

The Sunday-School

FIRST QUARTER,
LESSON I.—Jan. 1.

CHRIST THE LIFE AND LIGHT
OF MEN.

JOHN I: 1-8.

Commit Vs. 1-4. Read John 8: 12-30.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*—John 1: 4.

Learn by heart Vs. 1, 14, and 18.

HISTORICAL SETTING.—*Time.*—In the beginning.

The Word was made flesh the last of B. C. 5, four years before our A. D. begins.

John's witness to Jesus A. D. 26, 27. Jesus entered upon his ministry early in A. D. 27.

For John, the apostle, and his gospel, see page 7.

In these verses are three great propositions: briefly stated in Vs. 1, 14 and 18.

First. *The Divine Nature of the Son of God our Saviour.*—Vs. 1-5.

In the beginning. Before the world was made. *The Word.* The Greek "Logos" means "not only the spoken word," but "the will of God manifested in personal action." Hence here it refers to "the Son of God existing from all eternity, and manifested in the person of Jesus Christ." The Word "denotes the personal revealer of God." *The Word was with God.* A living union and communion. *The Word was God.* There is only one God.

In unfolding this proposition we note HE WAS THE CREATOR.—Vs. 2, 3. *The same was in the beginning.* The relation was not new with the coming of Christ. God was never without his Son. *All things were made by him.* Creation was his work. "All things" include things spiritual as well as material. *And without him.* Apart from him. *Made.* All creation was a revelation of God and of his Son.

HE IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE.—V. 4. *In him was life.* Only life can produce life. The Son of God also in the moral world is giver of spiritual life, eternal life.

HE WAS THE SOURCE OF LIGHT.—*And the life was the light of men.* There is first life, then light. The very first thing that makes light a reality to any being is life. Now, what light does for the natural world Jesus does for the world of man. He reveals God and heaven and truth; he shows the way. *And the light shineth in darkness.* Sin is both death and darkness. As life destroys death, so light destroys darkness. *And the darkness comprehended (R. V., "apprehended") it not.* Did not admit or receive the light so that the darkness would be removed.

Second. *The Son of God became Man in the person of Jesus Christ.*—Vs. 6-17.

THE WITNESS SENT TO ANNOUNCE HIS ADVENT ON EARTH.—Vs. 6, 8. *There was (appeared) a man sent from God.* How he came and was sent is described in Luke and Matthew. He was foretold in Mal. 3: 1; 4: 5. *Came for a witness.* The word witness occurs forty-seven times in the gospel. *That all men through him might believe.* This was his purpose. *He was not the light.* Said lest some should mistake his message to be the gospel of the Messiah.

HOW THE TRUE LIGHT COULD BE KNOWN.—V. 9. *That was the true Light.* The real light, the light of the world. *Which lighteth every man.* The test of the true religion is that it is adapted to all needs.

HOW THE TRUE LIGHT WAS RECEIVED.—Vs. 10-13. *He was in the world.* In all the past ages, in every manifestation of God. *And the world was made by him.* All they possessed or enjoyed was his gift. *And (yet) the world (the great body of men) knew him not.* Did not recognize him as their Saviour and King. *He came unto his own.* Those in whom he had a special ownership, the Jews. *And (even) his own received him not.* The nation, as a whole, did not receive him as their promised Messiah. *Gave he power.* The right and the power. *To become the sons of God.* Heirs of his character, his training, his blessedness. *Even to them that believe on his name.* Men become children of God by believing in his Son. *Which were born.* Receiving the divine spiritual life from God. *Not of blood.* This life is not received by natural inheritance from parents. *Nor of the will of the flesh.* Not by their own efforts. *But of God.* God himself imparts the spiritual life.

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.—(14). The phrase means more than that he assumed a human body. He assumed human nature entire, having a human body, a human soul, a human spirit. His divine nature was not laid aside.

AND DWELT AMONG US.—Lived among men, lived the human life. *And we.* John, the disciples, and the people. *His glory.* They saw his character in deeds and teachings. *Glory as of the only begotten of the Father.* Glory worthy of the eternal Son, who was the express image of the Father.

FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.—Able to bestow them without measure. (15) *John bare witness.* By pointing him out to the people. *Cometh after me.* Jesus entered upon his mission several months later than John. *Is preferred (is become) before me.* Superior to me in character, in work. *And of, as the source.* *Have all we received.* John, and all the Christians. *And grace for grace.* Grace added to grace. *For the law.* The dispensation of law was given by, by means of. *But grace and truth.*

Third. *Jesus the Incarnate Son of God is the Revealer of the Father.*—V. 18.

