

LESSON X—September 5th, 1897.

Gentiles giving for Jewish Christians. 2 Cor. 9: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 6-8. Read chapters 8 and 9).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." 2 Cor. 8: 9.

PROVE THAT—Liberality produces joy. 1 Chr. 29: 9.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 91. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*
The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 8, 125, 219, 166.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Gentiles giving for Jewish Christians. 2 Cor. 9: 1-15. *Tuesday.* Example of Macedonia. 2 Cor. 8: 1-12. *Wednesday.* Proof of love. 2 Cor. 1: 13-24. *Thursday.* Collection for the saints. 1 Cor. 16: 1-9. *Friday.* Willing offerings. Exodus 35: 20-29. *Saturday.* Acceptable giving. Isa. 58: 6-11. *Sabbath.* Pleasure in giving. Rom. 15: 20-29. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The *Second Epistle to the Corinthians* was written a few months after the events of last lesson from one of the places which Paul was visiting in Macedonia. It was sent by Titus, who had just come from Corinth and who returned to complete the collection which was being taken up for the poorer brethren in Judea.—Time A. D. 57, or early in 58.

LESSON PLAN. I. The sowing. vs. 1-5. II. The reaping. vs. 6-11.

1. **The Saints.** "The holy, or consecrated ones," a common name for christians in the Acts and Epistles. The name shows what they should be. 2. **I know your readiness.** (R. V.)—They had already shown that they were a liberal church (8: 24). 3. **Glory on your behalf—**Paul had held them up as an example to the Macedonian churches. **Provoked—**"Stirred up." Others were stimulated by what Paul had said about them. 4. **The brethren—**There were three, Titus, Erastus and Timothy (ch. 8: 6, 16, 22.) **Ye may be prepared** (R. V.)—It would be a great humiliation, after all this boasting, if the Corinthian contributions were not ready. 5. **They of Macedonia—**It was usual for some friends to go with Paul from place to place (1 Cor. 16: 6; Rom. 15: 24). **We, that we say not ye—**A gentle but pointed reminder of their duty. Notice how courteous Paul's rebukes always are. 6. **Whereof ye had notice before** R. V.—"Your afore-promised bounty." The word for "bounty" means, literally, "blessing"—a token of good will. As a matter of bounty—Worthy of the name of "blessing," because given freely and largely, not as if extorted by importunity. 7. **Soweth bountifully—**"Soweth with blessings." Giving is not throwing away, but sowing seed for a future harvest of blessings. 8. **Not grudgingly—**Lit. "out of sorrow," grieving for

what is given as if it were lost. 9. **Of necessity—**Because conscience compels, or the censure of others is dreaded. Reluctance spoils the gift. 10. **A cheerful giver—**One to whom giving is a joy, more than a duty. 11. **All grace—**He means "every kind of earthly good" as the gift of God. "He is able to increase your wealth." **May abound unto every good work—**Rather, "May have abundance;" not only enough for yourselves, but much to give away. 12. **Written—**in Ps. 112: 9. This is a description of a benevolent man. **His righteousness—**His high moral character, as manifested by his liberality. He shall never lack the means of exercising this virtue. This implies that he shall have abundance over and above his own necessities. So Paul quotes God's promise as his authority for what he has just said. 13. **Ministereth—**"Supplieth" R. V.: "He that supplieth seed to the sower, and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing." **Your seed—**Your wealth, which you may scatter abroad in wise donations, as the sower scatters seed on the field. **The fruits of your righteousness—**The evidences of your christian character as seen in your liberality. 14. **Bountifulness—**R. V. "Liberality." Paul does not believe that any one is the poorer for being a liberal giver. 15. **Through us—**As the proclaimers and distributors of your bounty.

LESSONS. 1. We should give to the cause of Christ and the relief of the poor and distressed. 2. Our giving should be prompt, cheerful and generous. 3. Christian liberality blesses the giver as well as the receiver. 4. No one is the poorer for giving wisely and liberally. 5. Liberality causes others to praise God.