

## PRAY FOR YOUR MINISTER,

## Sabbath School Lessons.

**EFFECTS WISE TO OBTAIN A BLESSING FOR YOUR OWN SOUL.**

1.—For Divine grace to renew, quicken, and preserve him as a vessel unto honour, sanctified and approved for his Master's use.

2.—That the Holy Spirit may so apply his studies, that he may ever be a learner, and always a teacher.

3.—That the Lord would so order and sanctify his experience, and direct and bless him in the use of his talents, as to prove that he was sent, and is owned of God.

4.—That he may always be faithful as a **PREACHER**; diligent as a **PASTOR**; and exemplary as a **FATHER**.

5.—That he may never trifle with the word of God, the souls of men, or the delusions of Satan.

6.—That he may be preserved from diminishing his usefulness by a political, a worldly, or a careless spirit.

7.—That he may be watchful to discover, and labour to improve opportunities of usefulness.

8.—That his hands may be strengthened; by God's providence restraining the wicked—His grace renewing and comforting penitent believers—and His power preserving his spiritual children in truth, righteousness and peace.

9.—That his principles and conduct may invariably be regulated by the commands and example of Christ.

10.—That he may realize and diffuse such an **unctional spirit**, as may be most salutary to himself, and profitable to others.

11.—That God may dispose him to ascribe the success of his labours to the Divine purpose, mercy, and power.

12.—That he may be blessed with such encouragement in his work, as may prove a constant stimulus for renewed exertion.

The Preacher and the Flock either feed or starve one another: what they withhold from him in prayers, they lose in doctrine. Those who merely go to cavil or strive, come away empty of spiritual food.—Those who give liberally to their minister in secret prayer, have their own souls made fat by the very same doctrine that falls unblest upon others. Then let us hear more and more upon our hearts before our Father's Throne. 'Our Minister,' and we will assuredly feast more largely upon the banquet that he spreads: may we learn the secret of the profitable barter: instant, affectionate, individual intercession for the teacher, in the spirit of faith; then may we sit contented, and humbly confident to receive the assured answer in the portion which he is commissioned to divide.—*English Tract.*

**WILL IT STAND PRAYER IN ITS BEHALF?**

Romaine was one night invited to a female friend's house to tea, and, after the tea things were removed, she asked him to have a game at cards, to which he made no objection. The cards were produced, and, when everything was ready for play, "Let us," said Romaine, "ask the blessing of God." She was surprised. "Ask the blessing of God!" said she, with surprise, "I never heard of such a thing to game of cards." Romaine inquired, "Ought we to engage in anything on which we are ashamed to ask the blessing of God?" This gentle rebuke put an end to the card-playing for that evening.—*Land of Hope Review.*

November 13th, 1864.

## A LAWYER QUESTIONS JESUS.

Mark xii. 28-34.

It is common for those who speak the truth plainly to meet with cavillers. Our Lord while on the earth was no exception. He was captiously interrogated by Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees. Having silenced the cavils of these he was again attacked by one of the Scribes.

The Jews doubted whether the moral law or the ceremonial rites of circumcision and sacrifices were the greater. Hence the Scribe asked the question. He receives the answer referred to in the lesson.

LOVE TO GOD is the first commandment.

(1.) *For antiquity.* It is older than the ten commandments. It was binding even upon Adam before he fell.

(2.) *For dignity.* Inasmuch as it deals with God Almighty, it must take precedence of every other. (Other commandments deal with man and his fellow; this with man and his God.)

(3.) *For justice.* If man cannot understand how he is enjoined to love his neighbour who has injured him, he can easily understand how he is bound to love the God who created and sustains him.

Love to God is the great commandment. It is great, for it containeth within itself every other. Even the second commandment is comprehended in it. It comprehends all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The keeping of it ensures happiness. The breaking of it ensures damnation.

The Scribe had sufficient discernment to discover the greatness of the command, for he said it was more than "all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Observe—(1.) This command man originally fulfilled; but ever since the fall no mere man has done it or can do it.

(2.) This duty is still binding, and by it we shall be judged. Our inability gives us no claim to exemption from the curse of breaking it.

(3.) The Lord Jesus hath fulfilled the whole of this command for us, and if we believe on Him He will bear our sins, and we shall receive the credit of Christ's action.