

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IV. July 23, 1916.

Paul at Corinth.—Acts 18: 1-22.

Commentary.—I. Paul's arrival at Corinth (vs. 1-3). 1. After these things—After Paul's labors at Athens, came to Corinth—Corinth is about 40 miles west of Athens on the isthmus that separates the southern part of Greece from the northern. It could be reached by land or by sea from Athens. The city was the political capital of Greece at this time and the Roman consul had his residence there. Corinth was great commercially. It was upon the isthmus, and all land traffic between the north and the south of Greece passed through it. There was a harbor on the Corinthian Gulf, as also on the arm of the Aegean Sea on the east. It is said to have had a population at this time of four hundred thousand, made up of a great variety of nationalities. There were Greek, Roman and Roman settlers, and there were also representatives of eastern peoples. It was a mass of Jews, ex-soldiers, philosophers, merchants, sailors, freedmen, slaves, tradespeople, hucksters, and agents of every form of vice. It was known as an extremely wicked city, and vice was practiced under the name and guise of religion. Corinth was near the seat of the famous Isthmian games, to which Paul more than once refers in his writings. It was in a city of this character that the apostle undertook the establishment of a Christian Church and he met with marvelous success. 2. A certain Jew named Aquila—Paul was a Jew by nationality and he sought out Jews first in the different places where he labored. The name is a Roman one, and means an eagle. He may have taken that name upon his removal to Rome, born in Pontus—Pontus was a Roman province in Asia Minor, bordering on the Euxine or Black Sea. Priscilla—The wife of Aquila is frequently mentioned in connection with him in the writings of Paul, and appears to have been a capable and devoted woman. The two became close friends of the apostle. Claudius had commanded the Emperor had banished all Jews from Rome because of some tumult that had been occasioned by them, came unto them—it is not stated that Aquila and Priscilla had as yet embraced Christianity, but they became Paul's faithful fellow workers later on. 3. of the same craft—Among the Jews it was considered proper that everyone should have a trade. Paul was a tentmaker, and as Aquila and Priscilla had the same occupation, and had facilities for carrying on their trade, Paul arranged to live with them and work. tentmakers—What they made was most probably tent cloth. This was made from the shaggy hair of a species of goat found in Paul's native province of Cilicia. Tents were greatly in demand in the east, and the employment as tentmakers was steady and remunerative. Paul was determined to earn his own living so that it would be impossible for anyone to say that he was making gain out of the gospel which he preached.

II. Ministry to the Jews (vs. 4-5). 4. Reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath—Paul sought out the synagogue and his own people in every place where he labored, and declared the Messianic of Jesus. Persuaded the Jews and the Greeks—The fact that Greeks were found worshipping with the Jews indicates that they were in sympathy with them and might properly be called Jewish proselytes. To these two classes Paul presented the gospel. 5. When Silas and Timothy were come—From Macedonia whither they had been sent by Paul. Was pressed in the spirit—“Was constrained by the word.”—R. V. Both of these renderings are supported by good authority. It is probable that Paul in his early ministry at Corinth was under great pressure; but when Silas and Timothy arrived, bringing with them good reports from the churches in Macedonia, and joined him in his labors, he was greatly encouraged and strengthened to testify “to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.”

6. Opposed themselves—The word implies very strong opposition, as of a force drawn up in battle array. It was an organized opposition.—Cam. Bib. And blasphemed—The Jews spoke wickedly of the truths that Paul uttered and profanely rejected them. Shook his raiment—In token that he had spoken the truth to them that they needed, and he placed the responsibility for its acceptance upon them. Upon your own heads—The Jews must answer for the disposition they would make of the truth. I am clean—I have done my duty toward you. Unto the Gentiles—He would turn to the Gentiles in Corinth. In other places where he labored later he went to the synagogues and proclaimed the Gospel to the Jews.

III. Ministry to the Gentiles (vs. 7-11). 7. Justus—“Titus Justus.”—R. V. Justus was a worshipper of God. Paul made use of his house for the Christian services which he was conducting. This would be a convenient place for any Jews to come who might become favorable to Christianity, and Gentiles would feel free to listen to Paul's preaching. 8. Crispus... believed—The high position which Crispus occupied made common cause against one who had great influence in leading others to accept the gospel; but it would be likely to make the unbelieving Jews still more hostile to the apostle. Many... believed, and were baptized—The plain, positive preaching of the gospel had its designed effect. The results of Paul's labors were good—much better than at Athens.

