

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

By the Editor.

The Gracious Invitation.

Isaiah 55: 1-11.

THE lesson studied last week presented to us the wonderful scene of God's Son suffering for sinful man. To-day we have an invitation to come and share in all the blessings provided by, and flowing from this great Saviour. Now, dear children, you know that it gives you pleasure to receive an invitation to be present at a tea meeting, or to spend a pleasant day with a friend. How glad you are when your mother gives you permission to accept such an invitation; and perhaps it seems to you that the days pass slowly till that one arrives on which you are to enjoy the festival. Now, this lesson tells of a feast. You will see the nature of the feast if you read Matthew 22. And remember that the invitation is the most wonderful of all invitations to which the world has ever listened. It is a wonderful invitation, (1) Because it includes all, old and young, rich and poor, black or white, "EVERYONE." (2) With this invitation is a promise of everything for nothing, "WITHOUT MONEY." (3) As a rule, things which are given away are of little service, but here we have the promise of something valuable and satisfying:

Water to refresh—Wine to strengthen—Milk to nourish. Now, it is no use expecting to find any thing earthly that will satisfy you. Jesus has something to give you which will make you *quite* satisfied and glad, and you will be *always* satisfied and glad. Now, this must be meant for you, because He says "whosoever," and that means "anybody that likes!" And He says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to waters!" And, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." (4) Not only will you get enough for yourself, but you will get so much that you will be able to give to others (read John 7: 38).

Now, dear children, is it not a grand invitation? Don't you think a boy or girl, or man, or woman would be foolish to refuse such an invitation? and yet they do. Perhaps you are doing so now. Have you given your heart to the Lord Jesus? Do you love to study your Bible? If not. Why? Simply because you have not accepted this invitation, for the lesson really means that God is asking you to believe on the

Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Jesus is the Water—the Wine—the Milk, and the boy or girl who believes in Jesus finds satisfaction and pleasure. In fact he has a continual feast of good things

But read the 6th verse "Seek *while* He may be found"—"Call *while* He is near." If a person came and asked you to go to a party, and he said he had to take an answer back to the friends who sent the invitation, you would have to accept *while* the person was there. If you did not it would be too late after he had gone. So God says, "I want your answer. Will you accept?" Dear children, NOW is the time to say "Yes, Lord, I accept Jesus. I want to be at that great feast. I thank you for the invitation, and by thy help I come." That is doing as God *invites* you to do—as God *commands* you to do. And if you come just as you are, young as you are, He will gladly wel-

come you, and there will be joy in Heaven "because you have accepted it."

Will ye not say to him, like the poor women at the well, "Lord Jesus, give me this water, that I thirst not!" Listen to His kind answer! "Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved!"

The Close.

WE have now reached the closing Sabbath of another year. In many schools the lesson will be a

Review. It is very important to have such a review, but we shall leave your teacher to choose his own line of thought, and we shall use the few lines left at our disposal in urging upon you to review the past year. I am sure you see many blots—many naughty words and actions. Remember, dear children, that you cannot blot them out. You cannot undo any of those acts. Perhaps you ask, "What shall we do, then, to remove these stains?" There is only one person that can forgive, and that is God. Now, will you not come to Him. Accept that invitation, of which we have just been speaking. He will blot out all the sins of the past. He will wash and make you white as snow. If you do this, the New Year will be a very "Happy New Year." May it prove so to each of our young readers.

"OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

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