

Review Service for the First Quarter.

BY J. WALLIS COOK.

SUBJECT, PAUL, THE CONSECRATED WORKER FOR GOD.

Superintendent. Concerning whom have we been studying the past twelve weeks?

School. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.

Superintendent. What are the leading incidents in the life of the apostle Paul, up to the time when our lessons begin?

School. Paul was a Jew, born in Tarsus, educated at the feet of Gamaliel, and an ardent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus, he was stricken down by a light from heaven, and not disobedient unto the heavenly vision he became a disciple of the Lord Jesus. Thus the vessel chosen to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles was consecrated to the service of the Crucified One. He made three missionary journeys, visiting Asia Minor, Greece, and Macedonia, and he was eminently successful in winning many souls for Jesus, and establishing many Churches.

Superintendent. What relation, then, did Paul bear to Christianity?

School. Christ originated Christianity; Paul organized it. Christ imparted to humanity spiritual life, and disclosed a hope of pardon and glorious immortality. Paul embodied in letters the truths which Christ left scattered in priceless gems, unwritten, save by his disciples, and gathered into Church organizations those individual souls to whom Christ had given spiritual life.

HYMN. 10, 11.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,

And publish abroad his wonderful name;

The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;

His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;

And still he is nigh; his presence we have;

The great congregation his triumph shall sing,

Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,

All glory and power, all wisdom and might,

All honor and blessing, with angels above,

And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

Superintendent. This first lesson tells us of a *communion Sabbath at Troas*. Will the boys repeat the Golden Text?

Boys. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them."

Superintendent. Will the girls relate the miracle wrought by Paul at this service?

Girls. "And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep; and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him."

All. Thus Paul comforted the Church at Troas, by his healing presence, by his Gospel sermons, by his great power with God. With minds made serious and hearts filled with thankfulness they celebrated the eucharistic feast, and at dawn of the next day the apostle departed.

Superintendent. In the second lesson we find Paul at Miletus. Will the boys tell for whom Paul sent.

Boys. The elders of the Church of Ephesus.

Superintendent. In Paul's touching address to the elders he states his *one theme of preaching*. This is given in the Golden Text, which the girls of the school will please repeat.

Girls. "Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Superintendent. What Paul said to the elders of Ephesus on this occasion he said through them to the other presbyters, not only of that province, but of the whole Church; not only then, but ever since and through all ages, for which end it has been left on record.

All. Paul's spirit and words on this occasion should stimulate us to a more earnest service for the Master. Let us all pray for this.

Superintendent. In the third lesson what *needful words of counsel* did Paul address to these elders at Miletus?

School. He exhorted them "to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Superintendent. What other exhortations did Paul give these shepherds of the Church?

School. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, to rely on the grace of God; to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Superintendent. Why were these words of counsel necessary?

School. They were to take heed, for men would endeavor to draw them away from Christ; they were to feed the Church, for it is the purchase of Christ; they were to rely on God's grace, for it would build them up, and they were to support the weak, for it is Christ's command.

Girls. May the Lord Jesus help us to remember these loving words of counsel.

Boys. Amen and Amen!

HYMN.

S. M.

A charge to keep I have,

A God to glorify;

A never-dying soul to save,

And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,

My calling to fulfill,—

O may it all my powers engage,

To do my Master's will.

Help me to watch and pray,

And on thyself rely,

Assured, if I my trust betray,

I shall forever die.

Superintendent. The fourth lesson, "Paul Going to Jerusalem," introduces us to the occasion in which the apostle shows the *spirit of self-sacrifice*. Please relate the incidents of Paul's journey?

School. Paul sailed from Miletus to Rhodes, from thence to Patara, from thence to Tyre, and from thence along the coast to Caesarea. In the words of Scripture, "As we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said: 'Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.'"

Superintendent. What noble reply did Paul make to these entreaties of his friends?

School. Then Paul answered (in words as simple as they are sublime): "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

All. In the language of the Golden Text, his friends acquiesced in his decision, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

Boys. What lessons may we learn in times of trying circumstances, with premonitions of danger?

Girls. Steadfastness to duty, unselfishness of purpose, and heroism in devotion.

Superintendent. Will you repeat the titles of the next two lessons?

School. "Paul at Jerusalem" and "Paul Assailed."

Superintendent. When the apostle reached Jerusalem, what did he immediately do?

School. He declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry, and all the Church at Jerusalem united in glorifying God for the triumphs of the Gospel.

Superintendent. Paul began this his third missionary journey at Antioch. Will the boys relate why he did not return thither?

Boys. "And when the seven days (during which Paul was performing his vow) were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him."

Superintendent. This was really the *end of the third missionary journey*, because we learn from the following lesson that he was *charged falsely and arrested wickedly*. Will you tell the story of Paul's arrest?

School. "Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he was."