

SURDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for
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AND
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The Past Year.

THE year is past and over.

What has it done for thee?

Hast thou grown in love and each Christian
grace?

Hast thou grown more meet for the heavenly
place?

What may the record be?

The year is past and over;

Gone are thy golden days

In the which to serve the dear Lord of love

And to lay up treasure for realms above,

Winning the Master's praise.

The year is past and over.

Say, hast thou spent it well?

Hast thou lived each hour with a purpose true?

Hast thou done each task thou wert called to
do?

What does the record tell?

The year is past and over,

Save but a breath for prayer;

For the tasks undone, for the evil wrought,

O thou God of grace, is forgiveness sought—

Farewell, farewell, Old Year!

—Robert M. Offord.

Was Solomon Saved?

BY REV. J. C. JACKSON, SEN., PH.D.

WHILE we cannot be absolutely sure of Solomon's salvation, we may be almost certain. Speaking by divine inspiration to David before the young prince's birth, Nathan declared in God's name: "I will be his father, and he shall

be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men; but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul." Saul had landed in utter, irreconcilable, permanent unlikeness to God, and so was finally lost. But, unlike him, Solomon, though wandering far from God in sin, was amenable to the chastisement of a son, which was not for destruction, but recovery. Therefore God's mercy did not finally depart from him. This teaching of his ultimate salvation seems clear.

So also seems the words of Nehemiah. Six hundred years after Solomon's death the prophet wrote: "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God." Here is a full recognition of the sin of his intermarriage with heathen wives and his consequent idolatry. But the inspired writer appears plainly to teach that his guilt did not deepen and darken into final apostasy. At last he was "beloved of his God," as still having something saveable in his nature.

God's love and grace are well-nigh invincible. While He will terribly punish, it is in compassion. He will save all He can. "He remembereth that we are dust." There is enough uncertainty about Solomon's fate to make us beware of presuming upon God's mercy; and yet hope enough to forbid despair for any soul which, amid its sins, retains one lingering remnant of divine light.—*Sunday-school Journal*.

PRAY for no particular blessings, but for that state of mind that will make His will ours.—*Heylin*.