

Sabbath Lessons.

August 6th

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

This lesson teacher:

(1) That we are required to preserve our own chastity, 1 Thess. 4. 4.

(2) That we should avoid all occasions of temptation. Prov. 5. 3.

(3) That we should strive to be chaste in our thoughts, words and actions. 2 Tim. 2. 22; Eph. 4. 29; 1 Peter 3. 2.

(4) That to preserve our chastity we must daily meditate on the Word of God. John xv. 3; John xvii. 17. We must watch over the heart, the eyes and ears; Prov. v. 23. We must be temperate in eating and drinking. Rom. xiii. 13; and should avoid all light and unchaste company. Prov. iv. 6.

(5) That we should preserve the chastity of others by taking care to do nothing which tends to ensnare or to defile them Gen. xxxviii 14. 15; and by doing everything that we can by example, or otherwise, to preserve and promote their chastity.

(6) That we may not do anything that tended to unchastity, we should avoid speaking, hearing, reading or writing unchaste expressions, unchaste looks, light and immodest behavior, all immodest apparel, idleness, intemperance, and any other that would lead to the breach of this commandment.

(7) The breach of this commandment should be avoided.

(1) Because pollution or uncleanness exceedingly dishonours God. Gen. xxxix. 9; Ps. li. 4; Job xxxi. 11.

(2) Because falls into this sin are not unfrequently the punishment or some other sin. Prov. xxii. 14; Rom. i. 26; Hosea iv. 14.

(3) Because it frequently leaves a stain upon the character. Prov. vi. 33.

(4) Because it secures the eternal ruin of those who are guilty of it. Prov. vi. 32; vii. 26, 27.

August 13th.

PETER DENIES CHRIST.

John xviii. 13-18, 25-27.

The other disciple was in all probability John. He was known to the High Priest, and the therefore, exercised the liberty of going into his house. Peter had to stand at the gate till John came out and took him in.

The word rendered *palace* means rather the

hall, or middle court or area of his house. It was situated in the centre of the palace, and was commonly uncovered.

Peter sat with the servants to see the end of the trial. The other Evangelists say that he stood with the servants warming himself. John says it being cold, they had made a fire of coals, and warmed themselves. It was then probably not far from midnight. The place where they were was uncovered, and travellers say that though the days are warm in Judea at that season of the year, yet that the nights are often uncomfortably cold. The fire was probably made of coals laid on the pavement.

Peter denied the Lord thrice, and on each occasion more emphatically than the other, and immediately the cock crow. Luke says that after Peter had denied the Lord, the Lord Jesus looked at Peter, and Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Learn from Peter's fall.

1. The danger of self-confidence. Peter had just before stated that if all men should deny him, he would not.

2. The most exalted privileges do not secure us from the danger of falling.

3. When a man begins to sin, his fall from one act to another is easy.

4. A look from Jesus produces bitter sorrow for sin.

5. True repentance is deep though bitter.

6. After we fall into sin we should, like Peter, retire from the world and seek God.

August 20th.

DAVID BRINGS BACK THE ARK.

2 Sam. vi. 1-23.

The last thing read about the ark was its being taken to Kirjathjearim soon after the death of Eli. 1 Sam. vii. 1. 2. Saul wished once to have it brought to him. 1 Sam. xiv 18; but we are not informed that his wish was gratified.

David wished to have the ark near his royal abode. 1 Chr. xiii. 1-3; and the Princes joined with him in the wish. The solemn removal of the ark was probably determined