

Lesson VIII.

PAUL AT ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

May 25, 1902

Acts 13 : 43-52—Memory Verses, 46, 47.

Golden Text—Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.—Acts 13 : 38.



43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Bar'nabas : who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 Then Paul and Bar'nabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you : but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gen'tiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gen'tiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gen'tiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord : and as many as were ordained to

eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Bar'nabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Ico'nium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After Paul and Barnabas left the island of Cyprus they went by ship to the province of Pisidia, where there was another city called Antioch.

The next Sabbath Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and sat down. When the rulers saw that they were teachers, they invited them, as was the custom, to speak to the people. Then Paul stood up and began to preach the gospel of Christ, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the promised Saviour. Now many of the people listened gladly, and when the meeting was over, many of the congregation followed Paul and Barnabas to learn more about the teaching of Jesus. Soon everybody in the city had heard of Paul's sermon, and the next Sabbath almost the whole town gathered in the synagogue to hear him.

Now when the Jewish teachers saw the

crowds who followed Paul and Barnabas, they were very jealous and began to contradict, and dispute angrily about their message, knowing that if the people became Christians their own power would be gone. But Paul and Barnabas only became stronger and more fearless and said, "It is God's will that His message be preached to you who are Jews first, but if you will not believe it is your own loss. If you do not want eternal life, we will go and preach to the heathen. For Jesus is the Saviour of everyone in the world."

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and many of them immediately became followers of the Lord Jesus. Now those among both Jews and Gentiles who believed told the good news to their friends, so that in a short time the whole country had heard the gospel.