

Lesson XII.

ABSTINENCE FROM EVIL

September 20, 1903

A TEMPERANCE LESSON

1 Pet. 4 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 1, 2.

Golden Text—Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.—Eph. 5 : 18.

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind : for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin ;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gen'tiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries :

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to same excess of riot, speaking evil of you :

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand : be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves : for charity shall

cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God ; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth : that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Amongst those who had a great share in first spreading the gospel of Jesus among the heathen of Asia and Europe, was the apostle Peter.

When Peter, towards the end of his life, came to Rome on a visit to Paul, he wrote a special letter of warning and advice to the Christians of Asia, many of whom had lately come out on the side of Christ from amongst the heathen around them.

In this letter Peter tried to show plainly what it meant to be a true follower of Christ, and how old habits of evil might, by the grace of God, be overcome and destroyed.

"First of all," said Peter, "you who would follow Christ must love the things that He loves. You can now take no pleasure in the sinful enjoyments of your heathen neighbors, who speak evil of you and think it strange that you will no longer join

them in the drunkenness and bad behavior that is a part of their heathen worship and holiday.

"But you must not be turned aside from doing right by what people say. Remember that soon everyone of you shall give an account of himself to the Lord Christ, when He comes to judge the world at the last day.

"Now you must not think," wrote the wise apostle, "that, because you have believed the gospel, you shall escape from the troubles and temptations of other men. You shall not ; but God by His Spirit is able to give grace and strength to overcome them.

"Here are some of the ways by which you may get the better of sin and evil. Be watchful, keep good company, be prayerful, have self-control. Above all things, have love one toward another, for love shall cover a multitude of sins.