

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER.

(Continued from Sabbath's School Notes.)

Lesson VII. May 15. Ps 103: 1-22.

A SONG OF PRAISE.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."—Ps. 103: 2.

EXPLANATORY.

I. PRAISE FOR GOD'S MANIFOLD PERSONAL MERCIES. 1. Bless the Lord. Bless, when applied to God, means to praise, but with a strong implication of devout affection. All that is within me. Not as opposed to outward or mere lip service, but expressing the desire to enlist every thought, faculty, power, the heart with all its affections, the will, the conscience, the reason, in a worship of the whole spiritual being, all in man that is best and highest, in the same heavenly service. Bless His holy name. The name is the outward expression of all that is in God—His goodness, His character, His attributes. Just as a man signs his name to a note, all that the man is and possesses stands back of it.

3. Now follow some of the benefits which should not be forgotten. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities. Pardon is the necessary preparation for enjoying all that follows it. Till iniquity is forgiven, healing, redemption, and satisfaction are unknown blessings.

4. Redeemeth thy life. Redeeming means delivering, but with a strong implication of cost and risk. From destruction. From death, from the grave. The word is elsewhere translated pit, grave, corruption; but it denotes a state of death in which the body returns to corruption. The king who showed his brother the dangers of royalty by setting him at a table full of the choicest viands, but with his chair on a decaying plank over a glowing fire, and with a sword hanging by a single hair over his head, but expressed the daily life of every one. We walk among countless diseases and dangers, but God redeems our life from destruction. Crowne thee with loving-kindness. The figure of crowning suggests the ideas of dignity and beauty, while the absence of merit in the object, and the sovereign freeness of the gift, are indicated by making the crown itself a crown of mercy and compassion.

5. Who satisfieth thy mouth. The word rendered mouth is of doubtful meaning, but probably means soul as the highest glory of man. So Alexander and Cheyne, who also translate it "desire." With good things. Not rich things, not many things, not everything I ask for, but "good things." All my need fully supplied, and everything good. Goodness is God expressed.

SATISFYING THE SOUL. The soul is full of thirsts and longings. To earthly things can satisfy none. This is the experience of every one who has made the experiment, even of those who have had the most that the world can give. It is like drinking the salt waters of the sea, which intensify the thirst instead of satisfying it. God never made a soul so small that the whole world could give it satisfaction. But God satisfies, because He gives all that "worldliness can give of worldly satisfaction in a far better way, and besides bestows His own personal love and presence; to be loved with an eternal love. There is something in Him to satisfy every hunger and thirst of the soul. So that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. Thy youth is renewed, and is in strength like the eagle's. The eagle gains fresh strength after the moulting of its feathers (Isa. 40: 31; Micah 1: 16); so Israel recovers fresh power after distress; so the church gains strength from persecution; so the body will rise glorious from the grave.

II. PRAISE FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE PAST.—The Psalmist passes from his own experience to that of his people, and says, "Such have been the Lord's compassions to myself, but these are only samples of His goodness. He is not only merciful to me, but to all who are oppressed." The Lord executeth righteousness. Or, doing righteousness is Jehovah's. The participle "doing" signifies habitual and constant action; the plural form, "righteousness," complete and variety, adapted to all possible emergencies. And judgment, Justice. For all that are oppressed. That is especially true of all the oppressed among God's people; but it is also true that God is against all oppressors everywhere. His laws and His providence are against oppression, and no oppression succeeds in the long run. All individuals or corporations who gain wealth by oppressing the poor are certain to suffer from their course. God will not let them have enduring success.

7. He made known, etc. Generally by His revelation of Himself, as described in Scripture; specially as described in Exodus 13: 19, 34: 6. His ways unto Moses. (1) By revelation on Mount Sinai of Himself, His laws, and His plans for the people, and (2) by what He did for Moses personally in training him for his work, in speaking to him, in delivering him from his enemies, and for Moses as leader of the Israelites. His acts unto the children of Israel. He showed what kind of a God He was by what He did for the children of Israel.

