

God always (Matt. 20: 27; 23: 11; Mark 9: 35). Read John 13: 1-17. **5. In my name**—for my sake; because I wish him to do so. **Receiveth me**—Every kindness done to children, or childlike persons, will be accepted by Jesus as if done to himself.

II. HATE SIN. 6. Offend—R. V. "cause one of [them] to stumble," or tempt them to sin. A terrible curse rests upon anyone who is the cause of the very lowliest disciple going astray. **7. Offences**—R. V. "occasions of stumbling." We cannot live in a sinful world without meeting tempters, but God will punish those who lead others into sin (Matt. 26: 24). **8, 9**—If anything, no matter how dear, or how useful, is the cause of our doing wrong, or stands between us and perfect obedience, we must part with it, no matter how much pain it may cost us. **The eternal fire** (R. V.)—(Matt. 25: 41). **The gehenna of fire** (R. V. marg.)—This expression always means the abode of the lost. Gehenna was a valley south of Jerusalem, a former scene of Molech

worship, where perpetual fires were kept burning to consume the refuse of the city. It was a spot unclean, disgusting and abhorred. **10. These little ones**—children and childlike believers. **Their angels**—There is no Scripture proof for guardian angels, one assigned to each person, but angels, who stand in God's presence, are the servant's of God's people. (Heb. 1: 14; Ps. 34: 7; Luke 1: 9.)

III. GOD LOVES YOU. 11—Luke 9: 56; 19: 10; John 3: 17; 12: 47; 1 Tim. 1: 15. This verse is omitted in the R. V., but it is true, and we may well consider it here. **12**—See Luke 15: 3-7. Jesus left the millions of holy angels who never sinned, and came to the wilderness of this sinful world to find lost man. **13**—(Luke 15: 7-10). Those in heaven know from what unutterable misery the sinner has been saved. **14**—God sincerely desires the salvation of all men. Those who are lost, are lost because they refuse to be saved. (1 Pet. 3: 9; Ezek. 33: 11; 2 Sam. 14: 14; Lam. 3: 33; Hosea 11: 8.)

LESSONS.

1. Our only ambition should be to do good to others. 2. True piety shews itself in a childlike spirit. 3. We serve Christ himself when we shew kindness for his sake. 4. We should be careful not to lead another astray by word or example. 5. Make any sacrifice rather than do wrong. 6. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

LESSON VII—February 17th.

The Good Samaritan. LUKE 10: 25-37.

(Commit to memory verses 25-27.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Lev. 19: 18.

PROVE THAT

We should help strangers. Hab. 13: 2.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 12, 36, 224, 118.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 9. *What is the work of creation?* A. The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Good Samaritan; Luke 10: 25-37. *Tuesday.* Old Testament Teaching; Lev. 19: 11-18; *Wednesday.* Recognition of Service; Matt. 25: 31-40. *Thursday.* Overcoming by Love; Rom. 12: 10-21. *Friday.* God's Love an Example; Matt. 5: 43-48. *Saturday.* The Feast of Mercy; Isa. 58: 6-12. *Sabbath.* The Royal Law; James 2: 1: 9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The intervening history includes Matt. 18: 15-36; Luke 9: 57-62; John 7: 11; 10: 21, and Luke 10: 1-24. The parable of the Good Samaritan was probably spoken in Perea, the district beyond Jordan, as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem to the Feast of the Dedication. (Luke 9: 51.) There are no parallel passages. The parable occurs in Luke only.

LESSON PLAN. I. A Great Question. vs. 25-29. II. Answered by an Example. vs. 30-37.

I. A GREAT QUESTION. 25. Tempted (ch. 18: 18; Matt. 19: 16; Mark 10: 17.) He him—put him to the test. It does not appear that he had any hostile feelings to Christ. Compare also Matt. 22: 35. **What shall I do?**—This question was doubtless often asked. (10)