

LESSON III—April 18th, 1897.

Gentiles Converted at Antioch. ACTS 11: 19-26.

(Commit to memory verses 21-24, and read chapter 11).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Then hath God also to the gentiles granted repentance unto life." Acts 11: 18.

PROVE THAT—The Lord blesses faithful preaching of his word. Acts 11: 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 97. *What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?* A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love and new obedience, lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 150, 167, 171, 177.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Life for the gentiles. Acts 11: 1-18. *Tuesday.* Gentiles converted at Antioch. Acts 11: 19-26. *Wednesday.* Promise for the gentiles. Isa. 60: 1-7. *Thursday.* A minister to the gentiles. Rom. 15: 13-21. *Friday.* Joy of the gospel. Luke 10: 17-24. *Saturday.* Fellow citizens. Eph. 2: 11-22. *Sabbath.* From all nations. Rev. 7: 9-17. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson tells us how the gospel came to Antioch, first to the Jews only, but afterwards to the Greeks also. Here we are shown another incident forcing upon the church the question of the admission of the gentiles. That gentile proselytes should be admitted excited no surprise, but Samaritans had already come in; an Ethiopian was baptized and went home to be an "apostle" to his own people; Cornelius had been accepted by the Holy Spirit; and now a gentile church is organized at Corinth. In the enthusiasm of these early days, the significance of such events was not perceived, but very soon the stricter Jews noted them and in lesson IX we learn how the questions involved were settled.

LESSON PLAN. I. Believing in Christ. vs. 19-21. II. Bearing His Name. vs. 22-26.

19. They that were scattered abroad—Each disciple was a missionary and wherever he went tried to tell the story of Jesus. **Pheni'ce**—was a narrow strip of coast north of Palestine between the mountains of Lebanon and the sea, about 120 miles long by 15 wide, its chief cities were Tyre and Sidon. Solomon's friend Hiram was its king. **Cy'prus**—An island in the Mediterranean off the coast of Pheni'cia, now a British dependency. **Cy're'ne**—A city on the north coast of Africa, now Tripoli. **Antioch**—The capital of Syria, on the river Orontes. After Rome and Alexandria, the third greatest city of that time. Very wealthy and luxurious, but given up to the vilest heathenism. **20. The Grecians**—R. V. "The Greeks." These were idolaters, "Grecians" were Greek-speaking Jews or proselytes. **21. The hand of the Lord**—The power of Christ was seen in the conversion of so many. **22. Tidings of these things**—For the first time those who had never worshipped the true God, were seeking admission into the church. The question now raised was: Ought they not to become Jews first and keep the ceremonial law? Barnabas

—He was a "Grecian" and a native of Cyprus, a man of broad view and kindly disposition, well fitted to unite the new converts with the church and remove prejudices. **23. Had seen the grace of God**—The wonderful condescension of God in bestowing repentance and faith on those who never knew Him before, but worshipped the vile gods of Antioch. **With purpose of heart**—Nothing but the closest communion with Christ can keep any one from the old sins which once enthralled him. **24. He was a good man**—A man of moral worth combined with a kind and charitable disposition. (Ps. 37: 23; Prov. 12: 2; 13: 22). His lofty faith and loving earnestness won many converts. **25. To seek Saul**—Tarsus was but 80 miles away and there Saul lived in retirement waiting for God's call to begin his work (ch. 9: 15). **26. Christians**—The name was probably given in contempt, but soon it became honorable (Jas. 2: 7). One of the ancient liturgies contains this beautiful prayer. "We give Thee thanks that we are called by the name of thy Christ and we are thus reckoned as thine own."

LESSONS. 1. Every christian should be a missionary to those around him. 2. We should rejoice when sinners are converted to the Lord. 3. We are safe from sin only when near to Christ. 4. Do not feel hurt if not put in a prominent position—wait God's time. 5. Since you are a christian, be Christ-like.