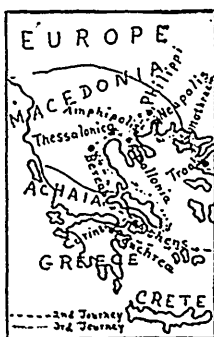


spirit that he must go to Jerusalem. Not knowing, etc.; but resolved, whatever might happen, to do the bidding of his Master and his conscience. **Holy Ghost testifieth**; Rev. Ver., "declareth". The Holy Spirit had told Paul that wherever he went, he would have to endure imprisonment ("bonds") and sufferings ("afflictions"). These warnings Luke has not recorded; but see ch. 21: 4, 11. But I hold not my life of any account (Rev. Ver.). It was Paul's chief concern to do Christ's will, whether he himself lived or died. **Finish my course**; like a racer winning the goal. **Ministry** . . . received of the Lord Jesus. See ch. 9: 15, 16. Pure from the blood of all men. No one can blame me, if he is not saved. (Compare Ezek. 3: 18.)

II. TENDER COUNSEL.—28-32. Take heed; as shepherds of the flock of God's people. **Unto yourselves**; lest you should be careless and neglectful. **Feed the church**; teach them in God's Word and guide them in His ways. **Of God**; that is, Jesus Christ: He is God. **Purchased with his own blood**; made His own by paying for it the price of His death on the cross. **Grievous wolves**; false teachers, likened to the fierce beasts which are the terror of Eastern flocks (compare Matt 7: 15). **Therefore watch**; lest the sheep be led astray. **Remember.** Think upon, and follow, my example. **Commend you to God**; praying that He will ever guard and guide you. **Word of his grace**; the promises of His gospel. **Build you up**; in Christian character. **An inheritance**; a share in the joys of heaven. **Sanctified**; made holy.

33-35. Coveted (desired) no man's silver, or gold. Not for money, but for love of souls, had Paul labored. **Or apparel.** Oriental wealth largely consisted of costly clothing, Gen. 24: 53; 2 Kgs. 5: 5. **These hands, etc.** Paul had earned his living at his trade of tent-making. **Support the weak**; take hold of their burden and help them.



The words of the Lord Jesus; it is not found in the gospels, but is preserved for us by Paul.

Vs. 36-38 tell of Paul's tender leave-taking.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

From Ephesus, Paul sailed first to Troas and thence to Philippi. Passing through Macedonia, he seems to have gone to Illyricum (Rom. 15: 19), the Roman province which extended along the

Adriatic Sea. After this missionary tour into new regions, he went to Corinth, where he remained for some time. Leaving this city, he went by land to Philippi, and thence by ship to Troas and, a week later, on to Miletus.

LESSON QUESTIONS

17-21 Where is Miletus? For whom did Paul send to meet him here? What did he say of his life in Ephesus? What is "lowliness"? Of what were Paul's tears a proof? Who had plotted against him? In what two ways had Paul taught? What had he taught? What is repentance unto life? (S. Catechism, Ques. 87.) What is saving faith? (S. Catechism, Ques. 86.)

22-27 Explain "bound in the spirit". What had the Holy Spirit told Paul? About what was he little concerned? What was his chief ambition?

28-32 What were the elders to do for the church? To whom does the church belong? With what price did He purchase it? What proof here that Christ is God?

33-35 What had been Paul's motive in his work at Ephesus? How had he supported himself? What words of Jesus does he quote?

Describe Paul's leave-taking of the Ephesian elders

FOR DISCUSSION

1. The influence of a good life.
2. The strong helping the weak.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

It was shrewd counsel given by a successful business man to one who applied for advice, that he should invest his capital in one of the great "feeding industries". People must buy food, whatever else they go without, and one is reasonably sure of success, who makes it his business to supply this universal need. People, all the world over, need the gospel for their souls as much as bread for their bodies; and there is no life work that promises a surer or richer reward than that of carrying the bread of life to soul-hungry mankind.

Prove from Scripture—That we may be strong in the Lord.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 23. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation? A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

The Question on Missions—10. What other professions do the pupils afterwards follow? Some enter the Government offices, some become clerks in stores or law offices, while many follow agriculture, taking up land of their own, and becoming proprietors.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What had Paul taught while in Ephesus, and in what spirit?

2. What duty did he lay upon the Ephesian elders?