

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

From the International Lessons for 1877 by Edson W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday School Union

LESSON VI.

AUGUST 6

PAUL SENT TO MACEDONIA. (About 51 A. D.) READ Acts xvi 1-15. RECIPE vs. 9-14.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts xvi 1-15 T.—2 Tim i 1-14 W.—1 Cor ix 10-27 Th.—Rom x 12-21 F.—1 Cor iii 4-16. Sa.—Gen xviii 1-14. S.—Acts ii 37-47.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord.—2 Cor. ii 12

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord directs his ministers

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Paul and Barnabas, after their return from the council at Jerusalem, taught and preached at Antioch (in Syria); had a contention about Mark, separated; Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus; Paul with Silas began his second missionary journey, through Asia Minor and Macedonia.

NOTES.—Troas (honoring God), same as Timothy, living at Lystra, in Lyconia, his mother was Eunice, his grandmother Lois. He was early taught the Jewish Scriptures, became a disciple about 45 A. D.; chosen as one of Paul's helpers, preached at Berea, Corinth, and elsewhere, was called to Rome by Paul about 67 A. D. Two Epistles of Paul are addressed to Timothy Phrygia, a central portion of Asia Minor, it was not a regular Roman province in apostolic times, and hence its boundaries were not clearly defined. Galatia, a central province of Asia Minor, the capital city was Ancyra, the people were originally from Gaul, restless, warlike, but generous and zealous, several churches were planted in Galatia. Macedonia not the continent but a small Roman province of Asia Minor lying along the Aegean Sea, and included Lydia and Caria, Ephesus was its capital. It was the seat of the "seven churches." Rom. i 4-11. Mysia, the north-west province of Asia Minor, bordering on the Propontis, or Sea of Marmora, some include Mysia in Asia. Bithynia, a province of Asia Minor bordering on the Bosphorus or Black Sea. Troas, a city of Mysia, about four miles from the ancient Troy of the Greeks and Romans. Troas is now in ruins, but its old walls can be traced for a "breadth of several miles. Macedonia, a country of Europe north of Achaia (Greece), and west of Thracia. Its chief cities were Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Berea, and Thessalonica. Philippi, Neapolis (new city), cities of Macedonia, the former founded by Philip, father of Alexander. Samothrace, an island in the north-eastern part of the Aegean Sea, and off the coast of Thracia. Thyatira, a city on the borders of the province of Mysia and Lydia, in Asia Minor, on the road from Pergamos to Sardis. It was founded by Nicator. The people worshipped Apollo and a Chaldean deity called Sabaothai. Rev. ii 20, 21. Lydia, a woman of wealth; born at Thyatira; a seller of purple; resided at Philippi, became a disciple through the preaching of Paul.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) TIMOTHY CHOSEN (II) ENCOURAGING THE CHURCHES (III) THE MACEDONIAN CALL

I. TIMOTHY CHOSEN. (1) BEREAN. LYSTRA, LYCAONIA, MYSIA, THYATIRA, THYATIRA, OR TIMOTHY, SEE NOTES. CERTAIN WOMAN, EUNICE. 2 TIM. i 5, HIS FATHER... (2) WELL REPORTED. Timothy had doubtless been active as a Christian. (3) CIRCUMCISED HIM, HIS MOTHER WAS A JEW, AND TIMOTHY WAS TO PREACH IN SYNAGOGUES TO UNCONVERTED JEWS, WHOSE UNCONVERTED PERSONS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO THOSE THINGS, OR "JEWISH."

II. QUESTIONS.—Where did Paul and Barnabas preach on their return from Jerusalem? What difficulty arose between them? What cities of Lyconia did Paul visit? What disciple was there? State his mother's name. Who was his father? How was Timothy regarded by Christians? At what place? What did Paul wish him to do? Why did he circumcise Timothy? (See Explanation.)

III. ENCOURAGING THE CHURCHES. (4) DECREES, DECISIONS, DECLARED OPINIONS; OBTAINED, DECIDED, APPOINTED. (5) ESTABLISHED, SETTLED, STRENGTHENED, DAILY. (6) BY DAY.—that is, day by day. (7) PHRYGIA, GALATIA, SEE NOTES. (8) MYRIA, BITHYNIA... (9) TROAS, SEE NOTES. ABANDONED ATTEMPTED TRIED SUFFERED PERMITTED THEM NOT.

