

LESSON II—April 11th, 1897.

Conversion of Cornelius. ACTS. 10: 30-44.

(Commit to memory verses 36-38, and read chapter 10).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10: 43.

PROVE THAT—The Lord hears prayer. Isa. 65: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?* A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is shewed forth and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 172, 170, 142, 144.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The devout centurion. Acts 10: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Peter's vision. Acts 10: 9-18. *Wednesday.* The call obeyed. Acts 10: 19-29. *Thursday.* Conversion of Cornelius. Acts 10: 30-43. *Friday.* Gifts to gentiles. Acts 10: 44-48. *Saturday.* A light to the gentiles. Isa. 49: 6-12. *Sabbath.* Life by believing. John 6: 37-47. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The whole story should be carefully read. Our lesson is but a fragment of it. The events narrated occurred probably during the "many days" in which Peter remained at Joppa. Paul was living at Tarsus, not having as yet entered upon his missionary career. Cornelius was not a Jewish proselyte (Acts 11: 2, 3) but he worshipped the true God. An angel was sent to this "seeker after God" to tell him when he might obtain fuller light and serve God more perfectly.

LESSON PLAN. I. Cornelius Sends for Peter. vs. 30-33. II. Peter Preaches Jesus. vs. 34-43. III. Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit. vs. 44.

30. Cornelius was doubtless praying that God would tell him what he ought to do to serve him aright. The ninth hour would be three o'clock in the afternoon (Luke 24: 4; Matt. 28: 3; Rev. 15: 6). **31.** God does not forget either our prayers, or our good deeds (Rev. 8: 3, 4; 5: 8; Ps. 141: 2). **32.** Tanners were not allowed to live within a city, or town, because their occupation was unclean, ceremonially, as well as unpleasant to neighbours. **33.** The proud Roman officer speaks like a very humble christian. He and his household are ready to receive Peter's message, and obey it, although he was only a Jewish fisherman. They knew he was now Christ's ambassador. **34, 35.** Peter's vision on the housetop had set him thinking, and now he knows its meaning. God is pleased with good people wherever he finds them whether they belong to the same church as we do, or to none at all. **36.** Peter wants Cornelius to understand that Jesus was not a mere rabbi, or prophet, but the Lord of glory himself. **37.** The general meaning of verses 36-38 is: "(36) Ye know the word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching good tidings of peace by Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all); (37) Ye know that report which was published throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; (38) Ye know Jesus of Nazareth, how that God anointed him with the Holy Ghost, &c." Peter wished to make sure that Cornelius knew about Jesus and his ministry, then he proceeds

to tell him that this same Jesus, who was crucified, had risen again, and would come again as the Judge of all men. That as prophets had foretold he alone could save from sin and was willing to save everyone who would believe on him. **38.** Cornelius could not help hearing something about the ministry and teaching of Jesus. **39.** Peter is not ashamed to own that Jesus died a shameful death, for the disgrace of the cross was forever wiped out by the glory of the resurrection. The word "tree" here, means "a beam of wood" (ch. 5: 30; 1 Pet. 2: 24). **40.** There was no room to doubt that the same Jesus who hung upon the cross and was laid in the grave, was openly seen and conversed with (John 17: 6). **41.** Jesus did not shew himself, after his resurrection, to everybody, but only to disciples. His mission to the world was ended (John 14: 17-22). **42.** "Quick" means "living." Christ will preside at the judgment day (Matt. 28: 19; Acts 1: 8; John 5: 22, 27). **43.** The gospel preached by Peter was the old gospel in the prophets,—pardon of sin through the Saviour. **44.** No doubt this presence of the Holy Spirit was seen, as at the day of Pentecost, in rapturous utterances of praise. It may be that tongues of fire were seen, for Peter says (11: 15) "as on us at the beginning." This was God's way of shewing Peter that He had received Cornelius and his family and therefore the Church should admit him.

LESSONS. 1. Earnest prayer is speedily answered. 2. God notes his people, where they live, and who are their companions. 3. A true christian is humble. 4. God looks on the heart. 5. The one condition of pardon.