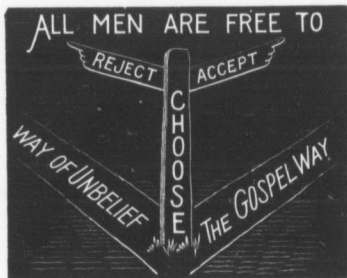


with courage and joy. Others reject it, live without it, and are filled with jealousy and slander. . . . Persecution and evil speaking endured for Christ's sake bring grace and blessing. . . . The Gospel: (1) Awakens interest (verse 44); (2) Divides the hearers (verses 45, 48); (3) Arouses bitter enmity (verse 45); (4) Awakens faith (verse 48); (5) Calls forth persecution (verses 50, 5, 6); (6) Calls forth courage (verse 46); (7) Scatters the Gospel seed (verse 7).

References.

FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Prose, 700, 2639, 10280-10289. Ver. 7: Prose, 3973-3976, 3626, 3633, 3634, 3636-3640, 745, 747, 784, 825, 2995.

Blackboard.



The Gospel is a free gift. All men may choose to accept it, or they may reject it. The responsibility rests with the individual. It rests with you and with me. You cannot choose for me, and neither can I for you. The blackboard tries to illustrate this truth. See: Here are diverging paths. They separate at the point where one must choose, and the ways get farther and farther apart. In this lesson we have the Jews and the Gentiles side by side making the choice. In this school are scholars side by side making the choice. Have you made it? That is the question. Accepted or rejected?

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Letting the Light shine.*

Review. To what city did Paul and Barnabas go? Who preached on the Sabbath? What story did he tell? Who begged to hear more of the story the next Sabbath? How much of the story do you know?

[Show again the picture of a synagogue. Tell that on the next Sabbath after Paul preached there he went with Barnabas to tell more of the good news. Tell that a great crowd came to hear what the apostles would say.]

Lesson Plan. 1. To teach that the Gospel was offered. 2. That some would not take it. 3. That others took it gladly.

1. [Make a picture of an ancient lamp burning. Print "Jesus the Light."]

When did this light first shine upon Paul? [Recall the story of his conversion.] What had he been doing ever since? When the light shines into the heart of a strong man, or of a little child, he has this one thing to do, to let it shine out upon others. This is what Paul was doing now in the synagogue. Here a great many, both Jews and Gentiles, came to see what he had to give. Some came to find fault, while others really wanted to see the true light shine. There are many ways of letting the light shine. Paul's way at this time was to tell the story of the Gospel. While he was telling it many of the Jews contradicted what he said. How could the light go on shining while so many were trying to put it out? It was God's light, and Paul's work was to go on holding it up, and let the people look at it. If he had become angry at the people who contradicted him, the light would have flickered and grown dim. If he had been afraid and run away, the people would have been left in the dark.

The light that Paul and Barnabas were letting shine is the very same light that is given to every little Christian child. Let us say this little verse softly, and then bow our heads while we ask God to help us let the light he has given us shine bright and clear:

"My light is but a little one,
My light of faith and prayer;
But lo! it shines like God's great sun,
For it was lighted there."

2. The Jews grew more and more angry as Paul and Barnabas went on talking about Jesus. They said evil things about this new teaching, and showed such a bad spirit that Paul told them that he should no longer offer the Gospel to them, but take it to the Gentiles. These Jews had sinful hearts, as all men have. They were proud and selfish and unloving. But they did not want to be different. They thought they were far better than the Gentiles, and it made them still more angry to hear the apostles say that God commanded the Gospel to be offered to all people on earth.

Perhaps these Jews did not even know how bad their hearts were. How could they have found it out?

They could have done just as we have to do—they could have asked God for his Holy Spirit to come and show them the truth. Anyone who is too proud to ask God to teach him will have to keep his evil heart.

It is an awful thing to say, "I will not take the salvation Jesus came to bring!" We do say that by our actions when we do not let Jesus come to