

Lesson XIII. REVIEW, SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS September 26, 1909

TO MAKE READY FOR THE REVIEW—Revise your Supplemental Bible Work, Scripture Memory Passages, Shorter Catechism (Questions 21 to 29), and the Question on Missions for the Quarter.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

LESSON SETTING—Amongst the questions which the Corinthian Christians had asked Paul, in their letter to him while he was in Ephesus (see Lesson Setting, Lesson IX., Aug. 29, 1 Cor., ch. 13), was one as to whether they might lawfully eat food that had been offered to idols,—a common practice in heathen cities like Corinth. Paul's answer to the question is given in chs. 8 to 10. The Lesson for to-day contains certain principles which bear on the question of temperance.

GOLDEN TEXT—Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.—Romans 15 : 2.

Memorize v. 24. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—1 Corinthians 10 : 23-33.

23 All things are lawful ¹ for me, but all things are not expedient : all things are lawful ¹ for me, but all things edify not.

24 Let no man seek his own, but ² every man another's *weal*.
25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, ³ that eat, asking no question for conscience sake :

26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

27 If ⁴ any of them that believe not ⁵ bid you to a feast, and ye ⁶ be disposed to go ; whatsoever is set before you eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

28 But if any man say unto you, This ⁷ is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed

it, and for conscience sake : ⁸ for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof :

29 Conscience. I say, not thine own, but ⁹ of the other : for why is my liberty judged ¹⁰ of another man's conscience ?
30 ¹¹ For if I by grace ¹² be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks ?
31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
32 Give ¹³ none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gen'tiles, nor to the church of God :
33 Even as I ¹⁴ please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* ¹⁵ of many, that they may be saved.

Revised Version—¹ Omit for me ; ² each his neighbour's good ; ³ Omit that ; ⁴ one of ; ⁵ biddeth ; ⁶ are ; ⁷ hath been offered in sacrifice, eat not ; ⁸ Omit rest of verse ; ⁹ the other's ; ¹⁰ by ; ¹¹ Omit man's ; ¹² Omit For ; ¹³ partake ; ¹⁴ no occasion of stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God ; ¹⁵ also ; ¹⁶ the.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Consideration for others, 1 Cor. 10 : 23-33. T.—Temperate in all things, 1 Cor. 9 : 19-27. W.—For a brother's sake, 1 Cor. 8. Th.—Be sober ! 1 Pet. 5 : 1-11. F.—Sober living, Tit. 2 : 6-15. S.—Pleasing others, Rom. 15 : 1-7. S.—Sowing and reaping, Eph. 6 : 1-10.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. OUR OWN LIBERTY.—23. All things ; except those forbidden by God, or, with His sanction, by some human authority, such as parents, rulers in church and state, teachers, etc. Are lawful. No fault can be found with one for doing them. Amongst the things which are "lawful" for Christians, Paul would reckon all kinds of eating and drinking, even of food which had been offered to idols. Not expedient ; from the Latin *expes*, "foot-free". The snares of temptation beset every one. We should make it our business to see that no one is led into these by our persuasion or example. Edify not ; "build not up". The Christian's main business is to form in himself and in others a Christlike character. This is here likened to building a house. Everything that hinders it must be shunned.

II. OUR NEIGHBOR'S GOOD.—24-27. No man... his own... each his neighbour's good (Rev. Ver.). We should act so as to help others, and not merely to please ourselves. Whatsoever is sold in the shambles ("anything that is offered for sale in the meat market")... eat ; even though, before being brought to the market, it might have been offered in sacrifice to an idol. It did not,—so Paul teaches,—continue to be a sacrifice, as some thought, but was mere flesh, which might be freely bought and eaten. For the earth is the Lord's, etc. Paul quotes the usual Jewish "grace before meat" from Ps. 24 : 1. Whatsoever is set before you, eat ; at feasts, in the homes of heathen acquaintances ("them that believe not"), to which

Christians were sometimes invited. Asking no question for conscience' sake ; not one's own conscience, but that of another. In such a case as this, the Christian guest would not be eating the meat as an idol sacrifice, and therefore his example would lead no one to act against his conscience.

28-30. But if any man say, etc. The reference is to a fellow guest. This one sees by some mark on the meat, or knows otherwise, that it has been offered to an idol, and his conscience checks his partaking of it. He tells others what he has discovered. How shall the Christian act now ? To go on eating the sacrificial meat, will encourage his companion to disobey his conscience ; to abstain, will help



A HOUSE IN MODERN CORINTH