9. By a vision—The Lord had spoken to Paul near Damascus, and he became changed into a new man. His nature was new and the whole course of his life was new. The Lord spoke to him by a vision before him. Now another vision was given to him. Be not afraid—There was strong opposition to him already, and efforts would be made to destroy his work. The Lord gave him this token of his favor to

prepare him for what awaited him. 10. I am with thee—God had given this assurance to Moses when he was about to undertake a great task. Jesus told his disciples that he would be with them always. The promise was given to Paul that he might be strong and full of faith for his work. No man shall set on thee to hurt thee—The apostle would be assailed, but the attacks of his enemies would do him no harm. I have much people—The Lord encouraged Paul that his labors were being greatly blessed, and many were believing in Jesus. 11. Continued there a year and six months—In this important centre the labors of the apostle were prolonged, and a strong church was founded. This is one of the few instances in which a definite period of time is stated in connection with Paul's labors.

IV. Paul before Gallio vs. 12-17). Achaia was a Roman province and Gallio was the pro-consul or governor. As he had been newly appointed, the Jews thought they could influence him to drive Paul away from Corinth. They charged Paul with teaching doctrines contrary to Jewish law, but Gallio would listen to no charges of a religious character, as long as the government tolerated different religions, and the case was dismissed. The crowd who sympathized with Paul and who hated the Jews, took this occasion to do violence to Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and Gallio paid no attention to it.

V. Close of Paul's second missionary journey (vs. 18-22). After laboring some time longer in Corinth, Paul went to Cenchrea, the eastern seaport of Corinth, and sailed for Caesarea, stopping a short time at Ephesus on the way. He went up to Jerusalem and thence to Antioch in Syria, whence he had started on his first two missionary journeys. The second missionary journey occupied about three years, and extended as far west as Corinth. Paul's mission had been eminently successful.

Questions.—Where is Corinth? Describe the city. Who were Aquila and Priscilla? What discouragements came to Paul at this time? How was he encouraged? What success did Paul have in Corinth? What did the Lord tell Paul in a vision? How long did he labor in Corinth? Where was Cenchrea? What points did Paul visit on his return?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—A Battle for Truth.

I. Under divine guidance.

1. Under Roman protection. In this lesson we may trace the divine presence as manifested for the comfort of Paul, the divine providence in caring for his personal necessities and his safety while performing his mission and the divine purpose in his stay at Corinth. Not one trial did Paul undergo which was not overruled of God for his own glory and the highest good of his faithful apostle. The lesson opens with a beautiful picture of human friendship, one which began in early relations and was perfected in the bonds of Christian fellowship, a friendship which was brought about by the remarkable guidance of Providence. Paul was assisted and prepared for his work by the fellowship of Aquila and Priscilla. The result of their coming together was of priceless value to each. Paul recognized the importance of establishing, as early as possible, a church in Corinth from which Christianity might radiate all along the lines of commerce. Because a place seemed unpromising for gospel work did not deter Paul from entering it. Paul was persevering. He used his opportunities wisely even when he was hardest at work. He could not keep back the main point of his theme, certain as it was to awaken opposition. He presented truths which compelled attention. When he was in Athens he saw all had been done which philosophy could accomplish, and the result was idolatry and profligacy. Paul relied on the gospel alone as the only effectual means of leading the sinner to abandon his sin and turn to God. He therefore determined to continue as he had begun, to preach Christ and him crucified to Jews and Greeks in Corinth. Paul believed that everything depended upon the acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ. Opposition arose to the point of intense ridicule, literally, blasphemy. Paul found appeals to reason and conscience utterly powerless with the Jews. Notwithstanding their intolerance and persecution Paul had no fear, yet the opposition of the synagogue led him to a more distinct ministry among the Gentiles. He had been loyal to the Jews. He separated the disciples from the synagogue in the hope of securing quietness and peace, but the prejudiced Jews continued their persecutions. It was at this period of perplexity that God's comforting message came to Paul. It was one of the marked peculiarities of the divine dealing with Paul that at the great crisis of his life special visions were granted to him. If Paul was tempted to turn aside to a more quiet place to labor, he was thoroughly aroused by the vision and promise from God. His purpose was then deliberately formed. He looked at things from his Master's point of view. This gracious and comforting manifestation of God to his servant came at a time of much depression.

