

CATECHISM QUESTION.

61. What is sin?

Sin is disobedience to the law of God in will or deed.

The mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be.—Romans viii. 7.

All unrighteousness is sin.—1 John v. 17.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Living Jesus.* Make a cross on the board, or pin up one cut from paper. Ask who died on the cross, and by a few questions draw out the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Tell that this lesson shows that, though Jesus died, he is living now, and take the opportunity to impress the truth that the death of the body does not put out the spark of life in the soul which God gives. Teach that Jesus lives now and will live forever, because he was one with God through doing his will, and that if we obey Jesus we shall be one with him, and so shall live forever.

Seeing Jesus. Has any one seen Jesus since he went back to heaven to live. Tell that John saw him, and tells us in this lesson how he looked. Who would like to see Jesus? Who may see him? Teach that those who love him and serve him faithfully as John did will surely see him some day. John was now an old man. He had been sent to a little island called Patmos as a prisoner, by a wicked Roman emperor, for preaching Jesus. Show that this did not hinder him from seeing Jesus, and impress upon the children the truth that nothing but sin can shut out Jesus from our sight. This may be made very practical. Even a very little child will understand that anger, selfishness, falsehood, or any evil passion, shuts the eyes of the heart so tightly that Jesus cannot be seen.

Hearing Jesus. John not only saw Jesus, he heard him. Describe him as John saw him in vision. Speak of the eyes like a flame of fire, which can see into the very bottom of our hearts. Speak of the sharp sword which went out of his mouth—the sword of truth which must cut off and destroy all that is evil. With red crayon make seven stars on the board, and teach a lesson of the mighty power which can hold all stars in his hand, and move this great world at will! And yet this mighty God spoke to John! Will he speak to us? Yes, if we love him and serve him as John did. Who holds the keys of the other worlds in his hand? Ask what a key is for. Can we enter a room which is locked if we do not have the key? Suppose we have no key of our own, what shall we do? If we know some one who has a key we will ask him to let us in. Jesus holds the key to our eternal life. He holds the key to death and hell. We do not want to enter this door, and Jesus will keep it closed for us if we ask him. If we show by our love and obedience that we want to enter into life, Jesus will open the door.



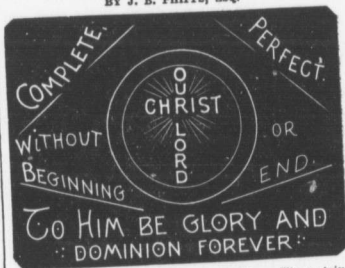
Lesson Word-Pictures.

It is the Lord's day upon Patmos. How still, secluded, is the hour when to the soul of the prophet is given the Spirit's rapt vision! Suddenly there is a great voice behind him. He turns. He looks. There is a glow, a glitter, a dazzle, and out of the stranger,

confusing, bewildering light, come into distinctness of outline the seven golden candlesticks. In the midst of them rises the form of the Shining One. Like the whiteness of the wool, like the whiteness of the snow, is his hair. Like flaming fire are his eyes. Like the brass in the fiery furnace, molten, clear, blinding the vision, are his feet. In his right hand are held seven stars. Sharp the two-edged sword of flame going out of his mouth, and all his face dazzling like the noon-day sun. How majestic his voice, like "the sound of many waters!" The prophet can no longer look. He cannot speak. He cannot stand. He falls as one dead. A step, a touch, a voice, and, lo, the Alpha and the Omega speaks!

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



Draw this before the school assembles. Tie a string to a piece of white chalk, and draw a circle. Hold the string against the board with the left hand, and make the circle with the right hand holding the chalk. Why make a circle? Because we want to represent the completeness of Christ, without beginning or end, thus symbolizing his eternal presence.

COLORS. Circle white; rays yellow; letters red, shaded with blue.

LESSONS FOR DECEMBER, 1886.

- Dec. 5. Worshipping God and the Lamb. Rev. 5. 1-14.
 Dec. 12. The Saints in Heaven. Rev. 7. 9-17.
 Dec. 19. The Great Invitation. Rev. 22. 8-21.
 Dec. 26. Fourth Quarterly Review.

Book Notices.

With Pack and Rifle in the Far South-west. Adventures in New Mexico, Arizona, and Central America. By Achilles Daunt. With Twenty-five Illustrations. London and New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons. This is a book full of useful information conveyed in a manner very attractive to youthful readers. History, antiquities, geography, natural history, hunting scenes, and adventures are given, until the reader wishes he might have been with the writer, excepting in a few instances, when probably most of the readers would be glad they were at a safe distance.

Seeking a Country; or, The Home of the Pilgrims. By the Rev. E. N. Hoare, M.A. With Thirty-one Illustrations. London and New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons. The history of the founders of New England is here given under the thin veil of a story. The historical matters are true to fact, and the others are true to nature. The nobility and heroism displayed by the pilgrim fathers are worthy of perpetual recognition and remembrance, and this volume will aid in securing these.