

when he comes to understand more fully, does he learn that God's holiness is the outcome of His love, and in His pardon he finds at length abiding peace.

Brought. books. burned them, v. 19. The trouble all arose from a fractured tooth. It had injured the tongue and the injury had developed into a cancer. First a third of the tongue had to be removed, then all the glands on one side of the face. "Is there hope for recovery?" asked the unfortunate victim. "If the last particle of the cancer is removed", was the doubtful reply. It was not removed. A sickly man returned home, the wreck of one of the pillars of his nation. A few days after one of the largest processions ever seen in his neighborhood followed him to his tomb. The disease of the soul is started just as simply. A bad book leaves an ineradicable thought in the mind. The whole life becomes gradually corrupted. The roots of the dreaded virus of sin defy excision by any human power, and poison the heart. There is one Physician, and one only who can effectually cure this soul sick-

ness, and that is the Saviour, Jesus Christ, whose blood "cleanseth us from all sin". But, even though we may be cured, there is need of the utmost care, lest the seeds of infection should remain. Let the bad books be gathered and burned.

Lesson Points

For the sake of the truth, we should be ready to face any opposition. v. 8.

Many of the objections to Christianity can be traced back to unwillingness to walk in the way it prescribes. v. 9.

It is our business to give people the chance to hear God's Word; the responsibility of accepting or rejecting it rests with them. v. 10.

He who is doing God's work may always count on God's power. v. 11.

So long as faith reaches God, it matters little what road it takes. v. 12.

No one can speak in the name of Jesus unless he is filled with the spirit of Jesus. v. 13.

When people give up some bit of self in order to be Christ's, His cause is sure to make progress. v. 20.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Paul's Third Missionary Journey soon brought him to Ephesus, a great city almost wholly given over to magic and superstition, where was the Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the world. Bring out very clearly the peculiar features of life in this new mission field,—the swarms of wonder-working magicians, the rank and unblushing impostures practised, the stalls everywhere for the sale of silver shrines and amulets and charms and incantations and fortune-telling books. If Athens stands for culture and pride, and Corinth for commerce and corruption, Ephesus stands for imposture and superstition. Can the gospel do anything for a city like this? (See v. 26; also the Epistle to the Ephesians, written about ten years later; also 1 Cor. 16 : 8, 9.)

A little mission work had been done at

Ephesus before Paul began his great three years' mission, ch. 18 : 19-21, 24-26. Note the finding of twelve disciples, ch. 19 : 1-7.

1. *Paul's work in the synagogue*, vs. 8, 9. Draw attention to the length of time it lasted. This was something unique in Paul's experience. What does this imply? If the wooing note is the great secret of success in teaching and preaching, is the means of disarming opposition and touching the heart, how much of it there must have been in Paul's preaching during those three months, to lead the hostile Jews to bear with him all that time. We can see the tears in his eyes and hear the tears in his voice, as he pleads with them to accept Christ. What was the effect of all this upon the Jews? If we are not helped, we are hardened, by the gospel, v. 9.

2. *The school of Tyrannus*, vs. 9-12. Note the great success attending Paul's work in the new meeting place. It was noised abroad throughout all the neighboring cities that a wonderful preacher had appeared in Ephesus. Multitudes came to see him and hear