

LESSON II—July 11th, 1897.

Paul and the Philippian Jailor. Acts 16: 22-34.

(Commit to memory verses 28-31. Read verses 16, 40).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house." Acts 16: 31.

PROVE THAT—Confession naturally follows belief. Rom. 10: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?* A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*.—Nos. 74, 96, 140, 138.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul and the Philippian Jailor. Acts 16: 16-24. *Tuesday.* Paul and the Philippian Jailor. Acts 16: 25-34. *Wednesday.* Brought out. Acts 16: 35-40. *Thursday.* Shamefully entreated. 1 Thess. 2: 1-9. *Friday.* A mighty deliverer. Dan. 3: 21-30. *Saturday.* Faith and life. John 3: 14-21. *Sabbath.* Faith and salvation. 1 Pet. 1: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Going to the place of prayer at Philippi, Paul and his companions were met by a demoniac slave girl, who followed them crying out who they were. Thus she repeated many days and Paul unable longer to bear the annoyance and pitying the poor girl who was the helpless victim of Satan, turned and cast out the evil spirit. When her masters saw that she could no longer tell fortunes for them, they were enraged against the missionaries. The rescue of a soul was nothing to them compared with the loss of their profits. So they accused Paul and Silas before the magistrates of breaking the law in that, being Jews, they intruded themselves into the city, and taught unlawful practices. Jews were objects of great aversion to the Romans and it was easy to rouse the mob against them—Time A. D. 52.

LESSON PLAN, I. Suffering for Christ vs. 22-24. **II.** Rejoicing in Tribulation vs. 25-28. **III.** Pointing to Christ. vs. 29-34.

22. Together—that is with the master of the damsel. They were dragged by an excited mob into the market place where the magistrates held court. There was no pretence of a trial. The lictors, or constables, were ordered to strip off the prisoners' clothes to the waist and beat them with their rods (2 Thess. 2: 2). The magistrates yielded to a mob that they could not control. **23. Many stripes**—There was no legal limit, and with the crowd to urge them the lictors were not likely to be merciful. **24. The inner prison**—Probably, damp, dark, cold, and underground. **The stocks**—Two heavy wooden planks fastened edge to edge. The feet were secured between these by notches in the edges which closed around the ankles when the planks were brought together. The prisoners could only sit with their bleeding backs against the cold stone wall. **25. But about midnight**—Sleep being out of the question, they cured their pain with praise. **Were praying and singing hymns** (R. V.). Many of the psalms, which they doubtless chanted, would combine both prayer and praise. **Heard them**—The word implies eagerness of attention. Were listening with wonder and delight. **26. A great earthquake**—Earthquakes were common in that locality, but this one was unusually violent. It was sent as

God's attestation of his servants. Bolted doors were opened and the prisoners' chains unfastened. This was more than an ordinary earthquake could have done. **27. Killed himself**—If the prisoners had escaped he was liable to suffer their penalty in their stead (1 Kings 20: 39, 40; 2 Kings 10: 24). **28.** The same power which loosed their bonds restrained the prisoners from escaping. **29. Trembling for fear** (R. V.)—Terror stricken. This was the remorse of a guilty conscience brought face to face with God. **30. Sirs**—Literally "Lords," "Masters," a term of profound respect. **Saved**—The answer shows what kind of salvation he enquired after. **31. Believe**—Read John 3: 16, 36; 6: 47. **Thou and thy house** (R. V.)—His salvation will bring a blessing to his dear ones also, for God will take them too into covenant privileges. **33. Took them**—He did not wait for morning, but at once removed them from their loathsome dungeon into his own apartments and treated them with honor. **Was baptized**—It is not likely that there were conveniences for immersion at hand and it is evident that they did not leave the prison enclosure (vs. 36-40). **34. Rejoiced greatly with all his house, having believed in God**—That home is happy where Jesus is a guest.

LESSONS. 1. Christianity is the only religion that has a hymn book. 2. God can deliver his people. 3. We should wish well to our enemies. 4. There is but one way of salvation. 5. Love and obey your covenant God and Saviour.