

LESSON NOTES. SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

A. D. 57.] LESSON V. (May 4. CHRISTIAN LOVE.

I Cor. 13. 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 11-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Love is the fulfilling of the law.—Rom. 13. 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Love is better than gifts, and the best of virtues.

TIME, etc.—See last lesson.

INTRODUCTION.—This chapter is called the "Psalm of Love." In chapter 12 Paul has been discussing the various gifts by which we may aid God's cause, and now shows them something better, which all may have, and which will do more good than all others.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. speak with tongues—As on Pentecost. 2. speak better than the best of men can speak. 3. Charity—Love. 4. sound of brass—Mere noise, with almost nothing. 5. trumpet—reminds us of a trumpet—Not saving faith, but faith that could work physical wonders. 6. I am a thing—Because it does not make the character good, or do much good to others. 7. It profits in no way—Heaven is the home of love and goodness, and all other things without love will not fit us for heaven. 8. Envy, wrath, pride, etc.—Beats injuries and opposition without revenge. 9. I am not proud and self-seeking. 10. I am conceited. 11. It is courteous and well behaved. 12. Think of no evil—Does not impute evil motives to others, believes the best things possible of them. 13. It is patient with others' infirmities. 14. It is full of kindness—It loves the best possible about others, is faithful, and trusting. 15. It is full of love—because they become fulfilled, and are no longer selfish. 16. Tongues—The gift of tongues. 17. Law—Because there will be no more need of them. 18. Knowledge—Because it is imperfect, and full knowledge takes its place, as what we see in twilight vanishes before the vision in the full dawn of day. 19. This is an explanation and illustration of how knowledge vanishes away. 20. As in a glass—A mirror. Their metal mirrors were very imperfect. 21. In a riddle, which we can only guess. 22. Not as if we were—These three, none of them good unless even in heaven; they are eternal. 23. The greatest is charity. (See Practical Suggestions.)

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The connection between this chapter and the one before it.—Why gifts of tongues are nothing without charity.—Why knowledge.—Why benevolent deeds and martyrdom.—What charity is not.—What charity does and is.—Knowing in part.—Seeing through a glass darkly.—How faith and hope abide.—Why charity is greatest.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—What is the subject of the previous chapter? What were some of the gifts? Why should they be sought earnestly? What did he say he could show them (last verse)? What is that more excellent way?

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN LOVE.

I. LOVE, THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (vs. 1-3).—What is meant by "charity" as used in this chapter? What was the gift of speaking with tongues? (Acts 2. 4-8.) What is the difference between music and the noise of sounding brass or cymbals? How is the gift of tongues, without love, like these? Show how one with knowledge and faith is nothing without love.—Can one give generously and even die as a martyr from other motives than love? Why do such acts profit us nothing without love? Why can no gift add to a man's merit? (1 Cor. 4. 7.) Why is love so essential? What reasons can you give why love is a more excellent way than gifts? Meaning of the Golden Text. What does Christ say about love? (Matt. 22. 30-40.)

II. THE DESCRIPTION OF LOVE (vs. 4-7).—How many things are named in these verses that love is not? Show how charity is not envious, nor selfish, nor proud. Why does not love ever behave unseemly? Why is it not easily provoked? What is meant by its thinking no evil? What are the qualities

which describe what love is? What does it suffer long? Why is it kind? In what does it rejoice? Meaning of each of the four phrases in verse 7. Is this love worth seeking for? How may we attain it?

III. THE SUPERIORITY OF LOVE (vs. 8-13).—In what respect is love superior to gifts? Why do gifts of prophecy and tongues fail? Show how our earthly knowledge will vanish away.—What reason does Paul give for this? (vs. 9, 10.) What illustration does he give? (v. 11.) Can you think of any examples or illustrations of this truth? What is meant by "seeing through a glass, darkly"? What do we see in this way? When shall we see things as they are? What three things are eternal? Show how we can use faith in heaven, and hope, and love. Why is love greater than the others?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Love is better than gifts, because: (1) it can have it; (2) it does more good; (3) it is of nobler nature; (4) it never fails; (5) it makes us most like God who is love. 2. Many gifts we cannot have, but all can have love. 3. This picture of love shows us our sinfulness and need of a Saviour. 4. It shows us what we can do to make this world like heaven. 5. Our treasures should be in the things that endure. 6. Many things now mysterious in God's providence will be made plain in heaven.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

- 1. What is more excellent than all gifts? Ans. Christian love. 2. Why? Ans. Without charity I am nothing. 3. What qualities are contrary to love? Ans. Envy, pride, conceit, impoliteness, selfishness, bad temper, passion, evil-thinking. 4. What are the qualities love possesses? Ans. Patience, kindness, courtesy, love of truth, good temper, hope, faith, long suffering. What is said of its greatness? (Repeat v. 13.)

