

show our scholars that in all ages, and in every position of life, sin is offensive to God, and that the steps of return to God and His pardon and favour are the same, no matter what our sins may be (and let us be careful how we talk about small or light sins, all sin is sin, and liable to punishment). We must seek forgiveness even as David did, by deep contrition, humble penitence, and earnest prayer. We have : (1) *An appeal for mercy*, verse 1. David knew his sin now ; for months he had hid it in his heart, but the single word of the prophet of God pierced him to the soul, and he feels that there is nothing will meet his sin but the great mercy of God, and in bitter agony he cries out for mercy. Throughout the Psalm the words constantly recur "Thou, me ;" it was a personal matter between God and himself. (See verse 4.) (2) *He prays for purification*, verses 2, 6, 7, 10. Pardon was not enough. He felt that unless he was purified he would fall back into sin ; and so, with deep earnestness, he asks that he may be washed, cleansed, purged with hyssop. The petition is twofold : cleanse the record, cleanse myself. Then shall fear of condemnation pass ; then will there be full consolation. And he may be kept pure. (3) *He prays for a new heart* (verse 10). He fears himself, fears the sins that are lurking within him, and he asks for a new heart, a new, right spirit, a new birth, in fact ; just the Gospel of to-day. Further, there is (4) *The consecration of his renewed life to the service of God*. This completes and rounds the change. Every forgiven soul longs to tell others of the mercy of God ; to "teach transgressors" the way of God, so that many may be converted unto Him. One of the surest signs of a renewed heart is the earnest desire to tell sinners

"What a dear Saviour I have found."

In fact, we may say that it is impossible for a soul, into which the pardoning grace of God has entered, not to feel a deep and earnest, an overpowering desire for the salvation of others. It may be manifested in different ways, according to temperament, disposition, and training, but, manifested in some way, it must be. There are some other important truths in the Psalm, but these are the principal points to press. David has voiced the cry of the prodigal in all ages ; and the returning sinner must pass through somewhat the same experience as David. Press on your scholars the blessed privilege they have that they can go in the name of Jesus, and let them carry with them the precious promise : "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."—(John 7: 37.)

INCIDENTAL TRUTHS AND TEACHINGS.

Conviction of sin is the first step in the return to God (Luke 15: 18.)

David and Dives, one on this side of the great gulf, and can plead with his brethren ; the other—too late.

The thoughts and feelings of penitence and pardon the same in all ages.

The way of transgressors is hard.

God alone can bring the clean out of the unclean.

There is a repentance not unto life—only remorse ; no cry for the mercy of God and change of heart. Saul. Judas.

Main Lesson.—God merciful and ready to forgive. (Ex. 34: 7 ; 1 Chron. 16: 34 ; 2 Chron. 20: 21 ; Psa. 86: 15 ; 100: 5 ; Isa. 30: 18 ; Jer. 3: 12 ; Jonah 4: 2 ; Eph. 1: 7, 8 ; 2: 7.)

THE newest calculation made to show the enormous distance of the sun from the earth, is that a third-class return ticket by rail to the luminary would cost one million sterling.

MRS. WALL'S "beggars' meetings" in Rome continue to be a great success. Each meeting is attended by some hundred and fifty poor creatures who learn Scriptures and hymns.

Children's Corner.

"WHO FIRST LOVED US."

Saviour ! teach me, day by day,
Love's sweet lesson to obey :
Sweeter lesson cannot be,
Loving Him—

WHO FIRST LOVED ME.

With a childlike heart of love,
At Thy bidding may I move,
Prompt to serve and follow Thee,
Loving Him—

WHO FIRST LOVED ME.

Teach me all Thy steps to trace,
Strong to follow in Thy grace ;
Learning how to love from Thee,
Loving Him—

WHO FIRST LOVED ME.

Love in loving finds employ,
In obedience all her joy :
Ever new that joy will be,
Loving Him—

WHO FIRST LOVED ME.

Thus may I rejoice to show
That I feel the love I owe ;
Singing, till Thy face I see,
Of His love—

WHO FIRST LOVED ME.

THE DIFFERENCE.

"Willie, why were you gone so long for water?" asked the teacher of a little boy.

"We spilled it, and had to go back and fill the bucket again," was the prompt reply ; but the bright, noble face was a shade less bright, less noble, than usual, and the eyes dropped beneath the teacher's gaze.

The teacher crossed the room and stood by another, who had been Willie's companion.

"Freddy, were you not gone for the water longer than necessary?"

For an instant Freddy's eyes were fixed on the floor, and his face wore a troubled look. But it was only for a moment—he looked frankly up into his teacher's face.

"Yes, ma'am," he bravely answered ; "we met little Harry Braden, and stopped to play with him, and then we spilled the water, and had to go back."

Little friends, what was the difference in the answer of the two boys? Neither of them told anything that was not strictly true. Which of them do you think the teacher trusted more fully after that? And which was the happier of the two?