

Lesson XI.

PAUL CROSSES TO EUROPE

June 15, 1902

Acts 16 : 6-15—Memory Verses, 9, 10.

Golden Text—Thou shalt be his witness unto all men.—Acts 22 : 15.

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phryg'ia and the region of Gala'tia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in A'sia,

7 After they were come to Mys'ia, they assayed to go into Bithyn'ia : but the Spirit suffered them not.

8 And they passing by Mys'ia came down to Tro'as.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night ; There stood a man of Macedo'nia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedo'nia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedo'nia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Tro'as, we came with a straight course to Samothra'cia, and the next day to Neap'olis ;

12 And from thence to Philip'pi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedo'nia, and a colony : and we were in that city abiding certain days.

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made ; and we sat down and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

14 And a certain woman named Lyd'ia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyati'ra, which worshipped God, heard *us* : whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After about six years the apostle Paul set out on a second missionary journey. This time his companions were Silas and a young believer from Lystra called Timothy.

They revisited all the churches that had been begun by Paul and Barnabas, and started many new ones. They were getting on so well, and the people wherever they went listened so gladly, that the missionaries thought they would go further east into Asia and preach the gospel there also.

But Paul was warned by the Holy Spirit not to do this, but to turn and go towards the west. At last they came to the seaport town of Troas, from which they could see in the distance the coast line of Macedonia in Europe. Here Paul one night had a vision, in which he saw a man from Macedonia standing on the opposite shore, and calling to him, "*Come over into Macedonia and help us !*"

By this sign Paul knew that the Lord wanted him to go and preach to the people of Europe. So he at once began to inquire if there was any ship that would take them across. When they had found one, the missionaries left Troas and sailed to the city of Philippi, the largest town in Macedonia.

Now there were many Jews living there, although the city belonged to the heathen Romans, a nation whom all Jews hated, but from whose rule they could not get free. There was no synagogue in the city of Philippi, but every Sabbath, when it was fine weather, the Jewish strangers would gather outside the gate of the town by the quiet river-side for worship.

On the first Sabbath afternoon after they came to Philippi, Paul and his friends, hearing of this custom, walked down to the river-bank, and, sitting down, began at once to preach to some women who were waiting