

THE NERVES.

Nothing in the whole animal economy is so complex and so wonderful as the nervous system. All animals, even the lowest forms, are supplied with nerves of motion and sensation; but complication increases as we ascend from the lower to the higher forms of living organisms, and with this increases the susceptibility to impressions from external surroundings...

still have a complete form of a human being. We cannot touch the point of a needle to any part without pricking some sensitive nerve and producing pain. No one can enjoy good health with a broken down nervous system, and no one can retain the strength and proper play of his nerves with his bodily health neglected.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. A. D. 60. LESSON II. SECURITY OF BELIEVERS; or, A Sure Salvation. Rom. 8. 28-38. July 13.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL.

Verse. 28. We know. The apostle speaks not in the uncertainty of a theory but with the confidence of sure knowledge. 1. The highest and clearest knowledge of God's plan is that which results from an experience of God's dealings. All things. We can easily see how some good things—prosperity, success, happiness—can be for our good. But the apostle, with the inner light of inspiration, sees that all things—sorrow, disappointment, poverty—are a part of God's vast plan for our eternal well-being.

29, 30. Foreknowledge. From endless ages the omniscient God knew who would meet the conditions of salvation and constitute the invisible church. Predestination. "Foreordain, or pre-determine." Knowing before hand who would accept salvation, to these he gave the privilege of sharing in the likeness of his Son. Image of his Son. The ideal, perfect character among the sons of men is that of Christ, and each true disciple, in proportion to his fidelity, possesses the traits of that character.

WORK AND OVERWORK.

How many women fail to make this distinction; or, making it, fail to profit by it. How many pale faces, aching backs, sleepless nights, dyspeptic days grow out of this tendency among wives and mothers to overdo in some direction. It may be sewing, it may be cooking, it may be a laudable ambition to have the house in perfect order, or it may be care and training of children which absorbs strength and energy, but in each and every case the aim, if followed too intently, will result in pain and weariness.

33, 34. Who shall lay anything. "Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?" As if in a court of justice, the apostles boldly challenges any one to bring accusation against those whom God has accounted righteous, God's elect. "God's chosen ones." Every one who has accepted Christ and obtained the forgiveness of his sins can count himself in that Godly fellowship. Christ that died. In other words, if Christ has died and risen again to save men, surely he will not condemn those who put their trust in him.

35, 36. Who shall separate us. So strong is the apostle's confidence in the Christian's security that he proclaims no power in the universe as sufficient to shut out souls from Christ's love and salvation. From the love of Christ. This does not refer to our love for Christ, as if inquiring, "who shall prevent us from loving our Saviour?" but to his love toward us, which the apostle asserts nothing can change or keep back from us.

37. We are more than conquerors. Literally, "we over-conquer, obtain complete victory." So far from making us believe that God is our enemy, these very trials only reveal to us God's love all the more clearly. They show us his power to comfort; they show us the strength of our own faith, love and fidelity; they chasten and refine our characters, making us meet for heaven; they are over-ruled and controlled for our good by his power; they only lift us the more rapidly and the higher toward heaven.

38, 39. Neither death. Death, so far from shutting us out from God's love only enables us to enjoy it the more fully. Life. With all its allurements, life cannot turn us aside from the path of God's service, Angels. Whether good or evil; though only the latter would oppose our love to God, or the operation of his love to us. Principalities. Mysterious spiritual existences and orders often referred to, but not precisely named in the word of God. Things present, nor things to come. "Vicissitudes of the present, and unknown revelations of the future."

40. Creation. Creation or created thing, whether animate or inanimate. In Christ Jesus. Who represents to us the highest measure of God's love to fallen man. In other words, nothing can keep the salvation of Christ, which is the manifestation of the Father's love, from its possession by a human soul.

41. Doctrinal Suggestion: The foreknowledge of God.

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