

Paul's Farewell to Ephesus

39

GOLDEN TEXT

Acts 20: 35. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 20: 16-27. Address to the elders.
T. — Acts 20: 28-38. Paul's farewell to Ephesus.
W. — 1 Peter 5: 1-11. Elders exhorted.
Th. — 2 Cor. 12: 10-19. Strength in weakness.
F. — 2 John. Warning against deceivers.
S. — 1 Cor. 4: 6-10. A pattern.
S. — Col. 2: 1-9. Steadfast in the truth.

CATECHISM

Q. 70. Which is the seventh commandment?
A. The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?
A. The seventh commandment requireth the pre-

servation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech and behaviour.

TIME AND PLACE

Paul arrived at Miletus on Thursday, April 20, A.D. 58. If he sent for the elders on Thursday afternoon, they might have arrived by the following Sabbath. Miletus; a city of Asia Minor, 38 miles south of Ephesus, at the mouth of the river Meander.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Solemn Charge, 28-31.

Given by Paul to the Ephesian elders.

II. A Noble Example, 32-35.

Shown by Paul while living at Ephesus.

III. A Sorrowful Parting, 36-38.

Of Paul from his Ephesian friends.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 464; 35 (Ps. Sel.); 246; 260; 404; 582.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Junior. What was Paul's plan? (ch. 19: 21.) Why did he determine not to go to Ephesus? (v. 16.) For what did he send? (v. 17.) For what purpose? What did he say about his work among them? What did he say awaited him?

28 To what is the church compared? Who is the Great Shepherd? (John ch. 10.) Who had appointed the overseers? To whom does the church belong? With what was it purchased?

29-31 What are the outside enemies of the church called? To whom did Jesus give the same name? (Matt. 7: 15.) What would some men within the church do? What was the duty of the elders? Whose example were they to follow?

32 In whose care did Paul leave his friends? What would be given to them? What does God desire them to be?

33-38 How had Paul been supported in Ephesus? What were the elders to remember? How did they take leave of Paul?

Seniors and the Home Department—28 Trace on the map Paul's journey from Corinth to Miletus. What was his counsel to the elders? What other name is given to the elders? Where else are God's people compared to a flock? (Isa. 63: 11; Jer. 31: 10; Mic. 7: 14.)

29, 30 Who were likely to harm the church? Where do we learn that Paul's fears come true? (1 Tim. 1: 20; 2 Tim. 1: 15.)

31, 32 How long had Paul been in Ephesus? How does he describe his preaching? How is the Christian inheritance described? (1 Pet. 1: 4.)

33, 34 What was Paul's trade? (ch. 18: 3.) What does the Bible say about the support of church teachers? (Rom. 15: 27; 1 Tim. 5: 17; Luke 10: 7.)

35-38 What did Paul do for his friends at parting? What does he teach about prayer? (1 Thess. 5: 17.)

Prove from Scripture—That we should shun covetousness.

Practical Points—1. Unless we strive to cure our own faults we can do little to cure the faults of others.

2. Since the Lord has paid so great a price for His people, He is sure to provide for their needs. He will suffer them to lack no good thing.

3. It is the business of a shepherd to know his sheep one by one. So the Good Shepherd knows each one of his sheep by name (John 10: 3) and makes provision for their individual needs.

4. The garrison has more to fear from the traitor within the walls, than from the foe without. It is the evil in our own hearts that is most dangerous to us.

5. Said an ancient philosopher: "Some good man must be singled out and kept ever before our eyes, that we may live as if he were looking on, and do everything as if he could see it."

6. The best cure for covetousness is to keep our eyes fixed on heavenly riches.

7. Giving is like an instrument that makes sweet music. It is a constant joy.

8. There is a direct road from every point on earth to God's throne, and when we send up prayers by one road, God sends blessings by another to our distant friends for whom we pray.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To whom was Paul speaking?

2. Against what dangers did he warn them?

3. What did he say about giving?