

ruptly away from the old forms of Judaism. Once they claimed an absolute, exclusive right to the possession and advantage of the truth of revealed religion. Now the next discovery which they made was that the program of the Gospel of Christ accorded equal privileges and hopes to the Gentiles; and to-day, to their amazement, Paul declares to them that they have forfeited all their privileges, while the Gentiles have profited. What a change has occurred! Yet who does not see in this change of relations which a sinner himself makes by his refusal of the truth the prophecy of our own failure if we make the light which is within us darkness?

But the free agency of man is not the only thing which must be noticed in working out this great problem of destiny. God strives with man. Every believer knows that he was won, not arbitrarily forced, to submission to the wiser and higher will of God.

TO ICONIUM.

The passing of these men from these turbulent scenes, their hearts filled with joy, is like the triumphal march of the world's conquerors. The Spirit of the Lord with them was equal to any test. The equipment of the disciple was not only strength, power of endurance, and kindred qualities; but the essential, the distinguishing fact of this endowment of power is that in all the changes of fortune the mind is kept in peace. The Spirit which nerves the soul to face the harsh and cruel arraignment of a mob furnishes, in the quiet of the lone hour, the mind and heart with thoughts and visions of God which give to earth's distresses the glow and glory of heaven. Only the heart that is stayed upon God can sum up the history of its sorrows in such memorable words as Paul used: "But none of these things move me."

Thoughts for Young People.

OBSERVATIONS ON THIS LESSON.

1. *The leader will lead.* It was by no accident that Paul took the place of Barnabas, probably unconsciously and unobserved. It was by the same inherent right that secured the generalship of the armies for Lord Wellington and dominance in France for Napoleon Bonaparte. All of these men were at first in some sense underlings, subject to official superiors, but the working out of the common forces of life brought them to the front where they belonged.

2. *The blessings of the Sabbath.* It is not likely that on any day of the week Paul and Barnabas were silent, but the Sabbath days were their field days. This is always God's way

in his work. "The temptations at the present time to stay away from the Sabbath services are very great, but should be resisted strongly and successfully." Even greater temptations, if possible, sway men away from holy thoughts and holy conversation on the Lord's day. The keeping of the Sabbath was the link by means of which these men of Antioch were drawn into the kingdom of God.

3. *The blessings of public worship in his temple.* Special blessings are pronounced on him who goes into his closet and prays to his Father in secret. But other special blessings await those who meet often together to worship God. The Lord hearkens and hears, and a book of remembrance is written. Paul could not have surmounted so many difficulties and won so many converts for Christ if he had not been so devoted to the services of the sanctuary.

Teaching Hints for Intermediate Classes.

CONNECTION.

This lesson may be linked with the last one very easily. The missionaries came from Perga to Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath began to teach in the synagogue. Have the pupils tell what they know about synagogues, and ask the question assigned last week.

CIRCUMSTANCES.

Time. A. D. 46.

Places. Point out on the map Paphos, Perga, Antioch in Pisidia (see Antioch in Syria), and Iconium.

Persons. Note that now Saul is called Paul, and that he becomes the leader of the missionaries. Question the class to ascertain what they know about Paul and Barnabas.

Journeys. Paul went on three great missionary journeys, which had as their starting point Antioch in Syria. Speak briefly of these three journeys.

CONTENTS.

There are four classes of persons brought to our attention in the lesson text. Let us look at each class separately:

1. *Inquirers.* Who broke up the meeting where Paul preached? (See verse 42.) Why? Who followed Paul and Barnabas? (Explain meaning of the words "Jews" and "proselytes.") What did the missionaries urge (Revised Version) them to do? What is meant by "Sabbath day"? Who came together then? For what purpose?

2. *Opposers.* Who saw this gathering? How did they feel? (See Revised Version.) Why? What did they do?