

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

From the International Lessons for 1879, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XXXII.

AUGUST 10.]

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.—Gal. 5: 22-26: 6: 1-9

COMMIT TO MEMORY, vs. 22-24.

22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another.

CHAPTER VI. 1. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

4. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5. For every man shall bear his own burden.

6. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

7. Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.—Gal. 8: 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The righteous bear the fruit of the Spirit.

INTRODUCTORY.—The Apostle has shown that the old life in the flesh is opposed to the new life in the Spirit. The flesh had proved its depravity by a long catalogue of sins, which shut out from the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the Spirit develops all Christian graces.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) LIVING IN THE SPIRIT (II.) HELPFULNESS AND HUMILITY. (III.) SOWING AND REAPING.

I. LIVING IN THE SPIRIT. (22.) FRUIT, as distinguished from the "works" in v. 19; LOVE, to God and man, the same as the "charity" of 1 Cor. 13; JOY, "God loveth not heaviness" (Luther); PEACE, opposed to hatred and variance, v. 20; GENTLENESS or "kindness," sweetness, benignity, affability; FAITH, faithfulness, fidelity, as opposed to heresies, v. 20, or trustfulness. (23.) MECKNESS, "submissiveness of spirit to-wards God and man" (Littcott); TEMPERANCE, self-restraint, control of all the bodily passions and appetites; AGAINST SUCH, such things, such traits of character: NO LAW, to condemn and punish. (24.) CRUCIFIED, nailed to the cross when they became Christians; WALK, in all our conduct. (26.) BE DESIROUS, etc., or, strictly, "Let us not become," implying that this process has already begun; "vainglory hath always been a common poison in the world" (Luther).

II. HELPFULNESS AND HUMILITY. (6: 1) BRETHREN, a very conciliatory word; OVERTAKEN, surprised into, or caught in the act of sin; FAULT, any transgression; RESTORE, to repentance, right doing and Christian fellowship; MECKNESS, instead of harshness and uncharity; LEST... TEMPTED, and fall into a like sin, 1 Cor. 10: 12; Matt. 7: 3. (2.) BURDENS, infirmities and weaknesses which weigh one down; SO FULFIL, or, as some render, "Ye will fulfil"; LAW OF CHRIST, which is the law of love and mutual helpfulness, comp. Jas. 2: 8. (4.) PROVE, put to the test; HIS OWN WORK, instead of accusing others, or hiding himself behind their faults; REJOICING IN HIMSELF, his ground of boasting in what concerns himself alone, and not in what concerns another. (5.) SHALL BEAR, must bear, in the nature of things; HIS OWN BURDEN, his own load of sins and infirmities, and not his neighbor's, before God.

III. SOWING AND REAPING. (6.) TAUGHT IN THE WORD, instructed in the Gospel by preachers; COMMUNICATE, literally, "go shares with" (Lange), contribute to the support of; ALL GOOD THINGS, necessary for the teacher's support, comp. 1 Cor. 9: 11. (7.) NOT MOCKED, with impunity; none can cheat or evade him: THAT, the same in kind, but more in degree; REAP, partially in this life, and fully in the life to come. (8.) CORRUPTION, some read "destruction." (9.) WEARY, literally, "lose heart"; WELL-DOING, as the sowing of good seed; IN DUE SEASON, God's fit and appointed time.

What do you learn from this lesson as to—

- 1. The way to lead a truly faithful life?
2. The Christian's duty to the weak and erring?
3. The commonness and the danger of spiritual pride?
4. The duty to support ministers of the Gospel?
5. The enduring influence of all actions?

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LESSON XXXIII.

AUGUST 17.]

THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR.—Eph. 6: 10-20.

COMMIT TO MEMORY, vs. 14-17.

10. Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

15. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

16. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

19. And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.

20. For which I am an ambassador in bonds; that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.—Eph. 6: 11.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God's armor against God's enemies.

