

daringly put the Holy Ghost on trial whether or no he is able to discern the thoughts of evil hearts. (Hervey). (Luke 4: 12).

10. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost; and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, 'carrying her forth, buried her by her husband—The Holy

Ghost himself struck down the audacious offender.

11. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things—This is the first time that the word "church" is used to denote the christian community.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

32. Was "community of goods" the rule in the early church? (ch. 5: 4). What evidence that it was not universally practiced? (ch. 6: 1-7; 1 Cor. 11: 21; Jas. 2: 1-3, 6; 2: 15, 16).

33. Why did the apostles make the fact of the resurrection so important? (1 Cor. 15: 13-19).

35. Did the apostles afterwards find this duty burdensome? (ch. 6: 2).

36. What other mention of Barnabas in the Acts? (11: 25, 30; 13: 2-14, 28; 15: 2, 36-41). What special gifts did he possess? (ch. 13: 1). In what sense is he called an "apostle?" (ch. 14: 14. Compare 2 Cor. 8: 23, margin "apostles," Phil. 2: 25, margin "apostle.")

1. Who else are accused of stealing from God? (Josh. 7: 11; Mal. 1: 14; 3: 8, 9).

3. Give other instances of evil doers found out by direct revelation (2 Kings 5: 25, 26; 2 Sam. 12: 7). What was the Old Testament law concerning religious promises? (Num. 30: 2; Deut. 23: 21; Ecc. 5: 4). What bearing has this verse on the doctrine of the divinity of the Holy Spirit?

5. Give other severe warnings sent to check an evil at its first appearance (Lev. 10: 2; Num. 15: 35, 36; Acts. 8: 20; 13: 11; 1 Cor. 11: 17-21).

9. How may we tempt God? (Luke 4: 12; Deut. 6: 16; Ps. 139: 7-12). Does God tempt men? (Jas. 1: 13-15).

11. What temptations before the church to-day are like those that assailed Ananias and Sapphira? (Rev. 2: 4; 3: 2, 3, 16-19). How are they to be overcome? (1 Cor. 2: 2).

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

1. *The fellowship of the disciples.* We very frequently speak of the primitive church and appeal to it as an example to the church to-day. What a beautiful picture we have here given to us of the spirit prevalent among the early christians. They abounded in love to one another, their joining together in holy ordinances seemed to knit their hearts in love their charity was as eminent as their piety. They made very large contributions of their means for the help and relief of those who were in need. As they abounded in love so they abounded in charity. It may be that in this they acted upon the words of our Lord to the rich young ruler, when he would test his sincerity, "Sell all thou hast and give to the poor." Not that this was ever intended by our Lord for an example to be followed by all christians in all ages and all places requiring them to sell their property and contribute to the poor. These early christians were under no obligation to do what they did, they were

constrained by the law of love. Their actions give us an illustration of the wonderful power of the grace of God in the heart, to raise it above the love of the things of this world, to fill it with love to the brethren, and compassion for the poor and needy, and to fire it with an intense zeal for the spread of the gospel.

2. *The best of causes may have unworthy followers.* The spirit and life of the disciples seemed to be very good and the blessing of God was present with them, but there were those in their midst whose hearts were not right in the sight of God. There is a mixture of bad with the good in the best societies on this side of heaven; tares will grow among the wheat until the harvest. The better the cause the more likely hypocrites are to attach themselves to it. It is not the baser metals or coins that are counterfeited, but men seek to imitate gold and silver with baser metals. Hypocrisy incidentally attests the genuineness of the profession assumed as the counterfeit