

LESSON III—October 17, 1897.

Paul before the Roman Governor. Acts 24: 10-25.

(Read chapter 23: 10 to 24: 27. Commit to memory verses 14-16).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee." Isa. 41: 10.

PROVE THAT:—We should repent now. 2 Cor. 6: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest 97. *What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?* A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience, lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 96 (Psalm 121), 148, 152, 137. (Old Hymnal Nos. 9, 86, 135, 138).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The accusation. Acts 24: 1-9. *Tuesday.* Paul before the Roman governor. Acts 24: 10-21. *Wednesday.* Paul before the Roman governor. Acts 24: 22-27. *Thursday.* Appeal to Caesar. Acts 25: 1-12. *Friday.* Object of the journey. Rom. 15: 25-33. *Saturday.* An answer given. Mark 13: 5-13. *Sabbath.* Fear not. Isa. 41: 8-16. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Paul was tried before the council, of which he was at one time a member. He stood where Stephen stood and must have recognized the same hatred and pride in his prosecutors as once glowed in his own bosom. The trial broke up in confusion and Paul was again rescued and safe within the walls of the castle of Antonia. A conspiracy to kill him was discovered, and the chief captain sent away his prisoner by night to the Roman governor, Felix, at Caesarea. Here the trial was resumed, Paul's accusers having come down from Jerusalem, bringing with them an eloquent orator, named Tertullus, to plead against him. Our lesson begins with Paul's answer to this man's charges. Read ch. 23: 10-24; 27. Time—latter part of May, A. D. 58. Place—Caesarea.

LESSON PLAN. I. Paul before Felix. vs. 10-21. II. Felix before Paul. vs. 22-25.

10. The governor—The procurator of Judea, Felix, once a slave, now a cruel tyrant. **Many years**—His rule began in A. D. 52, so that he had been governor between six and seven years, a long time in those days. He had a better opportunity than most governors, of learning the customs and prejudices of the Jews. **11. Mayest understand**—"Canst easily ascertain by inquiry." **Twelve days**—R. V. "It is not more than twelve days." There was not time for him to hatch plots against the government. Six of these days he had been in prison. **To worship**—Not to "profane the temple." (ch. 21: 26). **12. Disputing**—He was performing a quiet ceremony to prove that he was loyal to the old faith. (ch. 21: 24). **Stirring up a crowd** (R. V.). **14.** "After the Way which they call a sect, so serve I the God of our fathers, believing all things which are according to the law, and which are written in the prophets." (R. V.) **The Way**—This was the common term for the doctrines of Christ, before the name Christian came into use. (ch. 11: 26). **Heresy**—Same word as "sect" in verse 5. Paul will not admit that Christians are a "sect" of the old religion—he claims that they alone truly keep the faith of Abraham, and are not "heretics." (ch. 26: 22; 28: 23). The phrase "the law and the prophets" means the whole Old Testament (Matt. 5: 17; Luke 24: 27, 44). **15. Allow**—R. V. "look for," not only the Pharisees, but the great majority of Jews believed in a future life. The Sadducees alone denied it. Paul agreed with the whole nation, and its wisest and holiest men. They who accused him were a "sect" (ch. 5: 17). **16. Exercise myself**—"discipline myself." His belief in a future life made him watchful over his conduct and motives in this one. He lived his religion. **17. Many years**—Four or five since his last brief visit (Acts 18: 22). **Alms**—The donations for the relief of Jewish Christians who were in poverty. **Offerings**—The sacrifices connected with the vow which he had undertaken. **18. Whereupon**—R. V. "amidst which." **Purified**—(ch. 21: 26, 27) and, therefore, not "profaning it." **19. Object**, —R. V. "make accusation" (ch. 23: 30; 25: 16). **22. Drusilla**, the wife of Felix, was a Jewess, so that he knew something of the teachings of Christianity. **Know the uttermost**—R. V. "I will determine your matter." **23.** "And he gave order to the centurion that he should be kept in charge, and should have indulgence; and not to forbid any of his friends to minister unto him." **25. Trembled**—R. V. "was terrified." The "convenient season" may never come. The Bible says "To-day, harden not your hearts."

LESSONS. 1. We should respect persons in authority because of the office they hold. 2. In matters of religion we are responsible to none but God and conscience. 3. The certainty of death and judgment should make us careful of our actions, words and motives. 4. The best way to meet a false charge is to state the simple facts. 5. Do not delay to seek salvation.