II. Under Roman protection. The opposition of the Jews grew into hatred and finally into a murderous passion to compass Paul's imprisonment or death. A large number of Jews made common cause against one who befriended man in a religious matter, before a foreign court, with a very insincere statement of the case. The facts compare very closely with the treatment which the Jews gave to Christ. They thought they could excite a tumult. Gallio would not even entertain the case. He ruled that religious differences did not come within the authority of a civil magistrate. He refused to listen to Paul's defense in superfluities, for he had been guilty of no offense against Roman law. In a technical sense this was no concern of Gallio's, but in a very real sense his indifference was neither wise, loyal nor manly. His decision was wholly favorable to Paul, for it became manifest to the Jews that they could not expect sympathy from him in any

attempt to interfere with Paul's preaching. Sosthenes was, doubtless, the ring-leader of the Jews, but the Greeks did not service to the gospel by their violence. Gallio's indifference may have been increased by seeing religion identified with disorder, though the Greeks were not exceeding the custom of Corinth in their act. If this Sosthenes is the one referred to in First Corinthians, Paul's gospel triumphed in his conversion.—T. R. A.

FARM GARDEN

SQUASHES FOR PROFIT.

When given the proper cultivation and fertilization, squashes can be profitably grown and yet not involve more labor than is necessary for other farm crops. The best soil is one of a rich sandy or gravelly nature, well fertilized with barnyard manure. It should be broken up early and well cultivated with disk or spring-tooth harrow, to pulverize well the top soil to a good depth, and the weed growth kept in check until planting time. Squashes do not require as good soil as do cucumbers and melons, otherwise the culture is practically the same.

Planting should be delayed until warm, settled weather, as squashes are all sensitive to cold.

An acre of winter squashes will produce much more nutritious and valuable food for stock than an acre of corn.

One ounce of seed will plant 24 to 40 hills, according to size of seed. It will require from four to six pounds of seed to plant an acre of the surface.

Summer squashes grow mostly in compact bush forms. The hills should be at least eight feet apart in rows drawn eight feet distant. The rows are thrown out with a broad, heavy, single shovel plow drawn the long way of the plot and as deeply as possible. Where it is intended to have a hill, a good shovelful of well-composed barnyard manure should be dropped into the furrow, and, and a light harrow drawn lengthwise, which will mix the ingredients with the soil and forms a hill well fertilized, and which will stimulate rapid growth of the plant.

It is this rapid growth that combats such insects as the squash borer and beetle. Place at least a dozen seeds in each hill, so as to be sure of a good stand, and afterwards thin to at least three plants after the beetle season is passed, and more room demanded by the young plants for growth. Plant the seeds not more than an inch deep and distributed about the hill and covered with finely pulverized soil.

The weeds on the field must be kept down, which can be done by deep cultivation and by harrowing the centres between the rows. This must be kept up until the vines cover the surface. They should be cultivated deep and often, and the surface about the hills raked over well with the garden rake. The last cultivation should be made after the vines have a good start. At that time a quantity of soil should be drawn with the hoe well up over the roots and stems of the plants. This materially prevents the destruction from borers which get in the root stem of the plants. Dust frequently with stove soil, air-slaked lime and plaster of paris, mixed, to prevent attacks of the beetle. This mixture should be lightly sprinkled on the plants in the mornings when the dew is still on. The large gray squash bug must be picked off.

Additional fertilizer in the form of nitrogen is afforded by applications of nitrate of soda, worked in for several inches adjacent to each hill during the summer cultivation. About one-third of a pound at each application may be used at the time of thinning, at the time the plants are budding, and when small fruit is setting. This will give the further matured specimens dry and sweet, and with hard, thin shells indicating better keeping qualities.

It is difficult to capture the squash bug. He is a quick fellow, evidently on constant watch. Hand-picking is the most satisfactory method, although kerosene emulsion, soap emulsion and tobacco decoction are recommended mixtures. Many bugs can be destroyed by laying pieces of boards on the ground among the vines with one end slightly raised. The pests will cluster under these boards for shelter and protection, and can be collected and destroyed a couple of times each day, thus greatly reducing their number.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

It has been determined that salt is a valuable seasoning for the feed of hogs, though only a limited amount is required. It acts as a stimulator of the appetite and appears to improve the taste of the animal, just the same as it does a human being. It aids in digestion and in general increases the energy of the vital process and is greatly relished. When charred coals are fed to pigs they appreciate them much more when they are sprinkled with salt. If you feed a slop ration it should have a little seasoning of salt in it. The effects of a mild seasoning of salt in the food are beneficial as a tonic and general aid to good condition. However, be careful not to overdo it.