IV. QUESTIONS.—Through what places did Paul and his co-laborer journey? v. 4. What did they deliver to the churches? What were the "decrees"? How were the churches benefited? Where were the apostles forbidden to preach? Describe Asia. Into what other province were they not allowed to go? How were they prevented? Describe Bithynia. What town did they enter?

V. THE MACEDONIAN CALL. (9) VISION, Acts ix 10, 12; MAN OF MACEDONIA, known by his dress; PRAYED HIM, asked him. (10) ASTONISHED GASTRERING, inferring (from the vision). (11) LOOSING, setting sail. (For course from Troas to Samothracia and Neapolis.) (12) PHILIPPI, SEE NOTES. COLONY, Roman colony, having privileges similar to Rome. (13) RIVER SIDE, a branch of the River Strymon. (14) LYDIA, SEE NOTES; SELLER OF PURPLE, purple dyes or cloths, a purple dye was procured from a shellfish.

VI. QUESTIONS.—To whom did a vision appear at Troas? When? Who appeared in the vision? How would Paul know he was of Macedonia? What did he ask? Why call for help? What did Paul infer

from the vision? Describe Paul's journey to Macedonia. How made? Name the cities visited. Describe the chief city. Where at Philippi did Paul preach on the Sabbath? To whom? Who heard him? Name her native city. Her occupation. Her kindness to Paul.

What facts in this lesson teach us— (1) That young persons may be faithful disciples? (2) That the Holy Spirit guides those preaching the gospel? (3) That entertaining Christian brethren is to be sought as a blessed privilege?

LESSON VII.

AUGUST 12. PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON. (About 52 A. D.) READ Acts xvi 22-34. RECIPE vs. 28-31.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts xvi 22-34 T.—Acts v 17-28. W.—1 Peter iv 7-19. Th.—Acts xiii 1-11. F.—Pa. xxiv 7-22. Sa.—John iii 14-21. S.—1 Pet. i 1-13

GOLDEN TEXT.—And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.—Ps. xl 3.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord delivers his servants.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Paul healed a demoniac woman at Philippi, her "masters" caused Paul and Silas to be arrested, scourged, and imprisoned, an earthquake caused them to be released from prison.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—"Study this lesson with the prayerful enquiry, "What must I do to be saved?"

NOTES.—Macedonia, the two Roman provinces (ducesviri) governing the city. Prison and inner prison. A Roman prison had three parts—an outer one with light and air, the second, shut off with iron gates, bolts, and bars; the third, a dungeon, underground, dark and damp. Perhaps this was the "inner prison." Jer. xxxviii 6. Stocks, wooden frames with holes into which the feet, and sometimes the head and hands, of the prisoner were fixed. (See picture.)

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) THE IMPRISONMENT (II) THE RELEASE (III) THE JAILER'S CONVERSION.

I. THE IMPRISONMENT. (22) MULTITUDE, crowd, mob, MAGISTRATES, SEE NOTES, THEIR CLOTHES, they wore the cloaks (outer garments); from Paul and Silas, BEAT THEM, beat with rods, scourged. (23) MANY STRIPES, the Jewish law limited the number of blows to forty save one (Deut. xxv. 3), but the Roman law did not specify, rarely to prevent excess. (24) INNER PRISON. STOCKS, SEE NOTES. (25) PRAYED AND SANG, praying and praises, or in their prayers were singing praises (Aldford); not two distinct acts, but the single act of praying by singing or chanting (Alexander), AND, OR "were listening."

II. QUESTIONS.—What miracle had Paul performed? Upon whom? Why? With what effect upon her masters? What charge did her masters make? Against whom? To whom? State the course of the magistrates. How was it carried out? What charge was given the jailer? Why? How fulfilled? How did Paul and Silas spend the first part of the night? Who heard them?

III. THE RELEASE. (26) BANDS, fetters, chains (27) AWAKING, SLEEPING, doubtless aroused by the earthquake he looked through the prison, ESCAPED, the prisoners were not seen in the dark, PLD, he would be liable to death by law if the prisoners had escaped.

IV. QUESTIONS.—What happened to the prison as Paul and Silas sang at midnight? Describe what followed the earthquake. What effect had this on the keeper? Why kill himself? How was he prevented?

