

GOLDEN TEXT

1 Cor. 13: 13. Now abideth faith, hope, charity, but the greatest of these is charity.

DAILY READINGS

M. —1 Cor. 13. Christian love.
T. —Psa. 133. A pleasant sight.
W. —Luke 6: 27-38. Love your enemies.
Th. —Luke 10: 25-37. Love exemplified.
F. —John 13: 1-17. An example.
S. —1 John 3: 10-18. Love indeed.
S. —1 John 4: 7-21. Love made perfect.

CATECHISM

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, and equals.

TIME AND PLACE

As in last lesson; the epistle was written A.D. 57 by Paul from Ephesus to the church at Corinth. It is for the most part an epistle of argument and reproof, for many of the Corinthian Christians, so recently idol worshippers, had serious faults and failings. This 13th chapter is like a very wellspring and fountain of love.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Lack of Love, 1-3.
Cannot be filled by any other gift.
- II. The Fruits of Love, 4-7.
Which should appear in our lives.
- III. The Permanence of Love, 8-12.
Contrasted with tongues, prophecy, knowledge.
- IV. The Greatness of Love, 13.
Shown by comparison with faith and hope.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 163; 7 (P's. Sel.); 216; 218; 535; 575.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—1-3 What had Paul just been saying? (ch. 12: 31.) What "more excellent way" does he now show? What does the word "charity" here mean? What is meant by "the tongues of men"? What by the tongues "of angels"? What are these, as compared with love? What meant by "prophecy"? By "faith"? How much are these worth without love? How much, almsgiving and martyrdom?

4-7 Pick out the thirteen good things here said of love. Some of the hard words—explain them: "envieth," "vaunteth," "behave itself unseemly," "prophecies."

8-10 What alone shall never fail? When shall "prophecies," "tongues," "knowledge" fail? What is meant by "that which is in part"? When shall it be done away?

11, 12 How did the child Paul act? The man Paul? What difference between seeing in a mirror and "face to face"? What is the measure of our knowledge now? What shall it be in heaven?

13 Which three graces abide? Which is the greatest of the three? Wherefore the greatest?

Seniors and the Home Department—1-3 On what subject is Paul speaking? Define charity. What value here put on it? How is love produced? (Gal. 5: 22; 1 John 4: 19.) What acts, good in themselves, without it are useless? Give some great Bible examples of what faith can do.

4-7 Name the fruits of this love. Who is the great example of love? From whom do we receive the gift of love? (1 John 4: 7.) Where commanded to use it? (1 John 4: 21; John 15: 12.) With what should it be connected? (Rom. 12: 10;

2 Pet. 1: 7.) How should it be shown? (Gal. 5: 13; 1 Pet. 4: 8.) What kind of bond is it? (Col. 2: 2; 3: 14.)

8-10 Contrast "charity" with other gifts mentioned. What is one defect of our knowledge? In whom are we "complete"? (Col. 2: 10.)

11-13 Compare childhood with manhood. Compare this life with the life to come. The three most important gifts and the reason therefor. The reason for the permanence of faith, hope and love.

Prove from Scripture—*That love is patient.*

Practical Points—1. A man may know a great deal, and be able to speak well, and even have power to work miracles, and yet not be a good man. But if he loves, he is a good man. To be loving is to be good.

2. Socrates said: "Envy is the daughter of Pride, the author of Murder and Revenge. Envy is the filthy slime of the soul; a venom, a poison, a quicksilver, which consumeth the flesh and drieth up the bones."

3. "Can I be stern, and another be wheat?
Can I be shell, and another be meat?
Another be head, while I am feet?
If God will."

4. "Politeness has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love. You know the meaning of the word 'gentleman.' It means a gentle man—a man who does things gently; with love."

5. "As every hue is light,
So every grace is love."

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. With what is love contrasted?

2. How does love show itself?

3. Which other virtues does love surpass?