

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
—THESSALONICA AND BEREA

July 18, 1909

Acts 17: 1-15. Commit to memory v. 11.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.—Psalm 119: 11.

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and ³ three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that ⁴ Christ must needs have suffered, and ⁵ risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom ⁶ I preach unto you, is ⁷ Christ.

4 And some of them ⁸ believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the ⁹ Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain ¹⁰ lewd fellows of the baser sort, and ¹¹ gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and ¹² assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them ¹³ out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they ¹⁴ drew Jason and certain brethren ¹⁵ unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come thither also;

7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all ¹⁷ do contrary to the decrees of Cæsar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

Revised Version—¹ custom; ² for; ³ from; ⁴ it behoved the Christ to suffer; ⁵ to rise; ⁶ said he, I proclaim unto you; ⁷ the; ⁸ were persuaded; ⁹ Jews being moved with jealousy; ¹⁰ vile fellows of the rabble; ¹¹ gathering a crowd, set the city; ¹² assaulting; ¹³ they sought; ¹⁴ forth; ¹⁵ dragged; ¹⁶ before; ¹⁷ act; ¹⁸ multitude; ¹⁹ from Jason and the rest; ²⁰ Berea; ²¹ when they were come thither; ²² now; ²³ examining; ²⁴ these; ²⁵ many of them therefore; ²⁶ the Greek women of honourable estate; ²⁷ proclaimed; ²⁸ Berea also; ²⁹ likewise, stirring up and troubling the multitudes; ³⁰ as far as; ³¹ and; ³² Timothy; ³³ But; ³⁴ Timothy, that they should come.

LESSON PLAN

- I. At Thessalonica, 1-9.
II. At Berea, 10-15.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Thessalonica and Berea, Acts 17: 1-15. T.—Paul's love for the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. 3. W.—In the heart, Deut. 6: 1-9. Th.—Daily meditation, Ps. 119: 97-104. F.—Searching the scriptures, John 5: 31-39. S.—A child's knowledge, 2 Tim. 3: 10-17. S.—Teaching the scriptures, Luke 24: 13-32.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer? A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Time and Place—A.D. 49; Thessalonica and Berea.

Connecting Links—There is no break between Lesson II. and Lesson III.

I. At Thessalonica, 1-9.

V. 1. *They*; instead of "we" (ch. 16: 10), evidently because Luke had ceased, for a time, to be a member of Paul's company, having remained at Philippi. *Amphipolis*; literally, "the all-round city", either because it was so conspicuous from land and sea, or because the river Strymon almost encircled it. It was on the great Roman highway called the Egnatian Way, about thirty-two miles southwest from Philippi. *Apollonia*; thirty miles farther on, still to

8 And they troubled the ¹⁸ people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

9 And when they had taken security ¹⁹ of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto ²⁰ Berea; who ²¹ coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 ²² These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, ²³ and searched the scriptures daily, whether ²⁴ those things were so.

12 ²⁵ Therefore many of them believed; also of ²⁶ honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was ²⁷ preached of Paul at ²⁸ Berea, they came thither ²⁹ and stirred up the people.

14 And then immediately the brethren sent ³⁰ away Paul to go ³¹ as it were to the sea: ³² but Silas and Timothy abode there still.

15 ³³ And they that conducted Paul brought him ³⁴ unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

The Question on Missions—3. What are their homes like? On "estates" (sugar, cocoa and cacao plantations), the people live in what are called "barracks", wooden houses built by the estates, covered with corrugated iron. In the country districts, the houses are usually covered with thatch made from palm leaves. As they are able, the people build better houses of wood, with iron roofs.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 240 (Supplemental Lesson); 54; 46; 1 (Ps. Sel.); 556 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 151.

Special Scripture Reading—Psalm 19. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 149, Paul Preaching to the Thessalonians. For Question on Missions, Tr. 3, A Typical East Indian Laborer's Home, Trinidad. The walls and floor are usually made of mud, and the roof is thatched.

EXPOSITION

the southwest. Paul did not stay in these towns, probably because there was no Jewish synagogue in either of them. *Thessalonica*; some thirty-seven miles from Apollonia; the capital of the whole Roman province of Macedonia. (See Geography Lesson.) A *synagogue of the Jews*. Doubtless, before Paul left Philippi, Thessalonica had been fixed upon as his next stopping place, because the Jewish synagogue there offered a good opening for work.

Vs. 2, 3. *As his custom was* (Rev. Ver.). "To the Jew first" (Rom. 1: 16), was the apostle's rule in preaching (see chs. 13: 5, 14: 1, etc.) *Three sabbath days*. During the week he worked at his trade of tent-