

LESSON III—July 18th, 1897.

Paul at Thessalonica and Berea. Acts 17: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12. Read 1 Thess. chapters 1 and 2).

GOLDEN TEXT: "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily." Acts 17: 11.

PROVE THAT—The Scriptures shew that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 17: 3.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 84. *What doth every sin deserve?* A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 171, 80, 122, 76.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul at Thessalonica and Berea. Acts 17: 1-9. *Tuesday.* Paul at Thessalonica and Berea. Acts 17: 10-15. *Wednesday.* The Gospel with power. 1 Thess. 1. *Thursday.* The apostle's joy. 1 Thess. 3. *Friday.* Search the Scriptures. John 5: 32-39. *Saturday.* Diligent study. Deut. 6: 1-9. *Sabbath.* Scripture opened. Luke 24: 25-32. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Having been honorably released from prison, Paul and Silas proceeded on their missionary tour, leaving Luke behind to continue the work they had begun. Trace Paul's course on the map. Time A. D. 52.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Gospel preached vs. 1-4. II. The Message Rejected vs. 5-9. III. The Scriptures Studied vs. 10-12.

1. **Amphipolis**—About 33 miles from Philippi. **Apollo'nia**—Thirty miles S. W. from Amphipolis and 37 from Thessalonica. The missionaries did not tarry in either of these places, but pressed forward to the capital of the province. **Thessalonica**—The most important and populous city of all that region. It is the modern *Salonica*. Here there were many Jews residing. 2. **As his custom was** (R. V.)—It was Paul's invariable custom to preach first to the Jews (Acts 13: 5, 14, 15; 14: 1; 19: 8). He was usually invited to speak (Acts 13: 15). **Reasoned**—Carried on discussions with them. He did not preach set sermons, but held a kind of Bible class. 3. **Opening**—Making plain the meaning of passages that they had misunderstood. **Alleging**—Not "asserting." That it behoved the Christ to suffer (R. V.)—The Jews thought that the Christ would be a conquering prince, Paul shews that the prophets foretold a suffering Saviour (Isa. 53). He then pointed out that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, for he exactly fulfilled the prophecies (Acts 18: 28; Gal. 3: 1). **Consorted with**—Cast in their lot with Paul and Silas, formed the nucleus of a christian church. **Devout Greeks**—Gentiles who believed in the true God, but did not observe the ceremonial law. They were called "proselytes of the gate." **Chief women**—Ladies of high social rank. 5. **Envy**—or "jealousy," The same evil passion as inspired the enemies of Christ (Matt. 27: 18). **Vile fellows of the rabble** (R. V.)—"Loafers" around the market place. We find their modern representatives around street corners and saloons, worthless characters ready for any mischief (1 Thess. 2: 14). **Jason**—The Greek form of Joseph. He was the host of Paul and Silas and probably a christian Jew and a relation of Paul (Rom. 16: 21). They wished to do as the Philippian mob had done. 6. **Dragged** (R. V.)—They acted roughly and violently. **The world**—The words were an exaggeration, but they shew what an influence christianity had already gained. 7. **Another king**—The old and hypocritical charge against Christ himself (Luke 23: 2). What truth was there in it? (John 18: 36, 37; 6: 15). 8. It was the same trouble that Pilate had (John 19: 12). They feared to do right. 9. **Security**—They bound them over to make no disturbance of the peace. Probably by requiring them to deposit a sum of money which would be forfeited if there was any more rioting. 10. **Berea**—About 60 miles from Thessalonica. 11. **Noble**—Literally "well-born," but refers here to nobility of character, candid and truth-loving. They were not afraid of any doctrine because it was new, they were anxious only to find out whether it was in the Bible or not. 12. **Honorable women**—Ladies of wealth and social influence (Acts 13: 50).

LESSONS. 1. The best way to spend Sunday. 2. If Christ had not suffered none could have been saved. 3. Beware of cherishing envy and jealousy. 4. Those who are loyal to King Jesus are most loyal to Queen Victoria. 5. Test all teaching by the Bible.