

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON VIII. CHRIST AND THE MAN BORN BLIND.—FEB. 24.

John ix. : 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I am the light of the world."—John ix. 5.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Jesus the Light.

ANALYSIS.—THE SIGHTLESS BEGGAR, v. 1-4.
SHEDDER OF LIGHT, v. 5-7.
SCPTICAL FRIENDS, v. 8-11.

SIMILAR CURES.—Matt. xx. 29-34, Mark x. 46-52, Luke xviii. 35-43, Mark viii. 22-26.

TIME AND PLACE.—A Sabbath in October, A.D. 29. In order the lesson should come between lessons III. and IV. The place was near one of the Temple gates in Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTORY.—As has been already said, to-day's lesson, in point of order, should come between, "Christ the Bread of Life," and "The Great Confession." In the month of October during the feast of tabernacles the disciples went up to Jerusalem, and Christ followed afterwards secretly. It was in one of His walks about the city at this time that he performed this miracle. (Jno. vii. 2-10, 21.)

THE SIGHTLESS BEGGAR, v. 1-4.—It was Jesus who noticed first the blind man, and His glance of compassionate sympathy attracted the attention of the disciples and prompted the question as to the cause of the man's infirmity. It was a common belief in those days that sickness and deformity were a punishment for sin committed either by the sufferer or his ancestry, and so in the case of this blind beggar the problem presented itself most naturally to the minds of the disciples, "who did sin, this man or his parents." The reply of the Master taught a lesson for all time, and one that even to-day many need to learn, "neither hath this man sinned nor his parents so as to bring upon him this affliction, but he is blind that the works of God should be made manifest in him." Here is the solution to the mystery of suffering. The blindness of the man, far from being the result of his sin, was the direct cause of his richest blessing, it brought him into touch with Christ. What a blessed, encouraging insight into the marvellous and mysterious methods of God's wisdom are these words of the Master. Comrades in Christ's service let us see in the sorrow and suffering around us but golden opportunities to manifest the loving works of God, and catching the spirit of the words, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work," go forth into the world's maelstrom of sin, and suffering and sorrow, filled with the tender love and active sympathy that betokens the Christ life.

THE SHEDDER OF LIGHT, v. 5-7.—From the sightless beggar to the Shedder of Light is not so far as one might suppose, nay, thank God it is but a step, "as long as I am in the world I am the light of the world," said the Master, and the radiance of His life trembling down through the dark ages of persecution, flaring in the burning of martyrs, or softly glowing on the face of some believing child; outshining the light of nineteenth century science and progress, bears grandest testimony to the truth of His words. To-day His presence in the world is through the agency of His church, His called out people. The brightness of His light depends upon its faithfulness. Friend, as a part of it, how shines the light through you? Turning from the disciples to the beggar He proceeded to put into practice His statement concerning His mission. He might have opened the blind eyes with a word or glance, but He did not. There was another lesson He wished to teach, that the common place, yes, even that which to the cultured seems offensive, may become holy when used in the service of Christ. And so the clay and the spittle were applied to the darkened eyes. Then came the command, "Go, wash in Siloam, which is like unto Me in that its name means *sent*, and I am the Sent

of God." So in simple faith he went and washed, and came again seeing.

THE SCEPTICAL FRIENDS, v. 8-11.—When those who had been accustomed to the sight of the blind man begging by the wayside, beheld him enjoying the use of his now uncurtained eyes, they could hardly believe their own sense of vision. "Can this be he?" they asked among themselves. And some said, "yes, that is the man," and others, "no, yet it is very like him." But he settled the dispute himself by simply declaring, "I am he." Then they asked "How were thine eyes opened?" and he answered, "the man that is called Jesus opened mine eyes." Notice the progress of his testimony. First it is "the man called Jesus." Then "a prophet," v. 17. Then "a man with whom God was," v. 31-33. And lastly "the Son of God," v. 35-38.

Friend, has the opening of your eyes attracted the notice of your neighbors? Do they ask, "Can this be he?" Have you ever told them, as did the blind man, who gave you light?

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

To What Has Christ Opened Your Eyes.

First Day—To sin—Luke v. 1-8.

Second Day—To danger—Mark ix. 42-48.

Third Day—To safety—Matt. xvi. 13-20.

Fourth Day—To peace—Luke xix. 41, 42; i. 76-79.

Fifth Day—To power—Matt. xvii. 14-20.

Sixth Day—To heaven—Rev. vii. 9-17.

Seventh Day—To WHAT HAS CHRIST OPENED YOUR EYES?

Acts ix. 1-11, 17-21.

The first thing a sinner sees when the light of God's truth pierces the darkness of his soul, is the terrible burden of his sin; but immediately upon this revelation so painful and yet so necessary, there meets his gaze a crimsoned cross and an empty tomb, gloriously significant of a complete salvation from its slavish bondage. As the light shines longer and stronger, and his eyes become more accustomed to its radiance, new beauties reveal themselves to his wondering gaze. In the lives of those around you, instead of the faults and follies on which in your former blindness, you used to vent your bitter criticism, you find traits of character that lift your heart heavenward, and make your soul rejoice. In the word of God, you find instead of distasteful narrative and perplexing doctrinal problems, the very bread of life in all its sustaining, nourishing power. In the book of nature, in storm and sunshine, flower and frost, bird and brook, you see the reflection of the Creator's face and hear the still, small voice whispering sweetly of His love. In the words of a beautiful hymn.

Heaven above is brighter blue,
Earth below is fresher green,
Something lives in every hue
Christless eyes had never seen.
Birds with sweeter songs o'erflow,
Flowers with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.

Boston, '95.

Are you getting ready for Boston? Let me give you a few ideas of what you may expect. In the first place you may anticipate the largest convention ever held in the annals of C.E. Anywhere from 50,000 to 75,000 are looked for. In the second place you may expect the finest programme, and most complete arrangements for a successful gathering that have yet been enjoyed by Endeavorers. A hall holding 8,000, and two tents holding 13,000 each will be in constant use, besides the auditoriums of the largest churches in the city. But more of this anon.

A Million for Missions.

Canada spends an average of \$16 per head annually on liquor, and contributes an average of *ten cents per head to missions*. What are you doing to decrease the former and increase the latter?