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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED
LITERATURE.

THE BIBLE STUDENTS' READING GUILD.

Local Chapters—The following topics for Chapter-meetings during February, are suggested. Care should be taken to select for each meeting such subjects as will make a complete and rounded programme, that is, touching different sides of the subject. Not more than five topics and a map drill should be upon any one programme :

1. The Jewish ideas of God, of righteousness and of the Messiah, contrasted with the teachings of Jesus concerning the same.
2. The geological history of the Jordan Valley (illustrated by diagrams).
3. Historical landmarks along the Jordan.
4. The value of a study of Palestinian Geography in connection with that of the Life of Christ.
5. The two instances of the healing of a blind man (Mark 8 and John 9). A comparison of the *methods* in these miracles with others.
6. The significance of the confession of Peter, and of Jesus' answer to him.
7. The sayings of Christ in this period concerning his approaching death and resurrection, and the manner in which they were received by his disciples.
8. A circumstantial account of the transfiguration, with a discussion of its purpose and effect.
9. Christ's charges of secrecy concerning his deeds and words. To whom and under what circumstances were they given? What were some of the reasons for them?
10. The Teachings of Jesus concerning humility and forgiveness, in relation to the current teachings of his times.
11. A description of Jerusalem at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles.
12. Reading of John 7:1-52. Christ at the Feast of Tabernacles.
13. The discourses on the Light of the World, and spiritual freedom (*a*) from the standpoint of the Jews, (*b*) from the standpoint of Christians today.
14. The Seventy: the commission, the instructions, the return and the results, from the point of view of their effect on the faith of the disciples.
15. The parable of the Good Samaritan, with special reference to its force to the *Jews*.
16. The interviews between the Pharisees and the man born blind, with special reference to the spirit manifested by the Pharisees.
17. The assertion of the Jews of Jesus' day that he was not of a sane mind. Was it sincere? On what was it based?

18. Jesus' way of dealing with the Scribes and Pharisees, and the reasons for it.

19. Solomon's Porch.

20. Jesus' method of dealing with the Jews who believed because of his miracles alone.

21. Map study tracing the journeys of Jesus in the third period of the Galilean ministry.

22. How full a conception of the life and work of the Christ did his apostles have up to this time? a discussion.

23. A résumé of the situation at the close of this period in relation to the enemies and friends of Jesus, and a comparison of this situation with that at the close of the second period of the Galilean ministry.

GENERAL INSTITUTE NOTES.

The demand for biblical lectures increases as facilities for Bible study improve. In order to meet this demand the following lecture courses have been kindly placed at the disposal of the Institute for the current season :

By PRESIDENT GEO. S. BURROUGHS, *Wabash College*.

1. Lectures on Old Testament Prophecy. 2. Inductive Studies in the Minor Prophets and Isaiah. 3. Lectures on the Gospels in connection with the times of Christ. 4. Inductive Studies in the Gospels.

By PROFESSOR IRVING F. WOOD, *Smith College*, courses of lectures in

1. The Gospels and their Relations. 2. Literary Study:—Some neglected books of the Bible. 3. Historical studies:—David and Solomon. Single lectures.

1. The New Bible and its devotional use. 2. Three weeks in Jerusalem (illustrated).

By PROFESSOR LINCOLN HULLEY, *Bucknell University*.

1. Two lectures on Methods of Bible study. 2. Courses of from six to twelve lectures on Isaiah, the Psalms and the New Testament Church.

By PROFESSOR E. L. PARKS, *Gammon Theological Seminary*.

1. Courses of lectures on the Life of Christ and the Foreshadowings of Christ. 2. Book studies:—Exodus, Job, Isaiah, Daniel, Romans, Galatians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Peter, 1 John, Revelation.

Single lectures.

1. The importance of Systematic Bible Study. 2. The Methods of Systematic Bible Study. 3. How to use the Bible in Personal Religious work. 4. The Hebrew and Christian State, or the Teaching of the Old and New Testament upon the State. 5. The Teaching of the Old Testament upon the Kingdom of God. 6. The Teaching of the New Testament upon the Kingdom of God.

By PROFESSOR CHARLES HORSWELL, *Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern University.*

Courses of lectures.

1. Beginnings of Hebrew History:—Judges, Kings.
2. The Minor Prophets:—Hosea, Micah.
3. The Synoptic Gospels.
4. The Development of Gospel Literature.
5. The Pauline Epistles:—Thessalonians, Galatians, Romans, Corinthians.

