

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

FOR BIBLE CLASSES : Christian Faith and Practice

It may seem good to a teacher of a Bible Class to use this lesson hour for the study of such an epistle as Galatians. In this way, the heart of Paul's teaching could be presented to the class, and, in addition, their knowledge of one of the greatest books in the New Testament would be enlarged. If the teacher prefers to review the lessons of the Quarter, they may be arranged so as to bring into relief the motive and the nature of Christian faith and practice.

1. *The object of our faith.* In the first place, Jesus is the seal of the highest hopes of men as expressed in the prophets (Lesson XIII.). Though different in many ways from the Messiah of their dreams, he fulfilled these dreams in the truest way, "filling up that which was lacking" and spiritualizing that which was present in them. Now he can lay claim to our faith : (1) because of what has been done for us (Rev. 1 : 4-7; Lesson X.) ; (2) because to him all power is given ; (3) because "he knoweth our frame," having been tested in all points like as we are, Rev. 1 : 17, 18.

2. *The testimony of the apostles.* Review the incidents of Paul's imprisonment in Jerusalem (Lessons I.-IV.). Trace his journey to Rome (Lessons V., VI., VIII.). What ministries to the church was Paul able to do by the way ? Why were his hardships endured ? (Rom. 1 : 15-17.) What do we know of the sufferings of other apostles ? These men were ready to renounce all things, even life itself, because they had learned the preciousness of Jesus. Is our Christianity so vital as theirs ? Point out that we are not called upon to die the martyr's death in these days, but we are called upon to testify for him by our conduct, by our patience, by our faithfulness. The gospel is handed down from age to age by the lives of those who profess to be Christians, rather than by the written record.

3. *The love of Christ constraineth us.* If our experience of Christ is vital, we shall feel the burden of an eternal debt to him. But our devotion to Jesus may be weakened : (1) by the slow, benumbing influence of the world (Lesson IX.) ; (2) by the low standards of fellow Christians (Lesson XI.). Sum up these thoughts, by urging that each shall measure himself not by the stature of his neighbor but by the stature of Jesus. Each must live his own life.

4. *Our hope.* (1) God's kingdom to be realized on this earth. Every obstacle in the way of human happiness must be removed. Every soul who prays, "Thy kingdom come," is interested in every plan to redeem the world from vice and so to re-create our environment that man may more easily decide for Christ (Lesson VII.). (2) Heaven, hereafter. Death is, to the Christian, not "a leap in the dark," but a portal to a fuller knowledge, more perfect peace and abounding joy (Lesson XII.).

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FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS : A Man and a Book

Note that this is the great review day of the year, that some people who seldom trouble themselves much about the past cannot help looking back over life when the end of the year comes. Bring out that we all need forgiveness for the past, and help for the present, and hope for the future, if we are to make life what it ought to be. Remind the class that during the last Quarter we have studied the closing years in the life of one of the greatest men who ever lived, and have also glanced at the closing book of the Bible which reveals to us the final destiny of a good life.

1. *Paul's Stay at Caesarea*, Lessons I., II., III. and IV. Why was Paul taken to Caesarea ? What is there here to indicate that there is a divinity that shapes our ends ? Are we conscious