

Another lesson we should learn is Paul's regard for the Sabbath day. It would have been quite easy for him to have overlooked this little service; indeed it probably cost him a good deal of labour to find out about it at all.

But he remembered the Sabbath day to keep it holy; and to "forsake not the gathering of yourselves together, as the manner of some is." Especially as the summer season is on us this lesson is timely and practical. Let us wherever we are or wherever we go resort to a place "where prayer is wont to be made."

There were few, if any, men present at this service besides Paul and his company. Women were predominant in church matters then as they are to-day. And this is a good sign. Those women were mostly proselytes, probably because that in the midst of so much general decay in religion and morality throughout the world at this period, they had sought satisfaction in the pure faith of the Jew. If man owes much to Christ, woman owes still more. He has delivered her from the degradation of being man's slave and plaything and raised her to be his friend and his equal before heaven. This is vividly illustrated in the earliest beginnings of christianity on the European Continent. The first convert was a woman, at the first Christian service held on European soil, the heart of Lydia was opened to receive the truth, and the change which passed upon her, prefigured what women in Europe was to become under the influence of Christianity.

Lydia was a business woman. She sold purple but she did not wear it we may be sure.

It is no excuse for business men or women to absent themselves from the church of God, or

divine worship on account of business. Business and religion should go hand in hand. Religion does not call us from business, but directs us in it.

Let us be "diligent in business, serving the Lord." Lydia is a model convert for us to follow because (1) She heard us. God's servants speaking in His name are entitled to a respectful hearing. (2) She heeded—"She attended unto the things that were spoken of Paul" because "the Lord opened her heart." Vain is all preaching unless the Lord opens the heart. (3) She became a member of the visible church at once. Delays are dangerous and never more so than when a young convert puts off the question of church-membership after conversion. The one should be the natural and direct and immediate outcome of the other. (4) She served God by serving his servants. "When thou art converted, strengthen the brethren."

ADDED POINTS.

1. There is a time to speak and a time to refrain from speech. In both cases let the Holy Spirit prompt and guide.
2. Don't censure the unsaved; help them. Embrace opportunities for good *quickly*.
3. Test yourself in your time of "waiting."
4. Do not wait for time and place to agree, when the time comes make the place.
5. Be in the place of prayer, the path of opportunity.
6. Religion and commerce mix well together. Your business on the Sabbath is to worship God.

LESSON II—July 11th, 1897.

Paul and the Philippian Jailer. Acts 16: 22-34.

(Commit to memory verses 28-31. Read verses 16, 10).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house."
Acts 16: 31.

PROVE THAT—Confession naturally follows belief. Rom. 10: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?* A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*.—Nos. 74, 96, 140, 138.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul and the Philippian Jailer. Acts 16: 16-24. *Tuesday.* Paul and the Philippian Jailer. Acts 16: 25-34. *Wednesday.* Brought out. Acts 16: 35-40. *Thursday.* Shamefully entreated. 1 Thess. 2: 1-9. *Friday.* A mighty deliverer. Dan. 3: 21-30. *Saturday.* Faith and life. John 3: 14-21. *Sabbath.* Faith and salvation. 1 Pet. 1: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).