

'This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' And then Acts xvi. 31 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.' "This," she continued, "is the holy doctrine which flows through all St. Paul's epistles; the faith he taught during his life, and sealed with his death; and which our Church would have us pray that we may follow."

"I understand it now, Mamma, quite. Will you tell me something more about St. Paul. He was called Saul at first, I know, and was born at Tarsus, in Cilicia."

"Yes, a citizen of no mean city, evidently of higher birth than any other of our Lord's apostles, clever, well educated, and brought up in the strictest sense, a Jew. He studied under Gamaliel, one of the most learned of the Jewish doctors, and was held in such esteem at Jerusalem that when quite a young man, we find him taking a prominent part at the martyrdom of St. Stephen, and very soon after it was that he went to the High Priest desiring letters to Damascus that he might bring all Christians bound to Jerusalem. The account of his wonderful conversion on the way will be read three times in the services for to-morrow. Once as the Gospel, twice as the second lessons."

"Not all the same, surely, Mamma?"

"No, the Gospel contains the real incident. The morning's lesson, St. Paul's own account of it to the Jews at Jerusalem. The evening one, his repetition of the same in his noble defence before King Agrippa."

"How astonished every one must have been at the change."

"They were indeed. The Jews were very angry. The disciples were afraid of him, and would not believe in his conversion, till St. Barnabas brought him to the apostles, declaring to them that it was all true, and how boldly he had preached at Damascus in the name of Jesus. It is impossible for me to tell you now all that St. Paul did and suffered for the sake of Christ during the remainder of his life. First, in company with St. Barnabas, then with Silas, then with St. Luke, he carried the Gospel far and wide, through Asia Minor into Greece—to Rome where he preached—before the Emperor and to the far West; some even believe he

went to England. He endured stonings, beatings, revilings, persecutions, imprisonments, perils by land and sea—counting all joy for the sake of Christ, and in his deep humility disclaiming all praise to himself. 'For,' he writes, 'I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am.....' During his wanderings he wrote the epistles or letters which bear his name, to the different Churches he had established in Europe and Asia, and thus, as the collect beautifully expresses it, 'caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world.'

At length his work was accomplished; he went to Rome for the last time, and was there thrown into prison by order of the Emperor Nero, together with St. Peter. One loves to think how these two great Apostles must have strengthened and comforted each other; how bright and loving for their great Master's sake the intercourse of those few last months must have been. Whether they suffered together is not quite known, but it was about the same time, between sixty and seventy years after the birth of our Lord. St. Paul was beheaded, and for that reason he is generally represented with a sword."

"When and why did St. Paul change his name?"

"That we are not told—some think it was in remembrance of his first convert, Sergius Paulus; others, that Saul was the Jewish name, Paul, the Roman one, and that he adopted the latter on being sent more particularly to the Gentiles."

"Thank you, dear Mamma, very much for all you have told me. I should like to follow St. Paul in his humility and love, but it seems sad that after all he gave up, and all he suffered, he should be killed at last."

"Do you think so, Hugh? He did not. To him to die was gain. And when the hour of his departure was at hand, he was enabled to say, 'I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love His appearing.' God grant, my own dear boy, that we may be among them." L. H. B.