

7. "Faith, Hope, Love." Faith is our hold on God in the storm, Hope in the sunshine, and Love in both. 1 Tim. 1. 18, 19; 6. 12; 2 Tim. 4. 7; Heb. 12. 1, 2; Rom. 14. 23; Titus 1. 2; Acts 26. 6, 7; Rom. 15. 4; Heb. 16. 19; 3; John 3. 16; 1 Pet. 1. 8; John 14. 15, 21, 23; Matt. 10. 28.

8. This life is a succession of unavoidable dangers, personal and relative. Self, home, property, all are in constant jeopardy. What recourse have we? God! Psa. 65. 5; Isa. 26. 4; Prov. 3. 5; Phil. 3. 3, 4; 2 Cor. 1. 9; Nah. 1. 7; Prov. 29. 25; Jer. 17. 7.

9. Who is God that we dare so rely on trust him? Gen. 1. 1; Deut. 32. 37; Gen. 17. 1; Exod. 6. 3; Psa. 130. 1-4; Prov. 6. 21; Jer. 23. 23; Matt. 5. 48; Isa. 5. 16; 45. 21; Ezra 9. 15; Psa. 25. 8.

10. The facts of the existence and ministry of angels are in this narrative assumed and taught, vers. 23, 24. Job 38. 7; Psa. 8. 5; Heb. 2. 5, 7; 2 Pet. 2. 11; Neh. 9. 6; Col. 1. 16; 1 Kings 19. 5; Psa. 68. 17; 104. 4; Luke 16. 22; Acts 12. 7-11; Heb. 1. 7, 14.

#### Lessons:

*We, Christians, on the voyage of duty to glorified destiny, should ever keep in mind:*

1. Duty is being in character, and doing in conduct, as we ought, when we are all free to be in character and do in conduct as we ought not.

2. Glorified destiny is the eternal result of duty done.

3. We are often handed over to agencies of God's providence, by his real, though unseen, order, without being personally consulted, ver. 1.

4. We are not always allowed to choose our companions for the voyage, ver. 1.

5. All natural phenomena are in reality manifestations of the gracious power of God, v. 14.

6. We must often give up all of our trying, and leave the issue or results with Almighty God, ver. 15.

7. God gives only opportunities, we must give the work.

8. In times of personal or relative peril we may have faith in God, and yet not hope of physical rescue, ver. 30.

9. It is possible for us to so live that God can give us special revelations of his will, ver. 22.

10. Supreme conscientiousness, and devotion to what he considered duty, secured from God to Paul special revelations of grace when he was a great sinner, and afterward when he became as great a saint.

11. The ministry of angels may be confidently anticipated, ver. 23.

12. In our prayers for ourselves, let us always include the similarly imperiled, ver. 24.

13. Have faith in God, ver. 25.

#### April 12. Paul's Shipwreck. Acts 27. 27-44.

1. The wise, possible, and sufficient preparation needed by every human being for the perilous voyage of human life. John 7. 17, 18; 17. 17; Rom. 12. 1, 2; 2 Cor. 7. 1; 13. 11; Eph. 5. 17, 18; Col. 4. 12; 1 Thess. 4. 3; Heb. 6. 1; 10. 9, 10.

2. What every imperiled voyager must do to secure this supernatural preparation. (a) *Repent*, Acts 2. 38; 3. 19; 8. 22; Matt. 4. 17; Mark 1. 15. (b) *Believe*, Mark 5. 36; 2 Chron. 20. 20; John 11. 27; 14. 1; Acts 8. 37. (c) *Confess*, Rom. 10. 9, 10; 1 John 2. 23; 4. 2, 3, 15; Matt. 10. 32.

3. God's way of strengthening an individual's faith in himself by extraordinary trial. Gen. 22. 1-12; Rom. 5. 3; Jas. 1. 3; Zech. 13. 9; Job 23. 10; 1 Pet. 1. 7; 4. 12; 1 Cor. 3. 13; Dan. 3. 17; 6. 23.

4. Other winds mentioned in the word. Sol. Song 4. 16; Job 37. 17; Luke 12. 55; Ezek. 17. 10; Hos. 13. 15; Exod. 10. 19; 2 Kings 19. 7, 35; Jer. 4. 11; Job 37. 9.

5. What a privilege God's people enjoy in their not infrequently long hours of darkness and storm, of casting the anchor of their faith out into the cruel sea on which they must voyage, and then reposefully await the coming of the morning, ver. 29. Jude 24; 2 Tim. 4. 18; 1 Pet. 1. 5; Prov. 29. 25; Jer. 31. 35; 2 Sam. 12. 20; Luke 2. 37, 38; Matt. 8. 5-10.

