

LESSON IX—November 28th, 1897.

Salutary Warnings. 1 Pet. 4: 1-8.

(Commit to memory verses 7, 8.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Pet. 4: 7.

PROVE THAT—Christ is our great example. 1 Pet. 2: 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 104. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition? A.* In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*) we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 1 (Psalm 1), 246, 456, 530. (Old Hymnal Nos. 117, 120, 173, 116).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Salutary warnings. 1 Pet. 4: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Wise counsel. Prov. 23: 15-23. *Wednesday.* Blessedness of watching. Luke 12: 31-40. *Thursday.* Punishment of unfaithfulness. Luke 12: 41-48. *Friday.* Be ready! Matt. 24: 42-51. *Saturday.* Watch and be sober! 1 Thess. 5: 1-11. *Sabbath.* Watch and pray. Mark 13: 28-37. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The *First Epistle of Peter* was written from Babylon (5: 13) between A. D. 63-67, during the great persecution under Nero. It was addressed to christians in Asia Minor who were enduring much hardship (4: 16). It was conveyed to them by Silvanus (5: 12), or Silas, probably the same as Paul's former fellow-laborer, who seems to have associated himself with Peter after Paul's second missionary journey.

LESSON PLAN. I. Life in the Flesh. vs. 1-5. II. Life in the Spirit. vs. 6-8.

1. In the flesh—In our weak, mortal nature. **Arm yourselves**—To have the spirit of Christ—his love and self-sacrifice, his desire to have all men know and love God—is the best defence against sin in the heart. **Ceased from sin**—The believer is so united to Christ that he suffers in his sufferings and dies in his death (Rom. 6: 2, 7; Gal. 5: 24; Col. 3: 3, 5). Therefore, having, in his Representative, suffered and died on account of sin, he should have no more to do with it. 2. The lusts of men—The sinful desires of human nature. The christian's earthly life should be spent in doing God's will "as it is done in heaven." He is now a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3: 2; Eph. 2: 19). 3. The desire (R. V.) of the gentiles—The evil course of life pursued by the heathen. The hideous orgies of heathenism cannot be described. The lowest vices were part of their religious worship; drunkenness was regarded as honoring to the deity; their feasts were riotous revels—the one word "abominable" applies to all the observances of idol worship. 4. Excess—Literally "pouring forth" of profligacy, like a flood. Those who try to live godly lives and those who advocate "total abstinence," are regarded as peculiar, strait-laced, and punitanical. The Sabbath-breaker, the drunkard and the profligate cannot find words hard enough for those whose lives and teaching condemn their wicked doings. 5. Ready to judge—That is, will very soon appear in judgment. The quick—The living. Those who are alive when Christ comes. No one will escape his righteous sentence. 6. The meaning of this verse seems to be; Because all men are to be judged by Christ, the gospel was preached to those christians who had since died, so that they might be chastened, as other men, in the body, by sickness and other temporal trials, but should be made partakers of the spiritual life which comes from God and makes like to him. 7. The end of all things—The day of judgment. The early christians believed that Christ was coming soon (Rom. 13: 12; Jas. 5: 8). Sober—R. V. "of sound mind." Practice temperance and self-control (Titus 2: 6; Luke 21: 34), be discreet and prudent, not carried away by the excesses of the heathen. Watch—R. V. "sober unto prayer" Do not give way to sensual indulgence, so that you may be always in the right frame of mind for prayer (Eph. 6: 18). 8. "Have your mutual love intense." The word for "fervent" means "on the stretch" (ch. 1: 22), a love that cannot be tired out by the unworthiness of others. Love shall cover—(Prov. 10: 19). We do not parade before the world the faults of those we love. We make excuses for them and bear with them. So we learn to love them more because they need our love so much. If we acted in this way towards our christian brethren what a sweet fellowship our churches would be.

LESSONS. 1. Since Christ died for sin we should be dead to sin. 2. God's will and not our own desires, or the practices of others should rule our conduct. 3. We need never be ashamed of doing what is right. 4. The suffering of this life should prepare us for loving and serving God better. 5. Try to excuse the faults of others as much as possible.