

LESSON V—May 2nd, 1897.

Paul Begins His First Missionary Journey. ACTS 13: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verses 3-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
Mark 16: 15.

PROVE THAT—The Lord appoints to each his special work. Acts 13: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 100. *What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*), teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 175, 173, 219, 83.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul's first missionary journey. Acts 13: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Sent of God. Isa. 6: 1-8. *Wednesday.* The good tidings. Isa. 40: 1-11. *Thursday.* The living breath. Ezek. 37: 1-10. *Friday.* Called. Rom. 1: 1-7. *Saturday.* Mission of the twelve. Matt. 10: 5-15. *Sabbath.* Prospect of harvest. Luke 10: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. We now begin the study of a new era in the history of the church for which the preceding events have been a preparation. Sixteen years have been spent in seeking for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, now the door of the fold is opened to the gentiles and their great apostle sets forth on his first campaign against idol worshippers. Antioch and not Jerusalem, is the basis of operations. Time, autumn of A. D. 45. Paul aged 43.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Spirit Calling. vs. 1-3. II. The Spirit Guiding. vs. 4-8. III. The Spirit Inspiring. vs. 9-13.

1. **Antioch**—The capital of Syria. See Lesson III. **Prophets**—Inspired men who spoke directly from God (Acts 2: 17; 1 Cor. 12: 28; 14: 1-5). **Teachers**—Uninspired instructors, such as pastors (Rom. 12: 7; 2 Tim. 2: 2). 2. **Manaen**, the foster brother of Herod (R. V.)—This must have been Herod Antipas who murdered John the Baptist. He could not have had a worse playmate. 3. **Ministered to the Lord**—They were engaged in earnest prayer for guidance and blessing. **And fasted**—Abstinence from food because of deep spiritual emotion is commended, while merely formal, or ritualistic, fasts are condemned (Mark 9: 29; Isa. 58: 6, 7). 4. **Separate me**—By formal designation. (Num. 8: 14; Heb. 5: 4). No one has a right to preach who is not called by the Holy Spirit. 3. **Laid their hands on them**—A solemn and formal ordination (1 Tim. 4: 14), implying the bestowal of spiritual authority and power. 4. **Seleucia**—The port of Antioch. **Cyprus**—This was the native place of Barnabas (4: 36), and there were already some Christians there (11: 20). 5. **Salamis**—The capital of Cyprus, at its eastern end. **John as their attendant** (R. V.)—This was John Mark (ch. 12: 25; 15: 37). 6. **Paphos**—A town at the western extremity of the island. **Sorcerer**—A magician and impostor like Simon Magus (8: 9). **Bar-Jesus**—means Son of Jesus, or Joshua. (Heb. 4: 8). 7. **Deputy**

—R. V. "Proconsul." Elymas was one of the court attendants. A prudent man—R. V. "a man of understanding." He was not satisfied with heathenism and witchcraft, but was seeking after God. 8. **Elymas**—The Arabic word for wizard or "wise man." He tried to prevent the proconsul from listening to Paul and Barnabas. 9. **Paul**—The name occurs here for the first time—It was probably a surname used by his gentile friends and now assumed exclusively because henceforth his work lay among gentiles. It means "Little" and is perhaps referred 1 Cor. 15: 9 and Eph. 3: 8. Elymas must have quailed beneath that piercing look. 10. **Full of all guile and all villany** (R. V.)—He was not Son of the Saviour (Matt. 1: 21) but Son of the devil, the father of lies. "The right ways" are the "the straight ways." Elymas sought to frustrate God's plan for converting Sergius Paulus. 11. **Not seeing the sun for a season**—The punishment was but temporary. Perhaps Paul remembered the wholesome results of his own blindness and desired to drive Elymas to repentance. (ch. 9: 8, 9). 12. **Astonished at the teaching of the Lord** (R. V.)—i. e. The teaching which had Jesus for its theme (Mark 1: 27). It was more wonderful than the miracle which attested its truth. 13. **John departing from them**—We do not know why he went home, but he was blameworthy (15: 37-39).

LESSONS 1. Prayer and self-denial are the conditions on which blessings are received. 2. The call of the Holy Spirit to duty should not be refused. 3. Those who oppose the Gospel will be punished. 4. The Gospel itself is more wonderful than any miracle. 5. Be not weary in well-doing.