

Lesson VII.

THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

May 18, 1902

Acts 13 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 2, 3.

Golden Text—Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.—Matt. 28 : 19.

1 Now there were in the church that was at An'tioch certain prophets and teachers ; as Bar'nabas, and Sim'eon that was called Ni'ger, and Lu'cius of Cyre'ne, and Man'a-en, which had been brought up with Her'od the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Bar'nabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleu'cia ; and from thence they sailed to Cy'prus.

5 And when they were at Sal'amis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews : and they had also John to *their* minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'sus :

7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Ser'gius Paul'us, a prudent man ; who called for Bar'nabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But El'ymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness ; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

THE LESSON RETOLD.

Among the teachers and prophets in the church at Antioch, there were a number of good men whose names are written in the Bible, that everyone may remember them for their good works. Besides Saul and Barnabas, there was "black" Simeon, and Lucius, who, as a boy, had been brought up in Africa, and many others.

One day, as these men were fasting and praying before the Lord, the Holy Spirit said, "You are now able to carry on the church at Antioch without the help of Saul and Barnabas. The Lord needs them for a new work ; He is going to send them as foreign missionaries and you must help them to get ready."

So the Christians obeyed, and when they

had prayed and fasted together, the elders of the church at Antioch laid their hands upon Saul and Barnabas and sent them away.

Now Saul and Barnabas walked a short distance until they came to the sea. Then they went on board a ship and after sailing a few days, landed at a place called Salamis in the island of Cyprus. Barnabas knew the place well, for he was born in this island, and he and Saul went at once to the synagogue, where they preached the word of God to the Jews who were gathered for worship.

Here they met John Mark, a young nephew of Barnabas, who helped them a great deal and took them to the other side of the island to a place called Paphos. It was here that the Roman Governor, Sergius