

Our Mission Union,

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gather his warriors round him, those who have fought and suffered for him during this time of war. They will be nearest who are most faithful. None will be among the chosen but those who have been under fire. It is blessed to be saved; it will be far more glorious to have an abundant entrance granted you into the everlasting kingdom.

Strive for this with prayer, if you are not now seeking it. "Giving all diligence, add to your faith, courage; and to courage, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance [or conduct and conversation]; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness [imitating Christ]; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you to be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If ye do these things, ye shall never stumble, for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. i. 5-11).

The first sight of His face, the first sound of His voice, and all our present trials will be forever forgotten. Strive for the abundant entrance the love of Christ and his glory your motives; his Word your guide; his strength your stay. So will you, by His grace, obtain it. Oh, the glorious and eternal future!—forever with the Lord. How bright it shines! how near it seems!

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

BY REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

[Oct. 18.] Jehu's False Zeal. [2 Kings x. 15-31]

The golden text of this lesson is one of great importance to the scholar. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly" Obedience to God in the way of all His commandments is a perennial spring of moral health—and spiritual strength, and abiding peace—the source of the highest experience and character.

DIVINE RETRIBUTION HAS COME AT LAST ON THE REIGNING HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Bring out the first notice of Jehu, as first anointed by Elijah when God was preparing for the overthrow of Baal worship. 1 Kings xix. 16, 17. Here we have the record of what this new man did, when he was formally installed as King over Israel. "It is good to be zealously affected in a good cause."

ZEAL FOR SELF, vs. 16, 17, also 1 Kings xxi. 21-24.

Jehu's doings at Samaria, fulfilled this prophecy of Elijah. God does not forget sin—but he pardons the contrite in heart. There is great danger of mistaking zeal for ourselves and our aims, as zeal for God. See the zeal of Saul, Acts xxiii 1-16.

ZEAL AGAINST BAAL, vs. 18-28.

Jehu's course was treacherous and cruel in the highest degree. Those idolaters were guilty in the sight of God and punishable by death, but Jehu was not commissioned to take this course. Elijah was, when answered by fire. See Ex. xxxii. 27; Deut. xiii. 6-11. The boastful, deceitful, crafty spirit marred the work and the worker. It is easier to persecute evil in others than root out evil in ourselves, "Let us lay aside the sin that doth easily beset us,"

ZEAL LACKING FOR GOD'S LAW, vs. 29, 30.

Half hearted service is not acceptable to God, John iv. 24. The retaining of the calves was a direct violation of the second commandment. Jehu cut off the evil society that had developed from Jeroboam's sin—but he clung to the sin. Jehu's ministry brought a respite to Israel, and gave further space for repentance—further opportunity for long suffering—but he "took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart," "Take heed to thyself.

[Oct. 25.] The Temple Repaired. [2 Ks. xii. 1-15.]

We come to consider the House of Judah—a hundred years have passed away since the separation, it has been an eventful time to both parts of the Nation. Israel has had five dynasties—Judah has had but one—continuing in the house of David as God had promised that King. The Temple had fallen into a state of ruin and neglect—and this lesson gives us zeal of a better kind, than in last lesson. The place of Divine worship had always called forth zeal. See Ex. xxxvi. 1-7; 1 Chron. xxix 1-22; Ezra iii. 1, 3.

THE MONEY HAD BEEN WITHHELD. vs. 1-6.

It is of great moment to have a good instructor, v. 2, and it is of greater moment for the young man so to give heed that he may delight in the way and work of God when that instructor is withdrawn by God's providence or death. Let us as teachers aim to build up habits and character of study and good living, that when we are withdrawn there may continue to be fruit unto eternal life, "Strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."

HOW THE MONEY WAS OBTAINED. vs. 7-10.

It had been left to the priests and was a failure—now the King and Jehoiada take the matter in their own hands and appeal to the people—to give freely—and the interest in the House of God revived.

HOW THE MONEY WAS APPLIED. vs. 11-15.

"They continued to give until they made an end—doubtless because they were persuaded of its proper appropriation"—devoted to the object for what it was given. The following outline will be found helpful.

GOD'S HOUSE NEEDS:—

1. Righteous Rulers.
2. Faithful Ministers and Teachers.
3. Earnest and Devout Worshipers.
4. Liberal and conscientious Givers.
5. Healthy financial Plans.
6. Honest and faithful Administration."