V. THE JAILER'S CONVERSION. (29) SPRANG IN, in Greek seems to imply springing down into a subterranean cell.—Stocks, (30) AROUSED THEM OUT, or "leading them out" of the "inner prison," SAVED, from sin. (31) BELIEVE, Acts ii 38. (33) SAME HOUSE, or that very hour, see v 25, WASHED THEIR STRIPES, he washed their stripes, was washed from sin, he fed them and was led.—(Chrysostom), (34) INTO HIS HOUSE, leading them up into his house, probably above the prison.—Alexander.

VI. QUESTIONS.—On hearing Paul, for what did the jailer call? Describe the four things he next did. Repeat his anxious enquiry. From what would he be saved? Give the reply. State the next work of the apostles. The act of kindness by the jailer. How did he and his family confess Christ? By what further acts did he show his faith?

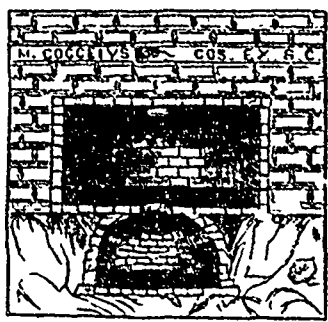
What facts in this lesson teach us— (1) That loss of unjust gains makes wicked men sorry, lawless and cruel!

(2) That an awakened conscience makes the innumerable!

(3) That sinners must believe in Jesus to be saved!

The first picture shows the Eastern manner of making prisoners fast in the stocks.

The second picture is that of a Roman prison, the upper being the second prison room, and the lower the "dungeon."



SECTION OF A ROMAN PRISON.

LESSON VIII

AUGUST 19

THESSALONIANS AND BEREANS. (About 52 A. D.) READ Acts xviii 1-14 RECIPE vs. 11-13.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts xviii 1-14 T.—1 Thess. ii 1-16. W.—Luke xxiv 44-53. Th.—Luke xiii 1-11. F.—John v 36-47. Sa.—Rom. i 10-25. S.—Pa. cxix 97-112.

GOLDEN TEXT.—These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.—Acts xviii 11

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Scriptures are to be searched.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Paul claimed his rights as a Roman citizen; the magistrates were alarmed because of their unlawful treatment of him, and besought him to leave Philippi. He left with Silas, passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica.

NOTES.—Amphipolis (around the city), a city of Macedonia, 33 miles east of Philippi and about 3 miles from the Aegean Sea or "Archipelago." The river Strymon flowed on both sides of the city, hence its name. Now a Turkish village of about 100 houses. Apollonia, a Macedonian city, 3 miles south-west of Amphipolis, and 37 from Thessalonica, the capital city of Macedonia, on a bay of the Archipelago; now called Salonica; half of its present population are said to be Jews. Jason perhaps a relative of Paul. Rom. xvi 21. Decree of Caesar, Claudius (Caesar, under the emperor, to the laws of the XII tables were added the Julian laws, those were probably the "decrees." Berea, a city 30 miles south-west of Thessalonica, and on the Olympian range of mountains; now has 15,000 to 20,000 population, and is called Verria or Pherra.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) PREACHING IN THESSALONICA. (II) ASSAULT OF THE JEWS. (III) BEREANS AND THESSALONIANS COMPARED.

I. PREACHING IN THESSALONICA. (1) PASSED THROUGH, on the Via Egnatia, or great Roman road from Epirus into Thracia, 500 miles long; AMPHIPOLIS. APOLLONIA. THESSALONICA, SEE NOTE; A SYNAGOGUE, or "the synagogue"—that is, a synagogue. (2) REASONED THE SCRIPTURES, argued with Jews from the Old Testament. (3) OPENING, explaining; ALLEGING, stating, declaring; AFFIRMED... BEREAN... IS CHAST, these three points Paul declared must be true, in fulfilment of scripture. (4) CONVERTED or "cast in their lot" with Paul; DEVOUT GREEKS, Greek proselytes to the Jewish religion, CHIEF WOMEN, women are often mentioned as converts to Christ. Acts xviii 13.

