

Judg. 8 : 1-3 ; Job 13 : 5 ; Ps. 15 : 3 ; 141 : 3 ; 11, 20 ; Eccl. 5 : 3, 7 ; Matt. 5 : 22 ; 12 : 34 ; Prov. 15 : 1 ; 25 : 15 ; 26 : 4, 5, 20, 21 ; 29 : Eph. 4 : 29-32 ; 5 : 4 ; Jas. 1 : 19, 26.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

"In its origin the Christian community was a house congregation; and when it outgrew the limits of a single house, it spread as a number of house congregations.

For their general assemblies and their missionary preaching the disciples in Jerusalem were able to meet in the temple or its precincts; but for their private worship they were divided into groups, the centre of each being the household of a convert. The only passage in the New Testament which seems to imply the existence of a church, that is, a building set apart for purposes of worship, is James 2 : 2 (Rev. Ver.). In this passage



we have a picture of a Christian place of worship, with seats of honor like those in a Jewish synagogue. Apparently, then, by the time that James wrote his

Christians of Jerusalem had formed themselves into a synagogue and built a place of meeting." After the synagogue was built, Epistle, the Jewish the house congregations still continued, the synagogue being used for larger gatherings of the Christians of the city and for missionary preaching. In like manner, as the Christians became more numerous in other centres besides Jerusalem, synagogues would be erected in those places.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Some Test Questions

[NOTE : These Questions are not intended for use in the class, but as samples of questions by which the teacher may test the thoroughness of his own preparation of the Lesson. He will also find it of great advantage to be familiar with the Questions set for the scholars in the HOME STUDY, INTERMEDIATE and PRIMARY, QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS. The scholars should be encouraged to use these as a guide in their study of the Lesson.]

1. To whom did James address the warning of v. 1 ? Who were at liberty to speak in the meetings of the early church ? To what did this freedom often lead ?

2. What is said about the judgment to be pronounced on those professing to be teachers ?

3. Why is control of his tongue a mark of a perfect man ?

4. What illustrations are used to show the power of little things ?

5. What kind of things can the tongue do ? How is it apt to speak of these when done ?

6. In what respect is the tongue like a fire ? Why may it be said to defile the whole body ?

7. Explain the clause, "setteth on fire the wheel of nature", v. 6 (Rev. Ver.).

8. How is the difficulty of taming the tongue illustrated ? By whose help can it be tamed ?

9. Of what inconsistency is the tongue often guilty ? How can this be cured ?

10. By what contrasts is the fickleness of the tongue illustrated in vs. 11, 12 ?

Something to Look Up

[From the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY and LEAFLET]

1. Peter also warns Christians to keep the tongue from evil and the lips from guile. Where does he say this ?

2. In the Old Testament, a very wise man tells us that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Find this.