III. PRAISE FOR GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE. 8. The Lord, Jehovah. The Lord here is the fountain head. Seven streams flow from this fountain: (1) love upbuilding, ver. 9; (2) love that blesses and discerns, ver. 10; (3) love infinite in extent, ver. 11; (4) love thorough-going in its nature, ver. 12; (5) love very tender, ver. 13; (6) love that sympathizes, ver. 14-16; (7) love that is undecaying, ver. 17, 18. Is merciful and gracious. Those with whom He deals are sinners. However much He favors them, they are guilty and need mercy at His hands. Mercy pardons sin, grace bestows favor; in both the Lord abounds. And plentiful in mercy. As a circle begins everywhere and ends nowhere, so do the mercies of God. When Alexander encamped before a city he used to set up a light, to give notice to those within that if they came forth to him while that light lasted, they should have quarter; if otherwise, no mercy was to be expected. But such is the mercy and patience of God to

sinners, that He sets up light after light, and waits year after year, and even invites men to come unto Him that they may have life. 9. He will not always chide. But will cease His punishment as soon as it can be safely done. He infinitely prefers to shower blessings upon them. Neither will He keep His anger forever. He punishes His children, not as enemies to destroy them because they will not turn, but as children, for their correction; and the moment they repent He ceases His correction and enfolds them in His love.

10. Hath not dealt with us after our sins. His retribution for our sins has fallen far below our deserts. 11. For as the heavens is high above the earth, so great is His mercy. So large, so all-pervading, so efficient. The more we learn of His mercy, the more infinite it seems. Great as are the sins of men,—"high as heaven, deep as hell, long as eternity,"—the mercy of God is greater. It can bear up the great penitent sinner, as the ocean can bear a steamship as easily as a leaf; and can cover the greatest sins, as the ocean covers a mountain as easily as a grain of sand. Them that fear Him. His loving, obedient children.

12. As far as the east is from the west. As far as the wing of imagination can bear you, and if you journey through space eastward you are further from the west at every beat of your wing. If sin be removed so far, then we may be sure that the sinner, the trace, the memory of it must be entirely gone. No far hath He removed our transgressions from us. The forgiveness of sin is the greatest proof of God's love. Our sin will be wholly perceived, as if they never had existence. No more punishment, no more taint of evil. The soul will be justified and sanctified.

IV. PRAISE FOR GOD'S FATHERLY LOVE. 13. Like as a father pitieth—has compassion on. The Hebrew verb is peculiarly appropriate in speaking of parental love. The father pitieth his children that are weak in knowledge, and instructs them; pitieth them when they are froward, and bears with them; pitieth them when they are sick, and comforts them; when they are fallen, and helps them up again; when they have offended, and upon their submission forgives them; when they are wronged, and rights them.

14. For He knoweth our frame. He knows how we are made, for He made us. Our make and build, our constitution and temperament; our prevailing infirmity and most besetting temptation. He well perceives, for He searches our inmost nature. He remembereth that we are dust. Made of dust, dust still, and ready to return to dust. We too often forget that we are dust, and try our minds and bodies, and by excess of mental and bodily exertion; we are also too little mindful of the infirmities of others, and impose upon them burdens grievous to be born; but our Heavenly Father never overloads us, and never fails to give us strength equal to our burden. Because He always takes our frailty into account when He is appointing to us our lot.

V. PRAISE FOR GOD'S ENDURING LOVE. 15. As for mine enemies. Similar images (Ps. 50: 5; Isa. 49: 6; Job 14: 2, etc.). The original word here used for man expresses his weakness and littleness. Grass . . . flourish. These are fitting emblems of the perishable, such as man is, apart from the mercy of God. The grass lives, grows, flowers, falls beneath the scythe, dries up, and is removed from the field; read this sentence over again, and you will find it the history of man. As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. He has a beauty and a comeliness even as the meadows have when they are yellow with the king-cups, but, alas, how short-lived! No sooner than gone,—a flash of love; lines and no more. The east wind (Jer. 4: 11, 12) changes in a moment a garden into a waste. It would not be so strange if a tempest, a whirlwind, passing over should sweep him away. The Psalmist means much more than this. The gentlest touch, the whispering breeze, bears him off.

17. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him. Blessed be! How vast the contrast between the fading flower and the everlasting God! How wonderful that His mercy should link our frailty with His eternity, and make us everlasting, too! Over against the briefness of man's life and the transiency of all His doings stand the enduring mercy of His covenant, and His perpetual remembrance of His covenant people. Then that fear Him. Perowne remarks that the condition of God's loving-kindness is thrice repeated. (ver. 11, 13, 17); it is for them that fear Him. 18. To such as keep His covenant. God's laws, especially the ten commandments, which are called "the ten covenants." They are God's covenant because they imply an agreement on our part to keep them; and His part to bless and prosper all who keep them.

VI. A CALL TO PRAISE. 19. Hath established His throne in the heavens. About His government there is no alarm, no disorder, no perturbation, no hurrying to and fro in expedients, no surprise to be met, or unexpected catastrophes to be warded off; all is prepared and fixed, and He Himself has prepared and fixed it. This matchless sovereignty is the pledge of our security, the pillar upon which our confidence may safely lean. 20. Bless the Lord. All Jehovah's hosts, all Jehovah's servants, all Jehovah's creatures, inanimate as well as animate (Ps. 104: 4), in all places of His dominion, must take up the thanksgiving, praise, and blessing. Rev. 8: 13 is anticipated.

21. Ye his hosts. All beings and all forces of nature organized and controlled to be ministers of His, to do His pleasure, to carry out His will. 22. All His works, in all places. The last specification is completely comprehensive; all that He has made, whether intelligent, or not intelligent; in all places above, beneath, around; in heaven, earth, or hell. Bless the Lord, O my soul. He closes on his key-note. He cannot be content to call on others without taking his own part, nor because others sing more loudly and perfectly will he be content to be set aside.

—Nothing creates more disease, discomfort and distress than constipation of the bowels. In B. B. B. we have a remedy sure to remove and cure it.

BAIRD'S BALSAM OF HOREHOUND

Purely Vegetable. NATURE'S REMEDY FOR Coughs, Colds, Croup, WHOOPING COUGH, CONGESTION, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, IRRITATION OF THE THROAT, AND ALL THROAT AND LUNG TROUBLES. CURES AS IF BY MAGIC. Unprecedented Success proves its reliability. AT ALL DEALERS AND WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS. H. PAXTON BAIRD, PROPRIETOR WOODSTOCK, N. B.

C. C. RICHARDS & CO. Gentlemen,—The top of my head was bald for several years. I used MINARD'S LINIMENT, and now have as good a growth of hair as I ever had. Wheatly River, P. E. I. Mrs. A. ANNAN McKAY. I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT freely on my head, and now have a good head of hair, after having been bald for several years. It is the only hair restorer I have ever found. Mrs. C. ANDERSON. Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

JAMES S. MAY & SON, MERCHANT TAILORS, Domville Building, Prince Wm. St., SAINT JOHN, N. B.

AMMONIA IN BAKING POWDER IS A DISEASE-PRODUCING AGENT.

ITS vitality is destroyed by reaction with the starch of the Flour. The preparation of an UNOBJECTIONABLE Baking Powder containing AMMONIA is impracticable. Avoid all risk and use Woodill's German Baking Powder, Guaranteed to contain NO AMMONIA.

HACKNOMORE

has attained a great reputation solely upon its curative merits. It has many would-be rivals, but has never been equalled or even approached in curative properties, and rapidity and safety of action. Its value has been attested by the highest medical authorities, as well as by innumerable testimonials from those who have used it, and it is recommended as the best remedy for Colds, Croup, Sore Throat, Chest and Lung Affections of every description. Ask for HACKNOMORE. Price 25c. per bottle. G. A. MOORE, Chemist, Proprietor, St. John, N. B. Sold by all druggists and general dealers 25 and 50c.

