

The Loom of Life.

ALL day, all night, I can hear the jar Of the loom of life, and near and far It thrills with its deep and muffled sound, As the tireless wheels go always round.

Bustily, ceaselessly goes the loom, In the light of day and the midnight gloom, The wheels are turning early and late, And the wool is wound in the warp of fate.

'Click, clack' there's a thread of love woven in Click, clack! another of wrong and sin. What a checkered thing will this life be When we see it unrolled in eternity!

Time, with a face like mystery And hands as busy as hands can be, Sits at the loom with its arm outspread, To catch in its meshes each glancing thread,

When shall this wonderful web be done? In a thousand years, perhaps, or one; Or to-morrow! Who knoweth? Not you or I, But the wheels turn and the shuttles fly.

Are we spinners of wool for this life-web— say!

Do we furnish the weaver a thread each day? It were better then, O my friend, to spin A beautiful thread, 't an a thread of sin.

Ah, sad-eyed weaver, the years are slow, But each one is nearer the end, I know, And some day the last thread shall be woven in—

God want it be love instead of sin —E.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 30 ] LESSON XII. [Sep. 19.

JESUS INTERCEDING.

John 17. 1-3, 11-21. Commit vs. 20-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Heb. 7. 25.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus' prayer on earth a type of the prayer he is ever making for us in heaven.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 17. 1-28. Tu. John 5. 19-40. W. John 6. 26-44. Th. 1 Cor 12. 1-14. F. 1 Cor. 12. 15-31. Sa. Eph. 4. 1-16. Su. 1 John 5. 4-21.

NOTE.—This lesson, as selected by the International Committee, was so long (26 verses) that the leading publishing houses agreed on the above shorter selection. (See Les. 4.)

TIME.—Thursday evening, very late, April 6, A.D. 30, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—An upper room in Jerusalem. CIRCUMSTANCES.—The farewell discourse of Christ ended with a remarkable prayer which may truly be called the Lord's prayer.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. The hour is come—The hour of crucifixion, the central point of his redeeming work. Glorify thy Son—Manifest his glory by making his mission a success, by raising him from the dead, and placing him at thy right hand in heaven. Thy Son glorify thee—The atonement and redemption in Christ manifested God's love and wisdom which are his glory. 2. Eternal life—True spiritual life, begun here, but which endures forever. 3. This is life eternal, that they might know thee—By experience by partaking of God's nature. 11. That they may be one—Not uniformity, but unity; not oneness of organization, but of life and love. The unity of a vine with one life, one root, but many branches. The unity of an army with many departments and regiments. Christians have the same spiritual life, the same leader, the same law, the same purpose, mutual love. 12. That the Scripture might be fulfilled—Ps. 41. 9 (John 13. 18). He did not fail because it was in the Scripture, but when he fell it was seen that he had voluntarily fulfilled the prediction. 14. They are not of the world—But are under a different Master, living a different life. 15. Not take them out of the world—Because they were needed in it to do Christ's work, preach his truth, save the men he came to save. Keep them from the evil i. e.,—From sin, the greatest of evils. How?—By the Word of truth, by working for Christ, by the higher joys of goodness, by the discipline of life, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. 17. Sanctify—Set apart for religious work, hence, to make holy.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Characteristics of this prayer.—The glory of the Son.—Life eternal.—The unity of the Church.—Christians not of the world.—Kept from the evil.—Sanctified by the truth

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What is usually called the Lord's prayer? May this chapter be called also the Lord's prayer? Where was this prayer uttered? Under what circumstances? What are the characteristics of this prayer?

SUBJECT. WHAT JESUS MOST DESIRES FOR HIS PEOPLE.

I. THAT THEY MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE (vs. 1, 3).—In what form did Jesus pray? What hour had come? How was the Son to be glorified? What power had been given him? What is eternal life? What must we do to have eternal life?

II. THAT THEY MAY BE ONE (vs. 11-21).—What is the unity Christ desires for his people? To what does he liken it? (See also v. 23.) What will be the effect of this unity? (v. 21.) Why? Is the Church gaining in unity?

III. THAT THEY MAY BE KEPT FROM THE EVIL (vs. 12-15).—How had the disciples been kept? Which one had been lost? Why? (v. 12; 1 John 2. 19.) Why would Christ have the disciples remain in the world? Does he want to live in this busy and evil world? From what would he have us kept? How?

IV. THAT THEY MAY BE SANCTIFIED (vs. 16, 17, 19).—What is it to be sanctified? How may we be sanctified? How does the truth do this? What is the truth?

V. THAT THEY MAY FULFIL THEIR MISSION (v. 17).—For what had Jesus been sent into the world? In what respects are we sent like him into the world?

VI. THAT ALL CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE THE SAME BLESSINGS AS THE DISCIPLES (v. 20).—For whom did Jesus pray? What is one work he is ever doing for us? (Heb. 7. 25.)

VII. THAT THEY MAY PARTAKE OF HIS GLORY.—What was Jesus' glory? (v. 24.) What will be ours if we faithfully serve him? What blessings does this include?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Those things which Jesus prayed for in our behalf are the ones we should most earnestly seek.

