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The Sabbath School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Second Quarter Lesson 9 June 1 1902 PAUL AT LYSTRA.—Acts 14: 8-19.

Study Verses 8-22. Read Acts 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.—2. Tim. 2: 3.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—A. D. 48 and 49.

Place.—Southern Galatia, including Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and a glimpse at Antioch of Pisidia, and the return to Antioch of Syria.

THE MISSIONARIES AT ICONIUM.—Vs. 15. Driven away from Antioch the missionaries proceeded south-east along the military road which led to Lystra, and the East. Before they reached Lystra they turned off to the left and went to Iconium, a city of growing importance, situated on the western edge of the plains of Asia Minor. It is now the terminus of a railway from the Bosphorus.

Here the missionaries had success among both Jews and Greeks. As in Antioch, the unbelieving Jews made trouble. The apostles remained and taught, and signs and wonders were done by them. Finally the division was so great, and the party spirit ran so high, that Jews and Gentiles joined in an attempt to mob and stone the missionaries who escaped to Lystra.

THE MISSIONARIES AT LYSTRA.—Vs. 6-18. Lystra was the chief city of Lycaonia. It was about eighteen miles south-west of Iconium. It is described as a dreary plain, bare of trees, destitute of fresh water, and with several salt lakes. There were few Jews here, as no mention is made of a synagogue. Here the missionaries preached the gospel, and Timothy was one of the converts.

And there sat a certain man in some company Paul was addressing. We must suppose that Paul gathered groups of the Lystrans about him, and addressed them in places of public resort. On one of these occasions St. Paul observed a cripple, listening to his discourse. He was seated on the ground, for he had an infirmity in his feet, and had never walked. The same heard Paul, was an habitual hearer. Steadfastly beholding him. Fastened his eyes upon him, Perceiving that he had faith to be healed. The lame man had faith in Christ as a Saviour, and as able and willing to do for him everything that was wise and best. Said with a loud voice, to attract the lame man's attention as well as that of the audience. Stand upright on thy feet. To say this required great faith in Paul. To do it required strong faith in the lame man. And he leaped and walked. A public proof that the cure was instantaneous and complete. Lifted up their voices saying in the speech of Lycaonia. What that language was is unknown. The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. The idea of the gods coming down and appearing in the form of men was made familiar by the frequent stories in their mythology.

Practical. 1 The exhortation in Hebrews (13: 2) to be "careful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares," is here illustrated.

2. The thought of God coming down to man expressed a longing and a hope of human nature. We need a God who is an ever-present help in time of need, and can sympathize with our human feelings. This has been realized and expressed to us in Jesus Christ. They called Barnabas, Jupiter. Probably because he was the older and more imposing man. And Paul, Mercury, because he was the chief speaker "Mercury" was the messenger and spokesman of the gods, and the god of eloquence. Jupiter. That is, the statue, or the temple containing the statue, which was before, outside the city gates. Brought oxen (for sacrifice) and garlands, with which animals were adorned. Unto the gates. Probably of the city; but some think of the temple. Would have done sacrifices. To honor the apostles. The apostles... heard. They were about their missionary work in the city. Rent their clothes. As a visible expression of their sorrow and disapprobation. Ran in to the crowd. Men of like passions with you. Of the same nature, with human body, subject to death, not in the rank of gods. But we preach unto you, proclaim good tidings, the gospel of Jesus who brought the good news of the living God. He is the maker of heaven, and earth, and the sea. Therefore, turn from these vanities, who are not worthy of your worship. Who in times past suffered, permitted. For wise reasons he permitted men to see what they could and would do, and to become prepared to receive newer light. Nevertheless. During all this time God attracted men

his goodness toward them. Scarce restrained they. Their business was to lead men to Christ and to God. They put away from themselves the temptation to honor which belonged to their master.

THE MISSIONARIES LEAVE LYSTRA FOR DERBE.—There came thither certain Jews from Antioch. More than one hundred miles by road. This shows how intense was the opposition to the gospel as preached by Paul. The opposition aroused against a man is sometimes a proof of his power. Having stoned Paul. This was by a mob. What a crowd of memories this must have brought to Paul when he remembered Stephen ten or eleven years before. Supposing he had been dead. The opponents of truth often think it dead, when it is only stunted. The disciples, among whom may have been Timothy, tenderly cared for Paul. He rose up and came into the city. The next day he left and went to Derbe, a two days' journey. Derbe was the farthest limit of Paul's first missionary journey. How long he remained is uncertain. But he preached the gospel while he was there, and made many disciples.

REVISITING THE CHURCHES.—Vs. 21, 22. Paul retraced his steps, and stopped at each of the three cities where churches were founded by him, in addition to the one at Derbe. The excitement had subsided in the places where he had been persecuted. And Paul seems to have devoted himself to the churches rather than to evangelizing the heathen. Confirming the souls, as a tender shoot is confirmed into wood which can endure frosts and hard usage. Exhorting them by his words. Through much tribulation.

