

LESSONS.

1. Christ wants us to live together in love and unity.
2. We should avoid strife and efforts to glorify ourselves.
3. We should seek others' good as well as our own.
4. We should live to serve even as Christ served.
5. We should honor Christ in all things, and own him as Lord.

PAUL'S LAST WORDS.

12th December.

Les. 2 Tim. 4: 1-8, 16-18. Gol. Text. 2 Tim 4: 7
Mem. vs. 6-8. Catechism Q. 106.

1. A charge to a young Minister. vs. 1-5.
2. A Look Backward and Forward. vs. 6-8.
3. Testimony to Christ's Faithfulness. vs. 16-18.

HOME READINGS.

M. 2 Tim. 1: 1-18 "Timothy, my Dearly Beloved Son."
T. 2 Tim. 2: 1-16 "Thou therefore, my Son, be Strong."
W. 2 Tim. 3: 1-17. "Paul Commends the Scriptures to Timothy."
Th. 2 Tim. 4: 1-22. "Paul's Last Words."
F. 1 Cor. 9: 16-27. "So Run, that Ye may Obtain."
S. Jas. 1: 1-27. "He S' all Receive the Crown of Life."
S. Heb. 12: 1-13. "Let us Run with Patience."

Time and Place.—Written, probably, about A.D. 66, 67, at Rome.

Though there is no record of Paul's life after his first two years in Rome (Lesson VII.), it is believed that his first trial resulted in his acquittal, that he was again arrested while on a tour among the churches, and brought back to Rome where he suffered a second imprisonment much more severe than his first one, and was finally beheaded. It was probably during this second captivity (about A.D. 66, 67), that he wrote his second letter to Timothy. The concluding words of this letter, which we study to-day, were probably, therefore, Paul's last written words. Its solemn charge (Vs. 1, 2) its plain warning of the defection of many from the truth (Vs. 3, 4), and its exhortation to watchful fidelity and to encouragement from the Apostle's experience and example, contain many intensely practical lessons for us.

LESSONS.

1. The young may get good advice from the old.
2. We should live so that we can look back without shame.
3. We should live so that we look into eternity with joy and hope.
4. Though human friends fail us Christ never will.
5. Christ will bring us through all evil to heaven if we trust him.

JOHN'S MESSAGE ABOUT SIN AND SALVATION.

19th December.

Les. 1 John 1: 5-2:6: Gol. Text. 1 John 1: 9.
Mem. vs. 8-10. Catechism Q. 107.

1. Confession and Forgiveness. 1: 5-10.
2. Christ, our Advocate. 2: 1-2.
3. Knowing Christ and Obeying Him. 2: 3-6.

HOME READINGS.

M. 1 John 1: 1-2:6. *John's Message About Sin and Salvation.*
T. 1 John 2: 7-29. "This the promise . . . Eternal Life."
W. 1 John 3: 1-12. "Sin is the Transgression of the Law."
Th. 1 John 3: 13-24. "He Laid down his Life for us."
F. 1 John 5: 1-21. "God hath given to us Eternal Life."
S. Rom. 5: 1-21. "Reconciled to God by Christ's Death."
S. Rom. 8: 1-17. "Free from the Law of Sin and Death."

Time and Place.—Written probably about A.D. 90-95, at Ephesus.

The apostle John, the writer of the words of our lesson, was originally a disciple of John the Baptist, who pointed out to him Jesus as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Thenceforward he became a devoted follower of Christ. He lived to a great age, and this letter was written probably in his last years.

He tells us, in our lesson, that if we truly walk with God we will keep out of the darkness of sin. If we walk in the light of God's truth and love, and confess to him our sins, we shall find forgiveness; our sins shall all be washed away in the blood of Jesus. But we must first believe that we are sinners, or we will not confess our sin. If we do not believe this we make God a liar. When we commit sin, if we confess to Christ, he will secure our pardon from the Father, for he is the propitiation for the sins of the world—that is, by his death he atoned for them. But, though Jesus atoned for the sins of the world, only those who seek for pardon will get it. God will not force forgiveness on any one. If we are in Christ, that is if we know him and love him, we will show it by keeping his commandments.

1. We must walk in the light to have Christ's blood cleanse us from sin.
2. We must confess our sins if we would have them forgiven.
3. If we sin Christ will intercede for us with God.
4. Christ died for our sins, and is able to save us from them.
5. If we are really Christ's friends we will keep his word.

REVIEW 26th DECEMBER.