

have had a Paul." (Augustine). "Blessed rest after life's toilsome day! Blessed contrast with the tumult of passion and violence which brought him down to the grave? How near, too, in his dying was that likeness to his Lord advanced, which shall be perfected at his appearing (1 John 3: 1)." (Hervey.)

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

10. What promise was fulfilled to him? (Luke 21: 15; Isa. 54: 17).
11. On what other occasion was a sentence obtained by suborned evidence? (Matt. 26: 59, 60; 1 Kings 21: 10, 13). Give other cases of tumults excited by similar false reports (Matt. 27: 20, 65; Acts 13: 50; 21: 27-31).
- 13-14. What was the true teaching of Christ and the apostles on these points? (Matt. 5, 17; Mark 13: 2; Heb. 8: 13; Col. 2: 16, 17). What had Daniel prophesied? (Dan. 9: 26).
15. Who told this to Luke? What other faces shone with a spiritual light? (Ex. 24: 29-35; Matt. 17: 2).
54. Where does gnashing of teeth properly belong? (Matt. 8: 12; 13: 42).
55. Where do we read of God's glory on earth? (Ex. 16: 10; 24: 16, 17; 40: 34, 35; 1 Kings 8: 10, 11). Similar visions of the heavenly glory (Isa. 6: 1-3; Ezek. 1: 28; Rev. 21: 23).
56. What Old Testament prophet also beheld the Son of Man in glory? (Dan. 7: 13).
57. Did the murderers of Stephen really believe that he was guilty of blasphemy and deserved death? (1 Tim. 1: 13). By what law did they condemn him? (Deut. 13: 9, 10; Lev. 24: 16).
58. Why did they take him outside of the city before stoning him? (Lev. 24: 14; as also Heb. 13: 12, 13).
60. Contrast this with the Old Testament prayer (2 Chr. 24: 22).

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

1. *The Character of St. Stephen.* Not very much is said of Stephen in the Scriptures. but what is written is the highest testimony that can be given. He was with six others chosen by the church at Jerusalem to attend to certain business matters connected with the support of the poor widows who were in fellowship with the church. He is described as "full of faith and power," a man of earnest, strong, faith, a believer with all his heart. Unbelief, doubting, and wavering could find no place in his soul. He had large faith and therefore he had power with God and "did great wonders and miracles among the people." He was filled with the Holy Ghost in all his illuminating, sanctifying, comforting and strengthening influences. Stephen thus qualified was a formidable advocate of the cause of Christ. This was realized by Jews of the various nationalities who were frequenters of the Synagogue. These men disputed the doctrines of the christian faith, and contended with Stephen. But Stephen was more than a match for them "they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake." As they could not meet his argu-

ments or refute his teaching, they determined to do what they could to deprive him of his liberty, with a view of preventing him from carrying on his work.

2. *Fidelity to truth may provoke opposition and persecution.* Stephen was a faithful witness to the truth committed to him by the Lord. He had received a trust from his master, and let others do as they might, he was going to be faithful. He would let no personal inconvenience influence him. He lost sight of everything but duty. In the faithful discharge of his duty he came in contact from time to time with the enemies of christianity, and his fidelity, not only in holding to, but, in the declaring of truths that these enemies hated, he was exposed to their enmity and opposition. It is always true, the more zealous and earnest we are in our declarations of the truths of christianity, the more one may expect to stir up the opposition and hatred of the wicked. Like Stephen we are to be "Faithful unto death," and we have the promise of the Lord, "I will give you a crown of life."

3. *Faith's vision.* How frequently our