

Lesson III. **PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY** July 18, 1909
—THESSALONICA AND BEREA

Acts 17 : 1-15.—Memory Verse, 11.

Golden Text—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
 —Psalm 119 : 11.



1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews :

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead ; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas ; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying. These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also ;

7 Whom Jason hath received : and these all do contrary to the decrees of Cæsar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

8 And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea : who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed ; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

14 And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea : but Silas and Timothy abode there still.

15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens : and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timothy for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Paul and his companions next went to Thessalonica, another city in Macedonia. There they found many Jews, and a synagogue where these worshiped. For three Sabbath days, Paul preached in the synagogue, both to those who were born Jews and those who had joined them from among the heathen and were called proselytes, explaining, from what the prophets had written in the scriptures, that Jesus was the Messiah or Saviour. Only a few of the Jews believed Paul's words, but a great multitude of the proselytes became followers of Jesus, among them many prominent women of the city, so that soon there was a large church in Thessalonica.

But the Jews who did not believe, gathered a great crowd from among the lowest people of the city and led the noisy mob to the house where Paul and Silas were staying.

When they could not find them, they caught Jason, the man to whom the house belonged, and some other Christians, and brought them before the rulers, saying, "These men who have turned the whole world upside down, have come to this city, and Jason has taken them into his house. They disobey the laws of our emperor, Cæsar, and say that there is another king named Jesus."

Then the rulers, greatly troubled at these words, made Jason and his friends promise that there would be no more disturbance. So the apostles' friends sent them away in the night to Berea, another city not far off. There again they found a Jewish synagogue, in'o which Paul went and preached. The Jews in Berea were more willing to learn than those in Thessalonica, for they gladly listened to Paul's words, and after hearing them, they studied every day the Old Testament scrip-