

faith, which secures and continues salvation, true to Christ, or we shall backslide in religion, ver. 19.

7. Satan, in the place of God, is allowed mysteriously enlarged liberty in dealing with Christians, ver. 20.

8. The first step in the evangelistic warfare we are urging should be prayer, prayer for all of our opportunity, ver. 1.

9. God desires to see all mankind saved, but he cannot save one sinner forcibly, ver. 4.

10. All that God can do to make salvation perfect and universal, he has done, vers. 5, 6.

Lesson IX. May 31. Paul's Charge to Timothy.
2 Tim. 3 14-17; 4. 1-8.

1. Paul, as the theological preceptor of Timothy, had given him a body of Christian divinity, in which the master was anxious that the pupil should abide, possibly mainly the "Gospel of St. Luke," ver. 14. Rom. 2: 16; 2 Tim. 2: 8; 1 Cor. 11: 23-25; Luke 22: 19, 20; 1 Cor. 15: 3; Luke 24: 26, 27; 10: 1-20; 9: 1-5, 23-26; 12: 1-17; 13: 6-9.

2. The word of God plainly approves of and imposes the duty of educating our children at a very early age in its golden truth, ver. 15. 1 Sam. 1: 24; Dent. 31: 12, 13; Prov. 22: 6; Eph. 6: 4; Isa. 38: 19; Matt. 19: 13, 14; Dent. 4: 9; 11: 19; 1 Chron. 28: 9; Luke 2: 51; John 19: 26, 27.

3. Not by faith in the Scriptures, but in the personal, atoning Christ whom the Scriptures reveal, is salvation secured, ver. 15. John 6: 29; 14: 1; Acts 20: 21; Mark 16: 16; Rom. 3: 21, 22, 28, 30; 5: 1; Gal. 2: 16; John 3: 15, 16; 6: 40, 47; 12: 36, 46; 20: 31; 1 Cor. 2: 5.

4. The Bible is the word of God; its teachings are the teachings of God; what it says God says, ver. 16. 2 Pet. 1: 20, 21; Acts 1: 16; Heb. 3: 7; 4: 12; Luke 11: 28; Col. 3: 16; Isa. 34: 16; 30: 9; Psa. 1: 2; 19: 7; 1 Thess. 2: 13; Isa. 8: 20; Acts 17: 11.

5. The positive proof that the Bible is an inspired book is that the supreme experience it promises man has been certainly and repeatedly secured by him, ver. 17. 1 John 1: 7; John 15: 3; 17: 17; Eph. 5: 26; 1 Pet. 1: 23; Psa. 119: 9; 2 Tim. 2: 21; 2 Pet. 3: 10, 11; Rom. 6: 22; 8: 29; 1 John 2: 5, 6.

6. The divine wisdom of the Bible is displayed in the duties it imposes upon man, ver. 17. Dent. 10: 12; Josh. 22: 5; Psa. 1: 1; Eccl. 12: 13; Micah 6: 8; Zech. 8: 16; 1 Tim. 6: 11, 12; Rom. 8: 13; 1 Pet. 2: 11; Luke 1: 74, 75; Titus 2: 12.

7. We should be moved to greater fidelity in our Lord's service by the same charge; that Jesus Christ will at last subdue the whole world to himself, will administer judgment, and then reign forever and ever, ver. 1. Rev. 11: 15; 1 Cor. 15: 51, 52; John 5: 25; 1 Thess. 4: 16, 17; Matt. 16: 27; Titus 2: 13; Jude 15; 2 Thess. 1: 10; Isa. 24: 23; Dan. 7: 14.

8. The substance, spirit, and zeal of Christian preaching into the Lord shall come, and human probation conclude, ver. 2. Matt. 28: 19, 20; Mark 16: 15; Luke 9: 60; 1 Cor. 1: 17; Acts 26: 29; Rom. 10: 1; 15: 19, 23; Acts 2: 14; 3: 12; 10: 42; 1 Cor. 15: 1, 2; Gal. 1.

