

Lesson 1V.

PAUL A PRISONER—BEFORE FESTUS
AND AGRIPPA

October 24, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS The story of Festus' visit to Jerusalem and his refusal of the Jews' demand to have Paul sent back to Jerusalem for trial is told in vs. 1-5.

GOLDEN TEXT I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.—2 Timothy 1: 12.

Memorize vs. 27-29. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 26: 19-32. Study Acts 25: 6-12; chapter 26.

19¹ Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20 But² shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the³ coasts of Judæa, and⁴ then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God,⁵ and do works meet for repentance.

21 For⁶ these causes the Jews⁷ caught me in the temple, and⁸ went about to kill me.

22 Having therefore obtained⁹ help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying¹⁰ none other things than those which the prophets and Moyses did say should come:

23¹¹ That Christ should suffer, and¹² that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

24 And as he thus¹³ spake for himself, Festus¹⁴ said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art¹⁵ beside thyself: much learning doth make thee mad.

25 But¹⁶ he said, I am not mad, most¹⁷ noble Festus; but speak forth¹⁸ the words of truth and

Revised Version—¹ Wherefore; ² declared both to them of Damascus first; ³ country; ⁴ also to; ⁵ doing works worthy of repentance; ⁶ this cause; ⁷ seized; ⁸ assayed; ⁹ the help that is from God, I stand unto this day testifying; ¹⁰ nothing but what the prophets; ¹¹ how that the Christ must suffer; ¹² how; ¹³ first by the resurrection of the dead should proclaim light both to the people; ¹⁴ made his defence; ¹⁵ saith; ¹⁶ mad; ¹⁷ thy much learning doth turn thee to madness; ¹⁸ Paul saith; ¹⁹ excellent; ²⁰ Omit the; ²¹ unto; ²² is; ²³ hath not been done; ²⁴ And Agrippa; ²⁵ With but little persuasion than wouldst fain make me a Christian; ²⁶ whether with little or with much; ²⁷ might become such as I am; ²⁸ Omit five words; ²⁹ had withdrawn, they spake one to another; ³⁰ And Agrippa said.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Paul before Festus and Agrippa, Acts 25: 1-12. T.—Paul before Festus and Agrippa, Acts 25: 13-27. W.—Paul before Festus and Agrippa, Acts 26: 1-18. W.—Paul before Festus and Agrippa, Acts 26: 19-32. F.—Earnestness for the truth, 2 Cor. 5: 1-15. S.—Witness of scriptures, John 5: 39-47. S.—Strong confidence, 2 Tim. 1: 1-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Chs. 25: 6 to 26: 18 record the hearing of Paul's case before Festus, the proposal of the governor that Paul should go back to Jerusalem for trial, Paul's refusal and appeal to Cæsar, and part of the apostle's address before Agrippa, Bernice and Festus.

1. **PAUL THE OBEDIENT.**—19, 20. Whereupon; after the appearance of Jesus to him near Damascus, and the instructions given through Ananias (see vs. 12-18; compare chs. 9: 1-19; 22: 4-16). King Agrippa (A.); son of Herod Agrippa I., the ruler of all Palestine who had caused the murder of James and the imprisonment of Peter, ch. 12: 1-4. The son obtained only a part of his father's dominions from his Roman masters. Not disobedient; a strong way of describing Paul's haste to obey his new Master, ch. 9: 6, 20. Heavenly vision; the glorious appearance of the risen Saviour, Damascus. See ch. 9: 19, 20; Gal. 1: 17. Jerusalem. See ch. 9: 28, 29. Judæa; on the way from Jerusalem to Tarsus, ch. 9: 30. Gentiles. See ch. 9: 15; Rom. 11: 13. Repent; forsake sin. Turn to God; in faith, trusting wholly to Him. Works worthy of repentance (Rev. Ver.); a life of obedience to God, the proof that repentance and faith are real. These three things sum up the whole gospel message.

21-23. For this cause (Rev. Ver.); because he

soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them.

31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Cæsar.

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HEAD OF NERO

The gospel offer takes no account of differences in wealth or rank. Saying none other things, etc. Paul honored the Old Testament scriptures, explaining them, and showing how Jesus fulfilled them. The Christ (Rev. Ver.); the Old Testament Messiah. Must suffer (Rev. Ver.). It was hard for the Jews to believe this, since they