2. We are Christ's representatives on earth, and should carry on his work in his way.

3. The true Christian's place is in the world, but kept from its evil.

4. Being sanctified by the truth we should study much the Word by which we are sanctified.

5. We should in every true way seek to realize Christ's prayer for the unity of all Christians.

6. Those who work with Christ, suffer with him, and are sanctified with him, will also partake of his ineffable glory.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

12. For what seven most important things did Christ pray for his people? Ans. (Repeat the headings of this lesson.)

LESSON XIII. [Sep. 26.

REVIEW AND TEMPERANCE.

REVIEW.

(Scripture Lesson.—The Golden Texts of the Quarter.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.—Isaiah 9. 7.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John chaps. 9, 10. Tu. John chap. 11. W. John chaps. 12, 13. Th. John chap. 14. F. John chap. 15. Sa. John chap. 16. Su. John chap. 17.

TIME.—The lessons of this quarter belong to the last six months of Jesus' ministry, from October, A.D. 29 to April 6, A.D. 30.

PLACE.—Chiefly in Jerusalem and vicinity.

PARALLEL EVENTS.—Matt. 19. 1 to 28; Mark 10. 1 to 14. 26; Luke 13. 10 to 23; 39.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What portion of Jesus' life have we been studying? In what places did the chief events occur? Where were most of the discourses spoken? Were there many other events and discourses during this time not recorded by John?

SUBJECT. THE REDEEMER'S KINGDOM UNFOLDING.

I. THE REDEEMER'S NATURE FURTHER REVEALED (LESSONS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10).—To what is Jesus likened in Lesson 2? In what respect is he like a good shepherd? What miracle is recorded in Lesson 1? What like this is he still doing for the world? What did he do for his Bethany friends? (Lesson 1.) How is Jesus still the life of the world? How did one friend show her affection for him? (Lesson 5.) How did the children and the people honour him? What characteristics does Jesus show in Lesson 7? How was Jesus glorified? (Lesson 6.) To what does Jesus compare himself in Lesson 10? What is it to abide in him?

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF HIS KINGDOM (LESSONS 2, 7, 9, 10, 11).—What is the door to this kingdom? (Lesson 2.) What does the good shepherd do for his sheep? How is Christ the way? (Lesson 9.) What else is he? (Lesson 9, v. 8.) How may we know whether we are in the kingdom? Lesson 10, v. 14.) How did Jesus teach humility? (Lesson 7.) How to love one another? What commandment lies at the basis of his kingdom? (Lesson 8.) How may we remain in his kingdom? (Lesson 10, v. 4.) What is the fruit we should bear? What becomes of fruitless branches? How does fruit-bearing glorify God? In what respects are all Christians one? Does this unity exist now?

III. ITS ORDINANCES (LESSONS 7, 8).—What are the two great ordinances of Jesus' kingdom? What does baptism signify? Who partook of the Lord's supper? What is this supper intended to teach?

IV. ITS PROMISES AND HOPES (LESSONS 4, 9, 10, 11, 12).—What did Jesus promise believers? (Lesson 4.) Where had he gone to prepare a place for them? (Lesson 9.) What works did he promise they should do? (Lesson 9, v. 12.) What did he promise as to prayer? What great helper did he promise to send? What would he do for the disciples? (Lesson 9, 11.) What to lead the world to be disciples? What joy does he give them? (Lesson 20.) From what should they be kept? (Lesson 12.) How should they be made holy? What glory and blessedness shall be theirs?

TEMPERANCE LESSON.

SUBJECT.—THOU ART WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING (Dan. 5. 27). READ the story in this chapter of Daniel. WEIGH the question of the uses of intoxicating liquors in the BALANCES OF REASON.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—In what story is the subject of this lesson found? Who was weighed in the balance? What does this mean? In what balance should we weigh the question of temperance?

I. IN ONE SCALE PLACE THE REASONS IN FAVOUR OF USING STRONG DRINK.—How many reasons can you think of in favour of using intoxicating liquors? Name them. Are they good and strong reasons? Do they belong to the lower or the higher nature? Are they such as any one would be willing to acknowledge openly? What makes them induce so many to begin to drink? How are the young deceived by them?

II. IN THE OTHER SCALE PLACE THE REASONS AGAINST USING STRONG DRINK.—How many reasons can you think of against beginning to use intoxicating liquors? Name them. How is it a murderer? How does it deceive men? How does it make criminals? Of what does it rob men? How does it make slaves of them? To what good things is it opposed? With what evil things is it in sympathy? How does it injure family and friends? What does it bring upon the soul? Are the reasons stronger for, or against drinking? Which course will you choose? What will you do to help others choose the better way? Have you signed the pledge?

"I CANNOT do what is wrong; I am a Christian," said young Maximilianus, when asked to do a questionable thing. To do the right, that was the badge of Christianity.

CHAUTAQUA.

TEXT BOOKS

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