

unto the Lord. It is union with Christ Himself, and not merely with the church, that saves.

25, 26. **Barnabas to Tarsus**; which was opposite Seleucia, the seaport of Antioch (see Geography Lesson) to the northwest, on the Asia Minor coast. To seek Saul; who had been in Tarsus, according to some, fourteen years, to others, eleven, after leaving Jerusalem, ch. 9: 30. Brought him to Antioch; doubtless knowing that Saul had already been set apart for work among the Gentiles, ch. 9: 15. A whole year.. with the church; preaching the gospel in peace and safety (contrast ch. 9: 23-24, 28, 29). Called Christians first in Antioch. This was at first a contemptuous nickname, meaning "partisans of Christ" (see ch. 26: 28; 1 Pet. 4: 16), but soon became a title of honor.

III. A CHURCH HELPING.—27-30, Ch. 12: 25. Prophets from Jerusalem; a class of inspired teachers in the early church, forthtellers of God's mind, as well as foretellers of coming events, 1 Cor. 12: 28; Eph. 4: 11. Agabus.. signified.. a great famine over all the world (Rev. Ver.); that is, the Roman Empire. Days of Claudius Caesar; Emperor of Rome from A.D. 41-54. Relief unto the brethren.. in Judaea. It was the custom for the wealthier Jews in foreign lands to send contributions, in times of distress, to their poorer brethren in Palestine, and this example was followed by the Christians in Antioch. To the elders; the rulers in the church, under the apostles, corresponding to the elders among the Jews. By.. Barnabas and Saul. Ch. 12: 25 tells of their return from their mission, bringing with them John.. Mark (see ch. 12: 12).

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



ANTIOCH IN SYRIA was situated on the Orontes river, about 20 miles from the mouth, the river being navigable up to the city Seleucia, near the mouth of the river, was the seaport. The city was built partly on an island in the river, but mainly on its north bank and up the slopes of Mount Silpius. It consisted of four quarters, divided by a long street adorned with columns and another that

crossed it obliquely. Gibbon says that at this time it possessed half a million inhabitants. The population was very mixed, and frequently rose in rebellion against its rulers. Josephus calls Antioch the third city in the Roman Empire, placing it next to Rome and Alexandria. It was the centre of an immense trade carried on by caravans and ships.

LESSON QUESTIONS

19-21 What led to the scattering abroad of the disciples? Who were the Greeks? Who began preaching to these? At what place? With what results? Where do we read of "Greeks" seeking Jesus? (John 12: 20-22.) Where does Paul say, "There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek?" (Rom. 10: 12.)

22-24 Which was the mother church? Under whose direct care was it? Who was sent from it to Antioch? What did he do, when he came? What sort of man was Barnabas? What was the result of his work?

25, 26 Whom did Barnabas bring to Antioch? Why was Saul specially fitted to help in the Antioch church? How long did he and Barnabas remain in Antioch? What were believers first called there?

27-30; Ch. 12: 25. Who prophesied a famine? To whom did the church of Antioch send help? By whom was the help sent? Whom did they bring with them on their return?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Faith in Christ: (1) What it is. (2) What it does.
2. The strong helping the weak.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Water is stored up in the mill-pond, that it may pour down the mill-race, to turn the huge wheel that drives all the machinery of the mill. So our blessings have been given to us, that they may go forth from us, in an ever-flowing stream of love and kindness, to those about us. The outflow should be as generous as the inflow is abundant.

Prove from Scripture—That love should be practical.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 12-14.

The Question on Missions—4. What are some of the difficulties of the newcomers? The principal difficulties of the newcomers are the outcome of lack of knowledge, lack of funds, and lack of friends.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did the gospel come to be preached to the Gentiles at Antioch?

2. What help did Barnabas give to the Antioch church? Saul?

3. How did the Christians at Antioch prove that their religion was real?