

LESSON IV—October 24th, 1897.

Paul before King Agrippa. Acts 26: 19-32.

(Read Chapters 25 and 26. Commit to memory verses 22-23).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven." Matt. 10: 32.

PROVE THAT—Our deeds shew our repentance. Acts 26: 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 98. *What is prayer?* A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies. 99. *What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?* A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the *Lord's Prayer*.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 6 (Psalm 9), 149, 135, 140. (Old Hymnal Nos. 71, 42, 138, 84).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Statement by Festus. Acts 25: 13-23. *Tuesday.* Paul's answer. Acts 26: 1-11. *Wednesday.* The persecutor converted. Acts 26: 12-18. *Thursday.* Paul before King Agrippa. Acts 26: 19-32. *Friday.* Redemption and resurrection. Col. 1: 12-20. *Saturday.* Paul's ministry. Col. 1: 21-29. *Sabbath.* Boldness in bonds. Phil. 1: 12-21.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Felix was succeeded in the procuratorship by Festus, an honest and upright governor. At his first visit to Jerusalem the Jewish leaders requested him to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial there before the Sanhedrim. This Paul knew would only result in his condemnation, and fearing that Festus might yield to the importunities of his enemies he appealed to the emperor at Rome. While waiting for an opportunity to send his prisoner thither, Festus received a visit from King Agrippa and his sister Berenice. They were nominally Jews, and Festus thought they would be able to find out for him exactly what the charges against Paul were. Before the assembled court, in all the pomp of Roman power, Paul delivered his defence, addressing himself to the King as being the most exalted personage present. Read chapters 25 and 26. Time, August A. D. 60, two years after last lesson.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Gospel Preached vs. 19-23. II. The Gospel Rejected vs. 24-29. III. The Preacher Vindicated vs. 30-32.

19. Whereupon—R. V. "wherefore," having received such a commission. **King Agrippa**—He ruled over the county N. E. of the Sea of Galilee. He was the last of the Herods, and brother to Drusilla and Berenice. **20. Coasts of Judea**—R. V. "country of Judaea" perhaps referred to in ch. 11: 30; 15: 3; 18: 22). Paul here gives a brief synopsis of his whole ministry. **21. Caught me**—R. V. "seized me," the word implies a violent arrest. **Went about**. R. V. "assayed," "attempted to lay murderous hands upon me." **23. Help of God**—R. V. "the help that is from God." Only divine help could have delivered him from such enemies. The word "help" is a military term applied to allies who come to one's assistance. **I continue**—R. V. "I stand." "I keep my ground" (Eph. 6: 13-14). **Witnessing**—R. V. "testifying." As commanded in the vision (Acts 9: 15; 22: 15-21). **Small and great**—Lydia and Agrippas, sellers of purple fabrics and wearers of the royal color. Paul suits his discourse to his hearer; Agrippa would understand refer-

ences to the Scriptures. **23. R. V.** "how that he first, by the resurrection of the dead, should proclaim light "both to the people and to the gentiles." The resurrection of Jesus proved that he was the Saviour of the whole world (Isa. 42: 6; 49: 6; 60: 1). **24. Beside thyself**—R. V. "mad," "insane," impatience, anger and contempt are mingled in the word. **25. Most noble**—R. V. "most excellent;" the official title (ch. 23: 26; 24: 3). **Speak forth**—With the clearness and force of intelligent belief. **Soberness**—The opposite of madness, "soundmindedness." They were not the confused fancies of a disordered intellect. **28. Almost**—literally, "in" or "with little," R. V. "with but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a christian." Some supply the word "time," instead of "persuasion," "in a little time" i. e. "soon you would make me a christian." Many commentators think that Agrippa was seriously impressed with Paul's address. **29. Such as I am.** Rejoicing in the christian's hope.

LESSONS. 1. Repentance is the first step to salvation. 2. Earnestness is not madness. 3. Evil men believe that sin will be punished, yet they sin. 4. Almost a christian, is not a christian at all. 5. Even their enemies will honor true christians.