



LESSON,—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1909.

**Review.**

Acts xv., 36—xxi., 17.

**Golden Text.**

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts xix., 20.

**Home Readings.**

- Monday, September 13.—Acts xvi., 6-15.
- Tuesday, September 14.—Acts xvi., 23-40.
- Wednesday, September 15.—Acts xvii., 10-23.
- Thursday, September 16.—Acts xviii., 24—xix., 10.
- Friday, September 17.—Acts xix., 22-41.
- Saturday, September 18.—Acts xx., 17-38.
- Sunday, September 19.—Acts xxi., 1-17.

**FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.**

We have all read and studied a great deal about Paul now, haven't we? I wonder if any of you could tell me something about what he was like, I don't mean his looks, but the kind of a man he was. For one thing—do you think he was lazy? or selfish? You all say 'no.' What makes you think he wasn't lazy? The way he worked going about from city to city preaching, and very often earning his own living at the same time making tents. And we know he wasn't selfish because he was working all the time for other people. It was not easy to travel in his days as it is now, and Paul, who knew he was getting to be an old man (Philemon, 9), might have said to himself that it was time for him to rest and let the young men do the work. But in a recent Sunday's lesson we read how he said 'I count not my life dear unto myself.' He had given himself to God and now only wanted to work for Him. To-day we are supposed to review all that we have been told about two long missionary trips that Paul took, in all about six or seven years of travel. Does that seem long to you? Can you remember very well what happened six or seven years ago? A very great deal can happen in such a time as that, and a great deal did happen in that time to Paul. He got locked up in a prison and let out by an earthquake. He got mixed up in a big riot and once he saw a young man fall out of a window and kill himself. He had to go long journeys by land and water and he met a great many people. It would take too long to go over all that Paul did, but we can surely remember some of the things that we have learned. For instance—Paul had a friend who was a gaoler in one of the cities Paul visited, and can anyone tell us how this man came to be Paul's friend, and invited him in to have supper one time?

**FOR THE SENIORS.**

The chapters covering the quarter's lessons should be read over carefully so as to get the story of these two missionary journeys thoroughly clear and connected, and the apparent breaks in the narrative where the two selections from Paul's epistles come (lessons 6 and 9), should be recognized as essential parts of the story. Paul, during these journeyings, carried with him continually 'the care of all the churches' (II. Cor. xi., 28, 29), and his mind was never so engrossed with the work in hand that he forgot the little companies of Christians that he had been forced to leave behind. He wrote several of his epistles during this time, those to the Corinthians, to the Thessalonians, to the Galatians and to the Romans. In all probability there were others but these have come down to us and show the remarkable mind of the man who could produce such masterpieces of clear reasoning. He was heart and soul in his work and under his leadership, largely, it was that 'so mightily grew the word of the Lord and

prevailed.' God has so signally honored man as to place in his hands the affairs of His kingdom on earth. Paul appreciated his charge at its proper value, but is there any responsibility of a similar sort resting upon us as individual Christians to-day? If in our home, in our immediate neighborhood, in our church, 'the word of the Lord' seems to be losing any of its power, are we individually in any way to blame? This is an age when the church is reawakening to its responsibility in regard to missions, and the effect is being gloriously evident in many of the mission fields, but has God exempted any one of us from our duty in regard to the extension of His kingdom? Or is God willing to use us while our ears are too dull to hear the call, on our hands too unwilling to give their service?

**Junior C. E. Topic.**

Sunday, September 19.—Topic—Songs in the heart and on the lips. Col. iii., 16.

**C. E. Topic.**

- Monday, September 13.—A stranger here. I. Pet. ii., 11-25.
- Tuesday, September 14.—A passing pageant. I. John ii., 15-17.
- Wednesday, September 15.—Satan's offer. Matt. iv., 8-11.
- Thursday, September 16.—What is not vanity? Heb. xii., 25-28.
- Friday, September 17.—Made a spectacle. I. Cor. iv., 6-13.
- Saturday, September 18.—The end of vanity. Rev. xviii., 1-8; xxi., 1-5.
- Sunday, September 19.—Topic — Pilgrim's Progress Series. IX. Vanity Fair. Eccl. i., 12-18; ii., 1-11.

**Getting Ready for Work.**

(Carol Kennedy, in the 'Primary Teacher.')