The whole gospel that follows is the comment and illustration and proof of this proposition. Jesus, the child of Nazareth, is the eternal Christ, the divine presence in the world, the expression of the relationship between man and God, and the embodiment of the purpose of God, and his unending interest in man.

THE HEART OF THE LESSON.

Only a Saviour who is both divine and human can be the Saviour we need.

He reveals to us the personality of God.

Such a Saviour, by attracting us to himself, always attracts us to God. The more we love Jesus, the more we love God.

The Son of God reveals to us the Fatherhood of God, and makes us acquainted with his Fatherly feelings.

Only such a Saviour can make atonement for the sins of men.

Only such a Saviour can help each one of us in all needs.

He only can present every possible motive for the holy life.

THE BEST BOOK FOR BOYS.

Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Tribune, was once asked by a New York merchant what was the best book for him to put into the hands of his clerks for a business handbook. He recommended "The Book of Proverbs," and the man went to the Bible Society and bought a lot of them. We give here below a few samples out of the book:

- A wise son maketh a glad father.
- A soft tongue breaketh the bone.
- Labor not to be rich.
- A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.
- Buy the truth and sell it not.
- Look not upon the wine when it is red, but when it sparkleth in the cup.
- A faithful witness will not lie.
- The borrower is servant to the lender.
- He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.
- He that soweth iniquity shall reap calamity.
- How much better it is to get wisdom than gold.
- Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.
- Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.
- Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not.
- There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.
- He that oppresseth the poor, reproacheth his Maker.
- If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink.—*American Boy.*

THE SELF SIN.

Selfishness is a sin against God, and a crime against man. The man who lives selfishly does not live Christly or godly. The Christ-life is a life with self-eliminated, and in just so far as self remains it is an imperfect life. Selfishness is a stagnant pool; service is the living stream, which in blessing others also blesses itself, and remains fresh and pure. It is the spring, the perennial fountain, bubbling forth from the mountain side, which not only receives its living waters, but constantly gives out the refreshing stream which remains fresh and sweet. The Christian is not a reservoir, but a channel through which the living waters flow to bless mankind. Out of his inner life, said Jesus, shall "flow rivers of living water." Life is never so beautiful as when it is giving itself out the most lavishly in acts of self-sacrificing love. A selfish Christian is an anomaly, if not a monstrosity.—*Brethren Evangelist.*

Why Catarrh Poisons the System.

The catarrhal germ excites inflammation, offensive secretions are thrown off and pass into the circulation, contaminating the river of life and thus wreck the whole body. Every catarrh victim should use fragrant healing Catarrhazone, the surest cure for every type of catarrh yet discovered. Catarrhazone can't fail to cure because its vapor kills the germs and removes the cause of the trouble. Then it soothes and heals, stops the cough and relieves the stuffed up condition of the nose and throat. Tens of thousands have been cured by Catarrhazone, which is guaranteed. Use only Catarrhazone. Complete outfit \$1.00; trial size 25c.

A lump of gum camphor placed in the clothes-press or closet, will keep the steel ornaments from tarnishing.

Ayer's

You can hardly find a home without its Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Parents know what it does for children: breaks

Cherry Pectoral

up a cold in a single night, wards off bronchitis, prevents pneumonia. Physicians advise parents to keep it on hand.

"The best cough medicine money can buy is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. For the coughs of children nothing could possibly be better."

JACOB BRILL, Saratoga, Ind. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

for Throat, Lungs

Ayer's Pills greatly aid the Cherry Pectoral in breaking up a cold.

"Evil is wrought by want of thought, As well as want of heart."

The great demand for a pleasant, safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It is a purely vegetable compound, and acts promptly and magically in subduing all coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc. It is so palatable that a child will not refuse it, and is put at a price that will not exclude the poor from its benefits.

Always remember that sincerity is the very soul of religion. A single intention to please God and to approve ourselves to him must animate and govern all that we do.

There Is Only One Electric Oil. — When an article, be it medicine or anything else, becomes popular, imitations invariably spring up to derive advantages from the original, which they themselves could never win on their own merits. Imitations of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil have been numerous, but never successful. Those who know the genuine are not put off with a substitute, but demand the real thing.

Dash your windows with ammonia, hot water, and a sponge, and be sure to dry them with old newspapers.

Hundreds of opinions agree upon the fact that Pain Killer has alleviated more pain than all other medicine. Unequaled for diarrhoea and dysentery. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Pain Killer, Perry Davis'.

After Work or Exercise

POND'S EXTRACT

Soothes tired muscles, removes soreness and stiffness and gives the body a feeling of comfort and strength.

Do not take the weak, watery witch hazel preparations represented to be "the same as" Pond's Extract, which easily sour and generally contain "wood alcohol," a deadly poison.