

Lesson III. **PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BEREA** January 18, 1903

Acts 17: 1-12. Study Acts 17: 1-15—Memory Verses, 2-4.

Golden Text—Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.—Ps. 119: 105.

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come

hither also; 7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Cæsar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

8 And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea; who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Leaving Philippi, Paul and the other missionaries came to the Roman city of Thessalonica, where they took lodgings in the house of a man named Jason.

Hearing that there was a synagogue in the town, Paul, as was his custom, went into the house of God on the Sabbath day. And being invited to speak, he opened the book of the Old Testament and began to prove from the Scriptures that Jesus, who had died upon the cross and who had risen again, was the long-promised Saviour, foretold by the old prophets and in the Psalms.

So clearly did Paul explain the word of God, that he was invited to preach again in the same synagogue upon the two following Sabbaths.

Now many who heard him were fully per-

suaded that Jesus was the Christ. And some of the Jews and a large company of Greeks, and quite a number of the great ladies of Thessalonica believed in Jesus, and cast in their lot with the missionaries.

But there were also many who scoffed at the message of the apostles, and these, full of anger and jealousy against the new teaching, stirred up the idlers and loafers of the town, and set them to attack and search the home of Jason, hoping in this way to arrest Paul and Silas and bring them to punishment.

But when the missionaries could not be found at their lodgings, the excited mob dragged Jason himself and some others of the believers before the rulers, saying, 'These men are traitors, setting up one