

LESSON VII—August 16th, 1896.

David's Confession and Forgiveness. Ps. 32: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 1-5).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Ps. 51: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should confess our sins to God. Ps. 32: 5.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 73. *Which is the eighth commandment?* A. The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal. 74. *What is required in the eighth commandment?* A. The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 7, 173, 90, 146.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David's confession and forgiveness. Ps. 32. *Tuesday.* The sinful nature. Rom. 7: 14-25. *Wednesday.* Hope for the penitent. Joel 2: 12-19. *Thursday.* Confession of sin. Ezra 9: 5-15. *Friday.* Prayer for forgiveness. Ps. 51: 7-19. *Saturday.* Cleansing. Ezek. 36: 22-31. *Sabbath.* Praise for pardon. Ps. 103: 1-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The long period of prosperity and unbroken success in the progress and development of the kingdom of Israel was suddenly clouded by the shameful and sinful conduct of their greatly admired and noble king. The story is told in 2 Sam. 11th and 12th chapters; Ps. 51 and 32.

LESSON PLAN. I. True Blessedness Declared. vs. 1-6. II. The Believer's Security. vs. 7-11.

1. **Blessed**—The blessings of the godly life are manifold (Ps. 1: 1). The psalmist's soul wells up with joy when he thinks that one who had gone down so far in the mire as himself, and had so long closed his lips in silence should now, after truly repenting, find himself so greatly blessed. **Transgression**—Sin is designated by three terms, (1) Transgression, "rebellion against rightful authority," (2) Sin, denotes missing the mark, either by "omission" or "commission," (3) Iniquity denotes crookedness, perversion. For each of these three a special remedy is mentioned, (1) Forgiven, pardoned, blotted out; (2) Covered, "shrouding the foul thing from God's pure eyes, so that His action is no longer determined by its existence." (McLaren); (3) Imputeth not, does not reckon or charge to one's account.

2. **No guile**—Without deception and without fraud. 3. **Kept silence**—When the children of God fall into sin, so long as they keep silent and do not manfully and frankly confess their sin to God, so long will the bitterness and the self-accusings of a guilty conscience make them wretched and most unhappy. **My roaring**—The soul clouded with sin is like a tempest tossed ship at sea without a pilot. 4. **The drought of summer**—The righteous man is like a fruitful tree planted by the streams of water (Ps. 1: 3), but the man living in known sin is like a tree blighted by the east wind. 5. **I acknowledged**—The psalmist, like the prodigal of the New Testament, came to himself (Ps. 119:

59, 60). "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10: 10). The sinner that truly repents will make full confession unto God of his transgressions, sins and iniquities. He will not seek to conceal or hide anything from God. **Thou forgavest**

All sin is against God (Ps. 51: 4). God alone can forgive sin. He delights in multiplying pardon to those that truly repent (Isa. 55: 7). We should not rest short of consciously realizing a sense of sins forgiven. 6. **Godly**—The godly man is a man of prayer. He will have his set seasons for prayer. **Mayest be found**—"Now is the accepted time." God's spirit will not always strive with man. 7. **Hiding place**—The Lord is a refuge, shield, buckler and wall of defence to the righteous man (Prov. 18: 10). 8. **Instruct thee**—The Lord instructs, teaches and guides his people by his holy spirit (John 16: 13). 9. **Be ye not**—A warning against brutish obstinacy. The horse must be subdued and kept in check with "bit and bridle," but man is a rational, intelligent and responsible being, and his footsteps should be directed by the word of life and moral suasion. 10. **The wicked**—The antithesis of "wicked" and "he that trusteth in Jehovah" is significant as teaching that faith is the true opposite of sinfulness. (McLaren). 11. **Rejoice**—The godly man has great cause to rejoice and to praise God continually.

LESSONS. 1. Forgiveness is accompanied with manifold blessings. 2. There is no peace to the sinner away from God. 3. Divine guidance leads in the right way. 4. The inviolate security of believers. 5. The manifold sorrows of the wicked.