

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD.

Dec. 24. THE GREAT INVITATION.

Les. Rev. 22 : 8-21. Gol. Text Rev. 22 : 17.
Memory vs. 16, 17. Catechism Q. 79-81.

Christmas is here the season for invitations. At no other time of the year are there so many, and some of them are very good.

How fitting, that with the closing year, from the last chapter in the Bible, you should have, as a lesson, among your other invitations, God's last great invitation.

How much better it is, than even the best of the invitations anybody else can give. Parties and plays soon pass; friends invite us for a few hours at most. God's invitation is to come to Him, take pardon, and be His friend for ever.

Then there are some people that do not get invitations to earth's good things, but God's invitation is to all. Have you accepted it? Are you His friend?

Now look at two or three verses :

Verse 11 tells us what our future is to be. The one who is unjust and filthy here is to be unjust and filthy for ever. The one who is holy here is to be holy for ever. Young people you are now shaping your lives for eternity. What is that eternity to be?

Verse 15. Outside the city. Into earth's cities we may go, and we may take sin with us; but into the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, no sin can enter, and we, ourselves, cannot enter so long as we cling to sin.

Verse 17 tells us who it is that carries God's invitations; the "Bride," that means the church. All the work that the church does in opening the Gospel is saying "come." Him that heareth, that means you and me, all who hear the invitation should pass it on.

"Whosoever will." That is better than if your name were there. "Whosoever" means you and me, if we "will."

How free is God's invitation, and how good. It is to give up ourselves, our hearts, our lives, to Christ, just as we are, to accept a full and free pardon since He has paid the penalty of our sins. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Remember that accepting the invitation is but half our duty. "Let him that heareth say come." Whether we accept it or not we are under obligation to pass it on. Others are perishing. Are you saying "come."

Dec 31. REVIEW.

This is a solemn day. The last of the year. Review not only the lessons, but the life of the year. What use have you made of it? One year less remains in which to seek the Saviour, to do good for self, for others, for God. Soon the last day of life will come; How will you stand then?

Jan. 7. THE FIRST ADAM.

Les. Gen. 1 : 26-31. Gol. Text, Gen. 1 : 27.
Mem. vs. 1 : 26-28. Catechism Q. 83, 84.

The lessons for the next six months are from the beginning of the Bible, most of them from Genesis, an old, old book, the oldest book in the world, which Jesus Himself ascribes to Moses. Some of it happened thousands of years before Moses, and so he learned some of it from stories that were handed down from month to month, some of it he gathered from some kind of books that had been written before his time, and some of it God revealed to him, as it took place before there was any man on earth to see what was doing. But no matter from what source he learned his facts, the Holy Spirit guided him in the telling of the truth, for we are told that holy men of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and Christ Himself tells us that these old books are true.

This lesson tells about man's creation, after God's five other great creative days or periods when all other things were created. There are three parts to the lesson.

I. *Man's Creation*, vs. 26, 27. He was created in God's likeness, pure, and holy and good, as Christ was when upon earth. Sin has spoiled that likeness, but God wants us to get it back again, and so loved us that Jesus came as a Saviour to die for us, that we might get back into his likeness.

II. *Man blessed*, vs. 28-31. God made man the master of all creatures, and to-day, although there are a great many animals stronger than man, yet man by his knowledge and skill can master and destroy any of them. But when man has such power he should be kind, and it makes him worse than a brute to abuse animals that are in his power for a brute knows no better, while man does.

When God had finished everything it pleased Him well. He called it very good. It was just as He had made it. How sad when young people spoil God's good work by their wrong doing.

III. *God resting*, vs. -3. This does no mean that God was weary, but merely that He ceased his work of creating. God's rest is continuing, for Creation is finished. And then to keep man in fellowship with Him, He told man that after working six days, he should rest the seventh and hold fellowship with God in His rest. Since Christ came, the Sabbath is a type of the work that He did and to keep redemption in memory.

We should ask the Spirit to take away our sin and make us anew in Christ's likeness.

We should carefully guard God's day of rest which reminds us of Christ's finished work.