

LESSON XI—September 12th, 1897.

Christian Living. Rom. 12: 9-21.

(Commit to memory verses 16-18. Read chapters 12 and 13).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12: 21.

PROVE THAT—We should be diligent in business. Rom. 12: 11.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 92. *What is a sacrament.* A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed and applied to believers. Quest. 93. *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?* The sacraments of the New Testament are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 15, 101, 109, 118.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Reasonable service. Rom. 12: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Christian living. Rom. 12: 9-21. *Wednesday.* Loyalty and love. Rom. 13: 1-10. *Thursday.* Clean hands and pure heart. Psalm 24. *Friday.* Dead to sin. Rom. 6: 11-23. *Saturday.* A shining light. Matt. 5: 1-16. *Sabbath.* Family religion. Eph. 6: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. This chapter begins the second or practical part of the Epistle. The Apostle has shown that there is but one way of salvation, namely, justification by faith in Christ. Redemption and all the blessings that accompany it flow from free grace. "O, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God." What, then, should the life of one be who has been saved by the blood of Christ? This is answered in the last half of the Epistle. The Epistle was written at Corinth early in A. D. 58. Paul was residing in the house of one Gaius (Rom. 16: 23; I. Cor. 1: 14), and the Epistle was dictated to Tertius (16: 22), who wrote it out. It was carried to Rome by Phoebe, a deaconess (16: 1, 2).

LESSON PLAN. I. Loving our Friends vs. 9-16. II. Loving our Enemies vs. 17-21.

9. Dissimulation—R. V. "Hypocrisy." Let your love be no mere parlor pretence or mask for selfishness (I. Pet. 1: 22). "Avoid what is injurious to others, and earnestly endeavor to do whatever is kind and useful" (Ps. 34: 14; 97: 10; Amos 5: 15). **10. Tenderly affectioned (R. V.)—**Love one another as if really brothers and sisters. **Pre-ferring—**"Anticipating." Instead of waiting for others to do us honor we should be forward to show them respect. **11. Business—**This does not refer to our secular concerns, but to christian activity. There should be no idleness in the church hive. **Serving the Lord—**(Col. 3: 23). R. V. margin, "Serving the opportunity." Making the most of every opportunity to do good, or adapting your conduct discreetly to circumstances (Eph. 5: 16). **12. In hope—**Rejoicing in expectation of future blessedness. Christians are to be joyful, patient and prayerful. **Instant—**Importunate, earnest, fervent (Luke 18: 1; I. Thess. 5: 17; Acts 12: 5). **13. Distributing—**(R. V.) "Communicating." Sharing their wants and trials by sympathy and charity. **Given to—**"Pursuing after." Seek opportunities of exercising hospitality. **14. Bless—**Sincerely desire their good and pray for them (Matt. 5: 44; Acts 7: 60; I. Cor. 4: 12). **15. Selfish indifference to the joys and sorrows of others is most unlike Christ** (Phil. 2: 4; I. Cor. 12: 26). **16. Of the same mind—**Do not let discords arise, but yield to one another in opinions. **High things—**The chief places, honors and social distinctions. **Things that are lowly (R. V.)—**Not only persons but occupations (Prov. 3: 7; Isa. 5: 21). **17. Honorable (R. V.)—**Act so as to win the confidence and good will of men. **18. As much as lieth in you—**We are not required to preserve peace at the cost of truth and principle (Ps. 3: 17). **19. Give place—**Don't get angry in turn (Dext. 32: 35; Ps. 94: 1). **20. Coals of fire—**You kill your enemy by making him your friend (Prov. 25: 21, 22; Ps. 140: 10; 11: 6). The expression denotes the severest and surest destruction i. e. of the enmity. **21. Do not let the evil word or deed of others arouse the evil in your own heart; but conquer the evil in them by your kindness.**

LESSONS. 1. Let a loving spirit rule over all we say and do. 2. Be industrious, cheerful and prayerful. 3. Be kind, generous and sympathetic with everybody. 4. It takes two to make a quarrel; don't be one of such a pair. 5. Overcome enemies by turning them into friends.