

lands. Lives changed and purified are irrefutable testimony to our religion. Mark that, where Christ's name is known and His power manifested, there is joy.

4. *A strange experience*—a sorcerer baptized. The class must be kept in hand here. They will wish to discuss wizardry in all its forms. In the "Exposition" there is some information as to who and what Simon was. Brand him as a deceiver, v. 9. He becomes a believer and is baptized with the rest, vs. 12, 13. The secret soon comes out. He wants more power and more money, vs. 18, 19. It was a sad disappointment doubtless to Philip. All ministers and teachers must be prepared for such disappointments. Like a true follower of Christ, Philip was not discouraged, as in the next lesson we shall see.

Some Test Questions

- Describe Saul the persecutor.
- What was his motive?
- What unlooked-for outcome? (v 4.)
- What command of their Lord is now in the way of fulfillment?
- What previous reference to Philip?
- What preparation had the Samaritans for Philip's message?
- What was its effect?
- What was Simon's "trade"?
- What were his pretensions?
- How great his hold?

How do Philip's wonders and signs affect this man?

How does he unmask himself?

Give Peter's rebuke.

Prove from Scripture

That the preaching of the Gospel brings joy.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

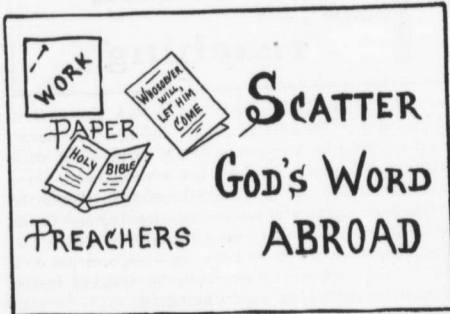
1. Philip, persecuted and preacher.
2. Simon the sorcerer.
3. Joy through the Gospel.

The Catechism

Ques. 12. *The covenant of life.* This is the theologian's way of describing God's dealing with Adam in paradise, Gen. 2: 15-17; 3: 1-3. A covenant means an agreement or contract between different parties. It is applied to God's dealings with men. "If a covenant," says Salmond, "implies something *required*, something *promised*, and something *threatened*, the transaction between God and Adam included these." Man is put on probation, or trial. Life is his so long as he will obey God perfectly. God will see to that. If he disobeys by eating the forbidden fruit, the covenant is broken and the punishment inevitably follows. The test was simple and plain—the fruit of one tree, and but one, forbidden. It was fair—only direct disobedience brought down the penalty.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Links—Some pieces of stone picked up on the way to Sabbath School, and shown to the class, will help to recall the stoning and death of Stephen.



While the stones were being thrown at him, we saw him praying. Is he asking God to punish his enemies? Whom was Stephen copying? Should we copy Him? Print S—. Who remembers the name of the young man who stood by, while Stephen was being stoned to death? (One of the children may finish printing the name while the rest spell it.) To-day we hear of Saul again, ill-using the disciples (verse 3), and driving them out of Jerusalem. (A lesson may be drawn from Saul's conduct.