the best you can to prevent your brothers and friends from forming or continuing the practice.

8. Q.—Will the habit of using tobacco grow on a boy?

A.—As a boy is father to the man, so the use of tobacco among boys is father to the confirmed habit among older men.

9. Q.—What statement is made in regard to the use of tobacco by boys?

A.—Many a youth may date the ruin of his health and character from the first whiff of tobacco in the foolish imitation of manhood.

10. Q.—What does Dr. Copeland, a noted physician of England, say about the effect of tobacco on growing boys?

A.—It arrests the growth of a boy, resulting in low stature and weak body.

11. Q.—What was the report of Dr. Constan, appointed by the French Government to investigate the effect of tobacco upon boys?

A.—The depressing action of tobacco on the intellectual development is beyond all question. It clogs all the intellectual faculties and especially the memory. It is greater in proportion to growth of the individual and the facilities allowed him for smoking.

12. Q.—What does Dr. Gibson, the Medical Director of the United States Navy, say of the use of tobacco by boys?

A.—He says that many candidates applying for admission to the Naval Academy have to be rejected on account of defective eyesight and heart troubles, caused by using tobacco.

13. Q.—What was the result of a thorough examination of the public schools in Paris concerning this matter?

A.—The report was, 'Smokers have proved themselves inferior to the others.'

14. Q.—What classes of schools are examined on this tobacco question?

A.—Every grade, even the colleges, and the result was the same in all.

15. Q.—Give the results in the Naval Academy at Brest.

A.—After one year's study eight smokers