

he lives with his aunt, a poor but kind body. Robert used to notice in John's Bible the hymns and tracts John's Sabbath school teacher used to give him, and wished he was at the same class. But nobody ever asked him, and he "did not like" to go, his clothes were so shabby. Now he is glad, and John and he go to the school together.

My dear reader, have you felt, like John, the value of your soul? Have you felt the love of Christ constraining you? Have you ever got *one* neglected boy or girl to come to your Sabbath school? Is there no one in the street, or alley, or house you live in, whom you could try to get to go with you next Sabbath? You cannot; perhaps, go as a missionary to a foreign land; but are you doing what you *can*? If you saw a poor child in the street perishing from hunger, and you had a loaf, far larger than you could yourself need or make any use of, would you keep it all to yourself? Now *try*; and pray for a blessing.

What a Wise King Asked of God.

When king Solomon began his reign, he offered a great many sacrifices to the Lord, and humbly sought his favour and friendship. This was doing as he ought.

We begin life well, when we begin it with God. And so, when we begin any business, if we begin it with God, we begin it well, but not otherwise.—We should acknowledge God in all our ways, and then we may expect that he will direct our paths.

And so, the great God appeared to Solomon in a dream, by night, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee!"—And Solomon said, "O Lord my God; thou hast made thy servant king, instead of David my father; and I am but a little child. And thy servant is in the midst of a great people. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart, to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad." And God was pleased, that Solomon had asked wisdom to do good to his people,

and to glorify his holy name: and not riches, or long life, or the life of his enemies.

And God heard his prayer, and gave him a wise and an understanding heart, so that there was no king like to him either before or since. And besides wisdom, the Lord gave him very great honours, and riches, and pleasures.—God will ever honour those who honour him.

But does he not say to each of us, Ask what I shall give thee? Yes, he does. We may hear his voice in his holy word. And what should we ask? I know what I will ask.

I will ask him, to give me a heart to know him. Many people have heard about him, and have read of him, who have not a heart to know him; and so, though they profess to know him, they do not admire him, they do not love him, nor do they delight in his service.

I will ask him to give me the pardon of my sins. I have indeed too often sinned against him. I have indulged wicked thoughts, spoken improper and wicked words, and done, very many times, those things which I ought not to have done. The wages due to my sins, is death. It is of the Lord's mercies, that I am not consumed. I will ask of him, through Jesus Christ, to pardon my sins. In the dear Saviour, mercy and truth meet together, righteousness and peace embrace each other. In him, God is just, and yet a Saviour.

I will ask him to give me all needful grace to discharge every duty incumbent on me. I will seek grace to repent, and to believe on his dear Son,—to love his charming name,—to follow him whithersoever he goeth,—to overcome every sin,—to bear up under all the trials of life, and to hold on and out in my Christian course, even till time with me shall end.

I will ask him to give me his sacred presence, to cheer me in my dying moments, and though altogether unworthy, I will ask for a place among his people, though it be the lowest, and the meanest, at his right hand in glory.