

Classroom and Hall.

International S.S. Lesson.

LESSON VI.—NOVEMBER 5.—1 Cor. xv. 12-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. xv. 57.

SUBJECT: THE RESURRECTION.—1 Cor. xv. 12-26.

SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS.—12. What grave error had crept into the church in Corinth? By the resurrection of the dead does Paul merely mean the immortality of the soul, or is he speaking of a raising again of the body? Are there any in the Church to-day like these Corinthian errorists, who, while admitting, perhaps, the continued existence of the soul after death, deny the resurrection or raising up of that which had fallen down in death? What other error about the resurrection crept into the early church? 2 Timothy ii. 18. Did Paul consider that a serious error? Does it exist to-day?

13. With what fundamental fact of Christian faith did Paul say the denial of the resurrection would do away even if we believed in the continued existence of the soul?

14, 15, 16. If there is no such thing as the resurrection of the body, what is the whole story of Christ's resurrection? How much depends upon the truth of the story of the resurrection? Rom. i. 4; 1 Peter i. 3, 21; Rom. iv. 25; viii. 31; comp. Heb. vii. 25; 1 Thess. iv. 14; Acts xvii. 31; xiii. 32, 33; and 1 Cor. xv. 14. What did Paul say of his preaching, if Christ had not been raised? Why was his preaching empty if Christ had not been raised? Were there not a good many excellent moral precepts in it anyhow? What else would be vain besides Paul's preaching if Christ had not been raised? Why should their faith be vain? Upon what fact, then, does the whole superstructure of Christian faith rest? What does a real faith in that fact carry with it? Rom. x. 9. If Christ had been raised what would Paul's preaching be then? What would our faith be? If Christ had not been raised what would Paul be found to be? Who else besides Paul would be exposed as false witnesses of God if Christ had not been raised? What, then, does the one who denies the resurrection make out the whole apostolic company to have been?

17. What is our position if Christ has not been raised? Is it not enough for our deliverance from sins that Christ should offer Himself for our sins, or must God accept the sacrifice as well as Jesus offer it? What is the proof that God has accepted it? Rom. iv. 25. Has the resurrection of Christ anything further than this to do with the forgiveness of our sins? Acts v. 30, 31.

18. If Christ, therefore, has not been raised, and there is no resurrection, what has become of those which are fallen asleep in Christ? What has, in reality, become of them? Phil. i. 23; 2 Cor. v. 8. If Christ has been raised what will hereafter become of those who are fallen asleep in Him? 1 Thess. iv. 14.

19. What does Paul say our condition is "if in this life only we have hoped in Christ"? R.V. Why are we of all men the "most pitiable"? Has not the Christian many blessings in "the life that now is," even if there is no resurrection? Does one who is a true Christian have to suffer anything? 2 Tim. iii. 12; ch. iv. 9, 13; Matt. x. 21-25; xxiv. 9; v. 32. If Christ has not been raised, and there is no resurrection, for what are these things endured? Is the man who makes enormous sacrifices for a delusion a pitiable object? Has Christ been raised? What proof is there that He has? (vs. 5 S.) Is there then a resurrection? Is the apostolic "preaching vain"? Is the Christian's "faith vain"? Are we still "in our sins"? Have those who have fallen asleep in Christ "perished"? Are we of all men "most pitiable"? On the contrary, what are we? What are the results of the resurrection? (1) 1 Peter i. 21; (2) 1 Peter i. 3; (3) Rom. i. 4; (4) Acts xvii. 31; (5) Rom. iv. 25; (6) Rom. v. 9, 10; (7) Rom. viii. 33, 34; Heb. vii. 25; (8) Eph. i. 18, 20; (9) 2 Cor. iv. 14; 1 Thess. iv. 14; Rom. viii. 11; (10) Acts xiii. 32, 33.

20. What is this risen Christ in relation to the rest of the dead? What relation are the "firstfruits" to the whole harvest? Comp. Phil. iii. 21.

21, 22. How many died in Adam? How many will be raised in Christ? Will this resurrection that comes to all men in Christ be a blessing to all? John v. 28, 29; Daniel xii. 2. In order that this resurrection that comes to all men in Christ, just as death passed upon all in Adam, may be "a resurrection of life," and not "a resurrection of damnation," what must we do? John iii. 36, 38.

23. Are all who are raised in Christ to be raised at the same time? comp. Rev. xx. 1, 5, 6, 11. Is it worth while to be "Christ's at his coming"? Rev. xx. 6. When is He coming? Mark xiii. 32, 35; Matt. xx. 41; Luke xii. 35-38.

24. What comes after the resurrection if "they that are Christ's at his coming"? What is meant by "the end"? What shall Christ do at "the end"? From whom does He receive the kingdom? Matt. xi. 27; xxviii. 18; John iii. 35; xiii. 3. What shall He have done before He delivers up the kingdom unto the Father who gave it? What is meant by "all rule, and all authority and power"? Eph. vi. 13, R.V.; Col. ii. 15.

25, 26. How long must Christ reign? comp. Ps. ii. 6-9; ex. 1. Who is the last enemy that shall be abolished from His kingdom? R.V. Where shall this conquered enemy be put? Rev. xx. 11. Will there be any death any longer outside "the lake of fire"? Are there any other enemies beside death that shall be abolished from Christ's kingdom? Rev. xxi. 4.

GOLDEN TEXT THOUGHT.

"Thanks be to God." It is no useless thing praising God. When Israel went out to battle, they took not only soldiers to fight, and ministers to pray, but also singers to praise. 2 Chron. xx. 21, 22. So in the Temple it was not so much after prayer as after praise, when they had sung. 2 Chron. v. 13, that the house was.....filled with the glory of God.

"Which giveth us the victory." God's will is not failure but victory, for His people overcometh (in the present tense), not has overcome, nor shall overcome, but overcometh—going from victory to victory. Why? Because kept by the power of God. 1 Peter i. 5.

"Through our Lord Jesus Christ," God's provision through Jesus. One word, JESUS. A whole Christ is yours, for everything—rise from the streams to the Fountain—from Christ's attributes to Himself. The action of a childlike faith is very simple. It looks off unto Jesus. For all real victory we are dependent on the Holy Ghost. He only can make the Lord Jesus "a living, bright reality" to our souls. If we are to be more than conquerors, let us honour the Holy Ghost, seek His illumination, yield to His guidance, pray for His teaching, ask Him to glorify the Lord Jesus in us.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. The resurrection of Jesus is the crowning proof that He was the Son of God, our almighty Saviour.

II. It is the proof of immortal life.

III. It is the proof and assurance of our resurrection.

IV. We need to be changed body and spirit into newness of life, to be fitted for heaven.

V. The resurrection gives largeness and broadness to life. What we do here has a meaning beyond the grave.

VI. There are powers and blessings in the future far beyond all we can imagine here.

VII. Christ's kingdom is sure to triumph over all evil.

REVIEW EXERCISES.

1. What do we learn about the fact of Christ's resurrection? Ans. That the proofs are infallible and complete, attested in every way, and by many persons. 2. What does the resurrection of Christ prove to us? Ans. That He was the Son of God, the Saviour from sin, the ever-living, almighty Helper and Friend. 3. Of what is the assurance? Ans. Of our resurrection, of immortal life, of a glorious future, of unceasing progress, of meeting those who have gone before.