

by frequently and seriously reading and hearing it, with prayer to God, that his Holy Spirit may show us its meaning, and apply it to our hearts.

John 5. 39. Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Romans 10. 17. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

OUTLINES, NOTES, AND LESSONS.

I. EXPOSITORY.

ELDERS, ver. 4. The representative heads of the several tribes. TOGETHER—a general movement to throw off a galling yoke. RAMAH. Several Ramahs. This was his home and one of his stations for holding judgment. 1 Sam. 7. 17. Probably same as his early home. 1 Sam. 1. 1; 2. 11. And the place of his burial. 1 Sam. 25. 1; 28. 3. THOU ART OLD, ver. 5, 1095 B. C. Samuel about 75. THY SONS. See 1 Sam. 8. 1-5. Their rulership limited to Beersheba and vicinity, under Samuel's supervision. They are named 1 Chron. 6. 28, where Joel is called Vashni, but in 1 Chron. 6. 33 the name of Joel is retained, and so in 1 Chron. 15. 17. These are the only records of the sons of Samuel. WALK NOT IN THY WAYS. "Turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment." 1 Sam. 8. 3. Avarice and injustice. MAKE US A KING. 150 years before they had made Gideon the offer of kingship. Judges 8. 22. They desired the show and the visible sign of power. They were unwilling to trust God as king. DISPLEASED SAMUEL, ver. 6, as it had displeased Gideon. Judges 8. 23. Both felt for the honour of God, who was the rightful king of Israel. SAMUEL PRAYED. A wise thing to do when one is displeased.

..... "Did we stop to pray when displeased how many foolish words and acts would we avoid. He took the trying case to God for settlement."—G. A. Peltz.

THE LORD SAID . . . HEARKEN. It is a terrible thing for a man or a nation when God in righteous wrath grants the persistent demand for forbidden things. IN ALL THAT THEY SAY. Full sweep given to their desires. So the father of the prodigal gave all that his son asked, and the son became "master of himself, that heritage of woe." See Num. 11. 31-34. REJECTED ME. Not Samuel, but God, rejected. Dissatisfied with the mode of God's government. HOWBEIT . . . PROTEST. A useless but a fervent and final plea and warning. So now God pleads with wilful

sinners. See the Old Testament and the New as God speaks to sinners.

..... Say unto them, As I live, etc. Quote in full Ezek. 33. 11.

..... And the Spirit, etc. Quote in full Rev. 22. 17.

II. OUTLINES AND LESSONS.

1. The thing desired—A KING.

2. The desire of the WHOLE PEOPLE.

"All the elders."

3. Expressed through their PROPER REPRESENTATIVES—"the elders."

4. Expressed to the PROPER OFFICER—"Samuel."

5. Sustained by an apparently STRONG ARGUMENT.

(1) Samuel's old age.

(2) The sins of his sons.

[NOTE.—The people might easily have disposed of Samuel's sons by representing the case before the Lord. If the judges took bribes, the people must have offered bribes.]

6. Really inspired by WRONG, VAIN, and UNGODLY MOTIVES. "A king like other nations." An apparently proper thing, done in a proper way. But there is "a worm i' the bud."

(1) They wanted a VISIBLE KING. They could not live by faith in the unseen.

(2) They wanted PROSPERITY without reference to moral character. When they obeyed God they always had success. They wanted success, and did not care for or consider the question of obedience.

(3) They wanted a KING, knowing that it was AGAINST GOD'S WISH. Thus they rejected God—his will and plan.

(4) They wanted to be LIKE THE NATIONS. Conformity to the world

7. The thing desired now had been PREDICTED by the Almighty, although NOT BY HIM APPROVED. See Deut. 17. 14-20, where God said they would say, "I will set a king over me," etc. He does not approve or order it, but urges upon them a right standard to follow, if they will have a king. Compare HOSEA 13. 9-11; 1 SAM. 10. 19; 12. 16-19.

8. The thing desired was DISPLEASING to God's prophet.

9. It was displeasing to GOD.

10. It was COMMANDED by the Lord in wrath.

11. It was ANNOUNCED by Samuel to the people.