

we behold sorrowing men, show them these blessing hands." (Tholuck).

53. Continually in the temple—at the usual hours of prayer (Acts 1: 13, 14; 2: 46; 3: 1; 5: 42). **Blessing God**—Thus "the days of their mourning were ended." They were filled with happiness at the assurance of

redemption; and expressed whatever Christian should feel—fulness of joy at the glad tidings that a Saviour has died, and risen, and ascended to God; and an earnest desire to pour forth, in the sanctuary, prayers and thanksgivings to the God of grace for his mercy to a lost and ruined world. (Barnes).

LESSONS. 1. We need the help of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Bible. 2. Only in his name is the forgiveness of sin possible. 3. We should send the gospel to every nation, but care specially for the unsaved at home. 4. Every Christian is a witness for Christ. 5. Jesus is now at God's right hand interceding for his people.

BLACKBOARD OUTLINE.

GO
TELL
ALL
MEN

MY DOCTRINE
DEATH
RESURRECTION
REDEEMING LOVE

—S. S. Times.

"We are witnesses of these things."

We conclude with regret our year's study of the life of Jesus. We have but skimmed over it, so rapidly have we passed from one scene to another. Yet every earnest teacher will feel that the Saviour has been brought nearer, and his life as a whole has been better understood than ever before. We sum up the impression which the unique biography has made by quoting the words of one of whose departure the church has but lately mourned.

"The Christ of the gospels shews not the faintest trace of fanaticism or self-delusion. On the contrary, he discouraged and opposed all the prevailing carnal ideas and hopes of the Messiah, as a supposed political reformer and emancipator. He is calm, self-possessed, uniformly consistent, free from all passion and undue excitement, never desponding, ever confident of success even in the darkest hour of trial and persecution. To every perplexing question he quickly returned the wisest answer; he never erred in his judgment of men and things; from the beginning to the close of his public life, before friend and foe, before magistrate and people, in disputing with Pharisees and Sadducees, in addressing his disciples or the multitude, while standing before Pontius Pilate or Caiaphas, or suspended on the cross, he shews an unclouded intellect and complete mastery of appetite and passion—in short all the qualities the very opposite to those which characterize those laboring under self-delusion or any mental disease.

Endowed with the keenest moral sensibilities and tenderest sympathies, moving in a corrupt age of this wicked world, and tempted as we, yea more than we are, by unbelief, ingratitude, malignity, denial and treason, yet he maintained a spotless innocence to the last. He was ever true to his mission of mercy, lived solely for the glory of God and the good of mankind; united, in even symmetry, the opposite graces of dignity and humility, strength and gentleness, severity and kindness, energy and resignation, active and passive obedience even to the death on the cross, and furnished an exemplar of perfect humanity.

The same in doctrine and conduct from the beginning to the close, before friend and foe, in private and public life, in action and suffering, he had never to retract a word, never to regret a deed, never to ask the pardon of God or man. His calmness and serenity were never disturbed; he never felt unhappy or desponding, and, at the close of his ministry, he could say to his heavenly Father in the presence of his intimate friends and disciples: "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Such was Jesus of Nazareth—a true man in body, soul, and spirit, yet differing from all men, a character absolutely unique and original, from tender childhood to ripe manhood moving in unbroken union with God, overflowing with the purest love to man, free from every sin and error, innocent and holy, teaching and practising all virtues in perfect harmony, devoted solely and uniformly to the noblest ends, sealing the purest life with the sublimest death, and ever acknowledged since as the one and only perfect model of goodness and holiness! All human greatness loses on closer inspection; but Christ's character grows more and more pure, sacred, and lovely, the better we know him." (Schaff).