



LESSON.—SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1909.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Ephesus.

Acts xix., 8-20. Memory verses 19, 20. Read Acts xviii., 23—xix., 22.

Golden Text.

The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Acts xix., 17.

Home Readings.

- Monday, August 9.—Acts xviii., 23—xix., 7.
- Tuesday, August 10.—Acts xix., 8-22.
- Wednesday, August 11.—Mark i., 1-8.
- Thursday, August 12.—Luke iii., 7-18.
- Friday, August 13.—Mark i., 21-23.
- Saturday, August 14.—Mark iv., 26-32.
- Sunday, August 15.—Eph. iii., 13-21.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Have you ever been away from home for a time? Didn't it seem very, very nice to get back home again, and do just the same things that you used to do before? You wouldn't like to be going 'round from place to place and only getting home to see your friends just now and again, would you? Willie says he would. Well, perhaps some people might like to do that even, if they were having a fine time all the while, but supposing if you went into one city they threw stones at you, in another city they lashed you, in one you got put into prison, and that you were driven out of almost every place you stopped at, by a mob of people who called you names and wanted to get rid of you, wouldn't you like to get back to where people loved you and wanted to listen to you, don't you think? Do you remember any one who was travelling about and had to suffer all the disagreeable things we just mentioned and a great many other things just as bad, and about whom we have been studying for a good many Sundays now? To be sure, it was Paul. We have watched Paul, now, as he went on two missionary journeys, and he hadn't been back in Antioch, his home church, very long before he wanted to go out on another trip as a missionary. Why do you think that Paul thought it was worth while? You know it had to be worth while for a sensible man like Paul to do it. If you go into a store and pay ten cents for something, you wouldn't be very pleased to find it was only worth two cents, and if you did you wouldn't be likely to go and buy more of them at the same price, would you? Now, Paul was a very clever man, so we want to see what it was that he found on his missionary journeys that was worth being hungry for, worth being lashed for, worth being put into prison for, and worth all the other hard things he had to suffer. What do you think it was? He was serving his dear Master, Jesus, and he was getting a great many other people to love and serve Jesus, too, and he was quite sure it was well worth while. Perhaps some people might have said to him 'Why, Paul, these churches you are founding are only little bits of churches, a few people among great cities full of heathens. Do you think it's any use?' Paul could have said 'My friends, here's a little tiny seed; do you think it is any use to put it away in the great big earth? But it is; because there is life in this little seed and it is bound to grow, no matter how big

the earth is. And these little churches that I am starting have all got God's life in them, and they are bound to grow.' So Paul thought it was quite worth while and of a great deal of use, and here he is starting out on his third missionary journey.

FOR THE SENIORS.

Paul's stop at Ephesus on his return to Antioch at the close of the second missionary tour (Acts xviii., 19-21) must have been of the briefest. Long enough to excite the interest of some of the Jews among whom there were possibly a few Christians, but not long enough to arouse any opposition. He was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, although his visit and doings there are barely mentioned, and then he went on to the church in Antioch. Silas seems to have remained in his home church at Jerusalem from which he was sent on a supposedly brief trip so long before (Acts xv., 22, 40), for we have no further word of him in Acts. Paul's own object in taking the vow upon him and attending the feast seems to have been to refute lying rumors that he had given up Jewish customs, rumors that arose from his contention that Gentile Christians should not be bound by Jewish law. The same kind of action was necessary later (Acts xxi., 19-26). Luke does not in this instance go much into the matter, but hurries on to the conclusion of the trip at Antioch and merely mentioning what must have been a work of some time (Acts xviii., 23) comes back in the space of three verses to the work at Ephesus. Here the work of Apollos had resulted in a strange situation, for twelve men holding but a portion of the truth were apparently cut off from the main body of the Christians in some way, and it was Paul's work to bring them in. This was a case where 'Apollos planted and Paul watered' just as in Corinth (I. Cor. iii., 6; Acts xviii., 27—xix., 1) Paul planted and Apollos watered, but in each case it was God who 'gave the increase.'

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE.')