9. The purpose of preaching is to produce holy character, and he is the great preacher who can so offer the Gospel to sinners that they will accept it and be saved. Some preachers and some churches cannot "endure" real preaching, vers. 3, 4. 2 Tim. 3: 1; 1 Tim. 4: 1; 2 Pet. 3: 3; 1 John 2: 18; Jude 17, 18; Matt. 24: 5, 12; Isa. 5: 19, 20; 1 Tim. 4: 7; Titus 1: 14.

10. Paul's exhortation to Timothy was meant as well for us, ver. 5. 2 Tim. 3: 16; Acts 20: 31; Mark 13: 37; Rev. 2: 2; 1 Thess. 5: 6; 1 Pet. 4: 7; Ezek. 3: 17; Isa. 62: 6; Heb. 13: 17; Matt. 24: 45, 46.

Lessons:

1. No good thing can be secured and retained by man without ceaseless and severe effort, ver. 14.

2. Pride of preceptorship, religious or secular, serves as an inspiration to educational persistency, ver. 14.

3. An intimate acquaintance formed with Christ Jesus, at an early age, by knowing the Holy Scriptures, is almost certain to result in personal salvation, ver. 15.

4. The Bible is inspired; and by that we mean that its teachings are those of God; its thought is God's thought in man's words, ver. 16.

5. God's thoughts, like man's thoughts, may be fully expressed in imperfect grammar and rhetorical constructions, ver. 16.

6. The purpose of the word of God is to make good men. It is the enemy of sin and the friend of holiness, the foe of wrong and the supporter of righteousness, ver. 16.

7. Every duty the Bible imposes upon man he can discharge; and when this grand, practicable attainment is accomplished, biblical, not absolute, perfection is gained, ver. 17.

8. The certainty of accountability to God for the use of opportunity should inspire us to the perfection of fidelity in character and service, vers. 1, 2.

9. Our supreme work in this world is to publish in precept and life the word of God, ver. 2.

10. Rhetoric, elocution, "thought," learning, are now with many more acceptable in the Christian pulpit than the word, vers. 3, 4.

11. Every Christian minister can be evangelistically successful, ver. 5.

12. After the possibly triumphant Christian warfare will come the golden crown of eternal victory, vers. 6-8.

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Book Notices.

A Popular Manual of English Literature. Containing Outlines of the Literature of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States of America. With Historical, Scientific, and Art Notes. By Maude Gillette Phillips. Two volumes. New York: Harper & Brothers. Whether used as a school manual for general reading and reference this work will be found admirably adapted for the purpose. It arranges English literature into ten different periods, each of which is considered by itself and also in connection with contemporaneous history and with the literature of other nations. Typical authors are selected for the different periods, and concise statements made of portraits, personal appearance, and character, homes, friends, literary characteristics and style, with a list of their works and studies of their chief writing. The work shows great care and ability. Each volume is furnished with a complete index for both; an arrangement for which we doubt not every reader will give the author thanks.

Left Behind; or, Ten Days a Newsboy. By James Otis. Illustrated. New York: Harper & Brothers. A capital story about a boy who was "left behind" by the steamer which was to have taken him when it carried his parents to Europe. The youth found friends among the newsboys, and was helped by them into business until he could find his family. That the author of this book knows how to write for boys has been already shown in his "Toby Tyler" series.

Nature's Serial Story. By Edward P. Roe. New York: Harper & Brothers. This series of articles, originally published in *Harper's Magazine*, are brought together in a sumptuous volume, wherein paper and type, story and picture, contribute alike to the enjoyment of the reader. The abundant illustrations, from the pencils of W. H. Gibson and F. Dielman, show nature in her varied aspects through all the seasons of the year.

Our Missionary Heroes and Heroines; or, Heroic Deeds done in Methodist Missionary Fields. By Daniel Wise, D.D. New York: Phillips & Hunt. Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe. Another good book for the "missionary shelf" in the Sunday-school library. Let our pastors and superintendents urge the young people to read these stories, and to the romance of adventure and the inspiration of daring add the value of truthfulness, though some are as strange as fiction. If the scholars in our Sunday-schools will read books like this, some of them may be fired with the zeal that sent forth a Cox, a Turner, and a Shaw, and become worthy successors to the mission workers now in the field.