

SCHOOL. In the rapid growth of the Church parties are formed and discontent arises over the distribution of gifts to the poor. The gathering storm is averted by the wisdom of the apostles. Seven men are chosen to take charge of the gifts, and one of them, Stephen, soon becomes a leader, with broad views and mighty words. He is seized by enemies, and stands before the council with face glowing from the indwelling presence of the Spirit.

LEADER. The eleventh lesson—The First Christian Martyr.

TEACHERS. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

SCHOOL. Stephen, the earnest preacher, falls as the first martyr, offering prayers for his enemies and commending his spirit to his Saviour. A young man, Saul of Tarsus, holds the garments of Stephen's slayers, and leads in a bitter persecution, dispersing the Church of Jerusalem through all the land; but while scattering the Church, sending the seed of the Gospel all the more widely.

SINGING. 8, 7.

Know, my soul, thy full salvation;  
Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;  
Joy to find in every station  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee;  
What a Father's smile is thine;  
What a Saviour died to win thee;  
Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

[A class of six scholars come forward.]

LEADER. Let us now listen to some of the promises found in the lessons of the quarter.

FIRST SCHOLAR. This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

SECOND SCHOLAR. Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

THIRD SCHOLAR. Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

FOURTH SCHOLAR. The times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you.

FIFTH SCHOLAR. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

SIXTH SCHOLAR. Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

SINGING. 7s.

Him though highest heaven receives,  
Still he loves the earth he leaves;  
Though returning to his throne,  
Still he calls mankind his own.

Saviour, parted from our sight,  
High above your azure height.  
Grant our hearts may thither rise,  
Following thee beyond the skies.

[A class of eleven scholars come forward.]

LEADER. Let us now see what these lessons teach us by way of encouragement and example.

FIRST SCHOLAR. From the waiting Church in the upper room we learn our privilege of prayer with God for the fulfilment of his promises.

SECOND SCHOLAR. From the descending Spirit on the Day of Pentecost we learn that we may enjoy the Holy Ghost's presence in our hearts, and his power upon our words.

THIRD SCHOLAR. From the believing people we learn our duty to unite with the Church of Christ, and to find our highest joy in the gatherings of his people.

FOURTH SCHOLAR. In the cripple at the Beautiful Gate we see our condition as sinners, and our privilege to be saved from the power of sin and made strong and glad by faith in Christ.

FIFTH SCHOLAR. In Solomon's Porch we learn that we should seek every opportunity to exalt the name of Jesus as the Redeemer from sin, and the hope of the world.

SIXTH SCHOLAR. Peter and John bold in the council show us that we should be bold in our testimony to Christ, even in presence of his enemies.

SEVENTH SCHOLAR. From the conduct of the apostles when threatened and persecuted, we learn that we should be steadfast in following Christ, and rejoice when we are compelled to suffer in his cause.

EIGHTH SCHOLAR. In the fate of Ananias and Sapphira we see how high is the standard to which Christ's people are held, and we rejoice with trembling as we remember to what faithfulness and sincerity we are called.

NINTH SCHOLAR. As we see the prison doors opening before the disciples, we see our privilege to enjoy the ministration of God's angels, while we are in the way of duty.

TENTH SCHOLAR. In the shining face of Stephen before the council we see how that the grace of God and the presence of the Spirit within the heart causes the beauty of the Lord to beam from the face.

ELEVENTH SCHOLAR. In Stephen's dying vision we learn that he who has given us strength to live and labour in his cause will welcome us into glory when we pass through the waters of death.

ALL. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

SINGING. S. M.

O war-h, and fight, and pray;  
The battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly every day,  
And help divine implore.

Ne'er think the victory won,  
Nor lay thine armour down:  
The work of faith will not be done,  
Till thou obtain the crown.