

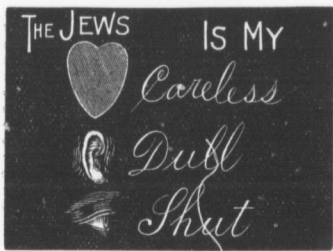
the heart, etc. Talk about gifts, when made, to whom, what for, etc., teaching that a true gift comes out of a heart of love. Print "Salvation" in the heart, and tell that the cross means salvation, and this is the gift Paul carried to Rome with him. Tell what opportunities were given him there to preach the Gospel, and how glad he was to offer his gift to all who would take it.

2. Teach that Jesus offers this same gift to us, by our Christian friends, our pastor, our teachers. If a friend gives us something which cost a great deal, we prize it highly. Tell what our salvation cost Jesus. Why did he come to bring us such a gift? Teach emphatically that it was love, that love is of God, that God is love, and that it was a little spark of this love in Paul's heart which made him carry the news of salvation to Rome.

3. Illustrate the act of giving and receiving. Show that there must always be one who gives and one who receives. We must *hear* of the gift, *see* it, *believe* in the love that offers it, and then *take* it. The hearing, seeing, believing, will be of no use without the taking. Teach that when Paul took the gift he began to obey Jesus at once, and that we must do the same thing. What will this gift do for us? Make us rich in love, faith, hope, helpfulness, and one day give us a place in heaven. Who wants the gift? Ask who will take it to-day. Sing, "We praise thee, O God."

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



EXPLANATION. Paul is at Rome. He has explained to the Jews there that Jesus Christ is the Saviour. Some believe, and some do not. Then what does Paul say? [Turn to the blackboard.] *He said their heart was careless, their ears dull, and their eyes shut.* It is easy for us to censure the Jews for unbelief, but consider how much greater is the personal responsibility of each one of us, for we have greater light, and have had Christ preached to us all our lives. How is your heart? Is your ear dull? Have you shut your eyes?

[NOTE.—Remember that a blackboard can give just as good instruction, even if the words are only written, instead of lettered. Do not abandon it because you are not an artist.]

Lesson Word-Pictures.

The Roman eagle is to be humbled and Rome taken! Who ventures to attack? Any army on the march? What do you see? Roman soldiers from Pateoli are tramping along the stony pavement of the Appia Via that leads to Rome. In their midst is a Jew. He the eagle-humbler? What can he do? He is without arms. He is chained to a soldier. Look around you. He is only one against many. How thronged is this highway! Here are merchants, tourists, nobles in

their carriages, while the very beggars and tramps are stronger than that Jew. And here is a Roman legion, its iron ranks closed up, sternly moving off to join in some war with Africa or Asia. How they would sneer at that Jew! And now this fanatic is passing through the shadowy Porta Capena into Rome itself. How its palaces and temples, baths and theaters, its triumphal arches, too, must have scowled at the upstart who has just arrived from Jerusalem. What will he do? Send for Cæsar and ask him to capitulate? Gather the nobles? No, he invites to a conference a lot of despised Jews! We hear him clanking the chain that fastens him to his ever-present guard, and he talks of "the hope of Israel." They come again and in larger numbers. What curiosity to hear this man of a sect every-where spoken against! And then he exalts Jesus. Watch his hearers, this one sneering, a second one turning away his face, a third rudely rushing out of the room, but a fourth listening, believing, loving. They are all gone now, gone in the midst of a stormy discussion. I wonder what the soldier thinks of his chained companion as this Jew meets other auditors in the future, preaching "two whole years in his own hired house!" Does that soldier expect the Roman eagle will go down? Go down it will before that lifted cross. The truth of the apostle is mightier than the sword of the Roman. A conqueror came that day when Paul in chains was led along the Appia Via into the Eternal City.

LESSONS FOR MAY, 1885.

- MAY 3. Obedience. Eph. 6. 1-13.
 MAY 10. Christ our Example. Phil. 2. 5-16.
 MAY 17. Christian Contentment. Phil. 4. 4-13.
 MAY 24. The Faithful Saying. 1 Tim. 1. 15-20; 2. 1-6.
 MAY 31. Paul's Charge to Timothy. 2 Tim. 3. 14-17; 4. 1-8.

Bible Reading Lesson Analysis.

BY JOHN WILLIAMSON, M.D., D.D.

April 5. Paul's Voyage. Acts 27. 1, 2, 14-26.

1. This long and detailed account of voyage and shipwreck was recorded in the volume of inspiration for two reasons: (a) To show God's disciplinary way of bringing certain purposes of his to pass. 1 Kings 21. 19, with 22. 37, 38; Micah 5. 2, with Luke 2. 1-4. (b) To show the possible trial of God's people in doing their duty. 1 Pet. 1. 7; 4. 12; 1 Cor. 10. 13; Psa. 66. 30; Zech. 13. 9; James 1. 12.

2. Man is biblically and consciously free, while God is absolutely sovereign. Prov. 1. 23-31; Matt. 23. 37; John 7. 17; Acts 7. 51; Eph. 4. 30; 1 Thess. 5. 19; Job 9. 12; Isa. 43. 13; Dan. 4. 35; Matt. 19. 26; Rev. 19. 6.

3. The holiness and purity, that is, the character and conduct, of a good man in personal peril. Gen. 22; 2 Sam. 24; 2 Chron. 22. 31; Deut. 8. 2, 16; Job; Daniel; Matt. 4. 1-11; Heb. 4. 15.

4. What as God's children we, too, may look for in this world from our loving Lord. Heb. 12. 5-12; Rev. 3. 19; 1 Pet. 4. 12, 13; Job 23. 10; James 1. 3; Rom. 5. 3; Matt. 5. 11, 12; 1 Thess. 2. 4.

5. Other storms of God's appointment, historical and prophetic, in the order of his judgment and justice. Gen. 19. 24; Psa. 11. 6; Isa. 13. 19; Exod. 9. 23; 1 Sam. 12. 17, 18; Psa. 18. 6, 7; Josh. 10. 11; Rev. 16. 21; Jonah 1.

6. In unavoidable physical peril, our faith in God continuing steadfast, we ought to use every possible means of escape, vers. 18, 19. Psa. 37. 3; Matt. 10. 23; Acts 8. 1; 1 Cor. 16. 13; 3. 6-9; Matt. 6. 25; 1 Thess. 5. 6; Mark 13. 37.

7. "Faith in the storm" 1 Tim. 1. 14, 23; Tit. 1. 19; 3. 6; Matt. 10. 10. This personal constant Psa. 33. 5, 9, 19; Nah. 1. 9; Gen. 1. 1, 139. 1-6; 16; 45. 2, 10. They are in the Job 38. 2, 9, 6; Col. Luke 16. Lesson We, Ch. tings, show 1. Duty we ought to do in con 2. Glo 3. We providing pe 4. We ions for 5. All tions of 6. We the issu 7. God work. 8. In faith in 9. It special 10. St he cons revealati afterwa 11. T pated, 12. In the sim 13. H April 1. TH needed human 2. Cor. 4. 3; I 3. W this st 3. 19; 5. 36; (c) Cor. Matt. 3. G in him 5. 3; 12; 1 4. G 16; J. Exod. 5. V infreq ing th which the co 4. 18; 20; I 6. S of G (a) G 4. 35