

blackness and despair. Sometimes man-made and absurd creeds have been imposed on Christians. Surely we need to be recalled to the word of Jesus when he rebuked the scribes for their ridiculous reverence for traditions (see Mark 7 : 8-10).

A fourth lesson is the necessity of instruction in the meaning of the Bible. A Young Men's Christian Association secretary with the Canadian troops wrote home recently saying that, as a rule, the only men who were reached by the gospel message were the men who had previously enjoyed some sort of religious instruction, and who knew something of the fundamental truths of our faith. The Ethiopian's mind was alert and active. He wished to know what was in the mind of the prophet when he wrote the great words

which are quoted from Isaiah. He asked a momentous question : "Of whom speaketh the prophet this ? of himself, or of some other man ?" Philip went straight to the thought that the spiritual significance of this quotation from Isaiah was realized in Jesus, and then preached the gospel to the Ethiopian.

The Ethiopian must have been a very well educated man, and an acute thinker, and yet he felt the need of light on the pages of scripture. We should welcome the results of explorations, decipherment of ancient monuments, and all the earnest study being expended on the precious documents of our faith. The day has gone by when any Christian should turn his face away from the light and truth.

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Connect this lesson with Lesson X. When persecutions broke out, Philip was led to go into Samaria through the example and teaching of Jesus, Luke 9 : 52-56 ; 10 : 33 ; John, ch. 4. To study the life of Jesus in order to learn the great motives of his life is one of the truest guides in Christian work.

The lesson may be treated as a study in conversion. Let it serve to point out some of the conditions for effective soul-winning and, also, some of the hindrances to decision for Christ.

1. *A willing instrument of the Spirit*, vs. 26-29. Explain what is meant by the angel speaking to Philip. The apostle was so eager to know God's will and to glorify God by his life that he had become perfectly responsive to every influence of the Spirit. One of the oaths a Jesuit takes is that he will be like a stick in the hand of his superior ; so the Christian must be yielded up to God. Such a surrender does two things : (a) It opens our eyes to opportunities for service. (b) It makes our will to serve effective.

2. *A seeking soul*, vs. 30-35. Through Philip, the Spirit was planning for the Ethiopian. The qualities that enable the Spirit to lead a soul to the knowledge of Christ are : (a) An earnest soul. The Ethiopian was

using the light he had in the hope of winning more. Further, he was using every opportunity to learn the truth, for riding in a chariot was not a comfortable way of studying scripture. (b) A humble soul. The Ethiopian was willing to learn from any one who could give him the truth. Class feelings did not influence him as they did a certain aristocratic family which disowned a son because he had been converted through the Salvation Army. (c) A receptive soul. He listened eagerly. How often the seed falls on a barren heart, Mark, ch. 4.

3. *A yielded life*. As soon as the eunuch had perceived the truth, he was ready to yield his life to it. This needs to be emphasized, for so many young persons are perfectly convinced of the truth of Christ's claims, and yet keep putting off their decision until some more convenient season. They are not ready to give him such sovereignty in their life that they are willing to surrender for his sake certain pleasures or occupations. Then, point out that the eunuch did not need to be coaxed into a confession of Christ. He was eager to be identified with the people of Christ that he might claim every privilege, every channel of grace.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Point out how fiercely the storm of persecution which followed the martyrdom of