Verse II.—'Special miracles.' The whole subject bristles with difficulties, since we do not even know how far Paul countenanced the particular cases mentioned in verse 12. That Paul was conscious of being on occasion the medium of superhuman energies we know from his own unimpeachable witness (Rom. xv., 18; II. Cor. xii., 12); and it is certain that what are mentioned after 'inasmuch that' are not meant to exhaust the 'powers wrought through him in Ephesus. Paul himself would surely have discouraged such unethical and magical methods, so alien to 'faith' as he understood its saving virtue. But, without his knowing, the zeal of fresh converts and others conveyed to the sick in body and mind objects which, having been in contact with his person, had relative to the crude but intense faith and expectancy of the recipients a healing value. Such cures, Luke, on the standards of his age, had no reason to regard as less supernatural or divine in origin than those in which higher faith was present, both in the patient and in Paul himself. What exactly Paul thought in the matter we do not know.—J. Vernon Bartlett, in 'The New Century Bible.'

Verse 15.—'Know.' 'Two different Greek verbs are rendered by the same English verb "know"; it may be rendered, I know who Jesus is, and as for Paul I am acquainted with him.'

Verse 17.—'The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.' Jews and Greeks alike had been wont to use strangely varied names and spells; but now it became known to all, to Jews and Greeks alike, that the name of Jesus was the name of the Lord, a name not only to be heard but to be magnified. To mark this unique power of the name of Jesus is the object of the startling episode introduced by St. Luke, and it is no small proof of the truth of the incident that it stops where it does; that, in other words, it establishes the pre-eminence of the name of Jesus; but it adds nothing further to satisfy curiosity as to the victims of a strange and masterful power of evil.—R. J. Knowling, in 'The Testimony of St. Paul to Christ.'

Verse 19.—There is no Christian life that has not in it sacrifice, and that alone is the

sacrifice which is made in the spirit of the conflagration of the 'Ephesian letters,' without reserve, without hesitation, without insincere tenderness. If the slave-holder, convinced of the iniquity of the traffic in man, sells the slaves on his estate to the neighboring planter, the mark of sincerity is wanting; or if the trader in opium or in spirits quits his nefarious commerce, but first secures the value of all that remains in his warehouse or in his shops, again there is something which betokens the want of a heart true and honest.—F. W. Robertson.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, August 15.—Topic—What are you sowing? Gal. vi., 7-10.

C. E. Topic.

Monday, August 9.—Humbled by God. Ex. v., 15-23.

Tuesday, August 10.—Facing the foe. Jas. iv., 5-10.

Wednesday, August 11.—The sword of the Spirit.—Eph. vi., 10-18.

Thursday, August 12.—The great shadow. Jer. ii., 6; Rom. viii., 20-23.

Friday, August 13.—Turning back. Heb. iii., 12-19.

Saturday, August 14.—The daybreak. I. John ii., 8-11.

Sunday, August 15.—Topic—Pilgrim's Progress Series. VIII. Two Valleys. Ps. xxii., 1-8; Mic. vii., 7, 8; Rom. viii., 35-39.

Ridicule of Youth's Ambitions

The teacher should be on his guard against laughing at the expressed ambition of an aspiring youth. The author of a recent book tells us of a splendid young man who said: 'I would have been on the foreign mission field had not my Sunday school teacher laughed at me when I told him my new-born desire. I expect to go now, but what of those seven years?'

There was a teacher without sympathy and understanding. He had thoughtlessly blighted a blossom of holy purpose as it bloomed. That young man needed counsel and encouragement. It is in youth that the holy ambitions are born that later develop in the noblest achievement.

O teacher, when you see in your pupil the spark of holy purpose, fan it into flame, fan it into flame! Thus your pupil, with his purpose and his abilities and his opportunities, may accomplish in the world a thousandfold more good than his teacher. But no, not so; for all that he shall achieve, will be in part due to the teacher.—The 'Central Baptist.'

Sunday School Offer.

Any school in Canada that does not take the 'Messenger' may have it supplied free on trial for three weeks on request of Superintendent, Secretary or Pastor, stating the number of copies required.

TEN DOLLARS For One Photograph

Have you sent your entry for the Camera Contest, which closes on August 1st?

The Competition is for the most interesting picture.

Artistic merit will, of course, be considered, but the general interest of the photograph will be the chief factor in the contest.

There will be seven prizes as follows: 1st, \$10.00; 2nd, \$7.00; 3rd, \$4.00; and the next four, \$1.00 each.

Send prints, which need not be mounted, as early as possible, securely protected by cardboard, and enclose a slip with a full description of the subject of the photograph.

Mark "Photo Contest," and address: Managing Editor, CANADIAN PICTORIAL, 142 St. Peter Street, Montreal.

BOYS

If you would like a nice rubber pad, with your own name and address, also a self-inking pad—all for a little work, drop us a card and we will tell you about it. Splendid for marking your books, etc. Address, John Dougall & Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal.