

more ignorant than himself. In the Lord Jesus (Rev. Ver.) ; because he is a Christian and therefore free from Jewish requirements. **Nothing unclean** ; literally "common," a term for all those customs and habits, common amongst others, which the strict Jew held to be forbidden. **Esteemeth any thing unclean** ; regards certain food, for example, as forbidden by a divine law. **To him unclean** ; because it would be against his conscience. **Brother . . . grieved** ; troubled by seeing another do what he thinks is wrong, and, perhaps, tempted to follow the example thus set. **No longer in love** (Rev. Ver.) ; but selfishly. **Thy meat** (food) . . . **Christ died**. "You think more of your food than Christ did of His life." (Compare 1 Cor. 8 : 11-13.)

16-18. Your good ; your Christian liberty. Evil spoken of ; because, in exercising your freedom, you have led others astray. **Kingdom of God** ; the principles that rule the Christian life. **Not eating and drinking** (Rev. Ver.). People are not brought into that kingdom merely to enlarge their bill of fare. **Righteousness** ; the righteousness which God for Christ's sake reckons to us. 2 Cor. 5 : 21. **Peace** ; of pardon and acceptance. **Joy in the Holy Ghost** ; one of the fruits of His working in us, Gal. 5 : 22. **In these things** ; making them the first things. **Serveth Christ** ; either by eating or abstaining, but always in righteousness, etc. **Acceptable to God** ; enjoying His free and loving favor. **Approved of men**. Even the world admires a consistent Christian life.

III. OUR DUTY.—19-21. For peace (Rule 1). Do nothing that will mar the peace of the church. **Edify** ("build up," rule 2). Do nothing that will hinder the building up of Christian character in oneself and others. **Destroy not the work of God** ; that is, the church and Christian character. **All things . . . clean** (Rev. Ver.). There is nothing wrong in any food. **It is evil**, etc. But eating is wrong, if it gives offence to others, that is, tempts them to disobey conscience. **It is good**, etc. Love requires us to abstain from food or drink, if our use of these injures our brother.

LESSON QUESTIONS

7-9 Why are our lives not our own ? To whom must we give an account ? How did Christ become Lord of the dead and living ? Find a reference in a sermon of Peter's to Christ's exaltation. (Acts 5 : 31.)

10-12 What two kinds of Christian are referred to in v. 10 ? Against what does Paul warn the first of

these ? Why should none of us think himself superior to others ? What passage from Isaiah does Paul quote ? Where is the same passage applied to Christ ? To whom and for whom must each of us give account ? Find a passage which speaks of the judgment seat as "a great white throne." (Rev. 20 : 11-15.)

13-15 Whom should we "judge ?" What sentence should we pass upon ourselves ? What alone makes any food "unclean ?"

16-18 How may we cause our good deeds to be evil spoken of ? What should we make first in our lives ?

19-21 Show that there is nothing wrong in any food. When is eating wrong ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it wrong for a Christian to use strong drink ?
2. Why should we strive to have the drink trade abolished ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

One summer evening, a lecturer addressing a meeting was greatly annoyed by flies and gnats which gathered about a lamp on the desk at which he was standing. For a time he waved them away with his handkerchief, but, of course, they kept returning. Finally he blew out the light, and, since there was nothing now to attract the insects they kept away. For a long time young men have been warned to keep away from the bar-room ; but the place of temptation is left there, and it brings ruin to multitudes. Surely it is time to take away the bar.

Prove from Scripture—That we should think of others.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment ? A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

The Question on Missions—6. How many missionaries should we have in Korea ? At the very least we should have 8 more ministers, or one for about 100,000 people. We should have six stations, with a doctor and two lady teachers for each station, that is, 3 more doctors, and 4 more teachers.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 503, 506, 86 (Ps. Sel.), 530 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 456.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why should we not pass judgment upon others ?

2. What is our duty towards those weaker and more ignorant than ourselves ?

3. When should we refrain from using our Christian liberty in eating and drinking ?