GRANGER CONDITION POWDER

Will repay many times the price of a package of any other powder. They are worth their weight in gold. They are the best for all ailments of the stomach, liver, and bowels, and are especially adapted to the treatment of indigestion, flatulence, and all ailments of the digestive system. Price 25c. per package. At all druggists. H. PAXTON BAIRD, Proprietor WOODSTOCK, N. B.

Kennedy's Medical Discovery

Takes hold in this order: Bowels, Liver, Kidneys, Inside Skin, Outside Skin. Driving everything before it that ought to be out. You know whether you need it or not. Sold by every Druggist, and manufactured by Donald Kennedy, ROXBURY, MASS.

SKODA'S GERMAN SOAP. "Soft as Velvet," "Pure as Gold," that tells the whole story. Most highly medicated soap ever made. Try one cake. It is elegant. At all Druggists. Price, 25 cts. Positive proof that K. D. C. is the greatest known cure for dyspepsia can be had by examining testimonials from a grateful people.

Eyes Open. Rachie went off to school, wondering if Aunt Amy could be right. "I will keep my eyes open," she said to herself. She stopped a moment to watch old Mrs. Bert, who sat inside her door linding shoes. She was just now trying to thread a needle, but it was hard work for her dim eyes. "Why, if there isn't work for me!" exclaimed Rachie. "I never should have thought of it if it hadn't been for Aunt Amy. Stop, Mrs. Bert, let me do that for you!" "Thank you, my little lassie. My poor old eyes are worn out, you see. I can get along with coarse work yet, but sometimes it takes me five minutes to thread my needle. And the day will come when I can't work, and then what will become of a poor old woman?" "Mamma would say the Lord would take care of you," said Rachie very softly, for she felt she was too little to be saying such things.

Rachie tried, I too, dearie. Go on to school, now. You've given me your bit of help and your comfort, too." But Rachie got hold of the needle-book and was bending over it with busy fingers. "See!" she presently said. "I've threaded six needles for you to go on with, and when I come back I'll thread some more."

"May the sunshine be bright to your eyes, little one," said the old woman, as Rachie skipped away. "Come and play, Rachie," cried many voices as she drew near the playground. "Which side will you be on?" "But there was a little girl with a very downcast face sitting on the porch. "What is the matter, Jannie?" asked Rachie, going to her. "I can't make these add up," said Jennie, in a discouraging tone, pointing to a few smudgy figures on her slate. "Let me see," said Rachie, taking up the slate at home last night. O, you forgot to carry 10—see?" "So I did." The example was finished, and Jennie was soon at play with the others.

Rachie kept her eyes open all the day, and was surprised to find how many ways there were of doing kindness, which went far toward making the day happier. Try it, girls and boys, and you will see for yourselves. "Will you look here, Miss Rachie?" Bridget was sitting in the back porch, looking dolefully at a bit of paper which lay on the kitchen table she had carried out there. "It's a letter I'm after writing to no mother, an' it's fearin' I an' she'll never be able to read it, because I can't make it meself. Can you read it for me, Miss Rachie? It's all the afternoon I've been at it."

Rachie tried with all her might to read poor Bridget's queer scrawl, but she was obliged to give it up. "I'll write one for you some day, Bridget," she said; "I'm going over to Jennie's to play 'appy' now." The fresh air and the bird songs and the soft winds made it very pleasant to be out of doors after being in school all day, and her limbs fairly ached for a good run. But she turned at the gate or another look at Bridget's woe-begone face. "I'll do it for you now, Bridget," she said, going back.

It was not an easy task, for writing was slow work with her; but she formed it, each letter with painstaking little fingers, and when she had finished, felt well repaid by Bridget's warm thanks and the satisfied feeling of duty well done. "Our Master has taken His journey to a country that is far away." Aunt Amy heard the cheery notes floating up the stairs, telling of the approach of the little worker.

"I've been keeping my eyes open, Aunt Amy, and there's plenty and plenty to do."

Studying Geography. George Jewett was the envy of all the boys and girls in his geography class at school, and the pride of his teacher. He seemed to have a genius for geography. He could give the boundaries of all the countries on the globe, tell the direction of the mountain chains, the course of the principal rivers, the capitals of the various countries, and was accurate in all the details of capes, promontories, isthmuses, etc.

