

GOLDEN TEXT

Acts 26: 19. I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.

DAILY READINGS

M — Acts 22: 1-16. Jesus appears to Paul.
 T — Acts 9: 1-9. The narrative.
 W — Acts 9: 10-22. Mission of Ananias.
 Th. — Gal. 1: 11-24. By revelation.
 F. — Eph. 3: 1-12. A minister to the Gentiles.
 S. — 1 Tim. 1: 12-17. Chief of sinners.
 S. — Acts 10: 16-34. What shall I do?

CATECHISM

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?
 A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

TIME AND PLACE

The precise date of Paul's conversion is not certain. Writers place it all the way from A.D. 33 to A.D. 37. It occurred near Damascus, the capital of Syria, over a hundred and forty miles north-east of Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

- I. "I am Jesus." 6-9.
 So said the risen Lord to Saul the persecutor.
- II. "What shall I do, Lord?" 10, 11.
 So said Saul when he saw the light and heard the voice from heaven.
- III. "Thou shalt be a witness," 12-16.
 So said the Lord's messenger to Saul.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 150; 511; 1 (Ps. Sel.); 119; 532, 534.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—6-8 Who is speaking here? To whom? Who was Paul? Who had been his teacher? (v. 3.) What happened on the way to Damascus? How far was Damascus from Jerusalem? Which direction? How was Saul affected? What did he ask? What was the answer?

9, 10 Who were with Saul? What did they see? How did they feel? What did they do? What was it they did not hear? What did Saul now ask? What command was given? What was Paul to find out?

11-13 Why could Paul not see? For what length of time? In whose house was he? What street? (See "Explanation.") Who came to Paul? What sort of man? Who had sent him? What blessing did he give Paul? Through what power?

14, 15 What message did he bring? Who was "that Just One"? On what errand is Saul to go?

16 What outward form was he to observe? Who was now his Master? What had caused the change?

Seniors and the Home Department—6-8 About what had Paul been talking? Who were listening to him? (ch. 22.) How did he address them? (v. 1.) What story does he tell them? Why does he tell the story? What was Saul's errand to Damascus? How was the journey interrupted? What revelation made? How did it affect Saul?

9, 10 How were Paul's companions affected? When had Peter, James and John heard a voice from heaven? (Mark 9: 7.) When did John hear it? (Rev. 1: 10.) What work had Christ for Paul to do? What work for us?

11-13 Tell the story of how Ananias came to visit Saul. What did he do for Saul? What message did

he give him? What is meant by an "apostle"? Why was Paul entitled to be called an apostle? What was the purpose of Saul's baptism?

Prove from Scripture—That the Lord selects for His service.

Practical Points—1. Saul belonged to a family of wealth, refinement and influence. He himself was a man of fine learning. But he was a persecutor. So hard to eradicate are narrowness and bigotry and passion.

2. Though ever interceding for men in heaven, Jesus directs the course of His kingdom on the earth. We do well to watch for the tokens of His will.

3. If we will not be persuaded into obedience, Christ may smite us into it.

4. A sudden conversion, "betwixt the saddle and the ground;" a thorough one, for Paul never wavered thereafter, until he had received the martyr's crown.

5. Conversion is only the beginning. It took a lifetime for Paul to ripen fully, as in Goethe's "Tale of Tales," the fisherman's rough log hut was gradually transformed into a temple of solid silver, through the long and steady shining of a lamp within.—Peloubet.

6. A wide sphere was appointed to Paul. A narrower one may be ours, but none the less should we seek to fill it faithfully.

7. "Why tarriest there?" If the way of duty is clear, the sooner we are in it the better. The longer we shiver on the brink, the colder will the plunge be.

8. No easy thing for Saul to bless the Name he had cursed, but he did it.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. On what errand did Saul go to Damascus?

2. What happened on the way?

3. What change did it make in his life?