II. ASSAULT OF THE JEWS. (5) LEWD YELLOWS, leading idlers, like our word "loafers"; A COMPANY, or mob, riot, Jason, perhaps a Greek name for Joshua. (6) BELIEVE, Roman proselytes, or "poltiaros," this title and the names of seven such rulers have been found on a ruined arch at Thessalonica. (7) DECREES, see Notes. ANTI-SARK KING, an old charge, see Matt. xxvii 11, Luke xiii 2, etc. (8) SECRETIVE, either "bribe-takers," or more probably a pledge that they would cause no more trouble.

III. QUESTIONS.—Why did Paul leave Philippi? chap. xvi 39. At whose house in Philippi did the Christians meet? Through what cities did Paul and Silas pass? Describe them. What did they find at Thessalonica? How many Sabbaths did Paul speak in it? On what topic I state the three things he proved. With what result among the Greeks? Who else believed?

IV. QUESTIONS.—What class of Jews were moved against Paul? What helpers did they seek? whose house assaulted? Why Jason's? Whom did they seek there? Whom arrested in place of Paul? Upon what charge? When was this charge before made? What did they take from Jason and his friends?

V. BEREANS AND THESSALONIANS COMPARED. (11) MORE NOBLE, or "better in disposition, more candid; IN THAT TRUST, literally, "whoever received;" they were not "more noble" because they received the word, but being more noble (candid), therefore received it. SEARCHED, divided and sifted, to know the truth. (12) STIMMED UP, see v 5; AS TO SEA, or "to journey as upon the sea"—that is, it was not pretence, but a real journey by sea; ABOVE, or "remained" for a time.

VI. QUESTIONS.—How did the apostles leave Thessalonica? At what time? For what place? What to do at Berea? How are the Bereans and Thessalonians compared? In what respect did the former act more nobly? What good example did they give for us? State the Central Truth. The result of the preaching in Berea. Who made trouble at Berea? How? How was it availed?

What facts in this lesson teach us— (1) That good persons may be slandered!

(2) That candid minds will honestly search for the truth! (3) That such searching the Scriptures may lead us to repentance and faith in Christ!

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Idle Study.—Said a missionary, "The Thabitians are exceedingly anxious to understand what they read. Hence they have their Bible classes each morning except Saturday. Those they attend soon after sunrise, before they go to the various avocations of the day. None think it beneath their dignity to attend these Bible classes."

Nobleness.—"It is not wealth nor ancestry, but honorable conduct and a noble disposition, that make men great"—(Orid.). "A Christian is the highest style of man."—(Young). "They are truly noble souls who inoblivable to the things of God."—(Benet).

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THE MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS HAS APPEARED in a new form, printed on a double sheet, it has been a long established, well-appreciated, and largely circulated daily. The tone of its articles is of the highest order, displaying a truly liberal spirit. As far as we can judge, its politics are of the independent school; the only journal by which to disseminate the sentiments of an intelligent and progressive age. The Witness is now printed by their new press, which is second to none in Canada; at their new building. We wish the proprietors increased circulation, not only of the Witness, but of all their publications, considering the expenditure they must have incurred to put their establishments in their present condition.—[Paisley Advocate.]

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AUGUST IS A WARM MONTH AND A PLEASANT one for young folks to run around. Perhaps some will think that it is too warm to do anything for the MESSANGER, but that can hardly be so, because boys and girls talk in summer as well as winter. It would be pretty hot when they get into talk, and they do talk, and the conversation will sometimes turn on what they read and the paper they read it in. This is the time to talk of the MESSANGER and get your friends to take it. Just try and see what success you will have.

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WE HAVE TO CONGRATULATE THE PROPRIETORS of the Montreal Witness on the rapid advancement they have been making for the last few years; their circulation has increased week after week, until last week it had reached—for the daily, 77,512; on weekly, 7,425; weekly, 25,000.—amounting to "considerably over 110,000 copies per week, besides the MESSANGER, a semi-monthly, of which 50,000 copies are issued every fortnight, equal to 100,000 per month. On Saturday, June 1st, the DAILY WITNESS, considerably enlarged, and containing eight pages, in stead of four, as formerly, was published in their new building, from a new cylinder press. The paper is said to be the most magnificent that has yet been set up in Canada, and on which they can print from sixteen to seventeen thousand copies per hour. With such advantages for giving the latest news at the earliest moment, and under the management of the present proprietors, their circulation will, no doubt, increase very rapidly.—[Picton New Nation.]

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