

THE LESSON OUTLINE.

The Believer in Trouble.

I. THE TROUBLE.

1. *Arose . . . tempestuous wind.* v. 14-16.
Raiseth the stormy wind. Psalm 107. 25.
Thy billows are gone over me. Psalm 42. 7.
2. *Fearing . . . the quicksands.* v. 17-19.
Fear . . . and the snare. Isa. 24. 17, 18.
Their soul is melted. Psalm 107. 26.
3. *Neither sun nor stars.* v. 20.
Such as sit in darkness. Psalm 107. 10.
Valley of the shadow. Psalm 23. 4.
4. *All hope . . . is lost.* v. 20.
Our hope is lost. Ezek. 37. 11.
The Lord hath forsaken. Isa. 49. 14.

II. THE BELIEVER.

1. *Foresight.* "Should have hearkened." v. 21.

- I perceive . . . much hurt. v. 10.
His secret unto his servants. Amos 3. 7.
2. *Courage.* "Be of good cheer." v. 22.
Troubled . . . yet not distressed. 2 Cor. 4. 8.
I am with thee. Isa. 41. 10.
3. *Confession.* "God, whose I am." v. 23.
With the mouth confession. Rom. 10. 10.
Confess me before men. Matt. 10. 32.
4. *Influence.* "God hath given thee." v. 24
Ye shall be a blessing. Zech. 8. 13.
Fifty righteous . . . will spare. Gen. 18. 26.
5. *Faith.* "I believe God." v. 25.
I know whom . . . believed. 2 Tim. 1. 12.
Staggered not . . . promise. Rom. 4. 20.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Paul, not less an apostle because a prisoner, is now on the stormy Mediterranean, journeying to stand before Cesar at Rome. "It was the palmy time of imperial Rome. No steamers crossed the sea at regular intervals, but the waters had been cleared of pirates, and plentiful currents of commerce from all directions tended to the Roman capital. All travelers had to go by merchant vessels—even consuls and emperors. Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus were packed in with 'certain other prisoners,' probably an unsympathizing crowd of outlaws. They were all under care of Julius, the centurion (probably Julius Priscus, who afterward rose to high rank in Rome). From this officer Paul received marked deference. A short sail (sixty-seven miles) brought them to Sidon, where Paul was courteously allowed to stop ashore with friends. Setting sail again (for Myra in Asia Minor), they undertook to pass south of Cyprus, but a strong west wind, premonition of coming danger, drove them north of that island. At Myra they found an Alexandrian trading vessel bound direct for Italy. Embarking on this, their troubles fairly began."—*Whedon*. Suddenly a Levantine gale strikes their vessel, carrying terror to every heart, save one, on board. We see their hopeless condition, tossing on the waves; we listen to the comforting message from on high; we mark the confident trust in the cheering words of the apostle.

Verse 14. Not long after. Probably while the vessel was still off the southern coast of Crete. **Tempestuous wind.** A wind with whirling eddies and sudden changes in direction. **Euroclydon.** One of those furious storms still common on the Mediterranean, and known as a "Levanter." So in life, "the gentle south wind of to-day may be followed by a storm to-morrow."

15. The ship was caught. Being whirled helplessly in the changing blast. **Could not bear up into the wind.** Literally, "could not eye the wind," from the fact that a pair of eyes were generally painted on the prow of ancient ships. **We let her drive.** As the vessel could not face the storm, it must needs be swept on by it.

16. Running under. That is, under the lee or shelter of. **A certain island . . . called Claudia.** A small isle near the southwestern extremity of Crete. **Much work to come by**

the boat. Found it difficult to hoist on board the little boat which was towed astern. These little details show that an eye witness wrote the history.

17. Undergirding. By passing strong ropes tightly around the vessel to aid in holding it together. **The quicksands.** Two large sandbanks off the coast of Africa, called the Upper and Lower Syrtes, and greatly dreaded by navigators. **Strake sail.** Lowered the rigging, in order to save the ship.

18. Lightened the ship. By casting overboard the articles not absolutely necessary.

19. With our own hands. A work in which not only the sailors, but also the prisoners and passengers took part.

20. Neither sun nor stars. Thus they could neither take observation nor reckon whither they were driven at the mercy of the gale. "Yet one star shone for Paul, the promise 'Thou must bear witness at Rome.'"—*Deuser*. **Many days.** We