

Notes on the Lessons.

LESSON V—August 1st, 1897.

Paul's Ministry in Corinth. Acts 18: 1-11.

(Commit to memory verses 8-11. Read verses 18-28 and 1 Cor. chapters 1-5.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3: 11.

PROVE THAT—No one should be ashamed to work. 2 Thess. 3: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

LESSON HYMNS *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 102, 104, 141, 149.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul's ministry at Corinth. Acts 18: 1-11. *Tuesday.* Persecution. Acts 18: 12-21. *Wednesday.* Letter to the Corinthians. I Cor. 1: 1-10. *Thursday.* One message. I Cor. 2: 1-8. *Friday.* A voluntary worker. I Cor. 9: 13-23. *Saturday.* A faithful minister. 2 Cor. 6: 1-13. *Sabbath.* Warning to rejectors. Luke 10: 8-16. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Paul did not stay more than a month at Athens. He won few converts, nor does he seem ever to have returned. Corinth was a wealthy commercial city, on the isthmus connecting the Peloponesus with the continent. It had two ports, Lechæum on the Ionian Sea, and Cenchrea on the Ægean. It was noted for the luxury and profligacy of its inhabitants, hence "to Corinthianize" meant to live in unrestrained self-indulgence and dissipation (I Cor. 6: 10-11). The population in Paul's time was about 400,000.

LESSON PLAN. I. A Hospitable Home. vs. 1-3. II. Salvation Proffered. vs. 4-8. III. Jesus Near. vs. 9-11.

1. After these things Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth—45 miles from Athens.

2. And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome and came unto them. They went to Ephesus with Paul. They may have been Christians already and this led Paul to come to them. The edict expelling Jews from Rome did not remain long in force. Pontus was a country on the shore of the Black Sea.

3. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought; for by their occupation they were tent makers. Every Jewish father was required to teach his son some handicraft. "Tent-makers" is, properly, "tent-tailors." They did not weave the cloth, but only made it into tents. Whilst Paul supported himself here, as at Thessalonica and Ephesus, he maintained the right of the ministry to temporal support. (I. Cor. 9: 7-18; II. Cor. 12: 13; 11: 7-12.)

4. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. He "convinced," or won over, not Jews only, but devout Gentiles as well.

5. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit (R. V. constrained by the word) and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. Silas and Timotheus brought cheering news (I. Thess. 3: 6) and a donation from Philippi (Phil. 4: 15), so that Paul was stimulated to greater activity and earnestness in preaching. (II. Cor. 2: 1-5; I. Thess. 3: 1-10.)

6. And when they opposed themselves and blasphemed (R. V. reviled), he shook his raiment and said unto them: Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. "Opposed" is, in the Greek, a military term. They drew themselves up in hostile array, suggesting relentless, organized opposition. They were bigots beaten in argument, hence their bitter-