

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

## PAUL VINDICATED.

A.D. 60.] LESSON XII. [March 22.  
Acts 26. 19-32. Commit to mem. vs. 22, 23.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day.—Acts 26 22.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

God calls us; let us obey.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 26. 1-18. Th. Isa. 53. 1-12.  
T. Acts 26. 19-32. F. Isa. 60. 1-22.  
W. Matt. 3. 1-12. Sa. John 10. 1-21.  
Su. Luke 18. 18-30.

TIME.—First of August, A.D. 60.

PLACE.—Caesarea; in Herod's palace.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—Paul had been defending and explaining the Gospel before Governor Festus, King Agrippa, his sister Bernice, and a brilliant assembly of officers and leading men of Caesarea. Our lesson begins with a continuation of his address.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—19. *Whereupon*—After seeing Christ and hearing him, before Damascus. 20. *That they should repent*—Paul's preaching was practical. This, and the following, was the aim of his labours. 21. *Caught me in the temple*—(see Acts 21. 28-31.) Two years before. 23. *Rise from the dead*—His Saviour and king was a living Saviour, and divine. 27. *I know that thou believest*—He believed with the head, not the heart. 28. *Almost thou persuadest me*—There are three interpretations of this phrase—(1) As given here. (2) As in the Rev. Ver., "With but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian." Do you expect to change me with so little argument as you can use in this brief speech? (3) "In a little time thou persuadest me;" i.e., either seriously, "If you keep on, you will soon persuade me," or ironically, "Do you expect to persuade me in this brief time?" 29. *Were both almost and altogether*—or as in the Rev. Ver., "Whether with little or with much;" or as Alford, "Both in small measure and in great."

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The circumstances.—Paul's ministry (v. 20).—Repentance.—The Christ Paul preached.—Festus' view of Paul's preaching.—vs. 28, 29.—The results of the trial.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Paul? How long since his imprisonment? Before what audience was he speaking? What point in the history of his conversion had he reached in his address?

SUBJECT: DIFFERENT WAYS OF TREATING GOD'S INVITATIONS.

## I. PAUL'S WAY (vs. 19-23).

(1) *Obedience*.—To what "heavenly vision" does Paul refer? To what had God in this vision called him? How did Paul treat the call? Have we had similar invitations? (Isa. 55. 1; Matt. 4. 17; 11. 28-30; Rev. 22. 17.) How have you treated these invitations? How far does our salvation depend on God, and how far on ourselves?

(2) *Works for Christ*.—What did Paul do as soon as converted? In what places did he preach? Meaning of "coasts"? Do all who really love Christ want to tell others of him? By whose help did Paul continue in the Christian life and work?

(3) *Teachings*.—What was the practical teaching of Paul? (v. 20.) What is repentance? What is it to turn to God? What are the works meet for repentance? What was his doctrinal teaching? Where were these things taught in the Old Testament? Is Christ the centre of all true Christian doctrine?

II. FESTUS' WAY (vs. 24, 25).—What did Festus think of Paul's teachings? Why did Paul seem to him to be a lunatic? Does the Christian life seem thus to any persons now? Who are the ones who are "beside themselves"? What was Paul's reply to Festus?

III. AGRIPPA'S WAY (vs. 26-29).—What was King Agrippa's knowledge of the Gospel? What was his belief? Did his faith and knowledge make him a Christian? What was lacking? What did he say to Paul? Was he sincere? What would it have cost him to become a Christian? What was Paul's answer? What had Paul that was superior to what Agrippa possessed? What exception did Paul make? Apply this to the Christians' desire that all men should be like them.

IV. THE VINDICATION (vs. 30-32).—What was the result of this hearing? Why was

it better for Paul that he was not set at liberty?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. God gives us all a call to the Christian life.
2. We must each for himself decide whether we will obey the call.
3. As soon as we know Christ we should seek to lead others to him.
4. Our teaching should be both practical and doctrinal.
5. True repentance will be proved by its fruits.
6. An earnest, devoted, self-denying Christian seems to be beside himself in the eyes of the worldly.
7. There is no madness so great as the neglect of eternal life for the sake of worldly pleasures.
8. One may know the truth, and believe it, and yet not be a Christian.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

15. What did Paul do after his conversion? ANS. He preached the Gospel to the Jews and Gentiles. 16. What was his practical teaching? ANS. That men should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. 17. What was his doctrinal teaching? ANS. The crucified and risen Christ. 18. What did Festus say to Paul? ANS. Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. 19. What did Agrippa say? ANS. Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. 20. What did Paul reply? (Repeat v. 29.)

## LESSON XIII. [March 29.]

## REVIEW AND EASTER LESSON.

## REVIEW.

(Scripture Lesson.—The Golden Texts of the Quarter, or Paul's review of his ministry, Acts 20. 17-36; in Lessons II. and III.)

## GOLDEN TEXT.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.—Acts 20. 24.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 20. 1-38. Th. Acts 23. 1-35.  
T. Acts 21. 1-40. F. Acts 24. 1-27.  
W. Acts 22. 1-30. Sa. Acts 25. 1-27.  
Su. Acts 26. 1-32.

