

Lesson X.

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY September 5, 1909
—FAREWELLS

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Immediately after the riot at Ephesus (ch. 20 : 1, Lesson VIII.) Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia.

GOLDEN TEXT—I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—Philippians 4 : 13.

Memorize vs. 31, 32. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 20 : 17-35. Study Acts 20 : 2-38.

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews :

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there :

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that

Revised Version—to him ; 2 yourselves ; 3 set foot in ; 4 was ; 5 all the time ; 6 lowliness ; 7 Omit many ; 8 with trials ; 9 plots of ; 10 how that I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly ; 11 Omit the ; 12 Omit also ; 13 testifyeth unto me ; 14 I hold not my life of any account, as dear ; 15 may accomplish my course ; 16 Omit have ; 17 from ; 18 went about ; 19 Omit of God ; 20 testify unto you ; 21 shrank not from declaring ; 22 the whole ; 23 Omit therefore ; 24 in ; 25 bishops ; 26 Omit bath ; 27 Omit For ; 28 Omit this ; 29 grievous wolves shall ; 30 and from among ; 31 the ; 32 Wherefore watch ye, remembering ; 33 admonish ; 34 Omit brethren ; 35 the ; 36 that ; 37 Omit have ; 38 Omit Yea ; 39 In all things I gave you an example, how ; 40 help ; 41 himself.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Farewells, Acts 20 : 2-12.

T.—Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Farewells, Acts 20 : 13-24. W.—Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Farewells, Acts 20 : 25-38. Th.—Faithful labor, Col. 1 : 21-29. F.—Established in the faith, Col. 2 : 1-9.

S.—Warning against deceivers, 2 John. S.—"Speaking perverse things", 2 Tim. 4 : 1-8.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A MERCHANT SHIP OF A.D. 50

Paul went through Macedonia to Corinth, and returned by the same route to Philippi and Troas, vs. 2-16.

I. FAITHFUL SERVICE.—17, 18. From Miletus ;

a seaport twenty or thirty miles by land south of Ephesus. Called ; sent an earnest invitation. The elders ; the rulers of the church, called in v. 28 "overseers" (Rev. Ver., "bishops"). Bishop and elder in the New Testament denote the same office. Ye yourselves know (Rev. Ver.) ; by their personal intercourse with him can confirm Paul's words Set foot in Asia (Rev. Ver.) ; the Roman province of which Ephesus was the centre.

I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

After what manner ; the life I led among you. All the time (Rev. Ver.) ; in the wear and tear of everyday life.

19-21. **Serving the Lord** ; gladly counting himself the bond-servant of God and Christ (see Rom. 1 : 1 ; Gal. 1 : 10 ; Phil. 1 : 1 ; Tit. 1 : 1). **With all lowliness** (Rev. Ver.) ; the opposite of the spirit that seeks honor for oneself (compare Rom. 12 : 16). **With many tears** ; of anxiety for their salvation. **With trials** (Rev. Ver.). Every day his temper and patience and courage had been put to the test. **By the plots of the Jews** (Rev. Ver.) ; Paul's bitter foes (compare 2 Cor. 11 : 26). **Kept back nothing** . . . profitable ; but told them plainly the truth about their sins and their need of salvation. **Publicly** ; at the meetings of the church. **From house to house** ; seeking souls one by one. **Testifying** ; declaring the need of. **Both to Jews and to Greeks** (Rev. Ver.) ; Jews and Gentiles who alike had sinned, and must be saved in the same way, Rom. 10 : 12. **Repentance toward God** ; the turning from sin to His service. **Faith toward . . . Jesus Christ** ; trust in Him as Saviour.

22-27 **Bound in the spirit** ; feeling in his own