

ciation of his gifts. The Christian may not be content to labor where he can be most effective. There are vessels in varying degrees of honor (1 Cor. 12 : 13-31), but all are equally needed. Therefore let each be intent on his special duty. Remember the story of Dorcas and her needle.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Tell the class how a distinguished minister of the gospel once said that when he was called upon unexpectedly to read a scripture lesson he usually turned to the Twelfth of the Romans, which he had committed to memory when a boy, and which he had read over and over again, with ever increasing love for the beautiful words. Ask the scholars to commit it to memory, to hide it in their hearts that it may help them to get much that is good out of life and to put much that is good into life. Note that our lesson embraces three things :

1. *Living Reasonably*, vs. 1, 2. What is the nature of the life so earnestly enjoined here ? It is a life of complete consecration to God, a transfigured life. This is the only reasonable way of living. Bring out that this transfiguring process begins in the mind and heart and soul of man. How do the beautiful thoughts of God which renew the mind and transfigure the life come to us ? Sometimes from nature. Quote Longfellow's beautiful words :

"And Nature, the old Nurse, took

The child upon her knee,

Saying, Here is a story book

Thy Father hath written for thee."

Nature is full of story books our Father hath written for us, and we can find many beautiful thoughts in these manuscripts of God ; but God's best and most beautiful thoughts are to be found in the Bible. Impress upon the scholars that it is an unreasonable thing not to live for Christ, when by living for him we can make so much of life.

2. *Thinking Soberly*, vs. 3-5. Note that self-conceit must be a serious disease when Paul deals with it as he does here. Some one has said that neither God nor man has any use for a conceited person. Such a person's exaggerated sense of his own value makes it impossible for him to fit in comfortably anywhere in life. Bring out that it is possible

for a person to think less highly of himself than he ought to think, to fail to realize what he is capable of being and doing. (See Ex. 3 : 11 and Jer. 1 : 6.) In either case it takes God's Spirit to lead us to understand ourselves aright.

3. *Working Happily*, vs. 6-8. Note the different kinds of work which Paul refers to. Let us make sure that we are doing the kind which God wants us to do, and let us strive to do it in God's way. How can we know that we are doing the work which God wants us to do ? Some aptitude, or some impulse, or some providence will be the kindly light which will lead us in the right way. Happy is the man who finds his work and makes it a labor of love.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Call for the title of the lesson. Ask the scholars to tell of the sacrifices described in the Old Testament (see Lev., ch. 1). Compare this with the sacrifice which Paul asks of fellow Christians here. Have the class repeat together v. 1, which embodies the Golden Text.

Bring out the force of "by the mercies of God," and Paul's entreaty that out of thankfulness to God we should be willing to spend ourselves in serving him.

Take up the remaining verses as suggestions to help us to make this "living sacrifice." Ask what is meant by "conformed to this world" (see Lesson Explained). Bring out Paul's teaching that Christ's followers while living in the world are not to live as if they belonged forever to it. They are to be "transformed," changed by the spirit of Christ so that they will not always desire what we call "the things of this world" (have the class give examples), but will choose love, purity, goodness, service, as the things of greatest value. Bring out this thought as the meaning of "renewal of mind."

What do we call the sin which Paul warns against in v. 3 ? Why is conceit sinful ? Let the class answer, bringing out the truth that all our powers are gifts of God and we should be humbly grateful for them, glad to use them for him, rather than conceited over the possession of them and striving to keep them for selfish uses.