

6. At any cost, to be and do God's will we should each regard as supreme achievement.
7. After suitable labor we may humbly but confidently say, "Our duty is done."

Lesson III. Jan. 18. Paul's Farewell. Acts 20. 28-35.

1. An inspired exhortation to general pastoral fidelity, ver. 28. 1 Cor. 12. 12-31; 2 Cor. 7. 12; 8. 16; Phil. 4. 8; Jer. 13. 16, 17; Luke 12. 28-32; 1 Pet. 5. 1-3; Phil. 1. 7; 1 Thess. 2. 8, 11; Jer. 3. 15.
 2. The pre-eminence of the atonement, in ver. 28. Isa. 59. 20; Rom. 3. 24-26; Gal. 3. 13; John 3. 16; Rom. 1. 15, 16; 1 Cor. 1. 23, 24; 2. 2; Gal. 6. 14.
 3. The Christian Church is in continual peril from false teachers and doctrine, ver. 29. Matt. 7. 15-17; 2 Pet. 2. 1; Deut. 13. 1-4; Matt. 24. 5, 24; 1 John 4. 1; 1 Tim. 4. 1; 2 Pet. 2. 2; 2 Tim. 3. 8, 9.
 4. Heresy, too, may be anticipated in the Church, ver. 30. 1 John 2. 19; Jude 4; 1 Cor. 11. 19; Gal. 5. 20; Rom. 16. 17; 1 Cor. 1. 10; Phil. 2. 3; Titus 3. 9-11; Jude 17-19.
 5. The duty of extreme pastoral watchfulness to suitably guard the Church, ver. 31. 2 Tim. 4. 5; 1 Tim. 1. 4; Ezek. 3. 17; Jer. 6. 16, 17; Mark 13. 34-37; Heb. 13. 17; Matt. 24. 45, 46; Col. 1. 28.
 6. Rejoice in what God is able to do for man, ver. 32. Matt. 9. 28, 29; Dan. 3. 17; Rom. 4. 21; 14. 4; 2 Cor. 9. 8; Eph. 3. 20; Phil. 3. 21; 2 Tim. 1. 12; Heb. 2. 18; 7. 25; Jude 24.
 7. God's willingness to bless man as is great as his ability. Exod. 34. 6, 7; Num. 14. 18; Deut. 4. 31; Psa. 86. 15; John 3. 16; Rom. 5. 6, 8, 10; 8. 32; Micah 7. 18; Prov. 28. 13; Isa. 55. 7; Luke 1. 78.
 8. Original, necessary, and praiseworthy missionary independence, verses 33, 34. 1 Sam. 12. 3; 1 Cor. 9. 11, 12; 2 Cor. 11. 7, 9; 12. 14; 1 Cor. 10. 33; 1 Thess. 2. 8; 2 Thess. 3. 8; Acts 18. 3; 1 Cor. 4. 12; Matt. 5. 44.
 9. Also the recorded words of Jesus defining human duty to the poor. Luke 14. 12-14; Matt. 9. 10; 8. 20; Luke 4. 18; Matt. 25. 42-45; Luke 10. 33-35; Matt. 6. 25-33.
 10. Precious inspired consolation and direction for Christians in all times of sorrow, ver. 36-38; John 14. 18; 2 Cor. 7. 6; Isa. 51. 3; 2 Cor. 1. 4, 6; 1 Thess. 4. 18; 5. 11, 14; Psa. 69. 20; John 14. 1; 16. 20; 1 Cor. 10. 13; James 1. 12.
- The lesson teaches—
1. The existence and propriety of Christian commitments assumed, ver. 28.
 2. An authoritative exhortation imposing pastoral fidelity in the Church, ver. 28.
 3. "Grievous wolves" are ever hungering to consume the precious flock of Jesus Christ, ver. 29.
 4. Dissensions within the Church may be anticipated as inevitable, ver. 30.
 5. Vigilance the price of victory in Church life and work, ver. 31.
 6. Upon the divine ability of power and willingness we should depend in Christian work, ver. 32.
 7. The minister needs, pre-eminently, the spirit of Christ, which was the spirit of sacrifice for others.
 8. Loving Christian co-workers may be called upon to separate for the night of probation, to be gloriously reunited in the morning of immortality, ver. 36-38.

