

TOPIC: *Loving Words of the Faithful Prophet.*

GOLDEN TEXT: *Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Sam. 12. 24.*

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The people with a king reminded again of the KING OF KINGS. After an illustration of his power and magnanimity Saul is made king in Gilgal. 1 Sam. 11. 15. And now the venerable Samuel, his work having ended, speaks parting words—called by the TOPIC: *Loving words of the faithful prophet.* These are summed up in the GOLDEN TEXT; *Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Sam. 12. 24.* [Read the whole of 1 Sam. 12.]

REVIEW HYMN.

When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.

When in the slipp'ry paths of youth,
With heedless steps, I ran;
Thine arm, unseen, convey'd me safe,
And led me up to man.

Through hidden dangers, toils, and deaths,
It gently clear'd my way;
And through the pleasing snares of vice,
More to be fear'd than they.

Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue;
And after death, in distant worlds,
The pleasing theme renew.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

4. *Ought we not often to think upon what we have heard and read?*

We ought often to think upon what we have heard and read: and so lay up the word of God in our hearts, and meditate therein day and night.

Psal. cxix. 11. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Luke ii. 19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

EXPOSITORY.

FEAR NOT, ver. 20. The people feared. (1.) Because of the *thunder and rain* which Samuel had prayed for and the Lord had just sent, vers. 16-18. (In wheat-harvest thunder and rain unusual.) (2.) Because of the *plain statement* Samuel had made concerning their guilt, (vers. 17, 19,) of which the thunder and rain were a divine indorsement. YE HAVE DONE ALL THIS WICKEDNESS, (ver. 20. 3.) Because of the *summary of God's dealings* with them which Samuel had just given, (vers. 6-15.) (4.) Because of the *blameless and beautiful character* which Samuel himself presented to them, and which they acknowledged, (vers. 1-5.) A godly life always excites fear in the heart of the ungodly. And now, fearing even unto despair, the people are comforted by the prophet—FEAR NOT. There is yet hope if (1.) Ye will TURN NOT ASIDE from the Lord; (2.) But follow or SERVE him WITH ALL YOUR HEART. If, however, ye shall STILL DO WICKEDLY YE SHALL BE CONSUMED.

OUTLINES.

1. The *merciful* Lord, vers. 20, 24; 2. The *faithful* Lord, ver. 23; 3. The *destroying* Lord, ver. 25; 4. *Following* the Lord, vers. 20, 21, 24; 5. *Forsaking* the Lord, vers. 21, 25; 6. The *faithful prophet* of the Lord, ver. 23.

REVIEW SCHEME.

1. Repeat TITLES, TOPICS, and GOLDEN TEXTS of Quarter.
2. Recite the OUTLINES.
3. In which lessons are the following doctrinal points taught or suggested?—
 The sovereignty of God.
 The insufficiency of worldly wisdom.
 The consecration of children.
 The compensations of Providence.
 The one God.
 Civil governments.
 Christian progress.
 The pre-existence of Christ.
 Retributive justice.
 Christian Unity.
 Salvation by grace.
 The calls of God.
4. Which lesson contains special instruction—
 (1) For children?
 (2) For people who are not decided between God and the world?
 (3) For Christians who try to imitate the world?