

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterian and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2404, Toronto, Ont.

BIBLE STUDY.

SOME HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

Take Genesis to begin with. It ought not to take you more than a week to master it so that at the close you can examine yourself with regard to all its principal characters and events. If you never go any further in your Bible study you will be evermore repaid if you have learned concerning Abraham, where he was born, the places in which he sojourned, the nature of the covenant into which he entered with God, the length of the different clean-cut periods of his life, and the names and dwelling places of his sons and the place and manner of his death and the same with regard to Jacob.

Read Genesis and I would counsel you as you read it to make an abstract of it. Rule three columns on a sheet of paper. In the first set down the consecutive dates; in the second the names of the principal characters, and in the third the principal events. You can easily do it in one little week. Will you do it? Will you do it for one little book? Will you begin at once? If you will and you return next year to a meeting similar to this and I happen to be the speaker, and I venture to ask the audience some such questions as these: "Who was the oldest son of Jacob?" "How many wives had he?" "What were their names and the names of their respective children?" you will know and bless me for inducing you to know, whereas if there are ten of you that know now you are a most exceptional audience.

But why should you know? What need of answering such questions? Because the story of Salvation is intimately connected with such questions. Christ Jesus your Saviour, came of a certain line, of one of Jacob's sons. The history of that son and his descendants is charged to the full with meaning all the way until Christ appears. It comes again and again to the front in that particular son's relations to other sons and his son's descendants, relations to the descendants of other sons, and it is highly important that you should know about it if you would have an intelligent idea of the scheme of Salvation.

Read Genesis. It might seem to you the natural and proper thing that Christ should have descended from Jacob's oldest son. But he was not. The oldest son was degraded for good reasons, as I fear you have forgotten, and another son took his place at the head of the line. From this son sprang the leading tribe and all the greater kings, many of the great prophets, and Christ Himself. It is all so interesting and all so important that I beg you, I implore you, read Genesis. Then I believe if you seriously undertake to master Genesis you will go on to Exodus and do the same for that book. Then Leviticus and Numbers. You will go on through the entire Bible. It ought not to occupy you over a year, but if you are a particularly busy person it may take you two years. No matter, do it. Do not grudge the time; do it. You will be blest in it beyond all calculation.

HELPS.

First—The reference Bible, with an index and map. Very few Bible readers know how to use references, and very few employ them. The only way to learn how is to begin. Take the first verse in Genesis. It reads: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The first reference probably will be to John i. 1, 2, 3. Turn to it. It reads thus: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made." Your reference teaches you that Christ, the Word of God, was the Creator—by Him God the Father made the worlds. So with other references. By them the Scripture throws light upon itself, and if you once begin to use them your knowledge of the Bible will increase so rapidly and your interest grow so deep that you will never abandon them. By means of the index you will be able to find the places in your Bible where various men are cautioned or various events are recorded. By means of the maps you will be able to locate places and their relative positions.

Second—The revised version of the Scriptures. You should read this in connection with your ordinary Bible simply because it is a more accurate translation, and will sometimes give you the sense of a passage which you could not otherwise discover.

Third—A syllabus of Old Testament history: This is not a commentary, but a sort of guide book. It simply helps one to arrange the books of the Bible in proper order. As it is now,

they do not follow chronologically. Isaiah, for example, is not bound up in connection with the history of the kings under whom he prophesied. The syllabus will guide your reading and show you where to connect one part of the record with another in an orderly and systematic way. The fourth help, a life of Christ, and the fifth, a survey of apostolic missions, need no explanation.

WHATSOEVER.

BY REV ARTHUR E. ARNOLD

"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."—John ii. 5.

"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do."—*Christian Endeavor Pledge*.

We do not read that these servants at the Marriage Feast in Cana of Galilee made any promise. If they did, it was to the mother of Jesus and not to our Lord Himself. How much better to promise nothing and to do, than to make a great profession and to disobey! You, dear Endeavorer, have promised. You have promised Him. And that not only in your retirement, away from the eyes and ears of men, but in the presence of those who love and know you best. There are many who know you have promised this, and they are watching you. And you have not promised in your own might. It would not be such a solemn matter if you had. You have spread it abroad that you are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength. So that much more is expected from you. May I ask you to repeat these words in the presence of your Lord and Master every morning before you leave your bedroom? Your brothers and sisters will not hear them, but they will soon be able to see a great and blessed change in your life and character.

"*Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.*" This is the Christian life in a nutshell. How wonderfully simple it appears. This is all He asks. He will never be content with less, and you cannot give more. When you say, "I will," to this beautiful bit of advice of Mary's, you enter immediately into Paradise Regained.

Adam fell through disobedience in what seemed a very trivial matter. And the Salvation of Jesus Christ is the enabling you to obey Him in small things. "*Whatsoever.*" He does not ask us to do many important things. He will do those. He will turn the water into wine if we will be obedient and humble helpers. When we offer ourselves to Him to be blessed and used, He takes our hand and looks into our eyes and says, "Can you say '*Whatsoever?*'" Oh, it sounds easy to say the word with the lips, but thousands of hearts have been struggling to say it for years, and have not succeeded yet! The selfish Christian cannot say it. Christ may ask him to do something that will place self upon the cross and drive cruel nails into the tender flesh. The proud Christian cannot say it. He may tell him to take his conceited self to some little Jordan and dip seven times. And he will turn and go away in a rage. The slothful Christian cannot say it. He may awake him at a very early hour, and give him a task to perform that shall make his poor back ache and his hands smart. So you see it is not so easy to keep our pledge as we expected. But He will give His power to those who are willing to be wholly consecrated to His service.

Will you remember that He never asks you to do unnecessary things, or harmful things, or impossible things? Will you remember also that strength does not come from Him before obedience? People who wait until they feel strong enough will wait forever. It is not what we feel, but what He commands. Power will come with obedience. The man who stretched forth his withered hand believed that He who commanded could heal. His feelings did not divorce his faith from his works. He heard, he believed, he obeyed.

Dear Endeavorer,—Do it! Offer that prayer: sing that beautiful hymn: confess your Saviour before men: speak to that friend about his soul's salvation: write that letter of apology: forgive that enemy: pay that debt. Take a bold plunge into the cold waters of obedience, and love and peace and the Master's smile will make them deliciously warm. "Ye are My friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

Seek for God in everything, and for everything in God. Only thus will you be able to baffle those cravings which distract the heart. The presence of the king awes the crowd into silence. When the full moon is in the nightly sky, it makes the heavens bare of flying cloud rack, and all the twinkling stars are lost in the peaceful solitary splendor. So let delight in God rise in our souls, and lesser lights pale before it—not cease to be, but add their feebleness, unnoticed, to its radiance. The more we have our affections set on God, the more we shall enjoy. If we have God for our "enduring substance" we can say:

"Give what Thou canst, without Thee I am poor;

And with Thee, rich, take what Thou wilt away.