Some cows should go dry longer than others, but every cow will need a season of rest of at least a month or six weeks. It will be better for her and her unborn calf.

An experiment conducted at the Kansas Experiment Station shows that silage reduces the cost of producing butter fat from 30 cents to 21 cents. The herds in this case were of sufficient size to give reliable data and eliminating the difference that might occur between two cows. The lot which were fed silage gave seven pounds more milk in the summer and 95.5 more in winter per month than the herd which were fed dry feed. The butter fat was also increased by 46 in summer and 4.6 in winter. The difference in the cost of feed was even

greater. The silage-fed cows saved 50 cents per month in the cost of feed.

A sore spot looks bad for the owner of a horse, as well as for his driver. With proper care there need never be a sore on a horse.

The currant patch should be well cultivated and hoed, all weeds being kept down, as they are very injurious to currants. Keep well trimmed after they have come into full bearing, as too much of the young and old wood will hinder the growth. It is not well to allow any of the wood to get very old, as the finest fruit is usually grown on two and three-year-old growths.

The orchard will require moisture and favorable cultivation for fruit of the marketable or even the kind for home use. Unless there is already a cover crop on the orchard soil it may be advisable to plant one for summer protection a little later on. There are many advantages that will appeal to those who give the matter the proper attention.

INSECT MARVELS.

What the Hop Aphid Unchecked Would Do in One Year.

Few persons, writes James Buckland in a report of the Smithsonian institution, realize how enormous is the number of insect species or how amazing is their power of multiplication. The number of insect species is greater by far than that of the species of all other living creatures combined. More than 300,000 have been described, and probably twice that number remain to be examined. Virtually all living animals, as well as most plants, supply food for these incomputable hordes. The fecundity of certain insect forms is astounding.

Riley once computed that the progeny of the hop aphid, which sees thirteen generations born to it in a single year, would, if unchecked, to the end of the twelfth generation, multiply to the inconceivable number of ten sextillions of individuals. Supplementing that calculation, Forbush says that if this brood were marshalled in line, ten to the inch, it would extend to a point so sunk in the profundity of space that light from the head of the procession, travelling at the rate of 184,000 miles a second, would take 2,500 years to reach the earth.

Kirkland has computed that in eight years the progeny of one pair of gypsy moths could destroy all the foliage in the United States. A Canadian entomologist declares that in one season the descendants of a pair of potato bugs would, if unchecked, number 60,000,000.

The voracity of insects is almost as astounding as their power of reproduction. The daily ration in leaves of a caterpillar is equal to twice its two weight. If a horse were to eat as much he would require a ton of hay every twenty-four hours. Forbush says that a certain flesh-eating larva will consume in twenty-four hours 200 times its original weight. A human child, to do well, would have to eat in the first day of its life 1,500 pounds of beef.

Trouvelot, who made a special study of the subject, affirms that the food taken by a single silkworm in fifty-six days equals 86,000 times its original weight at hatching. What destruction this one insect would cause if even a one-hundredth part of its eggs ever the value to man of the insect-eating girls.



The most unusual black satin cape shown here is dubbed "The Dragon" because of the richly embroidered monster on the brilliant satin.

Armenia's Lost Name.

There is no such country as Armenia. Officially the Turks decline to recognize the name, and maps marking "Armenistan" have regularly been confiscated. Unofficially again nobody can say exactly where "Armenia" or "Kurdistan," as it is alternately called, begins and leaves off. Nor is there properly such a people as the "Armenians." That is only a name given them by foreigners. They call themselves Halk and their country Halaстан, tracing their descent from Halk, grandson of Japhet, whose dynasty was overthrown by Alexander of Macedonia.—London Spectator.

Wigg-Biggedde has an impediment in his speech, hasn't he? Wagg. Yes, but that doesn't prevent him from putting in a good word for himself.

SUNDAY AT HOME

MY WORK.

Let me do my work from day to day, in field or forest, at the desk or loom, in roaring market-place or tranquil room;

Let me but find it in my heart to say, When vagrant wishes beckon me astray:

"This is my work; my blessing, not my doom; Of all who live, I am the one by whom

This work can be done in the right way."

Then I shall see it not too great or small

To suit my spirit or to prove my powers;

Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours, And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall

At eventide, to play and love and rest.

Because I know for me my work is best.

Henry Van Dyke.

HE IS ABLE TO SAVE.

Jesus... because He, continually ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood, therefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory.

Seeing... that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace.

The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His shoulders.

VOID.