6. Several facts of this lesson impress the harmony of God's sovereignty with man's freedom. v. 31. (a) God's purposes are sovereign. Isa. 40. 13, 14; Dan. 4. 35; Psa. 33. 11; Jer. 4. 23; Acts 2. 23; 4. 28. (b) "I

know I am free, and that's the end of it." Prov. 1. 29-31; Matt. 23. 37; 2 Thess. 2. 13; John 7. 17.

7. When in physical peril all means of escape are, in the order of God's providence, cut off, Christians still have left, ver. 32. Psa. 33. 18, 19, 24; 17; Isa. 65. 23, 24; Dan. 9. 20-22; Ezek. 14. 16; Joel 2. 32; Rom. 10. 11, 13; Ezra 9. 13, 14.

8. When we think what our bodies are, in the mind of God, it is plainly our duty to care for them perfectly, vers. 33-36. Rom. 12. 1; 1 Cor. 3. 16, 17; 6. 13, 19; 3. Cor. 6. 16; 1 Thess. 4. 4; Gen. 1. 29; 9. 3; Psa. 104. 14; Prov. 25. 21; Isa. 58. 10.

9. The duty, possibility, and beauty of thanksgiving to Almighty God illustrated, ver. 35. 1 Thess. 5. 18; John 6. 11; 1 Tim. 4. 3, 4; Eph. 5. 19, 20; Rom. 14. 6, 7; Dan. 2. 23; Matt. 11. 29; 26. 37; 1 John 11. 41.

10. The sailors and soldiers mentioned in this lesson exhibited human nature as it is, but Paul's unselfishness and kindness practically exemplified the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matt. 22. 37-39; 1 Tim. 1. 5; 1 Thess. 4. 9; Gal. 5. 22, 23; Rom. 5. 1-3; Eph. 3. 12, 13; Rom. 12. 10; 1 Cor. 13. 4.

#### The lesson teaches:

Each in the admirable vessel of his individual animal organization, we, the spiritual, the personal, are being driven on life's cruel sea to inevitable physical shipwreck. Let the narrative forming this lesson thus instruct us:

1. Our vessel of the physical is now, and always has been, utterly unmanageable, ver. 37.

2. Often having heard the portentous breakers, in our distress of body, we have wisely taken our soundings, ver. 28.

3. In our physical peril, too, more than once, we have cast out the anchors of our faith, and waited longingly for the day of deliverance, or of explanation, ver. 29.

4. If any voyager leave his vessel unbidden by God to do so, such horrible recreancy to duty will ruin his destiny, ver. 30.

5. God's plan to keep the vessel of our physical organization afloat is through the co-operation of its occupant, ver. 31.

6. As no imperiled voyager quite understands himself, all thought of escape from physical embarrassments by suicide should now be cut off, ver. 32.

7. Because the vessel of the physical is sure to go to pieces, soon or later, is no reason for inattention to its wants that can be redressed, vers. 33, 34.

8. Even in the extreme physical danger, let us thank God for the absolute safety of the spiritual, the personal, ver. 35.

9. The proximity of a sure and joyful immortality is enough to cheer any holy voyager imperiled physically on life's sea of storms, ver. 36.

10. Of what intellectual, spiritual, and volitional worth is the voyager on the ship of animal organization, ver. 37.

11. To the very last every renewal of strength should be employed to keep the vessel from sinking or being wrecked, ver. 38.

12. No matter how unexpected and undesirable the form of physical dissolution, the fact should be made as easy as possible, vers. 39-41.

13. During all the voyage the marvelous trinity of intellect, emotion, and will, occupying the ship, should be unselfish and harmonious, ver. 42.

14. When the physical is finally wrecked, we cannot tell how the spiritual, the personal, escapes, and it is valueless to conjecture, ver. 44.

#### April 19. Paul Going to Rome. Acts 28. 1-15.

This lesson relates a part of the experience of the Pauline party on the island of Melita, and, subsequently, in concluding their journey by sea and by land to Rome.

##### (a) On the island.

1. The islands of the Bible. Jer. 2. 10; Isa. 23. 1, 12; Gen. 10. 4, 5; Zeph. 2. 11; Ezek. 27. 7; Acts 16. 11; 20. 15; 21. 1, 3; 27. 7, 12, 13, 21, 16; Rev. 1. 9.

2. God will, under all circumstances, protect his people, not as they think they need his protection, but as he knows they actually do need it. 1 Pet. 1. 5; Jude