

beheld is a mournful one. Look at chap. 4, 3, 4. And look back to chap. 3, 1-13. What a picture of the time to come? And is that time, to which Paul looked forward, yet past? Look only at a few touches in the picture: "Men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters" (Revised Version). Is not that a picture of this present time? And look again: "They shall turn away their ears from the truth, and be turned unto fables." That is what is going on now. All sorts of false doctrine, follies, and wickedness, taking the place that should be given to the truth of God.

So Paul cannot congratulate Timothy on the time that is coming—cannot tell him his path will be smooth, and pleasant, and prosperous. But what does he tell him?

First, That in the midst of all this sickness, confusion, perplexity, and darkness, there is one true, sure, and holy guide—the written word of God. A traveler in England often finds himself in the midst of a net-work of railways, crossing and re-crossing in all directions. If not well acquainted with the way it is a puzzle to find out which is the right line, the right train, the right time, etc. And perhaps he takes his "Bradshaw" that he may find out what he requires. But it requires some skill to unravel the mazes of Bradshaw, and of late years a shorter and simpler "guide" has been published, for all journeys to or from London, called the "A.B.C.," which no one can fail to understand. For the great journey from this world to the other we have such an "A.B.C." in the Scripture. The way is so plainly marked out there that none need make a mistake. It is "able to make wise unto salvation." Whoever wants to know how to be saved, how to get forgiveness, how to be righteous before God, how to reach heaven, he can find it in the Scripture. And there are numberless other questions which rise up day by day, and become more and more perplexing as we listen to what people round about us say concerning them. How far may I seek to please myself? how far must I seek to please my neighbor? how far should I mingle with the world, and do as the world does? How am I to conduct my business? How am I to meet unkindness? etc. The only sure answer to such questions is to be found in the Scripture—not always in one passage, but in the whole Scripture. He who knows his Bible is "thoroughly furnished" for all emergencies. Happy those who have known it, like Timothy, "from a babe" (Revised Version).

Secondly, That he is to make this Scripture known. It is a light which no one may keep for himself alone. It must be passed on to others. It is not a guide which men are free to accept or to reject, as they will. It is the word of a living Person—the Father's word to his children—the King's words to his subjects. Paul does not promise Timothy that this work shall be a smooth one. "The preaching is to be" "in season and out of season" and "with all long-suffering," because many will turn from it, many will oppose it. But who is

to do this work? If the guide is for me, then the work must be for me—all who make the word their guide must join in making that word known.

Thirdly, That he is to be ready to suffer for the Scripture. He must "endure afflictions." No one can take his stand by the word of God without having something to bear for the word. The preacher may be hooted and stoned or frowned upon and libeled. The girl who refuses to do as the world does; the boy who rejects the temptation to return "evil for evil;" the man of business who is determined to "provide things honest in the sight of all men," may be mocked, scorned, opposed. But he who suffered more than most men for the word of God could rejoice in the prospect of giving his life for it, and concludes the solemn charge to "his son in the faith" with joyful anticipation of the crown that awaited him—a crown to be given, not to him alone, but to all who take their stand by the Master's word, and "love his appearing."

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

A word-picture of Paul in prison at Rome.... Notice what this lesson tells: 1.) About Timothy's training, vers. 14, 15; 2.) About the holy Scriptures, vers. 15, 16; 3.) About the motives of a Christian worker, ver. 1; 4.) About the duties of a Christian worker, vers. 2, 5; 5.) About the hindrances, vers. 3, 4; 6.) About the rewards of a Christian worker, vers. 6-8.... Find in this lesson four incentives to faithfulness.... Find four elements of faithful preaching.... Find four steps in apostasy.... Find four points in Paul's review of the past.... Find four thoughts about his future.... ILLUSTRATIONS. In the city of Rome there is shown an underground cell which is traditionally regarded as the place of Paul's last imprisonment.... The truths learned in childhood are not forgotten when knowledge later gained is lost. Old men on their dying bed have forgotten languages learned in middle life, but not the words learned in infancy.... Daniel Webster said once that the greatest thought that ever came into his mind was the thought of his personal responsibility to God.

References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 7: The course, 884. Ver. 8: The crown, 864.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Able to Make Wise.* Ask how many can read? How many go to school? How many expect to go to school some time? See what children think is the object of study? Talk about the difference between a wise and an ignorant man, and show the importance of learning while young. Tell that the lesson is from another letter written to Timothy by Paul. Recall what children know of Timothy. Tell of his mother and grandmother: how they loved the word of God, and taught Timothy to love it while he was a little boy. They told him that God spoke to him in the Bible, and before he could read for himself they told him what God said. When he could read, they talked to him about the words he read, and encouraged him to learn them by heart. So "from a child," Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures. Once a little girl was found by the priest to have a Bible. He took it from her and burned it. She wept as she saw her dear book burn; but soon her tears ceased, and she smiled as she cried, "Ah!

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