

cial ground on which his title to the estate was confirmed is significant and suggestive. It was because "that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel," v. 14. Honesty is the best policy. "Godliness is profitable unto all things," 1 Tim. 4: 8. Blessed is the man whose "delight is in the law of the Lord," Ps. 1: 2. He may have to wait forty years, or to the day of his death for the full realization of it, but it is sure to come. God never fails His faithful servants.

3. *The true estimate of Caleb's character.* As pictured in the lesson we are bound to regard him, (a) As a man of God. This means very much. It stamps him as a right-living man, of correct and pure morals, temperate in all things. Hence his sound health and youthful vigor in his eighty-fifth year. (b) A man of patriotic, heroic courage, ready to face the Anakim in battle, and to act in accordance with the letter and spirit of the report and counsel which he and Joshua gave when they returned from spying the land. "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it," Num. 13: 30. (c) A man of independent spirit, and magnanimous as well. He and Joshua firmly withstood the cowardly, unfaithful ten spies. They were content to be in the minority. Minorities are often right and majorities wrong. It was an overwhelming majority that crucified the Son of God. Caleb did not ask for ease, or for what he had not toiled for. Ease-loving, luxurious Christians are little worth.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The number of venerable men, vigorous and hearty in their old age, is remarked by visitors to the old land. Perhaps it is because they take life a little more easily than on this side of the ocean. At any rate it is a striking and beautiful sight. "Thou shalt rise before the hoary head," is one of the Mosaic commandments, Lev. 19: 32; and the proverb writer says, "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness," Prov. 16: 31. The crown seems even brighter, when to the honorableness of old age, there is joined the vigor of youth. Of such sort was Caleb.

1. *His origin was unpromising.* A Kenezite,

v. 6, a descendant of Kenez, the son of Esau, Gen. 36: 15; and therefore an alien, an Israelite only by adoption.

2. *He is found early in life in good company.* "The thing that the Lord said . . . concerning me and thee," Caleb says to Joshua, v. 6; and that was when they were both young men. Joshua, Moses' servant and friend, had gone up on Mt. Sinai with him, when Moses went to meet God. Caleb was choice of his companions. Boys must have companions. Fortunate indeed is it when they are companions who fear God and hate evil.

3. *He holds by conscience, although in the minority.* Turn once more to the well-worn story of Num. 13. Caleb is a very noble figure. At risk of being called a hot-headed fool, and indeed at risk of his life (Num. 14: 16), he urges to go forward to the conquest of Canaan. But he can only say "as it was in his heart." v. 7.

4. *He receives a double promise from God, v. 6.* A promise that he, with Joshua, the other faithful spy, should enter into Canaan (Num. 14: 24) and a further promise of a special inheritance in the land, vs. 6, 9 of lesson. These hopes had helped to keep him young, for even in this world "we are saved by hope."

5. *He now appears, to claim the promised possession.* A heroic figure, "true-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal"—an ideal for the young to strive after.

6. *His plea prevails.* The possession had been promised because he had "wholly followed the Lord," and his 45 years of life since had only made the groundwork stronger. Again, a model for the young. To follow the Lord is to make sure of coming out right in the end. To take any other course is to court peril. "I do always those things that please Him," was the rule of the Perfect Man, John 8: 29.

Some Test Questions

How was the land to be divided?
What special claimant here appears?
Who came with him?
What was his origin?
What previous distinction had he won?
Of what promise does he remind Joshua?
On what was this promise based?