

Ques. 124. What is hell? Hell is a place of woe, where the devil and evil spirits are.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment? A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: The "Great Hymn of the Church"—Primary, 595; Junior and Upward, 438, 80, 124, 18 (Ps. Sel.), 529, 115.

Special Scripture Reading—1 Peter 1:2-16; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 67, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 753, The Rechabites Refuse to Drink Wine (and the Golden Text). For Question on Missions, T. R. 24, Mount Pleasant Church. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

Stereograph—Temperance Lesson, no stereograph assigned.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Lesson Setting—To-day's lesson is taken from the Practical portion of the Epistle to the Romans (chs. 12 to 16). This follows the Doctrinal portion (chs. 1 to 11). The lesson emphasizes our responsibility for the welfare of others.

I. Our Brother, 13-18.

V. 13. *Let us not therefore*; because (vs. 10-20) each of us must appear before God's judgment seat to give an account of himself. Since all will be on the same level there, no one should think himself superior to others here. *Judge one another*; pronounce sentence in a critical or contemptuous spirit. *Judge ye this rather* (Rev. Ver.); decide upon this as the thing you will do. *A stumblingblock*; anything that hinders another in doing what he thinks is right. (Compare Matt. 16:23; 18:6-9, Rev. Ver.) *An occasion to fall*; literally, a "snare" or "trap," such as those used in catching birds or animals. *In his brother's way*; the brother who may be weaker or more ignorant than himself. The strong, in deciding as to his conduct, should consider not only his own rights, but also the effect his actions will have on others.

V. 14. *Persuaded in the Lord Jesus* (Rev. Ver.); that is, as a Christian under the guidance of the Lord Jesus himself. *Nothing unclean*. Paul is quite sure that, in all these customs and habits which the Jewish law condemned as "unclean" or unlawful, there is nothing really wrong. *To him that esteemeth*, etc. If any one has a feeling that a certain thing is wrong, then for him it is wrong. Of course Paul is speaking here only of things in themselves morally indifferent, as the observance of times and seasons, the use of food and drink and the like. Each one's conscience makes these right or wrong to himself, and his conscience is worthy of respect. There are things that are right and things

that are wrong, whatever any one may think about them.

Vs. 15, 16. *If thy brother be grieved*; puzzled and distressed by seeing you do what his conscience pronounces to be wrong. *Thou walkest no longer in love* (Rev. Ver.); because love is ever ready to sacrifice its own rights for the good of others. *Destroy not*; do not endanger the salvation of another by insisting on your right. For then you would be making more of your food than Christ did of his life. *Good . . . evil spoken of*. Do not give others cause to say that faith in Christ is merely a fine way to do what you want to do.

Vs. 17, 18. *Kingdom of God*; that kingdom which will be seen perfectly in heaven, but which exists now on earth wherever there are those who obey God's rule. *Not eating and drinking* (Rev. Ver.). We do not prove ourselves members of that kingdom either by indulging in, or abstaining from, food or drink. *Righteousness*; the righteousness of Jesus, which God reckons to us, when we believe, and which works itself out in just dealing with one's fellow men. *Peace*; the peace that comes from being right with God through Christ, and is reflected in peace between man and man. *Joy in the Holy Ghost*; the joy that comes through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:46). These spiritual possessions are of infinitely more importance than the right to eat and drink what we please. *Herein* (Rev. Ver.); as one who has received these unspeakable blessings. *Serveth Christ*; using every talent for him, not for advantage to self. *Acceptable to God*; pleasing to him. *Approved of men*; who see that there is no selfish pretence in such a religion.

II. Our Duty, 19-21.

Vs. 19-21. *Follow . . . peace*; seek to promote peace among men, because God has