Lesson IV. Jan. 25. Paul Going to Jerusalem. Acts 21. 1-14

1. The "violence of the parting" stated in ver. 1. Why? John 13. 34; 15. 12; 1 Cor. 13. 1, 2; 1 Tim. 4. 12; 2 Tim. 2. 22; Rom. 12. 15; 1 Cor. 12. 26; Col. 2. 2; Gal. 5. 13.

2. The justification of this, and of all other missionary labor. Gen. 1. 26; Psa. 5. 12; Eccl. 8. 17; 12. 13; Rom. 5; 1 Cor. 15. 49; Phil. 3. 21; Matt. 28. 18-20; Mark 16. 15, 16; John 20. 21.

3. Wealthy, wise, wicked, and worldly Tyre was not avoided by Paul on his great missionary errand. 1 Kings 5; 2 Chron. 2. 3, 13, 16; 9. 10; Ezek. 26; 27; 28. 1-19; 29. 18; Isa. 33. 1. 14; Matt. 11. 21, 22.

4. In unavoidable delay at any place righteous associates and opportunity should at once be sought, Heb. 6. 10; Matt. 25. 40; Col. 3. 12, 13; Eccl. 3. 12; Jas. 4. 13-15; Luke 1. 75; John 9. 4; Titus 2. 14; Job 21. 13, 23; 27. 21.

5. How heavenly in tenderness and congeniality is the relation of a trusted spiritual guide to his followers, verses 5, 6. Acts 13. 2, 4; 2 Cor. 10. 8; Phil. 1. 7; 3. 17; 1 Thess. 2. 8, 11; Acts 20. 31; Jer. 3. 15; 1 Pet. 5. 2; 2 Cor. 1. 4-6.

6. As an evangelist, or missionary, Philip preached *this* Gospel to people for the first time, ver. 8. 1 Cor. 7. 23; 6. 20; Luke 2. 10, 11; Heb. 4. 2; Acts 14. 3; 2 Tim. 1. 10; 1 Cor. 9. 17; Luke 4. 18; Phil. 1. 5; Eph. 4. 11; 2 Tim. 4. 5.

7. The virgin "prophets," or the inspired, not to foretell events, teachers, ver. 9, 10. Acts 2. 17; 13. 1; 15. 32; 1 Cor. 12. 28; Eph. 4. 11; Rom. 12. 6; Acts 19. 6; 1 Cor. 12. 10; 13. 2, 8; 14. 6; 1 Thess. 5. 20.

8. A partial explanation of this symbolical act of the prophet, ver. 11. 1 Kings 22. 11; Isa. 20. 2; Jer. 13. 1; 19; Ezek. 14. 9; 5. 1.

9. The missionary heroism of Paul, ver. 13. 2 Cor. 11. 23-29; Rom. 15. 24, 28; 2 Tim. 4. 6-8; Acts 20. 24; Rom. 8. 25, 36; 2 Cor. 4. 16; 1 Cor. 15. 58.

10. In the early Christian Church, even in Paul's day, the prayer our Lord taught his disciples to say was used, ver. 14. Matt. 6. 10; 26. 42; Rom. 1. 10; Jas. 4. 15; Rom. 15. 32; John 4. 34; 5. 30; Col. 4. 12; Gal. 1. 4; Heb. 10. 36; 1 Cor. 4. 19.

The lesson teaches:

1. Our Lord demands a life of *sacrificing* Christian activity.
2. In doing Christ's work we may employ many of the agencies of secular progress.
3. Wealth and learning are as fruitful evangelistic opportunity as poverty and ignorance.
4. Personal danger should never prevent us from doing positive duty.
5. Before friends part they should devoutly pray together.
6. When we are detained a day or two in traveling we should at once seek the society of the religiously congenial.
7. In the will of God the Christian has perfect protection, guidance, opportunity.

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Self-Knowledge.

Our pupils will acquire this by looking out of themselves, rather than into themselves. As Mr. Ruskin has said about one's judgment of his own abilities: "You may think, perhaps, you can write poetry. Dwell on your own feelings and doings, and you will soon think yourself the Tenth Muse; but forget your own feelings, and try to understand a line of Dante or Chaucer, and you will soon begin to find yourselves very foolish girls—which is much like the fact." Apply these thoughts to spiritual excellence, and they will show a way by which we may all be taught to know ourselves. S.