

LESSON X—December 5th, 1897.

Christ's Humility an Exaltation. Phil. 2: 1-11

(Commit to memory verses 5-8.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2: 5.

PROVE THAT—We should be humble. Phil. 2: 3.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 105. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?* A. In the fifth petition (which is, *And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*), we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 218, 73, 129, 90. (Old Hymnal Nos. 83, 63, 144, 56).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Christ's humility an exaltation. Phil. 2: 1-11. *Tuesday.* Meekness of Christ. Isa. 42: 1-7. *Wednesday.* Lowly in heart. Matt. 11: 25-30. *Thursday.* Lower than the angels. Heb. 2: 9-18. *Friday.* Example of humility. John. 13: 1-15. *Saturday.* First and last. Rev. 1: 1-8. *Sabbath.* Worthy the Lamb! Rev. 5: 9-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The Philippian church was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 16: 10-40). This epistle was written from Rome about A. D. 63, and sent by Epaphroditus who had brought gifts to Paul from Philippi. Read the whole epistle and notice the tender affection which is manifested towards the kind and thoughtful comforters of his loneliness in prison.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Mind of Christ. vs. 1-5. II. The Humiliation of Christ. vs. 6-8. III. The Exaltation of Christ. vs. 9-11.

1. **Consolation**—R. V. "comfort." "If your union with Christ has brought you any comfort." **Comfort**—R. V. "Consolation of love." "If christian love has given you consolation." **Fellowship**—"If you have any real communion with the Holy Spirit; The Spirit of love and peace." **Bowels and mercies**—R. V. "Tender mercies and compassions." Loving forbearance towards the faults and weaknesses of others. 2. **Fulfill my joy**—Make my happiness complete by your brotherly love and unity. 3. **Like-minded**—R. V. "of the same mind." It is easy to come to an agreement when all desire to do so. "With union, of soul, unanimo.us." **Strife**—R. V. "faction." The two great enemies to concord and brotherly love are party-spirit and personal vanity. **Lowliness of mind**—The Greek word for this was first coined by the writers of the N. T. because Christianity first exalted humility to the rank of a virtue. To the heathen "humble" meant the same as "mean," "abject." 4. **Look not**—Do not selfishly consult your own interests exclusively, but try to help others as well. 5. **In the form of God**—The "form" or outward shape of anything declares what it is, because its essential nature clothes it in such an appearance. We know a tree to be an elm, or a maple, or a beech, by its "form." So to have the "form of God" means to be God, having the character and attributes of deity. (Heb. 1: 3). **Thought it not robbery**—R. V. "counted it not a prize," something to be held tenaciously and on no account to be surrendered. Even this he gave up to be a man and a servant of men. 6. **Made himself of no reputation**—R. V. "Emptied himself" not of his divine nature, but of its glories and prerogatives, the outward "form" in which deity is clothed. The form of a servant—As the "form of God" shewed that he was God, so the "form of a servant" shewed that he had really assumed the position, character and attributes of a servant. It was not a seeming but a real humiliation of himself. The likeness of men—He was perfect man (Rom. 5: 15; 1 Cor. 15: 21; 1 Tim. 2: 5) but because of his divine nature he was not simply and merely a man but the incarnate Son of God. (Rom. 1: 3; Gal. 4: 4; John 1: 1, 14; 1 Tim. 3: 16). (Meyer). 7. **In fashion as a man**—The word for "fashion" refers to external appearance, he subjected himself to all the conditions of human nature. Although essentially divine, he, in nothing, was seen to differ from other men, so complete was his self-humiliation. Under no circumstances could Paul be subjected to his Master's shameful death, for he was a Roman citizen, and as such could not be crucified. He was beheaded. 8. **A name**—This stands for office, rank, dignity (Eph. 1: 21; Heb. 1: 4). 9. **At the name**—R. V. "in the name." What Jesus is now, the glorified and ever-blessed Redeemer of men, will constrain every knee to be to him in reverent, adoring worship. Every knee—Christ's dominion will be universal. The whole universe, animate and inanimate; rational and irrational; celestial, terrestrial and infernal will own him LORD. (Isa. 45: 23; Eph. 1: 20-22; Rev. 5: 8-14; Rom. 8: 22).

LESSONS. 1. Try to agree. 2. Think of the excellencies of others, not their faults. 3. Try to be like Christ in love and self-forgetfulness. 4. Jesus was and is both God and man. 5. He is worthy of our adoring homage.