By PROFESSOR SHAILER MATHEWS, *The University of Chicago.*

1. The History of New Testament Times, (*a*) The Heroic Period of Jewish History, (*b*) The Herods and the Romans, (*c*) Home Life of the Jews, (*d*) Industrial Life of the Jews, (*e*) The Scribes and the Pharisees, (*f*) Jesus in the light of his times.
2. Historical study of the Life of Christ.

By DR. CHARLES F. KENT, *The University of Chicago.*

Courses on

1. Hebrew Prophecy.
2. Messianic Prophecy.
3. Hebrew Poetry.

Single lectures.

1. An Ancient Hebrew Love Story.
2. The Problem of the Book of Job.
3. Bible Study in Colleges.
4. What is the practical value of the Bible to me today?

By MR. C. W. VOTAW, *The University of Chicago.*

1. Some aspects of the Life of Christ, (*a*) The preparation of the world for Christ, (*b*) The course and chronology of Jesus' Public Ministry, (*c*) The Judaism with which Christ came into conflict, (*d*) The plan and Method of Jesus, (*e*) The characteristics of Christ's Teaching, (*f*) the Historical grounds for the belief in the Divinity of Christ.
2. The Teaching of Jesus, (*a*) God, Whose is the Kingdom, (*b*) The Nature and Advent of the Kingdom, (*c*) Righteousness of the Kingdom, (*d*) The Old Testament Revelation as related to the New, (*e*) The testimony of Jesus concerning Himself, (*f*) The future of the Kingdom.

Single Lectures.

1. Right and Wrong Ideas of the Bible.
2. Better Methods of Bible Study.
3. The Rise of the Old Testament Literature.
4. The formation of the New Testament canon.
5. The condition of the World at the Advent of Christianity.
6. The Sources and Relations of the Four Gospels.

By MR. DEAN A. WALKER, *The University of Chicago.*

1. Messianic Prophecy.
2. Isaiah.
3. Hosea.
4. Amos.
5. Jeremiah.
6. The Hydrography of Palestine.
7. The Land of Moab (stereopticon).

By MR. J. R. BERRY, *The University of Chicago.*

1. Old Testament Prophecy.
2. Hosea.
3. Amos.
4. The Psalms.

5. Hebrew History; The Exile. 6. The Life of Christ. 7. The Bible and Modern Discoveries.

By REV. H. L. WILLET, *The University of Chicago* (Field Secretary of the Institute).

1. Studies in Prophecy. 2. Studies in Messianic Prophecy. 3. The Prophecies of Isaiah. 4. The Song of Songs. 5. The Life of Christ. 6. The Life and Work of Paul. 7. The Great Text-Book.

By MR. C. E. WOODRUFF, *The University of Chicago*.

1. The four Aspects of the Life of Jesus in the Gospels. 2. The Crises in the Life of Jesus. 3. The great Ideas in the Teachings of Jesus. 4. The Times of Danger in the History of the Apostolic Church. 5. Letters of the Apostle Paul.

The statement that the study of the Old Testament is not especially profitable for spiritual growth is one which has often to be combated by the Institute. The following from a group of three Missionary teachers who are studying the Club Course on the Foreshadowings of the Christ, is of interest in this connection :

"I wish to add my testimony to the helpfulness and value of your course of study. What has chiefly surprised me is the direct result it has had on my Christian life, giving me such a strong sense of the power and loving purpose of God, and thus strengthening me in my everyday life. It has made God seem, more than ever before, a God near at hand, and not far off.

"We three are missionary teachers living alone among the mountain people. It is very hard for us to find time for this study, and we shall doubtless fall behind, but the practical benefit is so great that we would go on with it were it still harder to make time for it."

We give below an extract from a letter to the St. Andrews Brotherhood, published in the January number of the *St. Andrews Cross*. It assures the Institute of the coöperation of Mr. James G. Houghteling, the president of the Brotherhood, which is one of the most important organizations for Christian work in the field.

"I have always been impressed with the lamentable lack of any thorough knowledge of the Bible on the part of most young men. I have also been impressed with the unprofitable way in which most men, who pretend to read their Bibles daily, go to it.

"There has recently come to my notice a scheme of Bible study prepared by the American Institute of Sacred Literature, by which fifteen minutes' Bible-reading every day will give a man a very good knowledge of the Bible in four years. . . . The direction of these courses of study is in thoroughly competent hands, and I recommend all readers of the *St. Andrews Cross*, who desire to do systematic work in the way of Bible study, to investigate this scheme."

(Signed) JAMES G. HOUGHTELING.