

Christ," who needed to be fed with milk rather than with strong meat. Their misgalled party zeal in behalf of human leaders, was not a help in the enormously difficult work of winning acceptance for the Gospel, but a most serious hindrance. Besides, the men whom the Corinthians exalted were only ministers of Christ. However important or even necessary the work they might do, it would remain forever fruitless unless accompanied by the life-giving power of God. They were only builders on the one Foundation. The Church was the divine temple in whose erection they all were co-workers. To obstruct this work by dissensions, was to do violence to that Spirit of Holiness which dwelt within this temple, and such desecration God would certainly punish by destroying him who promoted discord instead of harmony.

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON XL.—PAUL'S ADVICE TO TIMOTHY.—JUNE 13.

(2 Tim. i. 1-7; iii. 14-17.)

GOLDEN TEXT—"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scripture, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." 2 Tim. iii. 15.

TIME AND PLACE—A. D. 66 or 67. Rome.

INTRODUCTION—The historic lessons of this quarter have given us an account of Paul's conversion, and of his earliest labors in the Gospel, and we now have two lessons from his epistles. The first of these is taken from 2 Tim. Timothy was converted under Paul's ministry, probably at Lystra, which is also supposed to have been his native place. His mother and grandmother were, probably, of the Jewish race, while his father was a Greek. Paul's confidence in him was so great that he chose him as companion and helper in his work, and he became an evangelist, and later was head of the church at Ephesus. The epistle from which the lesson is taken was written by Paul at Rome about A. D. 66 or 67.

VERSE BY VERSE—1. "An apostle."—The word means one sent. The apostles were sent to preach the Gospel. "By the will of God."—That is, God had appointed him. "According to the promise."—That is, in order to make known the promise.

V. 2. "My dearly beloved son."—Timothy had been converted under the ministry of Paul, and he regarded him as his son in the Gospel.

V. 3. "With pure conscience."—Having a sincere desire to please God.

V. 4. "Mindful of thy tears."—The reference is, probably, to Timothy's tears of sympathy with Paul in his imprisonment.

V. 5. "Unfeigned faith."—A true, real, not simulated faith. "Lois—Eunice."—See connection.

V. 6. "Put thee in remembrance."—Remind you. "Stir up."—Kindle as one kindles anew a fire that burns low. "The gift of God."—The reference is to the special gifts of the Holy Spirit which Timothy had received. "By the putting on of my hands." The reference may be to the gifts of the Spirit which he had received in common with all the disciples by the laying on of hands of the apostles, or to those conferred when he was ordained as an evangelist.

V. 7. "The spirit of fear."—The Revised Version reads, *fearfulness*. Any shirking from duty because of danger or hardship would indicate such a spirit. "Of power."—That is, to do the appointed work.

V. 14. "The things which thou hast learned."—From the word of God. Not only those which he had learned as a child, but which Paul had taught him. "Of whom."—This refers chiefly to Paul and to his early teachers as well.

V. 15. "From a child."—The Revised Version reads, *from a babe*. "Holy Scriptures."—The Old Testament. "Able to make thee wise unto salvation."—Unto the attainment of salvation.

V. 16. "All Scriptures," etc.—The Revised Version reads, every Scripture inspired of God is profitable, etc. "Doctrine."—Teaching. "Reproof."—Refutation of error. "Correction."—Reformation of life.

V. 17. "The man of God."—One who seeks to live for God and to serve Him. "Thoroughly furnished."—Completely equipped or qualified.

THOUGHTS—By describing the Gospel as a promise of the life which is in Christ Jesus, the characteristic distinction between it and the law is strikingly brought out, and its high all-surpassing worth at the same time shown. The gospel is no abstract system of doctrine by the side of, or even higher than other systems, but it is a revelation of the life which is manifest in Christ, and which through Christ is conveyed to the sinner. In this particular, Paul and John agree. (Compare 1 John i. 2). The high scope of the

manifestation of Christ was not that He might communicate to the spirit of man even a new wealth in religious ideas, but that He might give to the heart of the sinner, lying in spiritual death, the treasure of a new life.

