

International S.S. Lessons,

GENTILES GIVING FOR JEWISH CHRISTIANS,

5th September,

Les. 2 Cor. 9: 1-11. Gol. Text, 2 Cor. 8:9.
Mem. vs. Catechism Q. 91.

Time and Place.—Written during Paul's journey through Macedonia (probably at Philippi) late in A.D. 57.

- The Duty of Generous Giving. vs. 1-5.
- The Manner of Right Giving. vs. 6, 7.
- The Reward of Liberal Giving. vs. 8-11.

HOME READINGS.

- M. 2 Cor. 8: 1-12. . *Christ though rich became poor.*
- T. 2 Cor. 8: 13-14. . *We should supply others' wants.*
- W. 2 Cor. 9: 1-15. . *Gentiles giving for Jewish Christians*
- Th. 1 John 3: 1-24. . *"Whoso . . . seeth his brother have need,"*
- F. Psa. 112: 1-110. . *"A good man sheweth favor."*
- S. Matt. 21: 25-46. . *"Hungered and ye gave me meat."*
- . Phil. 2: 1-16. . *"Let this mind be in you."*

In his first letter to the Corinthians (Ch. 16: 1-4) Paul had given instructions as to a collection for the church at Jerusalem, then suffering from poverty. The collection, it seems, had been promptly undertaken. In the meantime Paul had mentioned to the Macedonian church the zeal which the Corinthians had shown in the matter. Apparently, the Corinthians had been slow in gathering the promised money, and Paul, now fearful lest after his boasting of their zeal, their performance should fall short of their promise, again urges the matter on their attention.

In our lesson he appeals to them not to put him and themselves to shame by falling behind the Macedonians in a matter in which the Macedonians were but following their lead. So anxious was he that their promise should bear full fruit in performance, he sent Titus and others to see that the money was ready when he should come for it. He appeals to them to exercise true liberality and describes its blessings.

1. Those who have plenty should give to those who lack.
2. Liberality in one influences others to be liberal.
3. We should give with love, cheerfully, thoughtfully.
4. God will give to those who are generous to others.
5. Spiritual blessing is given to minister to the wants of others.

CHRISTIAN LIVING.

12th September.

Les. Rom. 12: 9-21. Gol Text, Rom. 12: 21.
Mem. vs. 16-18. Catechism Q. 92, 93.

Time and Place.—Written at Corinth, early in A.D. 58.

1. The Spirit of Love. vs. 9-12.
2. The Spirit of Sympathy. vs. 13-17.
3. The Spirit of Forgiveness. vs. 18-21.

- M. Rom. 12: 1-21. . *Christian Living.*
- T. Heb 13: 1-25. . *"Let Brotherly Love Continue."*
- W. Rom. 13: 1-14. . *"Put ye on the Lord Jesus."*
- Th. 2 Pet. 1: 1-21. . *Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Charity.*
- F. Phil. 4: 1-13. . *"Rejoice in the Lord Alway."*
- S. Luke 6: 27-45. . *"Do good to them which hate you."*
- S. John 17: 1-26. . *In the world but not of it*

In chapters 1-11 of his Epistle to the Romans, Paul clearly shows the sinfulness and consequent hopeless condition of man in his natural state, and God's grace and mercy in Christ by which the guilty are accepted, saved, and cleansed.

He then goes on in chapter 12 to make plain the duties of those who are thus saved. In verses 1-8 is set forth the Christian's duty of practical consecration to his Saviour.

Then follows our lesson, which is devoted to an exhortation to practically apply Christian principles in all life's relations. We are shown that Christians must exercise and cultivate sincere love; purity of life, hating the evil and seeking the good; kindly courtesy and consideration; joyful hope; patient endurance; real, persevering prayer; unselfishness and benevolence; meekness, sympathy with our fellows; humility, avoiding all pride and self-conceit; strict honesty in all dealings; peaceableness; and a loving and forgiving spirit toward enemies. Such is the Apostle's measure of Christian living.

1. Our love should be sincere, generous, full of kindness.
2. We should be diligent in all business, earnest, energetic, and reverent.
3. We should be always ready to minister to those in need.
4. We should be sympathetic, entering into others' joy or sorrow.
5. We should never be quarrelsome, but should return good for evil.

PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS.

19th September.

Les. Acts 20: 22-35. Gol Text, Acts 20: 35.
Mem. vs. 22-24. Catechism Q. 94.

Time.—Spring, A.D. 58.

Place.—Miletus, a seaport 36 miles from Ephesus.

1. A Tender Farewell. vs. 22-27.
2. A Solemn Charge. vs. 28-30.
3. A Faithful Ministry. vs. 31-35.

- M. Acts 20: 1-16. . *Paul's Journey to Miletus.*
- T. Acts 20: 17-38. . *Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders.*
- W. Eph. 1: 1-25. . *"To the Saints which are at Ephesus."*
- Th. Heb. 9: 1-28. . *The Power of Christ's Blood.*
- F. Mark 13: 13-37. . *Warning against false Prophets.*
- S. 1 Pet. 1: 1-25. . *"An Inheritance Incorruptible and Unfaded."*
- S. Luke 6: 37-49. . *"Give, and it shall be given unto you."*