

LESSON IV—October 24th, 1897.

Paul before King Agrippa. Acts 26: 19-32.

(Read Chapters 25 and 26. Commit to memory verses 25-28.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32.

PROVE THAT—Our deeds shew our repentance. Acts 26: 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 98. *What is prayer?* A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies. 99. *What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?* A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *the Lord's Prayer*.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 6 (Psalm 9), 149, 135, 140. (Old Hymnal Nos. 71, 42, 138, 84).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Statement by Festus. Acts 25: 13-23. *Tuesday.* Paul's answer. Acts 26: 1-11. *Wednesday.* The persecutor converted. Acts 26: 12-18. *Thursday.* Paul before King Agrippa. Acts 26: 19-32. *Friday.* Redemption and resurrection. Col 1: 12-20. *Saturday.* Paul's ministry. Col. 1: 21-29. *Sabbath.* Boldness in bonds. Phil. 1: 12-21.

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Felix was succeeded in the procuratorship by Fes'tus, an honest and upright governor. At his first visit to Jerusalem the Jewish leaders requested him to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial there before the Sanhedrim. This Paul knew would only result in his condemnation, and fearing that Festus might yield to the importunities of his enemies he appealed to the emperor at Rome. While waiting for an opportunity to send his prisoner thither, Festus received a visit from King Agrippa and his sister Berenice. They were nominally Jews, and Festus thought they would be able to find out for him exactly what the charges against Paul were. Before the assembled court, in all the pomp of Roman power, Paul delivered his defence, addressing himself to the King as being the most exalted personage present. Read chapters 25 and 26. Time, August A. D. 60, two years after last lesson.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Gospel Preached vs. 19-23. II. The Gospel Rejected vs. 24-29. III. The Preacher Vindicated vs. 30-32.

19. Whersupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. (R. V. "Wherefore," that is, having received such a commission, "I did not become disobedient." The double negative is an emphatic affirmative. Paul promptly obeyed. The word for "a vision," means anything seen, whether sleeping or waking (Luke 1: 22; 24: 23; 2 Cor. 12: 1). The vision is called "heavenly" because it came from heaven (verse 13). Agrippa II ruled over the country E. of the sea of Galilee. He was the last of the Herods, and brother to Drusil'la and Berenice.

20. But showed (R. V. declared) first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts (R. V. country) of Judæa, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for

(R. V. worthy of) repentance. This is a general description of the work the Apostle had done, and the message he delivered. He began his work at Damascus, as soon as his sight was restored, in the very synagogues that he came to persecute. His ministry in Judæa is perhaps referred to in ch. 11: 30; 15: 3; 18: 22. Paul sums up in one sentence the three parts of the true evangelical message. *Repentance* involves conviction of sin, and a sincere purpose of mind to forsake it; *Faith*, or turning to God, is more than reformation—it is the seeking of the soul after Him, and trusting unreservedly to Him; *Obedience*—the life testifies to the sincerity of repentance; the "works" should be such as accord with the resolve to forsake sin.

21. For these causes the Jews caught (R. V. seized) me in the temple, and went about (R. V. essayed) to kill me. The