A. D. 57.] LESSON VI. (May 11.

VICTORY OVER DEATH.

1 Cor. 15. 50-55. Commit to mem. vs. 55-58.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Death is swallowed up in victory.—1 Cor. 15. 54.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ gives us eternal life and glory through the resurrection of the dead.

TIME.—Written early in A. D. 57.

PLACE.—From Ephesus.

PLACE IN BIBLE HISTORY. Acts 19.

RELEAS.—Nero, emperor of Rome, 4th year. Felix, governor of Judaea.

INTRODUCTION.—In the former part of the chapter Paul discusses the resurrection, giving proofs that it will take place, and showing its nature. This latter is continued in the lesson for to-day.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—50. Flesh and blood—Our natural bodies. Cannot inherit—Have by their nature no part or place in the Kingdom of God, the heavenly world after death. Neither, etc.—This gives the reason of the previous statement. 51. It's shall not all sleep—In death, and be buried. 52. It shall all be changed—Our natural bodies will become spiritual bodies, as explained in the previous verses. 53. They are the same after the change, but there is a change like that of a seed into a plant and flower, an acorn into an oak. 54. At the last trumpet—Or trumpet, the one which assembles the people on the last day. The dead—Shall be raised with spiritual bodies. We are living at that time, shall be changed, as to our bodies, into spiritual bodies. 54. No, etc.—The new bodies will be (1) incorruptible, (2) eternal. The saints that inherit—See Isa. 25. 8; Hosae. 13. 14. The words following are not a quotation of words, but of ideas. Death is swallowed up in victory—Because those who seemed dead have been restored to life, and rescued from death. 55. O death, where is thy sting—That which makes it terrible. 56. Sting of death is sin—The parting, the pain of death is sad, but only guilt, a foreboding of punishment, makes it terrible. Sting of sin is the law—(1) The law condemns us to punishment. (2) The law, by its holy standard, shows us how sinful we are, and gives sin power to control

us. (3) It shows us what we might have been, in contrast with what we are. 57. Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ—(1) The proof of the resurrection is by His resurrection. (2) It is His power that will give us the resurrection life.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The proof of the resurrection.—The change that takes place in us at the resurrection. The sting of death.—The strength of sin.—The victory over death.—How by Jesus Christ.—The moral effect this truth should have upon us.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—What is the subject of this whole chapter? How does Paul prove that there will be a resurrection? (1 Cor. 15. 1-20.) What illustrations does he give of our resurrection? (1 Cor. 15. 35-49.)

SUBJECT: THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

- I. RESURRECTION A VICTORY OVER DEATH (vs. 50-56).—What do you understand by the resurrection? Is it the resurrection of the body? Why cannot our present bodies go to heaven? What objection do some people make to the doctrine of the resurrection? (1 Cor. 15. 35.) How does Paul answer it? To what does he liken our resurrection bodies? What qualities has the plant which the seed has not? May it be the same with our spiritual bodies? What hints have we in the Bible as to our spiritual bodies? (Matt. 17. 2; Phil. 3. 21; Rev. 1. 12-16.) What mystery did Paul reveal to us? When will this change take place? (1 Thess. 4. 16, 17; Rev. 20. 11-15.) Show how the resurrection is a victory over death. What is the sting of death? Why? How "the strength of sin—the law"? What change do our souls need before we are fitted for this resurrection? (Rev. 20. 6; 21. 27.)

II. THE RESURRECTION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (v. 57).—Who gives us the victory over death? How does it come through the Lord Jesus Christ? What does Jesus say of himself? (John 11. 25.) How does he prepare us for this happy resurrection? (1 Cor. 15. 22, 23; 2 Cor. 5. 1.) What must we do in order to enjoy it? (John 6. 37, 40; Rev. 20. 13.)

III. DUTIES AND COMFORTS IN VIEW OF THE RESURRECTION (v. 58).—What three things does Paul exhort us to be in view of this great truth? What is it to be steadfast? What to be unmovable? What is the work of the Lord in which we should abound? What promise follows? What comfort does the doctrine of the resurrection bring us—for ourselves? for our friends? Shall we know one another in the other life? What comfort especially for those who have poor and sickly bodies?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. We all have a longing for immortality. 2. This doctrine proves immortality, and points out the way to make it blessed. 3. We need change both in body and in soul before we are fit for the heavenly life. 4. We see the infinite possibilities of progress and glory before us. 5. We shall meet our friends redeemed, and know them in heaven. 6. Christ is our only hope of eternal life.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

- 6. What great doctrine is taught in this lesson? Ans. The resurrection of the dead. 7. How is it proved? Ans. By the word of God, and the resurrection of Christ. 8. What change will take place in our bodies? Ans. From natural and corruptible to spiritual and immortal bodies. 9. What change do we need in our souls? Ans. From sin to holiness. 10. Who will give us this victory over death? (Repeat v. 57.) 11. What should we do in view of this truth? (Repeat v. 58.)

