

ductors of the service—Paul and Silas in the stocks. 4. The strange congregation—the prisoners in their cells.

Clarke calls attention to the earthquake and loosening the bonds of the prisoners as being symbolic of the nature of that religion which they preached. While it terrifies the guilty it proclaims deliverance to the captive and the opening of prison doors to them that are bound.

Why should the jailer attempt suicide? Call attention to the difference in the message to a man in despair from a Christian or a heathen. Seneca said: "If life pleases you, live; if not, you have a right to return whence you came." The message of the Gospel is, "Do thyself no harm."

What is the great question? What the great answer? Ask for proofs that the jailer was converted. Ask for the three conversions reported in Acts 16. Direct attention to the universality and power of the Gospel.

#### PRACTICAL TEACHING.

Joy is in the person, not in the place. It is self that must be changed, not our circumstances or possessions, in order to have the heart overflowing with joy.

It is a significant fact that the most joyous of Paul's epistles is that written to the church at Philippi born out of his experience of suffering. This truth is illustrated, too, by Daniel in the lions' den and the king in the palace.

#### ESSAY SUBJECTS FOR ADVANCED CLASSES.

1. Roman prisons, how kept. 2. City of Philippi, its history and government. 3. Bible instances of deliverance from prison. 4. All that is known about Silas. 5. What the Bible says about soothsayers.

In using the question and answer method in teaching, name the person who is to answer the question at the end of the question, not at the beginning. If the person be named at the beginning the rest of the class are not so apt to pay attention

to the question, and their interest lags. If the name be not given till the question is finished, all attend or have the thought in mind, as they do not know who will be called on till the name is heard.

#### OPTIONAL HYMNS.

Come, ye sinners.  
Father, I stretch my hands to thee.  
Jesus, my Lord, to thee I cry.  
'Tis the promise of God.  
Just as I am.

Come, every soul by sin oppressed.  
Jesus, I come.  
Once for all the Saviour died.  
Out on the midnight deep.  
I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus.

#### References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 23: Scourging, 724. Ver. 24: The stocks, 839. Ver. 27: Responsibility of jailers, 840.

#### Blackboard.



### LESSON III. PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BEREA. [July 18.]

**GOLDEN TEXT.** They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily. Acts 17. 11.

#### AUTHORIZED VERSION.

Acts 17. 1-12. (*Commit to memory verses 10-12.*)  
[Read 1 Thess., chapters 1 and 2.]

1 Now when they had passed through Am-philip'-olis and Ap-ol-lo'-ni-a, they came to Thes-sa-lo-ni'-ca, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Je'sus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4 And some of them believed, and consorted

#### REVISED VERSION.

1 Now when they had passed through Am-philip'-olis and Ap-ol-lo'-ni-a, they came to Thes-sa-lo-ni'-ca, where was a synagogue of the Jews: 2 and Paul, as his custom was, went in unto them, and for three sabbath days reasoned with them 3 from the scriptures, opening and alleging, that it behoved the Christ to suffer, and to rise again from the dead; and that this Je'sus, whom, said 4 he, I proclaim unto you, is the Christ. And some of them were persuaded and consorted with

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