INTRODUCTORY.—Paul's description of the Christian's armor, which has been said to be "one of the most striking passages in the sacred Volume," was probably written when he was a prisoner, chained to a soldier, and night and day in the midst of military scenes. The Roman soldier, with his armor, his weapons, his discipline, his service in maintaining the great Roman Empire, suggests the Christian soldier's equipment, and his duty in fighting against the foes of a kingdom grander than that of Rome—the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—First get a clear idea of the ancient soldier, and the various parts of his armor. Mark how he was protected and how he fought. Then follow out the analogy as applied to the good soldier of Jesus Christ. Remember that you are called to enlist and to fight on Christ's side. If you do so faithfully, you may hope for the final victory, and the everlasting crown.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE FOES. (II.) THE ARMOR. (III.) PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN WARRIORS.

I. THE FOES. (10.) FINALLY, or literally, "for the rest;" BE STRONG, be strengthened; IN THE LORD, in Christ who gives strength. (11.) WHOLE ARMOR, offensive and defensive, our word "panoply;" STAND, and defend yourselves, instead of fleeing away; WILES, schemes, stratagems, crafty assaults; THE DEVIL, Satan, the adversary of souls, called by various names in the Bible. (12.) WE WRESTLE, some MSS. read, "ye wrestle," in hand to hand, foot to foot, struggle for life; FLESH AND BLOOD, mere men like ourselves; PRINCIPALITIES, the chiefs and potentates of the kingdom of evil; RULERS... WORLD, "the world-rulers of this darkness;" Satan is "the god of this world," 2 Cor. 4: 4; John 14: 30; SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS, "the spiritual hosts of wickedness;" IN HIGH PLACES, literally, "in the heavenly places," supernal regions, above the earth.

II. THE ARMOR. (13.) WHEREFORE, since we have such mighty foes; THE EVIL DAY, of special danger, of terrible temptation; DONE ALL, or "having overcome all;" TO STAND, firmly and to the end. (14.) GIRT ABOUT, the

girdle held the armor in place; a soldier could not fight ungirded, comp. 1 Pet. 1: 13; Isa. 11: 5; BREASTPLATE, covering the heart and vital organs; RIGHTEOUSNESS, wrought in by Christ, Rom. 6: 13, (15.) FEET, emblems of activity and motion; PREPARATION, preparedness, readiness for God's errands. (16.) ABOVE ALL, or "In all things;" SHIELD, that of the Roman soldier was 4 feet long and 2 1/2 feet wide; FIERY DARTS, having a tip of tar and pitch, setting fire to building, tent, clothing; THE WICKED, the evil one. (17.) TAKE, or "receive," a different word from "taking" in v. 16; HELMET, comp. 1 Thess. 5: 8; SWORD, the first offensive weapon mentioned; OF THE SPIRIT, made and rendered efficient by the Spirit. 2 Pet. 1: 21; Heb. 4: 12; Jesus used this sword in defeating Satan, Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10.

III. PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN WARRIORS. (18.) ALWAYS, at every opportunity, and in every emergency. ALL PRAYER, every kind of prayer; WATCHING, not sleeping; watching and praying must go together. (19.) FOR ME, the Apostle Paul; MAY BE GIVEN, he did not trust to his learning, experience, ability. (20.) IN BONDS, bound by a chain to a soldier, at times, Acts 26: 29; 28: 16, 20.

What does this lesson teach concerning—

- 1. The nature, power, and malignity of evil spirits?
2. The weapons of the Christian warfare?
3. Bible truth as a defence against temptation?
4. The need of earnest prayer for all classes, at all times?

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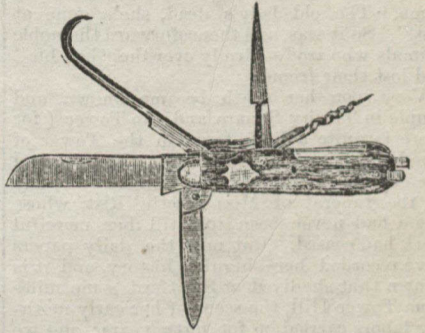
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