Paul's calling absorbed him until his death. He had an unwavering certainty of his call to apostleship, and he labored in that relation faithfully until death. "In the character of Paul, it is remarkable that the greatest extremes meet in him without neutralizing each other. The same apostle, who deserves to be named a model of robust manliness, stands here before our eyes agitated by the most delicate, womanly feeling, and yet far removed from an effeminate sentimentality. By the recollection of the tears of Timothy, already is his heart touched, and the joys which he desires most of all is to behold once more the face of his friend and disciple. The man who in his mission-plans embraced the whole Jewish and Gentile world, has, at the same time, an open eye for individual family relationships, and can comprehend the little world of the hidden life of faith of a few modest provincial people. The teacher who could secure from his youthful disciple the recognition of his apostolic authority, did not think it beneath his dignity to call up before his vision the kindly image of his mother and grandmother." The religion of Jesus Christ does not destroy natural affection, but it does forbid inordinate affection.

Timothy's piety was marked from his childhood. The impressions and teachings of childhood are the most lasting. Where the love of God fills the heart, and controls the life, its gracious effects are seen upon succeeding generations. The grandmother does not cease her labors for Christ when her own child is reared, but continues to lift up the standard before her grandchild. She shares with her own child the responsibility of training her son. There was harmony of sentiment. No differences in religious belief existed to afford Satan an opportunity to tempt Timothy to doubt or question the right way. As he advanced in years, he advanced in the knowledge of God's written Word. He was blest with a talent, which, if he employed, would make him a mighty tower of strength to the Church of God. He was early converted to Christ. What he had learned from the Old Testament only enabled him to grasp Christ more readily.

Paul's exhortation was touching, indeed. He reminded the youth of his early advantages, as though he might be, on account of these, under greater responsibility to be active: Christ. He was indebted to his mother for much. He was indebted to Paul in a blessed sense, but indebted above all to Christ, for the blessing of earthly helps, and for salvation which came from Jesus through their help. Yet, with all his teaching, he must stir himself, lest the gift that was in him be left unused. Whatever his natural disposition may have been, if timid, or fearful of his own ability, Paul exalted the grace of Christ as a sufficiency for all things. His safety from the shipwreck of faith, lay in his faithfulness in pursuing the work of a minister of Jesus Christ. Paul was soon to depart from this life. He would make his last exhortation agree with former teaching. The same Bible which gave him his first help in learning of God, would reveal to him still the way of life and success. He would find it necessary to reprove, rebuke and exhort as well as to teach, and the Holy Scriptures were suited to his needs, for they were inspired by God. In the use of means provided, no minister can fail. He cannot charge God if he is not successful.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

DAILY READINGS.

First Day—"Behold, a disciple named Timotheus."—Acts xv. 36; xvi. 5.

Second Day—"My own Son in the Faith."—1 Tim. i. 1-20.

Third Day—"Timothy, my dearly beloved Son."—2 Tim. i. 1-13.

Fourth Day—"Quench not the Spirit."—1 Thess. v. 1-28.

Fifth Day—"Paul's advice to Timothy."—2 Tim. iii. 1-17.

Sixth Day—"To be ready to every good work."—Titus iii. 1-15.

PRAYER MEETING TONIC, June 13.—Matt. ix. 35-38; x. 1-16.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

BY REV. ROBERT CAMPBELL, D.D.

There perhaps never was a time when the question of giving the Gospel to the French Roman Catholics of Canada was more interesting than it is to-day. The remarkable revolt of the people from clerical domination on the 23rd of June last has been followed by a series of conflicts between the hierarchy and a portion of the laity which is very significant. Mr. Laurier is the idol of his compatriots and his elevation to the premiership of the Dominion has ministered plentifully to their self-love. They are very loyal to their Church too, as every one knows; but it will go hard with the bishops, if they try to get their flocks to throw Mr. Laurier overboard. It looks like as if at last the race cry were to be divorced from that of