

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD.

July 30. PAUL AT EPHESUS.

Lesson, Acts 19: 1-12. Gol. Text, John 16: 13. Memory vs. 2-5. Catechism Q. 70, 71.

1. *Upper coasts*—"upper country;" Galatia, Phrygia, etc. (Acts 13: 23), farther inland and elevated above the coast plains. *Ephesus*—a city of Asia Minor forty miles south of Smyrna, especially noted for its temple of Diana. *Certain disciples*—only partially acquainted with Christian truth. 2. *Have ye*—Revised version, "Did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed?" *We have not heard*—that is, nothing was said about him. They had received Jesus as the Christ, but had neither received nor heard of the special gift of the Holy Ghost. 3. *Unto what*—"into what." *Unto John's baptism*—into what was taught by John and confirmed by his baptism. 4. *Paul said*—John preached repentance and a Saviour to come, but the Messiah whom he foretold had appeared in Jesus, and ye are now to believe in him. 5. *Baptized*—with Christian baptism. 6. *Came on them*—with special miraculous gifts, as upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. 8. *The kingdom of God*—the religion of Jesus. 9. *Were hardened*—by a wilful rejection of the truth. *Separated the disciples*—took them away from the Jews in the synagogue. *The school of Tyrannus*—the place where Tyrannus taught. 10. *Two years*—after he left the synagogue. His whole stay in Ephesus lasted three years (Acts 20: 31). *Asia*—the Roman province of which Ephesus was the capital.

I. *The Spirit Given*. vs. 1-7.—Whom did Paul find at Ephesus? What did he ask them? What was their reply? What further did Paul ask? What answer did they give? What did Paul then say to them? What was then done? What followed their baptism?

II. *The Spirit Resisted*. vs. 8, 9.—Where in Ephesus did Paul first preach? For how long? What was the great subject of his preaching? How was his preaching received? How did these unbelievers show their opposition? What did Paul then do?

III. *The Spirit Received*. vs. 10-12.—How long did he continue his preaching in the school of Tyrannus? What were the fruits of his labors? What special miracles were wrought by Paul's hands? Why were these uncommon powers given him?

1. We should seek the help of the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in knowledge and grace.

2. God will bless us in the diligent use of our opportunities.

3. Rejection of Christ hardens the heart.

4. God honors the ministry of his faithful servants.

6. The best evidence of Christianity is found in the work it does.

Aug. 6. PAUL AT MILETUS.

Lesson, Acts 20: 22-35. Gol. Text, Heb. 13: 7. Memory vs. 31, 32. Catechism Q. 72.

22. *Bound in the spirit*—under a strong constraint of duty. 24. *Move me*—disturb my purpose to go on. *Finish my course*—end my life and work. 26. *Take you to record*—Revised Version, "testify unto you." *Pure from the blood*—see Ezek. 3: 18-21. 27. *All the council*—the whole plan of redemption as revealed in the gospel. 28. *Yourselves*—your own safety and salvation. *The flock*—the church of which they had the care. *Overseers*—a literal translation of the word elsewhere rendered "bishops." The same persons are in verse 17 called elders or presbyters. See Titus 1: 5-7. *To feed*—to "shepherd," to care for and protect, John 21: 17. *With his own blood*—Rom. 3: 25; Gal. 1: 4; 1 Peter 1: 18, 19. 29. *Grievous wolves*—false teachers. Matt. 7: 15; 10: 16. 30. *Of your own selves*—of your own number. *Perverse things*—perversion of gospel truth. 32. *Inheritance*—the final blessings and rewards of redemption. 34. *These hands have ministered*—see Acts 18: 3; 1 Cor. 4: 3: 12; 9: 6. But he clearly teaches that ministers of the gospel are to be supported by those to whom they minister. 1 Cor. 9: 1-15; 2 Cor 11: 7-12; 12: 13-16. 35. *No laboring*—as the apostle did. *The words of the Lord Jesus*—not recorded in the gospels, but told by those who heard them.

I. *A Pastor's Farewell*. vs. 22-27.—What did Paul say to the elders? How had he lived among them? Who had opposed him? What did he say of his work? Of his preaching? Where was he now going? What did he know? How did this knowledge affect him? What was he ready to do? What was his great aim? What did he say of the future? What declaration did he make?

II. *A Solemn Charge*. vs. 28-30.—What solemn charge did Paul give the elders? Who had made them overseers of the flock? What was their duty to the church? Who would come in among them? What trouble would arise among themselves?

III. *A Faithful Ministry*. vs. 31-35.—What were they urged to do? What were they to remember? To whom did Paul commend them? What did he declare about himself? What had he shown them? What words of our Lord did he quote? What followed Paul's address?

1. Dangers and afflictions must not deter us from duty?

2. We must take heed to ourselves, to our own lives if we would do good to others.

3. We have been purchased with the blood of Christ; we therefore belong to him, and should live to him.

4. If faithful and watchful, we shall secure a rich inheritance at last.—*W'minster, Q. Book.*