

THE PLAN OF STUDY

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Conducted by Rev. R. Douglas Fraser.

Topic for Week beginning May 14.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

A letter to the children, by Rev. G. C. Heine,
Montreal.

Dear Young Friends:—

I want to have a talk with you about a very important matter,—God's Church in the world, and who belong to it.

And just let me tell you that God has a great deal to say to children, and about them, in the Bible, which is His book.

We learn there Christ's thought about children. He took a little child in His arms and told His disciples, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." "He put his hands upon them and blessed them."

The Bible also tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. So that His thoughts about the young are the same now as when he was upon earth long ago, and now as then He wishes to have them His friends.

Not only so, but He wishes to have them known as His friends.

The way in which He wishes people, old and young, to be known as His friends, is by their obeying His commands, doing His will, and in this way showing their love to Him. "He that hath my commands and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."

All the people in the world who thus truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and try to follow Him, are God's chosen ones, or His Church, His invisible, unseen, Church. Some of them call themselves by one name, some by another, and some have no church name. All these are called the invisible Church, because no man can tell exactly who belong to it. But God knows all His true people.

But there is the visible church, which we can see. It is made up of those who profess to be followers of Christ, and their children. Part of this visible church calls itself the Presbyterian church, part Methodist, etc., but these are simply parts of the visible, or seen, church.

The visible church has two signs, or seals, or sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is what is given as a sign of entrance into that church, and the Lord's Supper is a thing that is observed by those who are in the church who are old enough to understand and to accept what Christ did for them in dying for their sins. Christ Himself commanded these signs or sacraments.

But how do we know that God intended any of the children to have a place in this visible church.

Because when he first formed his church upon earth, in Old Testament times, and commanded the sign of circumcision, as the sign of entrance into that church or band of chosen people, he commanded that parents who were members of that church should bring their children to receive that sign, to show that they too belonged to God's people.

Then when Christ came he gave the sign of baptism instead of circumcision, but he did not take away the children's right to be received as members of that church and so your parents who have professed that they are Christ's people, have had you baptized.

It is a great privilege thus to have the visible church and to belong to it.

The visible church enables us to have Sabbath schools where we can learn of Christ. It enables us to band together and send missionaries to the heathen. It helps us to get much good and to do much good.

We should be thankful to God for appointing his church in the world. We should be thankful to our parents for having us received by baptism as members of it.

We should remember too the duties of child members of the church.

One is obedience: "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right"—"Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise."

As church members we should faithfully attend the services of the church and the Sabbath school which the church provides for our instruction.

As church members we should try to win others to come to church and Sabbath school, who do not come.

As church members we should set a good example to others. In our play and work we should be honest and fair and kind and true.

As church members, received into the church by the sign of baptism, we should, so soon as we are old enough to understand, see to it that we