There is always a reason for things. When George was a little fellow his mother bought a map of the globe, five or six inches in diameter, and when Mr. Jewett was away from home, as he was much of the time during one summer, this little globe was put in the centre of the table at meal-time, and the table talk took the form of geography. Mrs. Jewett had been a teacher before her marriage, and always a great reader of travels, and she had that invaluable habit of always finding every place mentioned on the map and every new word in the dictionary. As she had required of herself, while teaching, to hear the map questions answered without an atlas before her, she was "up" in that department. George and his brother were encouraged to select the country or the locality that should form the topic of conversation, and what Mrs. Jewett didn't know or had forgotten she studied up in the gazetteer and geography. There were review lessons in which, globe in hand, the boy retold stories of travel and adventure, giving names and localities, and pointing them out. Thus was laid a good foundation for thorough acquaintance with the text books studied at school, and such a love for the study that the mastery of its details was not work, but play. Later the mother taught them the first principles of physical geography and climatology, and so prepared their way in these branches. Among the fine results that naturally followed this method of instruction was the habit of discussing at meal-time something intrinsically interesting and instructive, so that the table talk did not degenerate into mere senseless babble.—Orestes Adcock.

ST. JACOBS OIL. The Great Remedy for Pain. Nearly Two Million Bottles sold in the Dominion in Ten years. IT CONQUERS PAIN. A CURE IN EVERY BOTTLE. RHEUMATISM NEURALGIA. REMEMBER THE PAIN KILLER. Ask your Druggist for it and take nothing else.

Rheumatism Neuralgia. REMEMBER THE PAIN KILLER. Ask your Druggist for it and take nothing else.

USE IDEAL SOAP.

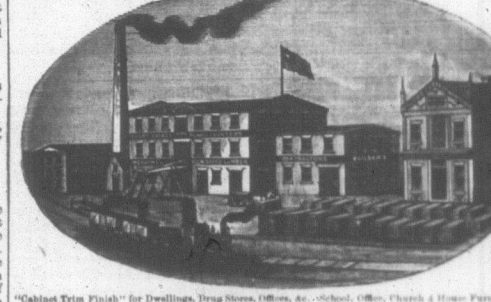
FULL POUND BAR.

Brussels Carpets at Cost

BEFORE making further importations of Brussels Carpets I have decided to sell out my present stock at cost prices. Intending purchasers are requested to inspect same before purchasing. My stock of FURNITURE is complete. Other Departments will be found fully assorted with Latest Novelties.

HAROLD GILBERT, 54 King St., ST. JOHN, N. B.

Rhodes, Curry & Co. AMHERST, N. S. Manufacturers and Builders. 1,000,000 FEET LUMBER KEPT IN STOCK. PLANING MILL, SAW MILL, SHINGLE MILL, LATH MILL.



HALL'S BOOK STORE, Fredericton. BAPTIST HYMNALS, SABBATH-school Libraries, Paper, Cards, Gospel Hymns. Headquarters for School Books, Sheet Music and Music Books.

AMES WHITHAM. A. A. AYER, SPECIAL PATENT.

JAMES WHITHAM & CO. MONTREAL. UNSURPASSED FOR FIT SHOES. QUALITY WEAR. PRICE. ASK FOR WHITHAM'S SHOES. ALL BEST RETAILERS KEEP THEM. TAKE NO OTHERS.

MONEY! AN EASY WAY TO MAKE IT. Everybody can do it. How? Why, by hunting up their very old letters that have stamps on them. I buy for cash all kinds of Postage Stamps, and pay from one cent to many dollars each for them. Hunt up old letters and look through them, you may find something worth many dollars. Stamps are most valuable if left on entire envelopes. Send what you find on approval, and I will make you a cash offer for them. If you do not accept I will return them to you. Stamps of the present issue not wanted. Address—P. HURT BARNES, P. O. Box 56, St. John, N. B. Reference—The Messenger and Visitor.