

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1879, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XXXVIII.
SEPTEMBER 21.

THE CHRISTIAN CITIZEN.—Titus 3: 1-9.

COMMIT TO MEMORY, vs. 1-5.

1. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.
2. To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.
3. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.
4. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.
5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost:
7. Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour:
7. That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
8. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.
9. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.—Matt. 22: 21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Piety and patriotism go together.

INTRODUCTORY.—Titus was the 'bishop' of Crete. He was of Gentile parentage, and a convert from heathenism. His name does not occur in the Book of Acts, but he is mentioned in ten distinct passages of Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians, Galatians and Timothy. Crete, a narrow island 140 miles long, was the home of very many Jews; but when the Gospel was first preached there is uncertain. At a later period, Titus went to Dalmatia, 2 Tim. 4: 10 and tradition says that he died there at the age of 94 years.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY. (II.) SAVED BY GOD'S MERCY. (III.) SHOULD DO GOOD WORKS.

I. SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY. (1.) PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, the only constituted authorities. Crete had been for 125 years under the Roman dominion, but its inhabitants had a bad repute on account of insubordination. The Jews, also, never submitted willingly to the Romans. (2) SPEAK EVIL, slander, revile, hurt the good name of; NO BRAWLERS, not contentious, not quarrelsome. (3.) WE OURSELVES, Christians, in their natural condition of sinfulness, before conversion; FOOLISH, without understanding. Even the wisest men are foolish until enlightened by grace; DECEIVED, going astray from the right way; SERVING SLAVES TO; DIVERS, manifold, various; PLEASURES, sensual and worldly; HATEFUL, to God and man; HATING ONE ANOTHER, the natural state of man is one of hatred. Only the Gospel can introduce love. The Cretians were called "hairs, evil beasts, slow bellies," Titus 1: 12.

II. SAVED BY GOD'S MERCY. (4.) LOVE, love towards men, our word philanthropy; GOD OUR SAVIOUR, God the Father, compare verse 6; APPEARED, was manifested in the work of salvation through Christ. (5.) THE WASHING, the laver (Alford, Elliott), having reference to baptism, Eph. 4: 26, in its spiritual relations, comp. Acts 22: 16; 1 Pet. 3: 21; RENEWING, the renovation, making new. (6.) SHED, poured out abundantly.

III. SHOULD DO GOOD WORKS. (8.) A FAITHFUL SAYING, worthy of trust and belief, a certain truth, not an idle speculation; AFFIRM CONSTANTLY, or strongly, earnestly; MAINTAIN, be diligent in, take the lead in. (9.) FOOLISH QUESTIONS, frivolous discussions about unimportant and disputed points, Titus 1: 14; 1 Tim. 1: 4. The later writings of the Jews abounded in such discussions of trivial matters which were "unprofitable and vain."

What do you learn from this lesson as to—

1. Our duty to civil government?
2. The spirit we should show towards all?
3. The lessons from our own former condition and character?
4. The love which saves us?
5. Our duty to avoid "foolish questions"?

ILLUSTRATIONS.—*Respect for Rulers.* There is too little respect for authority in America. Reverence for age, for wise men, and for those appointed to rule is seldom taught to the young. The sins of rulers are not to be overlooked more than the sins of the common people, neither are their good deeds and honest aims to be misrepresented—"He that speaks ill of another commonly, before he is aware, makes himself such a one as he speaks against; for if he had civility or good breeding he would forbear such language."—*elden.*

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A
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LESSON XXXIX.

SEPTEMBER 28]

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The path of the just is as the shining light.—Prov. 4: 18.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

This life is the Christian's training school for heaven.

The past twelve lessons are selected from ten of the Epistles of Paul; eight were written to various apostolic churches, and two to early Christian pastors. Each of these letters or books was intended to meet peculiar circumstances of trial or of joy, in which the Christians to whom they were addressed found themselves. They are therefore fitted to instruct, encourage, and guide Christians now under a great variety of experiences. The portions studied, of necessity, present only fragments of the counsels and warnings of the Holy Spirit given through the Apostle. They need to be carefully reviewed, and to fix the truths in mind some good grouping is of more than usual value.

The following is a good division:

1. THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.
2. THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK AND WORK.
3. THE CHRISTIAN'S EXAMPLE.

The advantage of this grouping is that the lessons fall naturally into groups of four each, under the several heads.

To recall the several important things concerning the lessons, a series of questions may be asked upon the Titles, Golden Texts, and Central Truths.

THE CHRISTIAN'S

1. LIFE.
2. WALK AND WORK.
3. EXAMPLE.

LESSON QUESTIONS IN REVIEW.

THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.—How may Christians have peace? In what glory? Why? How are they saved? Who justifies the believer? For whose sake? How are we made conquerors? By whose love? What is love called in 1 Cor. 13? With what other graces is it compared? Which is the greatest of these? Why? Over what does Christ give us the victory? What brought death to us? What will take place at the sound of "the last trumpet"?

2. THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK AND WORK.—How are we made "new creatures"? For whom are Christian ministers ambassadors? For what purpose? State nine fruits of the Spirit. How are those who are overtaken with a fault to be treated? What does a man reap when he sows "to the flesh"? When he sows to the Spirit? Against what do Christians in this world war? What armor do they need? How are they to use the armor? Who should the believer imitate in his conduct and spirit? What is said of the mind of Christ? What is said of the power of his name?

3. THE CHRISTIAN'S EXAMPLE.—How are Christians urged to encourage one another? What are children required to do? How are servants called on to serve? Whom do they really serve? How do they serve Christ in serving those over them? How may we be an example and help to those over us? What comfort have we in view of the Lord's second coming? What danger is there to the rich? What is said of the love of money? Of the fight of faith? To whom are Christians to be obedient? For what ready? Of

what are they heirs? How far do you follow these instructions? Why are they not more carefully observed in your daily life?

CHANGING THE SERMON.

A dear friend had returned from a thirteen months' voyage at sea, to be at home one Sabbath, which proved to be a very stormy one; but he went to church, attended by the prayers of those who longed for his salvation. There were but few present, and the pastor took a passage from Job and gave an off-hand sermon upon storms. As we came out of church this friend (who was a well-read man) said: "The sermon for to-day was laid aside and this talk given us, as so few were out; but I could have done better with Job."

The next Sabbath the sermon was founded upon Matt. 6: 33—"Seek first the kingdom of God," &c., and it seemed as if, had it been written to meet the case of this man, it could not have been better fitted for him. But it was too late, he was gone; the last opportunity of preaching the Gospel to him was lost, for although at home one more Sabbath afterward, sickness in his family prevented attendance at church, and on the next voyage it is supposed all went down in a gale a short time out. That good minister never knew that the stormy Sabbath was his last chance to invite one of his people to the Saviour. "Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season." II. Tim. 4: 2.—*N. Y. Observer.*

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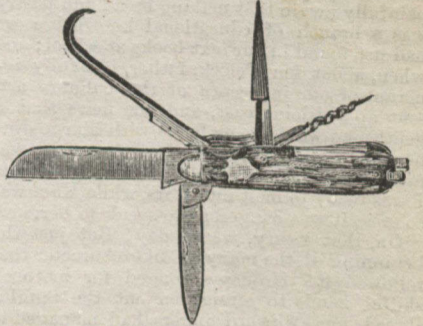
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