

What Every Teacher Should Know.

No one is fitted to teach a Sunday-school class until he fully knows four things:—First, his personal Saviour; second, the truth taught in the Bible lesson for the day; third, the individual scholars of his class, with their peculiarities and needs; fourth, how to teach what he knows, to his scholars severally.

"KNOW YE THE LORD."

It is said of the child Samuel, when the divine call to special service first came to him: "Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord revealed unto him." Up to that time he would surely have made a poor teacher of God—or God's truth. It was only after God revealed himself to him that Samuel was sent with a message to another from God. Too many who attempt to teach are as Samuel was before he was himself instructed. Until one can say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," or with Paul, "I know whom I have believed," he is in no state to be a teacher of the truth, "as the truth is in Jesus." The apostolic reminder comes to all who, being "without Christ," hence "without God in the world," attempt to teach others: "When for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God." The words of Christ to his disciples, "Without me ye can do nothing," apply with peculiar force to those who would stand as his representatives to proclaim or expound the truth.

"THY WORD IS TRUTH."

The Bible lesson for the day is what the teacher is set to open before his scholars. He cannot teach more of it than he himself understands. A question book or a lesson paper is of little service in the hands of a teacher who has not studied the sacred text itself. Even study fails to bring a full knowledge of Bible truth save as the Holy Ghost makes that study effective. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." The promise from Jesus is: "The Com-

forter, which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things." The prayer to the Holy Ghost of the wise teacher will be ever like David's, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy laws." Many occupy the place of teachers who do not study the Bible prayerfully; hence do not understand it. They are very poor teachers. Their scholars know it. Some of their Bible loving scholars can say before God with the Psalmist, "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my mediation." No natural brightness, no well stored mind, no matured Christian character will atone for the lack of special, prayerful, faith-filled study of the Bible lesson of the day, in one who would fill his place as a Sunday-school teacher.

"TO WHOM SHALL HE TEACH KNOWLEDGE."

Even the trusting disciple of Jesus, who knows the most precious truth of the day's lesson, is unfit to teach, if he does not know the special needs of his scholars. He must understand if they are professed followers of Jesus, or are still in rebellion against him. If he would press particular doctrines, he should know what his scholars now believe. When Paul asked certain disciples at Ephesus, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" they answered him, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Then Paul saw their special need of instruction, and commenced to teach accordingly. Without such questioning as Paul's, teachers will take it for granted that their scholars are acquainted with some fundamental truths of which they are in supreme ignorance. If the teacher would apply the truth practically, he must know the temptations to which his scholars are particularly exposed. If they are pledged and faithful total abstinence men, but inclined to profanity, he ought to address them differently from what he would if they were reverent in speech but sad tipplers. A colored brother is said to have suggested to a new preacher before his first sermon, "Jus' please don't talk nuffin 'bout stealin' here to-day." Dat would be a wet blanket on