Teaching little children promotes unselfishness, and the primary teacher who has been successful in any branch of her work is always willing and even anxious to tell it to others whom it may help. Hence, there are almost numberless articles and books written on primary work, and every one of them is helpful, but there are very few of them that are entirely comprehensive to the teacher who has never taught a primary class, nor even been near one since she belonged to it in childhood. It is with a real desire to help these new teachers that the writer gives these leaves from the record of her personal experience.

The teacher who has been the assistant of a good primary superintendent for a number of years, as often happens, is very fortunate, and can readily take hold of the work. She knows already the most important and difficult thing to learn—the children she is to teach. If she has been the secretary, she knows even better than the superintendent, perhaps, the names and faces of the little people she is to teach, and if she is wise, she will visit and learn the homes before she takes charge of the class. This is possible also for the teacher who must come to the class a stranger. She must have at least a month's time to prepare herself for the work. Obtaining the names and addresses from the teacher, she will have time to visit every home, making a note of the impression received at every visit. Future visits may change this impression; but however this may be, she still owns a book that will be more valuable to her than any primary Help she may ever be able to secure.

If the primary superintendent's work is to be done under the supervision of an up-to-date school superintendent, she will have a comparatively easy and well-made road to travel. He will be able to give her the names of three of the best primary teachers in her city, to visit on three of the Sundays of her preparatory month. He will pick out for her at least two assistants, a pianist and a secretary, provided, of course, the teacher whose place she is to take has neither, as was the case with the writer's predecessor. One or both of these assistants should go with her on her round of visits to the other schools, getting items that will be helpful in the performance of their new duties.

The wise superintendent will give each of

these assistants a clear idea of the work she is to perform, and just what result she desires from their work, and then let them do it in their own way. However, she will be the supreme authority in the class. As an experienced teacher, long in the work, expressed it at a recent meeting of a Primary Union: 'When I found it necessary to take a new assistant, I told her plainly that if she came to me, it must be with the understanding that I was "boss."' It would hardly be practicable to talk to everyone in this way, but just this truth must be conveyed in some tactful manner.

**Religious News.**

The General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church have unanimously decided to enter into an unrestricted conference on union. This is an event of the greatest moment, whatever the immediate issue may be. Those who are most familiar with the ecclesiastical life of Scotland will be the most ready to appreciate its importance. We confess to being amazed that in each case the vote was unanimous, for each Church embraces many who differ seriously in their convictions, and hold their views with intense tenacity. That they should have combined to seek union, and that in a most exemplary Christian temper, shows that they are actuated by a very living and powerful emotion.—'British Weekly.'

The Christians in the diocese of Madras, which covers a large section of South India, contributed last year 19,789 rupees. This represents practically two shillings for every man, woman, and child. Does not this statement put to shame many professing Christians at home, whose contribution toward the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ outside their own country consists of an odd copper which they give with reluctance? Many of the Christians in South India live on the verge of starvation for a good part of each year, yet they value the faith of Christ so highly that they are willing to endure real self-denial in order to extend its knowledge.—'The Mission Field.'

The Turkish Empire covers an area of about 1,500,000 square miles and contains a population of about 29,000,000, of which about two-thirds are Mohammedans. The Christians include Armenians, Greeks, Syrians, Jacobites, Copts, Bulgarians, Protestants and Roman Catholics. More than thirty missionary societies are at work among this population, and these figures show something of the results achieved to date: 20,000 communicants and 60,000 adherents, upward of 50 higher institutions of learning, 55 hospitals and dispensaries with near 200,000 patients annually.

The Rev. W. B. Steele writes as follows in the 'Missionary Herald':

God has put a practical leader and eloquent preacher at the capital of China to follow Dr. Ament. Pastor Li weighs over two hundred, but his manhood is even more conspicuously weighty. His parents became Christians forty years ago, a heroism then, and somewhat of a heroism still. His brother is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Pao-ting-fu and his sister, a Bible-woman, was a martyr in 1900. He was a good student in college, but through and through a boy. At the close of his senior year the revival that blest the college community found young Li deeply responsive. With some fellow students he visited the out-stations to extend the spirit of the revival. Here they saw the beginnings of Boxer fanaticism. The college church at Peking, with its important evangelistic work, is a most strategic post. He is doing valiantly as its pastor and stands for large promise in its ministry. And who dares dream of the promise for which his five children stand, third generation Christians, whose suggestive names are Glorious Grace, Glorious Virtue, Glorious Growth, Glorious Happiness, and Glorious Harmony?

**Sunday School Offer.**

Any school in Canada that does not take the 'Messenger' may have it supplied free on trial for three weeks on request of Superintendent, Secretary or Pastor, stating the number of copies required.