

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

Paul was not willing to go to the gentiles. He thought he could do better amongst the Jews. He understood their prejudices for he had been a slave to them. They knew him and surely his words would have special weight with them. But he was mistaken. Jesus did not argue with him, but demanded obedience. He was a chosen instrument for the work abroad. So far from being impressed, the Jews went about to kill him. The work we want to do is not always the work we ought to do. We may think ourselves specially fitted for something else, but if we throw ourselves heart and soul into the work God has given us we will achieve results that we never could attain to in any other sphere. Paul the Rabbi would have been a much less successful soul winner than Paul, the apostle of the uncircumcision, who placed the church on its broad basis of true catholicity.

Paul's want of success was due to no fault of his own. He was not lacking in zeal, discretion, learning or love for those to whom he spoke. His life long heart's desire and prayer for Israel was that they might be saved. Let us encourage ourselves with this. Many have failed to win the legitimate rewards of their toil through no fault of their own, but by the overruling of providence. Be content. One may sow and another reap, but the sower will not be forgotten when the Husbandman reckons with his servants. Fidelity, and not success, will measure the reward.

The Jewish mob could not bear that hated word "Gentiles." It was blasphemy, in their opinion, to speak of God sending salvation to

the uncircumcised. We are too apt even in this age of interdenominational comity to depreciate those who differ from us, while towards superstitious Romanists and degraded heathen we have much of the old Jewish pride of religious privilege. The farther any are from the full truth and freedom of the gospel, the more earnestly should we desire their enlightenment and pray for their conversion.

There are times when it is proper to insist upon our rights. Many a time Dr. Mackay has compelled the Chinese authorities in Formosa to redress wrongs done to him and the converts, to the manifest increase of respect on their part. Our missionaries in India have stood upon their rights as British subjects, and won privileges thereby for all christian missionaries among the Hindus. But if we assert our rights for our own protection, we ought to discharge the obligations which are connected with them. No christian has any right to neglect to exercise the functions of citizenship, or refuse positions of usefulness when called to them. If all christians would do their duty as citizens, we could have as pure and perfect municipal, provincial, and federal government as is possible amongst fallible men.

THE BLACKBOARD.

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LESSON III—October 17, 1897.

Paul before the Roman Governor. Acts 24: 10-25.

(Read chapter 23: 10 to 24: 27. Commit to memory verses 14-16.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee." Isa. 41: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should repent now. 2 Cor. 6: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest 97. *What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?* A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience, lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 96 (Psalm 121), 148, 152, 137. (Old Hymnal Nos. 9, 86, 135, 138).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The accusation. Acts 24: 1-9. *Tuesday.* Paul before the Roman governor. Acts 24: 10-21. *Wednesday.* Paul before the Roman governor.