"The earth was without form and void. (Gen. 1: 2) The word void is strong and full of meaning; it will not be taken out of our dictionary for some time. It means widowed, deprived of, empty, vacant, not occupied. "I looked out of my window," says Wisdom. "I discovered among the youth a young man void of understanding." We have some of these in the city, and some who cannot be called young. Many of these go to church on Sunday. Look at these men as they enter the sanctuary in the freshness of the morning; there's a drag, a dullness; the healthy glow of a man all alive is wanting, there's a void.

"Christianity, wherever it has not penetrated the life, has made a great void around it, and the man who in the bosom of Christendom is, nevertheless, not Christian, carries about a desert within him. The perspective is luminous for some, gloomy for others, great and solemn for all, and there where, reigns not an ineffective joy reigns an ineffable sadness."

We hold it essential to the very notion of religion that it should be able to furnish proofs capable of satisfying an earnest and attentive mind. Love opens the mind to thoughts so high, so new, that they must seem madness to such as do not accept them.

Have we not a numerous class who have long been hovering around Christianity as around an impenetrable sanctuary; they knock at all doors without seeing it open; at once believing and not believing. Christian in desire, pagan in hopes, convinced, but not persuaded, enlightened and not consoled. Could we plead with this numerous class we might say, "How comes it that you believe, and that as yet you have only the expenses and not the revenue of your faith; how comes it that you wear your faith as a yoke that burdens and cramps you, not as wings that raise you above the world and its sorrows? How comes it that in the midst of this religion, accepted by you, believed in, you are strangers, aliens, and as it were out of your natural atmosphere? How comes it that you are not "at home" in your Father's house? Let us lay our fingers upon the wound. It is because your heart is not yet touched."

Walk the deck of a ship with no cargo on board and the sound is hollow. There is a void! A picture of your own heart. Why pay a preacher to torment you? Why stand on the shore listening to the commander of the Gospel Ship? Approving His invitation, why not walk the gangway and get on board? The word is yet "Come," and come at once.

H. T. Miller.

The Generosity of Dolan.

Two Irishmen were discussing the death of a friend. Said Malachi: "Sure, Dolan was a good fellow."

"He was that," assented Mike. "A good fellow, Dolan."

"And a cheerful man was Dolan," continued Malachi.

"A cheerful man was Dolan, the cheerfulest I ever knew," echoed Mike.

"Dolan was a generous man, too," said Michael.

"Generous, did ye say? Well, I don't know so much about that. Did Dolan ever buy ye anything?"

"Well, nearly," said Malachi, scratching his head in thought. "One day he came into Casey's barroom, where me end me friends was drinkin', and he said to us: 'Well, men, what are we going to have—rain or snow?'"

STAMPED CHEQUES.

(Kingston Standard) Why do not the banks have the war tax stamps embossed on their cheques and charge their customers for them? It would save much trouble in many ways, and incidentally would save money for the banks, as such a thing as using the unstamped cheques, so liberally supplied, as writing paper and "scribblers," is not unknown.

Some people are so susceptible to fatigue that they can't even reach a conclusion without getting tired.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Potatoes, Eggs, Butter, etc.

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Beef, Mutton, etc.

SUGAR MARKET.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Royal Acadia, Lard, etc.

LIVE STOCK.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Export cattle, Fattening cattle, etc.

OTHER MARKETS

WINNIPEG OPTIONS.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Wheat, Oats, etc.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Minneapolis, No. 1, etc.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Duluth, No. 1, etc.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Woodstock, Ontario, etc.

LONDON WOOL SALES.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like London, There were 8,000 bales offered, etc.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Stockers and feeders, Cows and heifers, etc.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like East Buffalo, Despatch-Cattle receipts, etc.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Corn, spot firm; American mixed, etc.

Waterproofing Matches.

A waterproofing matchbox is good for emergencies, but not for the smokers daily supply. I waterproof the matches themselves by dipping them half length in shellac varnish thinned with alcohol and laying them out separately on a newspaper to dry. Shellac is better than paraffin or collodion because it does not wear off, and it is itself inflammable, like sealing wax. Matches so treated can be left in water a long time without spoiling.—Outing.

Maple Custard.

Beat five eggs; stir into them one cupful of maple sugar, one tablespoonful of flour, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one-quarter teaspoonful of nutmeg. Stir all this into two quarts of lukewarm milk. Pour in baking dish; bake in a moderate oven until custard is set—that is, firm in the centre. This recipe makes a great deal of custard, but one can always cut down the amount of ingredients if desired.