

LESSON II—October 10th, 1897.

Paul a Prisoner at Jerusalem. Acts 22: 17-30.

(Read chapter 21: 13 to 23: 9. Commit to memory verses 22-24.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed." 1 Pet. 4: 16.

PROVE THAT—We may expect persecution. John 16: 33.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?* A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is shewed forth, and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

LESSON HYMNS. Nos. 34 (Psalm 46), 400, 278, 306. (Old Hymnal Nos. 161, 149, 151, 153).

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Paul's defence. Acts 21: 40-22: 11. *Tuesday.* Paul a prisoner at Jerusalem. Acts 22: 12-21. *Wednesday.* Paul a prisoner at Jerusalem. Acts 22: 22-30. *Thursday.* Before the council. Acts 23: 1-11. *Friday.* Conspiracy against Paul. Acts 23: 12-24. *Saturday.* Confidence in God. Psalm 27. *Sabbath.* Christ's word of comfort. Luke 21: 10-19. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Paul arrived at Jerusalem and was cordially received by the brethren there. At a meeting presided over by James, the recognized head of the Christian community at Jerusalem, he recounted the marvellous triumphs of the gospel amongst the gentiles and presented the substantial token of their brotherliness: with which he was charged. Such testimony was irresistible. But slanders were abroad concerning Paul. It was said that he tried to dissuade Jews from keeping the law. What he really said was, that gentiles did not require to keep the law when they became Christians. To answer these misrepresentations Paul joined himself to some who were fulfilling a vow in order that it might be publicly seen that he was a keeper of the law and not a despiser of it. While in the temple in pursuance of this religious duty the mob was stirred up against him and he was only rescued from a violent death by the prompt action of the commander of the Roman garrison—(Read chap. 21: 18 to 23: 9). Time A. D. 58, middle of May.

LESSON PLAN. I. Saul the Persecutor. vs. 17-21. II. Paul the Persecuted. vs. 22-30.

17. Come again—After his conversion (Acts 9: 26; Gal. 1: 18). **A trance**—He was unconscious of his surroundings but his soul was awake, and saw and heard Jesus. **18. Quickly**—He staid only 15 days (Gal. 1: 8). **19, 20.** Paul pleads for permission to go to Jerusalem because there he had done so much harm, and his testimony would have much effect where he had been so well known as a persecutor. **Martyr**—means "witness." **And Stephen**—"a crown." **21.** Jesus has other work for Paul. The work we ought to do is not ways the work we would like to do, or the work that we think we can do best (Jer. 10: 23). **22. Gave him audience**—listened quietly to him. **This word**—The hated word "gentiles." Their pent up feelings broke out. They could not bear to think of gentiles as being fellow heirs with them of the promise made to Abraham (Gal. 3: 6). **23.** These were oriental expressions of excitement. The crowd spread their garments in the way for Jesus to ride over when entering Jerusalem. **24. Chief captain**—*Chilarch*, or commander of a thousand men, corresponding to our colonel. It was the same official who arrested Jesus (John 18: 12). The name of this one was Claudius Lysias (ch. 23:

26). **The castle**—Called Antonia. It was on the north side of the temple and had a Roman garrison. **Examined by scourging**—He was to be flogged until he confessed his crime. He did not understand Hebrew and so did not know what Paul had said to enrage the mob. It was unlawful to scourge a Roman citizen under any circumstances; to punish him without trial; or to subject him to torture. **25.** "And when they had tied him up" (R. V). He was fastened to a wooden post in a slanting position. **Centurion**—An officer in command of 100 men, corresponding to our captain. **26.** It was easy to prove whether Paul's claim was true or not. If it had been false he would have been punishable with death. **27. Freedom**—(R. V. citizenship). The rights of citizenship could be purchased, but the price was high. R. V. "I am a Roman born." We do not know how Paul's family came to be free citizens. **29. Examined**—A mild word, meaning "tortured." **Bound him**—Tied him to the whipping post; a gross indignity. **30.** He summoned the Sanhedrim, or Great Council, to find out whether Paul had been guilty of any real crime.

LESSONS. 1. Our want of success may be due to no fault of our own. 2. We should try to undo any harm we may have done. 3. We should be willing to do the work that Christ gives whether it pleases us or not. 4. "I am a British subject," is a guarantee of protection the world over. 5. It is still better to be a citizen of heaven.