

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*).

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

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. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all—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). This sums up the teaching of Christ. He came to show men how much God loved them, and how willing he was to make them like himself. 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth—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 com-

munion with the sun" (2 Cor. 6: 14). Our actions are the expressions of our beliefs. A belief of the truth will produce a life that strives after holiness.

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin—God dwells in the light (1 Tim. 6: 16). Heaven is holy and pure because it is God's home. We are to aim to live habitually the life that belongs to the pure, sinless, holy presence of God. The way to attain closest and sweetest fellowship amongst christian brethren is for all to strive after holiness. Just as the light chases away darkness and disease, and purifies the air, so the death of Christ destroys sin and cleanses the heart.

8. If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us—Those who say that they are living without sin are only deceiving themselves, and have not a correct sense of sin.

9. If we confess our sins, he is faith-