## QUESTIONS.

I. TIME.—At what date do the lessons of this quarter begin? Over how many years do they extend? How old was Paul at this time? How many years had the Gospel now been preached?

II. TERRITORY.—In what countries had the Gospel obtained a foothold? Name some of the principal cities where there were churches.

III. PERSONS.—Name the leading Christians who are connected with Paul during this quarter. With what other persons did he come in contact?

IV. MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.—How many great missionary journeys had Paul made? How long was he gone on each of them? (See Chart of Chronology.) Trace them out on the map.

V. THE RETURN OF THE MISSIONARY.—On which of the three journeys do we find Paul at the beginning of this quarter? How long had he been on it? Where had he spent most of his time? Where do we find him in our first lesson? Trace on the map his journey from Corinth, and give the leading dates. At what time did he arrive at Jerusalem?

VI. EVENTS.—What took place at Troas? What did Paul do at Miletus? What warning did he receive at Tyre? What at Caesarea? What occurred at Jerusalem? What plot was laid against Paul? How did he escape? Where? How long and in what circumstances was he at Caesarea?

VII. PAUL'S REVIEW OF HIS CONVERSION.—How many times does Paul relate the story of his conversion? Give a brief account of his life? What lesson can you learn from this story?

VIII. PAUL'S REVIEW OF HIS MINISTRY.—At what place did Paul give an account of his way of preaching the Gospel? Before whom? What do you learn from this of Paul's spirit? Of his earnestness? His faithfulness? His hopes? His unselfishness? What were the chief subjects on which he preached? Why did the Jews persecute Paul so fiercely?

IX. LESSONS.—What are some of the chief practical lessons you learn from Paul's

life and work? From Felix? From Festus? From Agrippa?

## EASTER LESSON.

(Scripture.—John 20. 1-22.)

## GOLDEN TEXT.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.—1 Cor. 15. 20.

I. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.—What is the meaning of Easter? When was Christ crucified? When did he rise again? What proof is there that he became alive again? (1 Cor. 15. 5-8.) How is this appearance to Paul at his conversion a proof that he is living? How was the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, in fulfilment of his promise, a proof? Could any but a living being do the wonderful works which have taken place under Christianity?

(1) *That we have a Living Saviour*.—How could we know that Jesus is alive unless he had come back from the dead? What promise did he make his disciples? (Matt. 28. 20.) Could he fulfil this if he were not alive? Could he fulfil any of his promises to us? What is he doing now? (Acts 7. 55; Heb. 7. 25.)

(2) *That Jesus was the Messiah, the Promised Saviour*.—What does Paul say in 1 Cor. 15. 14-17? How does the resurrection prove that Christ was from God? How else could Jesus prove that he came from God, except by returning to those who once knew him? How else could he show that he was the everlasting king over the whole world, but by showing that he is alive and reigning in heaven? Could he be God unless he was stronger than death?

(3) *That there is a Life beyond the Grave*.—How does the resurrection of Christ prove that the soul does not die with the body? Why is the death of a Christian called a sleep?

II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD.—What is meant by the resurrection of the dead? (John 5. 28; 1 Cor. 15. 42-44, 50-54; Phil. 3. 20, 21.) Does this same body rise so that it is we ourselves who are raised? What changes must be made in our present bodies? (1 Cor. 15. 37-45; Matt. 22. 30.) How does Paul illustrate this change? (1 Cor. 15. 37; 38.) How is spring a type of the resurrection? Give some illustration of the changes that may be made, the new powers given, the enlarged sphere of life. What will our bodies be like? (Phil. 3. 20.)

(1) *It gives Largeness and Grandness to Life*.—How long shall we live after we are raised from the dead? Why does immortality make life worth living? How does it give importance to all we are and do here? How is it a motive for living a true Christian life?

(2) *It gives us Comfort when we think of our Friends who have gone before*.—Where are our Christian friends who have died? Shall we know them? Did the disciples know Jesus? (Matt. 17. 3, 4; Luke 16. 23-25; Matt. 22. 32.) How does Christ's resurrection assure us that we shall meet them again?

(3) *It leads us to seek to be prepared for this Resurrection*.—What was Paul's aim? (Phil. 3. 11.) Can the wicked have part in this glorious resurrection? (John 5. 29.) How may we have part in the resurrection of the just? (John 3. 3, 5, 16.)

## More Dangerous than Cyclones.

PEOPLE talk with bated breath of the dangers of a tornado, and speak of the terrible accidents occurring in various sections, by which hundreds of lives have been lost, and yet the same men stand listless, inactive, at the cry of sixty thousand men who are annually sacrificed by strong drink. It is all well enough to dig cellars in which to hide from the fury of the storm, but who will deride the fathers and mothers who desire protection from the great scourge of intemperance sweeping broadcast through the earth, its hands red with murder, and its voice made up of curses? The man or woman who asks protection from such a monster iniquity should not be regarded as either a crank or a fanatic. There is no mistaking the fact, intemperance is the crime of the age.—*Inter-Ocean*.

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