

Berean Methods.

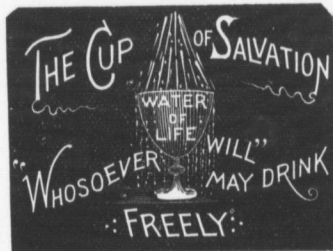
Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

This lesson contains five parts. . . I. **The call.** 1. To every one, ver. 1. . . 2. To the thirsty. Show how eagerly men in the desert long for water, and how precious it is. Said an Arab, "Once I saw a skin-bag lying on the sand; I ran toward it hoping to find in it water. But alas! it was full of pearls! . . . 3. To buy, yet without money. How little of this world's treasure can men buy without money! Yet God offers his priceless things as a gift. . . II. **The reasons for accepting God's offer.** 1. The fact that other objects in life are disappointing, ver. 2. How few people find that riches, honor, pleasure satisfy their needs! . . . 2. The pleasure and satisfaction to be obtained by acceptance, ver. 2. . . 3. The eternal reward which is offered, ver. 3. . . III. **The Saviour who is presented.** vers. 4, 5. 1. A witness. 2. A leader. 3. A commander. 4. An attractive Saviour, drawing all men, ver. 5. 5. The Holy One, ver. 5. . . IV. **The conditions of the call.** Vers. 6, 7. 1. Come now, ver. 6. . . 2. Turn from sin . . . 3. Return to God. 4. Seek mercy. . . V. **The encouragements of the call.** 1. God's abundant grace, vers. 8, 9. . . 2. God's mercy as shown in his bounty to the earth, ver. 10. . . 3. These show his faithfulness to his promise, ver. 11.

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 1: Invitation to buy, 526.

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Jesus places the cup of salvation to our lips. In it is the water of life, of which he said that if one drinks of it he will not thirst again. Whosoever will may drink of it freely. No one, rich or poor, old or young, will be turned empty away. The invitation to come to the waters is no ordinary one. It is a question of life or death to the one who hesitates to obey the call. It cannot be bought. How can it be obtained?

Lesson Word-Pictures.

A fountain brimming and running! What a musical splash to the waters! As the sun shines on it, with what a necklace of jewels it is encircled! So cool is it, and satisfying and free! Why does not that thirsty man creeping across the desert-sands of sin, hot and blistering, run to it, stoop down to it, and lose his thirst forever? "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." A feast in the banquet room! Long tables heaped with delicious food, and the door of the banquet-room is wide open! Why does not that gaunt, starving beggar out in the highway of sin hurry in and eat and be satisfied forever? "Ho, everyone!" Why do not the desert pilgrims leave the parched sands and the hungry beggars the highway, and all hurry to the cool,

11. "Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not," ver. 5. That is, the peculiar people to be known as the Christian Church, but which at that time did not exist. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church." Eph. 1. 22; Deut. 7. 6; Psa. 90. 16; Isa. 60. 19; Rom. 9. 2-4.

12. "And nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee," ver. 5. The ultimate and universal victory of the Christian Church is here predicted. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Isa. 2. 2; Ezek. 17. 22-24; Dan. 2. 34, 35; Mic. 4. 1; Psa. 2. 8.

13. "For he hath glorified thee," ver. 5. Messiah's position by God's appointment. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Rev. 11. 15; Isa. 45. 23; John 18. 36; Phil. 2. 9, 10; Heb. 2. 9.

14. "Seek ye the Lord," ver. 6. The favor of God, pardon through the atonement, and purity through the new birth, is not obtained by the sinner without effort. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7. 7; Psa. 81. 10; John 14. 13, 14; 16. 23, 24; 2 Tim. 2. 15; 2 Peter 1. 10.

15. "While he may be found," ver. 6. The individual's opportunity to repent and obey Christ may end before his natural life does. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Gen. 6. 3; Neh. 9. 30; Isa. 5. 4, 5; 63. 10; Jer. 11. 7, 11; Matt. 12. 31; Mark 3. 29; Luke 12. 10.

16. "Let the wicked forsake his way," ver. 7. Repentance is ceasing to sin: to repent is to stop sinning: the wicked repent when they forsake their wicked ways. "But now commandeth all men every-where to repent." Acts 17. 30; Job 11. 14; Psa. 34. 14; 101. 3; Luke 24. 47; 2 Tim. 2. 19.

17. "And he will have mercy upon him," ver. 7. No matter how great the offender, the mercy of the Offended is adequate to pardon and purify. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28. 13; Psa. 86. 5, 15; 103. 8; Micah 7. 18; 1 Peter 1. 3.

18. "For he will abundantly pardon," ver. 7. There are no "non-exceptions" some sinners need more of the grace of conviction than others. "My grace is sufficient." "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write you of the common salvation." Jude 3; Isa. 45. 22; Titus 1. 4; 2 Peter 3. 9; Rev. 22. 17.

19. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord," ver. 8. God would teach us by this strong contrast a needed lesson of humility, by calling attention to the fact of his infinite superiority to us. "To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever." Rom. 16. 27; 1 Tim. 1. 17; 6. 15, 16; 1 John 4. 8, 16; Jude 25.

20. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void: but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it," ver. 11. The central mission of the word of God is to save the human race, and that salvation it will positively accomplish. "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isa. 11. 9; 33. 9; Psa. 72. 19; Hab. 2. 14; Rev. 11. 15.