

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON III, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, JULY 19.

Text of the Lesson, 1 Sam. xii, 13-25. Memory Verses, 23-25—Golden Text, 1 Sam. xii, 24—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

In verse 1 we hear Samuel saying, "Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me and have made a king over you."

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Although they have sinned and God has given them their desire, yet here is a way of blessing still left to them.

14. If ye will fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice. . . . But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel. . . .

16-18. Now therefore stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes. . . .

A deep conviction and hatred of sin is a grand thing for any child of God, for otherwise one may lightly tamper with sin and grieve the Spirit.

18. And Samuel said unto the people: Fear not; ye have done all this wickedness. Yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.

The special manifestation of God in the thunder and the rain at such an unusual time seemed to convince the people that they really had sinned in asking for a king, and they entreated Samuel to pray for them that they might not be punished.

When once we become the Lord's redeemed people, no power can pluck us out of His hand (John x, 27-29), and where He begins a work He will finish it (Phil. i, 6; Ps. cxxxviii, 8).

25. Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things He hath done for you. . . .

RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Some Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

The final redemption of the world would not be far off if we could only bring Jesus in touch with all mankind.

The Providence of God. Men of today cannot see God's providence. God is angry with the sinner every day, but there is good will behind the anger.

Appreciating the Divine Meaning. The minds of men in every quarter of the intellectual and moral earth are getting ready to appreciate the divine meaning in man and nature.

True Worship. God may be worshipped as an abstract, an omnipotent something, and such worship may be only a dreary and dreary mysticism.

Death and Immortality. No greater hindrance to progress could possibly come, no greater blight could fall upon human operations, no greater blow could be struck at moral attainment, than to persuade men that there is no hereafter and that death is the final visitor.

Charm of Homes. The charm and cement of a home are child life, Landlords deny this boon to the city home of today.

The True Life. We do not die when we leave here, but merely shed our soul of its material incumbrance and depart to another world, where we continue to live out our existence in a sphere of greater activity and without the discomforts of having to attend to any material wants.

The Kingdom of God. Jesus did not mean the church when he said "kingdom of God." The church is a good thing, but the kingdom is a thousand times better.

God's Immeasurable Love. One's capacity to love is the measure of possible sufferings. God's love was embodied in Jesus Christ.

The One and Only Saviour. God never duplicates his works. He never overdoes. He never exceeds the necessary and the sufficient.

What God Desires of Men. God led his people out of bondage and gave them liberty. In their darkest and most discouraging hours God never forsook them.

Infallible Guidance. We need guidance to know when to speak, when to smile, when to frown, when to direct, when to enter upon public or private enterprises.

25. Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things He hath done for you. . . .

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