

GOLDEN TEXT

Acts 10: 43. Whosoever believeth on him shall receive remission of sins.

DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 11: 1-18. Gentiles received into the church.
T. — Eph. 2: 11-22. Brought nigh.
W. — Rom. 9: 22-30. Righteousness of faith.
Th. — Rom. 3: 20-31. Justified through faith.
F. — Rom. 15: 8-19. God's mercy to Gentiles.
S. — John 10: 7-16. One fold.
S. — Rev. 7: 9-17. From all nations.

CATECHISM

Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with

God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

TIME AND PLACE

Not long after the incidents of last lesson at Joppa and Caesarea, about A.D. 39, 40. Peter is now at Jerusalem face to face with the "apostles and brethren" there.

LESSON PLAN

I. An Investigation, 4.
Of which verses 1-3 give the details.

II. An Explanation, 5-15.
The story of Peter's trance and vision at Joppa and of how the Holy Ghost came upon the Gentiles.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise 72 (Ps, Sel.); 457; 439; 131; 534; 434.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—At whose house had Peter been preaching? To whom had the gospel been preached? For whom is the gospel intended? (Isa. 55: 1.) Which apostle first admitted the Gentiles into the church of Christ? By whom was he blamed for so doing? Explain why he was blamed.

4-9 How does Peter defend himself? What is meant by "rehearsed"? "expounded"? Tell the story of Peter's vision. What was represented by the animals named? What command given to Peter? What was Peter's reply? What is meant by "common or unclean"? How was Peter answered?

10-18 How many times was the vision repeated? Why repeated? Who arrived immediately after the vision? Their errand? Peter's response? Who had bidden him go?

14-18 What was Peter's message? What followed? Of what was this a sign? How was Peter's defence accepted? (vs. 17, 18.)

For Seniors and the Home Department—What news had come to Judea in regard to the Gentiles. To what did it give rise, when Peter came to Jerusalem? What was the reason for this strong feeling? When was circumcision instituted? (Gen. 17.) Why abolished?

4-8 What was Peter's line of defence? What did Peter see in his vision? What command given him? Explain his hesitating. How was he rebuked? Explain the repetition of the vision.

11-18 By whom had messengers been sent to Peter? What vision had Cornelius seen? Who are the angels and what their work? (Heb. 1: 14.) Who went with Peter to Caesarea and to Jerusalem? How

many in number?

14 What was the great quest on which Cornelius was sent? What help did he get from Peter? What token of acceptance from God? Explain why Peter the strict Jew, baptized and ate with Gentiles. What effect had his rehearsal on his present hearers? How does the Gospel rank Jews and Gentiles? (Mark 16; 15; Gal. 3: 27-29; 6: 15.)

Prove from Scripture—That salvation is free to all alike.

Practical Points—1. Some people see the fly on the barn-door, but cannot see the barn-door. These Jerusalem Christians saw in Peter only a bad Jew, not the good Christian that he had shown himself to be.

2. Francis I., King of France, used to declare that if he thought the blood of his arm tainted with Lutheran heresy, he would have it cut off, and that he would not spare even his own children if they entertained the sentiments of Protestantism.

3. The opening of a switch will take a train out of the station-yard to sweep across a continent.

4. Peter was not dismayed, although brought so sharply to task.

"Do what is right,
Right things in great and small,
Then, though the sky should fall,
Sun, moon, and stars, and all,
You shall have light."

5. What words can be more precious than words that save? Such was Peter's message, for it was the good news of the world's Saviour.

6. To rejoice because men repent is to have the spirit of heaven, for there is joy there over the repenting sinner.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What led to Peter's "rehearsing" the story of Cornelius?

2. How was Peter made willing to receive Gentiles?

3. By what was Cornelius "saved"?