

FOR FURTHER PREPARATION

Points

Men are like fretful, foolish children when they complain against God, v. 13.

When we serve God for the profit of it, it is all loss, v. 14.

• We "call" the wicked happy. Are they ever really so? v. 15.

How patient God is even with those who despise Him, v. 15.

A blessed brotherhood and sweet fellowship, v. 16.

The ears of the Lord are quick and ever open, v. 16.

He never forgets. Even the "cup of cold water" given now will be found recorded in His book at the judgment day, v. 16.

Three very precious words that God uses for His people, "Mine," "Jewels," "Sons," v. 17.

Wait a while and we shall see that it is the righteous men and not the evil that "have a good time," v. 18. (See Psalm 73 : 18.)

We are to be moved by God's threats as well as drawn by His promises, ch. 4 : 1.

Isn't it good to be on the Lord's side? Here are four promises for such—light, healing, overflowing life, triumph, v. 3.

God's law never grows old and we can never afford to forget it, v. 4.

God always warns before He strikes, v. 5.

Pithy Paragraphs

Diogenes, the cynic, seeing Harpalus, a vicious fellow, still thriving in the world, he was bold to say that wicked Harpalus's living long in prosperity was an argument that God had cast off His care of the world, that he cared not which end went forward. But he was a heathen.—*Donne*.

"Those who go about to mock God do but deceive themselves. Hypocrisy in religion is the greatest folly as well as wickedness, since the God we have to do with can easily see through all our disguises, and will certainly deal with us hereafter, not according to our professions, but our practices."—*Matthew Henry*.

What a name was that, on which they thus thought, may be gathered from a study of the titles associated therewith in the mind of the Hebrew : *Jehovah—Jireh*, The Lord will provide ; *Jehovah—Tsidkenu*, The Lord our righteousness ; *Jehovah—Shalom*, The Lord send peace ; *Jehovah—Nissi*, The Lord our banner ; *Jehovah—Shammah*, The Lord is there.—*Rev. G. Campbell Morgan*.

Kings have treasures upon which they set special value ; God has His also, upon which He sets special value, human character responsive to the Divine will, fearing Him and thinking upon His name ; and of the men and women of such character He declares "They shall be Mine."—*Rev. G. Campbell Morgan*.

TEACHING HELPS AND HINTS

The Lesson Title and the Golden Text should be kept in sight throughout the lesson.

I. *A group of rebels*, vs. 13-15 ; their words "stout against" the Lord, unbelieving and complaining but so habituated to wrongdoing as to be unconscious of it. "What have we spoken so much against thee?" they cry. Vs. 14, 15, contain the answer. It is a compelling old as time and yet very modern :

those who neglect God prosper ; those who are faithful to God suffer. They accuse God of being ungrateful. They have served Him and have made nothing by it ; an attitude supremely ridiculous, if it were not so tragic.

II. *A group of the faithful*, v. 16-18. A touching picture. (Compare Acts 2 : 41-47.)

Does God forget? No. Let the scholars exercise their imagination. God hearkens, hears, writes, promises. Mark the words