

LESSON XII—December 19th, 1897.

John's Message about Sin and Salvation. 1 John 1: 5-2: 6.

(Commit to memory verses 8-10).

GOLDEN TEXT: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." 1 John 1: 9.

PROVE THAT—Christ died for our sins. 1 John 2: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 107. *What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom; and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen*) teacheth us, to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory, to him. And in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 160, 151, 290, 575. (Old Hymnal Nos. 93, 46, 35, 232).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* John's message about sin and salvation. 1 John 1: 5-2: 6. *Tuesday.* All have sinned. Rom. 3: 19-26. *Wednesday.* Consequences of sin. Isa. 59: 1-9. *Thursday.* Returning unto the Lord. Hosea. 14. *Friday.* Life by Christ. Rom. 5: 12-21. *Saturday.* Perfect sacrifice. Heb. 10: 12-23. *Sabbath.* Able to save. Heb. 7: 19-28. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. *The first Epistle of John* is addressed to all Christians and is therefore called "General" or "Catholic." It was written when the apostle was very aged, probably about A. D. 90 or 97, but some say earlier, and may be considered the last message to the church from the last survivor of the apostolic band. It was written at Ephesus where John spent the latter years of his life.

LESSON PLAN. I. Light and Darkness. vs. 5-7. II. Sin and Forgiveness. vs. 8-2. III. Obedience and Love. vs. 3-6.

5. God is light—Light stands for absolute holiness and purity. It is the cause of all life, and warmth, and beauty, so God is the source of all moral excellence (Jas. 1: 17; John 1: 9; 8: 12; 9: 5). **Darkness**—Represents all moral evil, sin in every form, with ignorance and misery the results of sin (Rom. 13: 12; Eph. 5: 8-13; 1 Thess. 5: 4, 5; John 12: 35, 36). **6. Walk in darkness**—Lead wicked lives. If one whose course of life is evil says that he is a true christian and a child of God, he is either a hypocrite, or self-deceived. No one can have God in their hearts and practice wickedness. "A life in moral darkness can no more have communion with God than life in a coal pit can have communion with the sun" (2 Cor. 6: 14). **Do not the truth**—Our actions are the expressions of our beliefs. A belief of the truth will produce a life that strives after holiness. **7. As he is in the light**—God is light and dwells in the light (1 Tim. 6: 16). We are to aim to live habitually a life that belongs to the pure, sinless, holy presence of God. The way to find closest and sweetest fellowship amongst christian brethren is for all to strive after holiness. **9. But we have the comfort to know** that there is forgiveness for all sin, if we only repent of it, confess it and seek pardon for Jesus' sake. **Faithful and just**—God is faithful to his promises and at the same time true to his holy law, which the sinner has broken.

LESSONS. 1. We cannot be God's friend unless we walk with him. 2. Christian fellowship means fellowship with Christ and all who love him. 3. No sin need remain unforgiven. 4. Obey God better and you will love him more. 5. Imitate Jesus.