

LESSON III—January 17th, 1897.

A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 32-47.

(Commit to memory verses 33, 39).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off."
Acts 2: 39.

PROVE THAT—We all need repentance. Acts 2: 38.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 84. *What doth every sin deserve?* A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 27, 59, 128, 139.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 25-36. *Tuesday.* A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 37-47. *Wednesday.* Call to Repentance. Isa. 55: 1-7. *Thursday.* Confession and Salvation. Rom. 10: 4-13. *Friday.* Born Anew. 1 Pet. 1: 17-25. *Saturday.* Joy in Heaven. Luke 15: 1-10. *Sabbath.* The Prodigal Returning. Luke 15: 11-24. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Read carefully Peter's sermon and notice (1) how he answers the mockers; (2) points out the prophecy now fulfilled; (3) proves from Scripture that the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus was foretold, and (4) concludes that therefore he was the Christ. He does not spare his hearers but boldly charges them with the murder of the Messiah.

LESSON PLAN. I. Awakened Sinners. vs. 32-37. II. Baptized Believers. vs. 38-41. III. Loving Brethren. vs. 42-47.

32. Raised up—from the dead as foretold by David in Ps. 16: 8-11. **We all are witnesses**—would be true of nearly the whole 120 disciples. **33. Exalted**—i. e. to heaven, where Stephen soon after saw him (7: 56; 5: 31; Phil. 2: 9; Heb. 10: 12). **The promise of the Father**—The Holy Spirit (1: 4). The strange things wondered at were his work. **34. David ascended not (R. V.)**—So he could not mean himself in the verse quoted from Ps. 110: 1. He must mean Jesus, the only one who ever ascended since David's time, and who is therefore the Messiah. **35. Thy footstool**—A conqueror set his foot upon the neck of his vanquished enemy to denote his complete and final subjugation (Josh. 10: 24; Ps. 135: 40; 1 Cor. 15: 25). **37. Pricked in their heart**—They were stung with remorse at their awful guilt, would not their glorified victim punish their atrocious crime? **Men and brethren**—"Sirs, brethren," or as in R. V. "brethren" only. **38. Repent and be baptized**—The first is incomplete without the second. How much more ought we, who have been baptized, to be sorry for our sins and seek to have the Holy Spirit ever abiding in our hearts (Ps. 56: 12; Gal. 3: 27; Rom. 6: 3, 11, 12). **For the remission of sins**—That is what baptism denotes. It is God's outward sign and seal of pardon and cleansing bestowed (Isa. 1: 18; Matt. 1: 21; 1 John 1: 9). **39. The promise**—of a Saviour, the Bleeding Lamb of Calvary (1 Pet. 1: 18, 19; John 1: 29, 36; Rev. 7: 14). **And to your**

children—Jesus still receives the children of his people into his arms at baptism, "lays his hands upon them and blesses them" (Mark 10: 16). Let us not receive such grace in vain (2 Cor. 6: 1). **All that are afar off**—The gentiles and heathen (Isa. 57: 19; Eph. 2: 13, 17, 19). **Shall call unto him (R. V.)**—The gospel invitation is meant for all who hear it. "Whosoever will, may come" (Rev. 22: 17). **40. Untoward generation**—Perversely obstinate people, who stubbornly refused to believe on Christ and accept salvation. **41. Three thousand**—It is incredible that so many could have been immersed on one day, especially as it was the rainless season when the brooks were dry and water was precious. They must have been baptized by sprinkling, or pouring water upon them (Isa. 52: 15; Ezek. 36: 25). **42. Breaking of bread**—Observing the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10: 16). It was a time of daily study, daily social intercourse, daily communion and daily prayers together. **43. Fear**—The mockers were awed into silence. **Wonders and signs**—They wrought miracles (Mark 16: 17; 4: 33; 5: 12). **44. All things common**—They were like one family (4: 32, 34). **46. From house to house**—R. V. "at home," or in the usual place of meeting (ch. 12: 12). **Singleness of heart**—They had one aim, there was no deceit or hypocrisy amongst them. **47. Added to the church daily**—Every day saw accessions to their number, of those whom the Lord was saving.

LESSONS. 1. God overrules the wickedness of men for the furtherance of his cause. 2. The Holy Spirit alone can change our hearts and keep us from sin. 3. Those who are baptized are under special obligations to serve Christ. 4. Christians should cultivate brotherly love. 5. Religion should bring gladness.