

understanding "place of prayer" in the sense of locality merely, without synagogue or temple of any kind.

The Lesson Council.

Question 1. *Is there any reason why we should regard visions and dreams as less supernatural than did Paul?*

Yes. We do not live in an age of dream and vision as did St. Paul. His Christian experience began with a vision, soon followed by a dream that speedily was actualized. Thereafter he might reasonably expect further revelation by this method, and he was not disappointed. Neither was St. Paul alone in being the subject of dreams and visions. These, moreover, were a special, and never a general, method of divine communication, and the circumstances were always so extraordinary and pronounced as to leave in the mind no doubt of their heavenly origin.

Question 2. *Did the early Christian Church, in the days of the apostles, observe the Jewish Sabbath or the Lord's Day?*

In Gentile communities, like Troas, they kept sacred the Lord's Day and ignored the Jewish Sabbath (Col. 2. 16). In Jewish communities, where all labor on the seventh day was interdicted, they could not secularize the Jewish Sabbath. Early training and associations at first made the Jewish sanctuary services precious, and they utilized them to gain converts to Christianity as the modern missionary utilizes pagan festival days. They also kept, as far as their circumstances would permit, the Lord's Day as peculiarly their holy day. Later, everywhere, they kept holy the Lord's Day and ignored the Jewish Sabbath. To distinguish their holy day from the Jewish in the first centuries they carefully refrained from the use of the word Sabbath when speaking of their sacred day, and called it the First Day, the Lord's Day, or Sunday.

Analytical and Biblical Outline.

The Spirit of the Gospel.

I. A SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP.

Him would Paul have. v. 1-3.

"Sent them two and two." Luke 10. 1.

"Other my fellow-laborers." Phil. 4. 3.

II. A SPIRIT OF ORDER.

Delivered....the decrees. v. 4.

"Walk by the same rule." Phil. 3. 16.

"Know them....over you." 1 Thess. 5. 12.

III. A SPIRIT OF ACTIVITY.

Gone throughout Phrygia, etc. v. 6.

"Woe....if I preach not." 1 Cor. 9. 16.

"Debtors....Greeks....barbarians." Rom. 1.

14.

IV. A SPIRIT OF GROWTH.

Churches....increased in number. v. 5.

"Bring my sons from far." Isa. 43. 6.

"Lord....is rich unto all." Rom. 10. 12.

V. A SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE.

Forbidden of the Holy Ghost. v. 6-10.

"Spirit of God....in you." 1 Cor. 3. 16.

"Led by the Spirit of God." Rom. 8. 14.

VI. A SPIRIT OF FAITH.

Whose heart the Lord opened. v. 14.

"Open thou mine eyes." Psalm 119. 18.

"Hath shined in our hearts." 2 Cor. 4. 6.

Thoughts for Young People.

Paul and Lydia.

1. While sometimes the Spirit "forbids" to labor, we must watch, lest oftener we be hindered by our own hearts.

2. The worker for Christ does not wait for great opportunities, but labors with even a few souls, when they cross his path.

3. She who had come to Philippi for gain finds there the "pearl of great price."

4. See Lydia's example in: (1) Industry; (2) Religious interest; (3) Sabbath-keeping; (4) Teachableness; (5) Promptness to follow divine direction; (6) Interest in and influence with her household; (7) Liberality and hospitality.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

BY REV. E. A. RAND.

Why is it the apostle is checked in his movements? Does he think of working in Asia? "No, not now," says a gentle voice. He attempts to pass into Bithynia; a loving restraint mysteriously is felt by him. Kept from turning to the right, kept from turning to the left, yet ever led on, he comes to Troas. Why this strange pressing forward yet mysterious moving away from fields of labor that may beckon? What work will open at Troas? Out upon the blue waters of the restless sea does the apostle look in strange inquiry, wondering if he is to launch any boat of venture upon the great deep?

Beyond it is Macedonia. Beyond it is Greece. Beyond are many harbors. Toward which will any vessel of his enterprising quest press with wings white and expanded?

While in this waiting mood, how little he can foresee one evening that into the sleep of the night will come a form making a corner in his life and in the history of the Church he loves! He has a vision that night. Out of the shadows of slumber rises up the figure of a man! Is it an angel in human form and dress? Does he beckon? Does he point across the sea? He calls hither. O, how earnestly he summons, calling away, calling