THE RETURN TO THE HOME CHURCH AT ANTIOCH IN SYRIA.—The first missionary journey may have occupied three years. When this work was done Paul and Barnabas went back to Antioch on the coast, sailed to Antioch in Syria, the home church, and reported what the Lord had done through them. Here they remained a long time, renewing their own spirits, and inspiring the disciples at home.

Encourage the Boy's Hobby.

BY MRS J. W. WHEELER

There comes a time in a boy's life when he must have something absorbing to occupy the time spent out of school hours. Something upon which to exhaust that surplus energy which, if misdirected, brings sorrow and disappointment to his parents.

Some boys take to reading and sports, which are excellent when taken in moderation, but dangerous when carried to excess. I know many of the extreme cases, but two will sufficiently illustrate. One, an eleven-year-old boy reads, reads, reads, from morning until night; his parents encourage him, thinking him wonderfully clever to have read so many books; they buy him all the latest juvenile stories, subscribe liberally to periodicals and keep several library cards in active operation, but they are blind to his best interests; he seldom goes skating, sliding and playing at tops and marbles. He is small for his age, thin and white, and has earned for himself the nickname of little old man. His eyesight is becoming defective, and frequently he suffers from headache and indigestion. He is well on the road to invalidism and we, by which I mean other mothers of the neighborhood, are trying to muster the courage sufficient to broach the matter to the mother of the boy.

The other is so absorbed in football, golf, polo, and fencing that he apparently has become lost to everything else; having adopted the ways and language of the professional sporting man. His manners have become extremely objectionable, but I am glad to say his parents are waking up to the fact that they have allowed him too free a rein, and a reform is about to be instituted.

The majority of boys, however, turn to collecting, the hoarding instinct being to the all round boy as natural as breathing. It grows with him; with his first trousers he is content to carry in the three pockets only a modest collection, but later, especially upon arriving to the dignity of vest and jacket, with seven additional pockets, the hoarding instinct assumes much vaster proportions.

I wish I had space to enumerate the forty odd articles I found in master ten-year-old's trouser pockets last night when I brought them downstairs for the "stitch in time." Such queer things! I wondered what he wanted with them, and where he had obtained them (probably by barter). The most of them belonged by rights in the ash barrel, but they were the veriest treasures to him, and putting myself in his place, I replaced them every one, and as far as I could remember, in their respective pockets.

There were stones among that strange collection, and pieces of glass and buttons; he always has some of these in his pockets: those small enough to carry around for minerals seem to be the hobby of this boy; he is always on the lookout for specimen—the beach in summer is his chief source of supply. He picks them from the coal bin, beautiful irid-scent lamps. He never passes an old or pretty stone; they are washed and polished to a nicety. He long ago braved the terrors of a monumental yard and cultivated the acquaintance of a stone cutter, from whom he obtained some fine marble and granite chips.

I have a strong suspicion that his Christmas jack-knife, which has not been seen for some time, went for a handsome piece of quartz crystal, but as his jack-knife money was given him, and as he is saving up to buy another, did not interfere; he has long wanted some quartz crystal.

He has only a modest collection as yet, but it is growing slowly, and what he lacks in quality he makes up in quantity, from pudding-stone to slate; at present he is engaged in making salt crystals, and the jar on the kitchen shelf is examined regularly three times a day to determine the state of crystallization. To my mind the hoarding instinct is to be encouraged. The prevention of the above-mentioned book-worm and tough, and the promotion of knowledge along some special line, which many times may lead to the one occupation in life in which one is sure to succeed. All of us can recall childhood friends whose playtime occupations have in this way been the germ of a successful career. I remember three who chummed together: two were always working over spools, tin-can covers, anything that could be made to revolve; wire, old iron and what their friends regarded as clutter, filled the shed until one could scarcely walk with safety. Their machines were a standing joke among the boys and girls, but both of these boys have since made important inventions in steam and electricity, and the father of one used to lament that he could not make a grocer out of him. He got his orders so tangled on Saturday afternoon that he was obliged to get another boy in his place.

The third boy never was so happy as when drawing maps and coloring them with crayons to imitate those in the geography; he had his walls covered with them, every country in the world and every State in the Union, I think he could draw some with his eyes shut; he is now a successful draughtsman.

So let us not scold our boys for the clutter they make, but give them a corner all to themselves, where they can stow away their collections and sort and arrange and work to their hearts' content, always bearing in mind the fact that the bugs and butterflies, stamps, minerals, and amateur locomotives, like good books, are the safest company.—Observer.

A SELFISH WORLD.—Goo-goo—No matter how things go, the poor always suffer. Jack—Yes; the nabobs who own railroads don't think anything of running over a poor man's horse. Yes; and the man who can afford to own a horse runs down the poor fellow on a bicycle. Just so. And the fellow on the bicycle runs down the poor chap who has to walk. That's it. And the man who walks stumbles against the poor cripple who goes on crutches. That's the way. And the cripple on crutches jams his stick down on other people's corns. It's a sadly selfish world.—New York Weekly.

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