

Explain the splendid promise in v. 7. Irenæus said that heaven (the paradise of God) is for the one-hundred-fold Christians, paradise for the sixty-fold, and the holy city for the thirty-fold.

2. *The maligned church*, vs. 8-11. Smyrna was a city where the Christians were certain of meeting difficulties. They are comforted by being reminded, that Christ knows their trials; that though poor, they are rich; that their cause is just in spite of their traducers, that their impending persecution will be brief. Note the reward which is promised. What are some of the criticisms now leveled at the church by those without? What has the church done for the world? Has the world outgrown all need of the church?

3. *The church with weak members*, vs. 12-17. The church at Pergamos was especially beset by difficulties, for this city was a great centre of heathen worship. Some of the Christians were seduced. (Compare Num. 25 : 6-18 ; 31 : 8-16 ; Josh. 13 : 22.) They took part in the festivals of the city; they ate the foods of unholy associations; they mingled freely in life and business with the people of the city. Discuss this question from the standpoint of the young Christian. Note the alternative presented to the weak ones of Pergamos, v. 16. Explain the reward in v. 17.

In conclusion, the teacher may discuss such questions as these: How does the modern church compare with the churches of Asia Minor? What are some of the defects in the modern church? Do we need a revival? If so, how can it be effected?

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Call for the title of the lesson, with reference to those who have been faithful unto death in fighting for king and country. Show how a self-sacrificing spirit of this kind ennobles life, and makes it worth while to die. Remind the class that there are many ways for the soldiers of the cross to manifest this fine spirit. In the everyday affairs of life there is abundant room for an exercise of this grace. Point out that, in our lesson, we have a record of the successes and failures of three of the seven churches of Asia Minor to which divine messages were sent through John.

1. *The Church at Ephesus*, vs. 1-7. What

do you know of Ephesus? What great missionary labored there for three years? Bring out that this was not the first letter sent to this church. Who sent this letter? (V. 1.) Discuss the contents of this little letter. What good things had our Lord to say about them? (Vs. 2, 3.) What fault had he to find with them? (V. 4.) They were languishing into a lower range of feeling, into a poorer kind of life. Remind the class that above everything else we need to pray for more love. What warning has Christ to give? (V. 5.) What promise does he make? (V. 7.) If Christ were to send a special message to us to-day, what good thing would he have to say about us? What fault would he find with us?

2. *The Church at Smyrna*, vs. 8-11. Question the scholars about what they know of Smyrna. How does the sender of the message describe himself? (V. 8.) What were the characteristics of this church? (V. 9.) Bring out that Christ has no fault to find with them, and bring out what a splendid thing it is for a church or an individual to live in this way, to wear the white flower of a blameless life. What revelation does Christ make and what promise does he give? (Vs. 10, 11.)

3. *The Church at Pergamos*, vs. 12-17. What do you know of Pergamos? What good thing has Christ to say about this church? (V. 13.) What had he against them? (Vs. 14, 15.) What warning does he give? (V. 16.) What promise does he make? (V. 17.) Note how rich heaven's rewards are for faithful service, and show how the blessings come here and hereafter. It always pays to do right.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

To-day's lesson contains the letters to three of the churches mentioned in Christ's revelation to John. Have these churches named.

1. *To Ephesus*, vs. 1-7. By asking a question or two, refresh the scholars' memory as to the meaning of the seven stars and candlesticks. (See last Sunday's lesson.) Vs. 2, 3 tell of the good works for which Christ praises the Ephesians, and v. 4, the things for which he rebukes them. Have these brought out. Explain that the Christians had been very cruelly persecuted by the Roman emperors. Many had endured suffering; some had died