

The Home Study Quarterly

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There are about 200 verses in our card of Memory Passages, which is made up of Scripture passages, each one complete in itself and all arranged in the line of the Sabbath School lessons of the year. The price is 50c. per hundred cards. We shall be pleased to send samples to any address.

The lessons of the Quarter just ended concerned THE KING—His kingdom, His laws, His power, His wrath and mercy, His word and His work. The Golden Text was, "Thy kingdom come."

The Golden Text of the present Quarter turns our thoughts upon ourselves. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only," it says. The words are of James, the apostle of practice, and the lessons one after another present some phase of our privilege or duty as workers—Christ's workers, He the Master and chief workman, His followers, laborers together with Him.

It is only by doing that we can prove the sincerity of our profession of belonging to Christ the Lord. It is by what we do, not by what we say, that men judge us. Mere talkers are properly discounted on all hands. They fare badly when they come face to face with the eternal Judge. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"—is His own word. The blunt, hard-headed, every-day James declares that "faith without works is dead;" and his glorified Lord is equally emphatic that only "they that do His commandments" "have right to the tree of life, and enter in through the gates into the city."

That glorified Lord is Himself the chief pattern and example of a "doer of the word." It was His very life to labor in the service of His heavenly Father. "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." Which least commandment of God was He not diligent to observe? What heaviest task did He not faithfully perform? His obedience quailed not at the agonies of the Garden and the Cross. "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you," He said to His disciples, as, after the resurrection, He turned their thoughts back upon the days of His ministry among men. The one command of the risen Lord was "Go," His one errand for His followers in all the ages is "make disciples"—teach, preach, labor, to make your fellow-men of such sort as yourselves, and therefore liker to God.

This doing is itself a large part of knowing. The gateway to the knowledge of God is obedience to God. A certain superficial head knowledge any one may get, but a true understanding of God and of His revelation to men can come only by a ready doing of the will of God. "If any man will do His will," says the Son of God Himself, "he shall know of the doctrine." There is no such thing as a theoretical knowledge of God, in any deep sense of the word knowledge, for only through putting into practice what one does know is he admitted to the loftier mysteries. So that, for teacher and scholar alike, even from the standpoint of ability to fathom the Scriptures, a hearty desire and effort to keep God's commandments and to do whatever practical work in God's kingdom may come to their hand, is of prime importance. God's best workers are on the high way to being God's best scholars.