

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER. STUDIES IN ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

(Condensed from Philolett's Select Notes.) Lesson X. Sept. 4. Acts 8: 5-25.

THE QUARTERLY MISSION LESSON. PHILIP PREACHING AT SAMARIA.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"And there was great joy in the city."—Acts 8: 8.

EXPLANATORY.

I. PHILIP'S MISSION TO THE SAMARIANS.—5-8. THE MISSIONARY. 5 Then when the disciples were scattered abroad by the persecution of our last Lord...

II. SIMON THE MAGICIAN. AN OBSTACLE TO MISSIONS.—9-13. SIMON was a hindrance to the mission work in two ways. FIRST, OPPOSITION FROM WITHOUT...

11. SIMON THE MAGICIAN. AN OBSTACLE TO MISSIONS.—9-13. SIMON was a hindrance to the mission work in two ways.

12. But when they believed Philip. When they saw the true light they turned from the feeble worldly light that had attracted them before.

13. Then Simon himself believed also. Not merely professed to believe, but really believed, only he believed with his mind, not his heart.

14. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem. Not, as this might seem to say, those of the apostles which were at Jerusalem, but all the apostles, for all were still at Jerusalem (ver. 3).

15. They... prayed for them that they might receive. They asked definitely for the gift of power for these Samaritans, as that gift was not only necessary for the work in Samaria, but also would make plain their path, and be the divine approval of the work of salvation.

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16. For as yet. This verse is a parenthesis in the sense. Only they were baptized. They had been truly converted by the Holy Spirit, and had confessed Christ in baptism.

17. Then laid they their hands on them. A symbolic expression that the gift came through the apostles, in answer to their prayer. "Just as water in our houses comes not from the pipes, but from springs or lakes, yet it comes through the pipes."

18. And when Simon saw that he could not have received the gift of the Holy Spirit himself, or he would have been a different man; but he saw the result of the apostolic imposition of hands on others. He offered them money. He did not offer himself, as others had done, to receive the gift, but he offered money to buy the power of conferring it.

19. Simon said unto him, Give me this power, that whosoever I lay hands on, he may receive the Holy Spirit. He simply looked on John and Peter as magicians far superior to himself, as men more deeply versed in the secrets of the craft even than Philip, whose works he had been admiring and wondering at.

20. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee. Not a curse, but a declaration that in his present state, of heart Simon is a lost man. May his money be as lost as he himself was.

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