

of the Lord. If we would be victorious we must put on the complete armor of God, which is described in vs. 14-17. Thus armed and equipped for the conflict, we are to take our stand in the Lord's strength, calling upon him by prayer and supplication, not for ourselves only but for all who like us are fighting against sin. Particularly should we pray for those who lead in the battle, by preaching the gospel.

1. It is our duty to be always strong.
2. We can be strong if we will take Christ's strength.
3. Our enemies are fierce and too terrible for us alone.
4. Armor is provided in which we may fight safely.
5. We must pray earnestly as well as fight valiantly.

SALUTARY WARNINGS. 28th December.

Les. 1 Pet. 4: 1-8. Gol. Text. 1 Pet. 4: 7.
Mem. vs. 7, 8. Catechism Q. 104.

1. Doing the Will of God. vs. 1, 2.
2. Leaving Old Sins. vs. 3-5.
3. Preparing for Judgment. vs. 6-8.

HOME READINGS.

M. 1 Pet. 1: 1-25 . . . *Exhortation to Godliness.*
T. 1 Pet. 2: 1-25 . . . *Against fleshly lusts.*
W. 1 Pet. 3: 1-22 . . . *Unity and Love.*
Th. 1 Pet. 4: 1-19 . . . *Salutary Warnings.*
F. 1 Pet. 5: 1-14 . . . *"Be Sober, be Vigilant."*
S. Titus 2: 1-15 . . . *"Righteously and Godly."*
S. Heb. 13: 1-25 . . . *"Let Brotherly Love Continue."*

Time and Place.—Written probably about A.D. 63, at Babylon.

Hatred of the very name of Christian was spreading over the Roman empire. Nero's persecutions of the Christians at Rome had stirred up the people of the provinces to active outrages. Reports of the sufferings of the Jewish Christians of Asia Minor had reached the Apostle Peter and moved him to send them messages of comfort and cheer in the letter from which we have a lesson to-day.

In our lesson he reminds them that, as Christ had suffered for them, they should be prepared to follow his example. By their sufferings they would be delivered from the power of sin and brought more fully under God's will. They no longer had part in the impure life, the intemperance, reveling, feasting and drinking, and idolatries of the godless world. As Christians, they had taken a new view of life. This change would bring upon them the world's contempt and reviling, but their revilers would have to give account to the great Judge. Then he bids them to calmly, watchfully and prayerfully endure to the end, which was not far off. Above all else, they should love

each other intensely. Thus would they be enabled to fully forgive and to find full forgiveness.

1. We should make Christ our model in all things.
2. When we become Christians we should do only God's will.
3. We should put away forever every sin we have been committing.
4. We must all stand before Christ to be judged.
5. We should live soberly, prayerfully and charitably.

S.S. Lessons for December.

CHRIST'S HUMILITY AND EXALTATION.

5th December.

Les. Phil. 2: 1-11. Gol. Text. Phil 2: 5.
Mem. vs. 5-8. Catechism Q. 105.

1. Fulfilling the Joy of Christ. vs. 1-4.
2. Having the Mind of Christ. vs. 5-8.
3. Bowing at the Name of Christ. vs. 9-11.

HOME READINGS.

M. Phil. 2: 1-11 . . . *Christ's Humility and Exaltation.*
T. John 1: 1-14 . . . *"The Word was made Flesh."*
W. John 13: 1-17 . . . *Christ doing a Servant's Work.*
Th. Matt. 11: 16-30 . . . *"I am Meek and Lowly in Heart."*
F. Isa. 53: 1-12 . . . *"Despised and Rejected of Men."*
S. Acts 2: 22-36 . . . *"By the Right Hand of God Exalted"*
S. Heb. 2: 1-18 . . . *"Crowned with Glory and Honor."*

Time and Place.—Written at Rome, about A.D. 62-63.

It was at Philippi that the Gospel was first preached in Europe, the first European converts under Paul's preaching were gathered (Lessons I. and II, July 4 and 11, 1897) and the first Christian church in Europe was founded. The mutual affection between the apostle and this church was very strong. The Philippians alone of all the churches contributed money to the support of Paul's work, and he praises them for their liberality. While he was a prisoner at Rome they sent Epaphroditus with contributions for the relief of his necessities, and when he returned Paul sent back a letter of warm thanks and affection, part of which is our lesson.

After exhorting them to confidence and fidelity under the persecutions they were then suffering (Chap. 1: 27-30), he counsels them to have self-sacrificing love for each other, pointing them to the example of Christ, which they are exhorted to follow. Then he clearly states the great doctrines, first, of Christ's voluntary humiliation through his taking upon himself our human nature, his suffering, and his death; and second, of his exaltation by the resurrection from the grave and his ascension in his human body to the right hand of God, to be Lord of all.