

Lesson VI.

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE THESSALONIANS

August 8, 1909

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24. Commit to memory vs. 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT—See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good.—
1 Thessalonians 5: 15.12 ¹ And we beseech you, brethren, to know them ² which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;13 And to esteem them ³ very highly in love for their work's sake. ⁴ And be at peace among yourselves.14 ⁵ Now we exhort you, brethren, ⁶ warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be ⁷ patient toward all ⁸ men.15 See that none render ⁹ evil for evil unto any man; but ¹⁰ ever follow that which is good, ¹¹ both among yourselves, and to all men.16 Rejoice ¹² evermore.Revised Version.—¹ But; ² that; ³ exceeding highly; ⁴ Omit And; ⁵ And we; ⁶ admonish the disorderly, encourage the faint-hearted; ⁷ long-suffering; ⁸ Omit men; ⁹ unto any one evil for evil; ¹⁰ always follow after; ¹¹ one toward another, and toward all; ¹² always; ¹³ to you-ward; ¹⁴ every form; ¹⁵ God of peace himself; ¹⁶ may your spirit; ¹⁷ entire, without blame at; ¹⁸ will also.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Christian and his Fellow Men, 12-15.

II. The Christian and God, 16-24.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Paul's instructions to the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. 5: 12-24. T.—Love to teachers, Heb. 13: 7-17. W.—Caution against disorder, 2 Thess. 3: 6-16. Th.—Doing good to all, Rom. 12: 10-21. F.—Constant prayer, Luke 18: 1-8. S.—Thankfulness, Isa. 25: 1-9. S.—"Think on these things", Phil. 4: 1-9.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus ¹³ concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from ¹⁴ all appearance of evil.23 And the ¹⁵ very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and ¹⁶ I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved ¹⁷ blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who ¹⁸ also will do it.

a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

The Question on Missions—6. Are the scholars regular in attendance at School? Among the East Indian people the children are often kept home to work, or to take care of the baby. The by-roads are muddy, and rivers overflow during the rainy season, so that it is hard to keep up the School attendance.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 240 (Supplemental Lesson); 85; 80; 7 (Ps. Sel.); 387 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 110.

Special Scripture Reading—1 Pet. 1: 2-16. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 152, Orientals at Prayer. For Question on Missions, Tr. 6, Cutting Sugar Cane, Trinidad.

EXPOSITION

Lesson Setting—First and Second Thessalonians were perhaps the earliest of Paul's letters, written about A.D. 51, from Corinth.

I. The Christian and his Fellow Men, 12-15.

V. 12. *We.* Silas and Timothy ("Silvanus and Timotheus") are joined with Paul in this Epistle, ch. 1: 1. *Beseech you.* Paul is very much in earnest. *Brethren.* The apostle does not lord it over the church, but treats its members with gentleness and courtesy. His affection for them is true and deep, ch. 1: 3. *To know them;* acknowledge them and show towards them proper respect. *Which labour among you;* your teachers and guides in the Christian life, like our ministers. *Are over you;* as rulers and leaders. *In the Lord;* that is, in matters of religion, not those in which magistrates or business employers have authority. *Admonish you;* a somewhat severe word. It means to point out plainly to one where he is wrong.V. 13. *Esteem them very highly;* think all the more of them, because they warn you frankly and lovingly when you are goingastray. *In love.* Those who "admonish" us, do so because they love us, and for such a service our love is due to them in return. *For their work's sake;* the work of building up the members of the church in likeness of character to Christ. *Be at peace among yourselves;* so united and earnest in working for Christ and for one another, that quarreling and dissension shall find no room.Vs. 14, 15. *We exhort you;* call upon you as loyal followers of Jesus Christ. *Admonish* (Rev. Ver.). This is the duty of all church members, as well as of their rulers. *The disorderly* (Rev. Ver.); those who, by unbecoming conduct, act like soldiers who leave their place in the ranks. Paul would have the members of the church present an unbroken front against the evils round about them. *Encourage* (Rev. Ver.); put new heart into. *The faint-hearted* (Rev. Ver.); those in despondency because of losing friends by death (compare ch. 4: 13-18); and those fearful of persecution or temptation. *Support the weak;* that is, those weak in faith: