

Principal Falconer
Halifax, N.S. Rev. Prof. Ballantyne
Toronto

Teacher Training Course

Presbyterian Church in Canada

Under the Direction of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee

DEPARTMENT OF SCRIPTURE—I. The Life of Jesus Christ; II. New Testament Geography and Institutions.

N.B.—It is recommended that the Revised Version be consulted in these studies.

LESSON XXV.

THE INMOST CIRCLE OF FAITH.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—(Matt. 26 : 20-30 ; Mark 14 : 12-26 ; Luke 22 : 7-30)—Only in the Synoptic gospels is it recorded, but the same meal is evidently referred to in John 13 : 1-30, where Jesus by the foot-washing gives a lesson in humility to His ambitious disciples. A very difficult question emerges in relating the Lord's Supper to the Passover. According to John 13 : 1, 29 ; 18 : 28 ; 19 : 14, 31, Jesus dies as the Paschal Lamb. It may be that in view of His death He ate the Passover with His disciples, according to the Synoptic gospels, one day earlier than the regular time. (a) The Supper, which is the Christian Passover, marks the transition from the Old Covenant to the New. (b) The sacrificial meal becomes a source of spiritual sustenance—note the symbol of the bread. (c) The shed blood, symbolized by the wine, ratifies the new covenant which brings forgiveness of sins. (d) It is a memorial feast.

THE DISCOURSES OF JESUS TO HIS OWN

(John ch. 13 : 3 to ch. 17)

(1) *The Dying Parent to His Orphaned Children*, ch. 13 : 31 to 14 : 31. Jesus answers the questions of His perplexed disciples, Peter, Thomas, Philip, and Judas—not Iscariot. They cannot understand why He should go away and abandon them in the midst of this hard world. Jesus replies that He is going to prepare a place for them with His Father. He is the way, the Truth, and the Life. Meanwhile let them trust God and trust Him, ch. 14 : 1. If they obey Him and love one another, He will send them His Spirit.

(2) *The Vine and the Branches* (ch. 15)—By obeying Him in His new commandment of love, they will draw life from their absent Lord, as the branches do from the vine. Though the world hates them, they will possess deep joy through their life of love to one another.

(3) *The Promise of the Paraclete* (ch. 16)—In the midst of a hostile world, they will get support from a Person whom their risen Lord will send. He is the Spirit of truth, who will lead them into all the truth of Christ, and will enable them through prayer to do the will of God.

(4) *The Intercessory Prayer of Jesus for His disciples* (ch. 17)—Not only does He pray for Himself (vs. 1-5), but for His apostles, that they may be kept true to His name (vs. 6-19), and also for all His disciples, that they may live in unity, and may at last be gathered to that eternal home of love with the Father, whence He came and whither He is returning (vs. 20-26).

LESSON XXVI.

THE NIGHT

GETHESEMANE (Matt. 26 : 36-46, and parallels)—Recorded only in Synoptics, though the spiritual experience of John 12 : 27, 28 is similar. Jesus was face to face with that which gave death its horror, the sin which was its sting, and victorious though He was (Matt. 26 : 42), His sinless soul recoiled in agonizing dread from the encounter (compare Heb. 5 : 7-9).

THE ARREST (Mark 14 : 43-52 and parallel passages ; John 18 : 1-11)—Judas knew the favorite place of His retreat for prayer, and guided a detachment of Temple police,