KEEP good company, and thou shalt be of the number.

The population of Ireland is 4,000,000 less than it was thirty-eight years ago. It has declined almost one-half.

A MAN who is unable to discover any errors or mistakes in the opinions he formerly held, is not likely to advance very fast in the acquirement of knowledge.

TEMPERANCE LITERATURE.

(Continued from last Number.)

- Strago Children. By Rev. Peter Stryker. Paper, 10c. Shadow Pictures; or, Who's Drunk. By E. Carswell. Paper, 10c. Suppression of the Liquor Traffic. By Rev. H. D. Kitchel, D.D. Paper, 10c. Satan Among the Sons of God. By Rev. J. E. Rankin. Paper, 10c. Stimulants for Women. By Dr. James Edmunds. Paper, 5c. Stimulants and Narcotics. By James M. Howie, D.D. Paper, 5c. Science the Interpreter of History. By C. W. Sanson, D.D. Paper, 25c. A Synopsis of the Temperance Lesson-Book of Benj. W. Richardson, M.D., LL.D. By C. R. Agnew, A.M., D.D. Paper, 10c. Twenty-one Historical Land Marks. By B. W. Richardson, M.D., F.R.S. Paper, 10c. Social Drinking and Its Effects. By Rev. W. Ormiston, D.D. Paper, 10c. Thrilling Tales of the Fallen. By T. S. Arthur. Boards, 15c. Temperance and the Pulpit, a Sermon. By Rev. C. D. Foss, D.D. Paper, 10c. An Address on Temperance. By Professor Geo. E. Foster, M.P. Paper, 5c. Temperance and Republican Institutes. An Address by J. Cook. Paper, 10c. Text-Book on Temperance. By Canon Farrar, D.D., F.R.S. Paper, 25c. Total Abstinence for the Sake of Ourselves and Others. By Canon Farrar, D.D., F.R.S. Paper, 10c. The Temperance Lesson Book. By Benj. W. Richardson, M.D., M.A., LL.D. S.R.S. Paper, 25c. Twelve Addresses on the Physiological Action of Alcohol. By J. James Ridge, M.D. Paper, 10c. The Throne of Iniquity, or Sustaining Evil by Law. By Rev. A. Barnes. Paper, 5c. The Two Chairs, or Twenty-nine Articles of Temperance. By Rev. W. F. Crafts. Paper, 25c. Temperance in the School. By the Bishop of Exeter and others. Paper, 2c. Temperance from a Bible Standpoint. By Rev. J. W. Snodgrass. Paper, 10c. Total Abstinence, a course of five addresses. By B. W. Richardson. Paper, 20c. The Active Duty of a Queen. A Sermon by Rev. John Hall, D.D. Paper, 10c. The Wines of the Bible. By C. H. Fowler, D.D. Paper, 10c. The Woman's Crusade, or a Novel Temperance Movement. By Dr. D. H. Maun. Paper, 5c. Unholy Alliances. By J. E. Rankin, D.D. Paper, 5c. Unfermented Wine a Fact. By Norman Kerr, M.D., F.R.S. Paper, 10c. Will the Coming Man drink Wine. By James. Paper, 5c. Wine and Truth. By Felix R. Brunk. Paper, 5c. Wine-Drinking and the Scriptures. By Prof. Taylor Lewis, LL.D. The Vow of the Rechabites, and Reasons for Abstaining. By Canon Farrar, D.D., F.R.S. Paper, 5c. Woman's Work in India. By W. Arthur. Paper, 15c. The Woman's Temperance Movement. By Rev. W. C. Steel. Paper, 25c. Wine. A Temperance Concert-Exercise by Hope Hazel. Paper. Yayin, or the Bible Wine Question. By Professors Watts, Wallace, Murphy, and Rev. W. Wright. Paper. The Physiological Effects of Alcohol. By Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., D.D. Paper, 10c. Prohibition the Duty of the Hour. By Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., D.D. The Liquor Traffic. By same author. Paper, 10c. On the Waste of Wealth. By W. Hoy. Paper, 5c. The Bible and the Temperance Question. By Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., D.D. Paper, 10c.

Mailed free on receipt of price.

Address—

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

78 & 80 King St. East, Toronto

C. W. Coates, Montreal.

S. F. Huzzar, Halifax