

LESSON XIII—December 26th, 1897.

God's Love in the Gift of His Son. 1 John 4: 9-16.

(Commit to memory verses 9-11).

GOLDEN TEXT: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 5: 16.

PROVE THAT—Salvation is free to all. Rev. 22: 17.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Review Quest. 95-107.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 30, 26, 520, 519. (Old Hymnal, Nos. 17, 27, 19, 211)

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* God's love in the gift of his Son. 1 John 4: 9-16. *Tuesday.* The prophecy. Isa. 9: 1-7. *Wednesday.* Visit of the Magi. Matt. 2: 1-10. *Thursday.* Herod foiled. Matt. 2: 11-23. *Friday.* The Word. John 1: 1-14. *Saturday.* Message to the shepherds. Luke 2: 8-20. *Sabbath.* Simeon's Prophecy. Luke 2: 25-35. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. [We substitute the Christmas lesson for the Review believing that this will be more acceptable to our schools. The lessons for 1898, upon the Life of Christ, omit the narrative of his birth, apparently assuming that it has been the subject of study. This lesson may therefore be considered the first of the new series for next year].

John "the beloved disciple," tells us about God's love in sending his son. Love is the constant theme of his writings. His Gospel tells us much about the love of Christ; his Epistles urge brethren to love one another; and here he traces all love up to its source in the infinite love of God.

LESSON PLAN. I. God's Love to us. vs. 9-11. II. God's Love in us. vs 12, 13. III. Dwelling in Love. vs. 14-16.

9. In this—God's love to us is shown in many ways, but there is one manifestation of it that surpasses all others—He gave his Son to die for us. **His only begotten Son—**There is only one Son of God and he was God's Son before he came into the world. How wonderful the love that surrendered such a treasure! The world lay under sentence of death on account of sin,—Christ died that the curse might be removed and sinners live by believing on him. 10. Herein is love—Purest love, displayed in a most wonderful manner. Love that freely gives itself away and asks but love in return. His love was not called forth by our love to him, for the world did not want to be saved. No one can say that he loved God first. God loves the sinner first and therefore He sent His Son to bear his punishment for him so that He might remove every obstacle to his return to his loving Father. 11. If God loved us so much when there was nothing in us deserving of his love, we ought to love our brethren who are as much beloved by him as we are. Six times in this Epistle John uses the affectionate term "Beloved." 12. Hath seen God—Although we cannot see God yet we may have fellowship with him as really as if we saw him, by loving our christian brethren. If we love them God will dwell in our hearts and we shall love him more and more. In our last lesson we were told that if we obeyed God we

should love him perfectly, here we are shown another way by which to increase our love of him, namely, by loving our brethren whom we see. 13. **Hereby we know—**If we love the brethren God will come into our hearts and dwell there, and will let us know that he is our Divine Guest, by giving us the Holy Spirit. The more we love the more of his Spirit do we receive and thus we know that God is in us and we are in him. 14. **We have seen—**John and the other apostles spoke from personal acquaintance with Christ. We cannot have true love to God and fellowship with him unless we accept Christ as our Saviour. God cannot receive those who reject his Son and despise, or disregard, the love he showed in sending him. 15. **Jesus is the Son of God—**This is the central truth of the Bible. Jesus of Nazareth was the second person of the Trinity, "the same in substance and equal in power and glory" with the Father and the Holy Spirit. There is no redemption from sin if this is not true. Only God could save men. 16. **We have known and believed—**Too many know about God's love, but do not believe it in their hearts. If we really believe it we cannot help loving him. **God is love—**This is the most precious truth in the Bible. Love is like the diamond itself while all God's attributes are the flashing facets on its surface. They are but love in its various relations.

LESSONS. 1. God gave his son for us, what have we given in return? 2. We can at least try to love those who love Jesus. 3. The way to love God more is to love others more. 4. Jesus is our divine Saviour. 5. Let our Christmas greeting to everyone, no matter how bad they are, be "God loves you—He gave Jesus for you."