

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON V—May 2nd, 1897.

### Paul Begins His First Missionary Journey. ACTS 13: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verses 3-4.)

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16: 15.

**ROVE THAT**—The Lord appoints to each his special work. Acts 13: 2.

**SHORTER CATECHISM.** Quest. 100. *What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*), teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

**LESSON HYMNS.** *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 175, 173, 219, 83.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* Paul's first missionary journey. Acts 13: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Sent of God. Isa. 6: 1-8. *Wednesday.* The good tidings. Isa. 40: 1-11. *Thursday.* The living breath. Ezek. 37: 1-10. *Friday.* Called. Rom. 1: 1-7. *Saturday.* Mission of the twelve. Matt. 10: 5-15. *Sabbath.* Prospect of harvest. Luke 10: 1-9. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

## EXPOSITORY NOTES.

**INTRODUCTORY.** We now begin the study of a new era in the history of the church for which the preceding events have been a preparation. Sixteen years have been spent in seeking for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, now the door of the fold is opened to the gentiles and their great apostle sets forth on his first campaign against idol worshippers. Antioch and not Jerusalem, is the basis of operations. Time, autumn of A. D. 45. Paul aged 43.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. The Spirit Calling. vs. 1-3. II. The Spirit Guiding. vs. 4-8. III. The Spirit Inspiring. vs. 9-13.

1. Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Bar'nabas, and Sim'eon that was called Ni'ger, and Lu'cius of Cyre'ne, and Mana'en which had been brought up with (R. V. the foster brother) Her'od the tetrarch, and Saul—Antioch was, with Rome and Alexandria, one of the three great cities of the apostolic age. It was the political and commercial centre of Roman Asia. From it missions could be sent out to every point of the compass along the frequented routes of travel. It is even now a great missionary centre for the evangelization of the corrupt and spiritually lifeless churches of the east. The church there had been founded about eight years before the time of our lesson. Prophets were, like those of the Old Testament, inspired with a message directly from God and were also commonly teachers (Acts 2: 17; 1 Cor. 12: 28; 14: 1-5). Teachers were uninspired instructors such as pastors (Rom. 12: 7; 2 Tim. 2: 2;

Joel 2: 28, 29). Niger was a common Roman name and does not imply that Simeon was of a dark complexion. Lucius of Cyrene is not the same as Luke, or Lucas. In Rom. 16: 21 a kinsman of Paul is mentioned having this name. Although brought up in a wicked court and with the worst of playmates, Manaen was saved by divine grace. Let us not despair of any of our scholars no matter how unfavorable their home surroundings. The Herod here referred to must have been Herod Antipas the murderer of John the Baptist. Saul was probably the latest member of the community and so named last. He was now 41 or 42 years of age, and must have had his wonderful vision about this time (2 Cor. 12: 1-4).

2. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me, Bar'nabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them—The word for "ministered" is used of the temple service (Ex. 28: 41; Num. 4: 37; Ex. 40: 13). Compare Rom. 15: 27 and Heb.