

Lesson II.

THE THESSALONIAN CHRISTIANS

July 9, 1916

LESSON SETTING—Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth.**GOLDEN TEXT**—If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.—1 Thessalonians 4: 14 (Rev. Ver.).***Memorize John 1: 35-37.****THE LESSON PASSAGE**—1 Thessalonians, chs. 1; 4: 13-18. Study 1 Thessalonians, chs. 1; 2: 17-20; 4: 13-18.

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father:

4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad: so that we need not to speak any thing.

Revised Version—1 Timothy: 2 Omit which is; 3 Omit in; 4 to you and peace (Omit rest of verse); 5 before our God and Father; 6 beloved of God, your election, how that our gospel; 7 even as; 8 shewed ourselves toward you; 9 imitators; 10 became an ensample; 11 in; 12 hath sounded forth; 13 Omit also; 14 gone forth; so; 15 report concerning us; 16 unto; 17 a; 18 delivereth; 19 we; 20 Omit to be; 21 that fall asleep; 22 the rest; 23 that are fallen asleep; 24 that are alive, that are left unto; 25 in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep; 26 that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—The Thessalonian Christians, 1 Thess. 1: 1-10.

Th.—Light and darkness, Matt. 13: 36-43.

T.—The Thessalonian Christians, 1 Thess. 2: 17-20; 4: 13-18.

F.—God's word sure, Matt. 24: 29-35.

W.—A little while, John 16: 15-20.

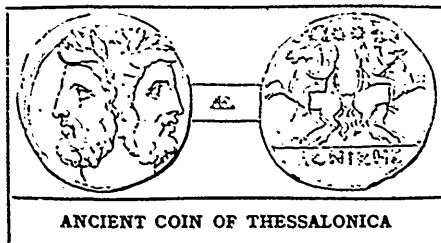
S.—"Watch, therefore," Matt. 24: 36-46.

Sunday—Be diligent, and beware 2 Peter 3: 10-18.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A CHURCH'S BEGINNING.—1. Paul, and Silvanus (Silas), and Timothy. Paul joins his two companions with him in addressing the Thessalonians, though the letter is Paul's own. **Unto the church,** etc.; which Paul had founded so shortly before. **In God the Father;** the beautiful Christian title for God. **In the Lord Jesus Christ.** "Lord,"—a title of honor and reverence; "Jesus,"—the Saviour's personal name; "Christ,"—the Greek for the Hebrew Messiah. The word "in" shows how closely Christian people are united to God and Christ. **Grace;** the free favor of God and its happy effects. **Peace;** with God, in their own hearts and with one another.

2-5. **We give thanks to God;** a usual beginning for a letter in those days. **Your work of faith;** labour that comes from faith or trust in God. **Labour of love.** "Labor" suggests strenuous effort. But "love" makes hard work easy. **Patience;** shown in bearing up strongly against the ills of life. **Of hope.** It is hope that helps one to bear up. **In our Lord Jesus Christ;** that is, "hope" in him. Christian hope rests on what Christ is and what he will do. **Beloved of God** (Rev. Ver.). Salvation begins in the divine love.



ANCIENT COIN OF THESSALONICA

Your election; God's choice of you out of all the people in Corinth. **Our gospel;** which Paul and his companions had preached. **In power;** shown in the effects of the preaching. **In the Holy Ghost;** the coming of the Holy Spirit on the converts. **In much assurance;** or "fulness," pointing to the abundance of blessing.

II. A CHURCH'S GROWTH.—6-10. **Imitators of us;** earnestly following the missionaries' example. **Of the Lord;** whose servant Paul was. **In much**

*For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in any one Part of List IV, a Diploma in Colors is given. A Red Seal and a Golden Seal are added for the verses of the other two Parts respectively. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

†Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.