

derful miracles were wrought in Ephesus by Paul, "so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them."

We must make progress in the Christian life.

Christ will honor those who boldly confess him.

LESSON VI. (Single Voice.)

Paul, on his return from his third missionary tour, stopped at Miletus and sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. He tells them that bonds and afflictions await him, but none of these things move him, neither does he count his life dear unto himself, only so that he may finish his work. He knows these are farewell words to men whom he has tenderly loved. He calls them to witness that he has not shunned to declare all the counsel of God. He exhorts them to feed the church, and to watch for the grievous wolves which should enter in among them. He reminds them that he has shown them how they ought to care for the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Courage is a result of perfect trust.

The Christian life is one of watching and taking heed, as well as a life of prayer.

LESSON VII. (Single Voice.)

While Paul was in the temple at Jerusalem fulfilling the Nazarete's vow, enemies from Ephesus appeared and accused him of polluting the temple, and of teaching against the holy place. All the city was at once moved, and they seized Paul and dragged him through the Beautiful Gate, which was quickly shut. As they were about to kill Paul, Roman soldiers appeared. The mob stopped beating their prisoner, and in answer to the chief captain's question as to what Paul's crime was, they cried, some one thing, some another. He commanded Paul to be bound with two chains and to be carried to the castle. The multitude followed, crying, "Away with him!" Paul asked the privilege of addressing the mob, which was granted.

The world shouted concerning its greatest heroes, "Crucify Him!" and "Away with him!"

Paul's perfect faith gave him perfect peace even when in the hands of a mob.

LESSON VIII. (Single Voice.)

Paul's first experience before a Roman tribunal was when he stood before Felix in the judgment hall at Caesarea. Paul's accusers spoke first. Paul answered, saying that, coming to Jerusalem to bring alms to his nation, certain Jews from Asia made accusations which they could not prove. He declared that his only crime was that he worshiped the God of his fathers and believed in the resurrection of the dead. Felix sends him to prison to stay until the chief captain can come with his testimony. Here he stays two years, visited frequently by his friends. Then Felix with his wife, Drusilla, sent for Paul, and to them Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Felix trembled under the bold words, and answered, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

Christians should bear personal testimony for Christ.

Delays may prove fatal.

SINGING. Nos. 114, 271, 121, New Canadian Hymnal.

LESSON IX. (Single Voice.)

Paul before King Agrippa in the judgment hall of Caesarea told the simple story of his conversion, and showed how he had not been disobedient to the heavenly vision. He urged the king to believe not only the prophets, but also the Christ who fulfilled in himself the prophecies. Festus, the procurator, declared: "Paul, thou art beside thyself." Paul answered that he spoke only words of truth and soberness, and the king knew them to be such. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.'" Paul answered, "I would to God that all who hear me were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." Agrippa and his court then declared: "This man has done nothing worthy of death or bonds, and could have been set at liberty if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Christ said, "Ye are my witnesses."

We may be almost saved, and yet be lost.

LESSON X. (Single Voice.)

Because of Paul's appeal to Caesar, he was sent to Rome. Off the coast of Melita he suffers shipwreck. The selfish sailors attempt to escape in the boat, leaving the ship and passengers to their fate, but Paul's watchfulness prevents it. Paul urges them all to take meat, and assures them that no harm will come to them. When morning came they discovered a bay, where they ran the ship aground. The soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest they should escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that they who could swim should cast themselves first into the sea and get to land. And the rest, on boards and broken pieces of ship, escaped all safe to land.

Paul's trust in God was the secret of his cheer.

Every good man becomes a blessing to others.

LESSON XI. (Single Voice.)

After Paul had been in Rome three days, "a prisoner of the Lord," a company of Jewish leaders gathered at his lodging house to hear about the Christian faith. A few accepted Christ, but most of them believed not. Paul showed them that Isaiah had described exactly their condition, and that the salvation of God had been sent to the Gentiles. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, chained to the soldier that kept him, preaching and teaching Jesus Christ.

Paul saw all men in need of salvation and salvation for all men.

He delivered warnings as well as exhortations.

LESSON XII. (Single Voice.)

Paul in the fourteenth chapter of Romans tells us why we should be exceeding careful of conduct. He speaks of those weak Christians who under Jewish law had been forbidden to eat meats offered to idols, and though they became Christians, they still felt under that law. To see other Christians eating these meats made them lose confidence in their profession, and so caused them to stumble. Paul shows that wine-drinking should be forbidden for this reason, and that all conduct should be considered with regard to its influence over others who may be weaker.

Every soul, however weak, is precious, because Christ died for it.

Avoid the very appearance of evil.

SINGING. Nos. 163, 171, 173, New Canadian Hymnal.