

Notes on the Lessons.

LESSON V—January 31st, 1897.

The Boldness of Peter and John. ACTS 4: 1-14.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12.

PROVE THAT—Jesus sustains in difficulties. Acts 4: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 80, 42, 101, 134.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 13-22. *Wednesday.* Resort to prayer. Acts 4: 23-31. *Thursday.* Fear not. Matt. 10: 24-33. *Friday.* The only name. John 3: 9-19. *Saturday.* The Corner Stone. 1 Pet. 2: 1-10. *Sabbath.* No other foundation. 1 Cor. 3: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson properly embraces the whole fourth chapter. The address of Peter was interrupted by officers sent to arrest them for creating a disturbance, but really because they proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus. This is the first attempt of the authorities to suppress the infant church by persecution.

LESSON PLAN. I. Suffering for Christ. vs. 1-4. II. Witnessing for Christ. vs. 5-12. III. Being like Christ. vs. 13, 14.

1. And as they spake unto the people, the priests and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them—

The priests, as responsible for the temple services, resented the diversion of the multitude from the accustomed ceremonies. The commander of the temple guard, a body of military police whose duty was to preserve order and which was composed of levites, made the crowd a pretext for interfering (Luke 22: 4; Acts 5: 24), and the Sadducees, who denied that there was any future life, or angel, or spirit (ch. 23: 8; 5: 17) tried to put down by force, testimony so fatal to their infidel creed. The word for "came upon" stands in an emphatic position and implies that they came suddenly and with violence (Luke 20: 1; Acts 23: 27).

2. Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead—"Grieved" is in the R. V. "sore troubled" (ch. 16: 18), they were thoroughly annoyed and their patience was exhausted. The word originally means, tired out with hard work. They could stand it no longer. "Proclaimed in Jesus" (R. V.) i. e. "in the person of Jesus," that Jesus himself had risen and that therefore in

"Christ shall all be made alive. He was "the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15: 20, 22).

3. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day; for it was now eventide—They were imprisoned until morning. It was too late in the evening to assemble the sanhedrim which could meet, lawfully, only in daylight.

4. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand—The men only are enumerated, as was the custom at the time (Matt. 14: 21). It is not clear whether this stands for the whole number of converts, including the three thousand at Pentecost, or denotes the number added on this occasion. The R. V. takes the former view and translates "was" by "came to be." It is more natural, however, to understand the last clause of the verse as referring to the same persons as are mentioned in the first, and there is no reason for interjecting at this point a new census of the church as a whole.

5, 6. And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, and An'nas the high priest, and Cai'as-phas, and John, and Alexan-