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The Sabbath School

INFORMATION

Second Quarter Lesson 11 June 9 1902 PAUL CROSSES TO EUROPE.—Acts 16: 6-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thou shalt be his witness unto all men.

LEARN BY HEART. V. 9, 10; Rom. 10: 14, 15.

HISTORICAL SETTING. Time.—The second missionary journey began in A. D. 51, and continued three or four years.

Places.—Antioch in Syria. Aia Minor, Macedonia, in Europe, especially Philippi, memorable as the place where was fought the decisive battle between Brutus and Cassius, on the one hand, and Octavius and Antony on the other, B. C. 42.

PLANNING FOR THE SECOND MISSIONARY TOUR.—Acts 15: 35-41. After their return from the Jerusalem visit, Paul and Barnabas remained some time in the Syrian Antioch. Then Paul proposed that they revisit the churches which they had founded in Asia Minor during their first tour (A. D. 45-48). He would visit his spiritual children to see how they were growing in grace. Barnabas was ready to go. But he wished to take with them his relative John Mark. Paul was unwilling to risk taking as a helper one who had left them in the midst of their first journey. Each one was so decided that they agreed to separate. It was not "a bitter and angry quarrel."

Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus. The results of their work are not recorded in Acts. Paul chose Silas. He was joined by Timothy at Lystra, and later by Luke at Troas.

PAUL REVISITS THE CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR.—Acts 15: 41; 16: 1-5. It is understood that Silas returned to Jerusalem before he went on the missionary tour with Paul. They were to meet in Asia Minor. Paul started alone from Antioch, by land along the road leading north, and then turning west to Tarsus. Here they struck the great Roman road through the Cilician gates, the pass through the Taurus mountains to Derbe and Lystra, and afterwards to Iconium and Antioch of Pisidia.

THE CALL TO A WIDER FIELD.—Vs. 6-10. By this time Silas had joined Paul and Timothy. Phrygia and the region of Galatia. Galatia is the country of the Gauls or Kelts. And were forbidden, hindered by a command. It is not said in what way they were forbidden, whether by inward convictions, or by some providence. Very possibly the command came in more ways than one. To preach the word in Asia. They had now come within the province of Asia. They therefore kept to the north with the intention of entering the adjoining provinces of Bithynia; but when they were come to Mysia and assayed (were attempting) to go out of Asia into Bithynia, the Spirit of Jesus suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia, passing through it without preaching. Came down to Troas, a seaport. And in a vision, a sight divinely granted in an ecstasy or trance or sleep. There stood a man of Macedonia, recognized as from Macedonia by his dress, or by his words. Come over into Macedonia and help us. It does not come in the shape of a command from Christ, but in that of a petition from man. Immediately we endeavored (sought means) to go. Paul's answer to the call was earnest and instant. Assuredly gathering, concluding from the various and persistent intimations.

FOUNDING OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN EUROPE.—Va. 11-15. The

Journey. Samothracia was an island in the Aegean, on the Thracian coast, about sixty miles in length and thirty in breadth. The next day to Neapolis. It was the seaport of Philippi. Thence to Philippi. About ten miles from Neapolis, on the river Gangites. Near it were famous old mines. It has long since disappeared. The chief city. Either the first of the district, to which they came, or the leading city of that part of the district.

The Epistle to the Philippians was written to the church, now founded in this city, by Paul when in Prison at Rome (A. D. 62), about ten years after his first visit to them.

The Conversion of Lydia. We went out of the city gates. Probably there was no synagogue in the city. Where prayer was wont to be made. Where there was, according to custom, a place of prayer. And spake unto the women which resorted thither. It is noticeable that in the three Macedonian towns, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, women are especially mentioned as influenced by the apostles' labors, and, as in the case of Lydia, the women of Philippi occupied a position of considerable freedom and social influence. Named Lydia. Lydia was a common name among the Greeks and Romans. A seller of purple. Lydia was evidently a person of some means, as capital would be required for the trade in so costly a material. Of the city of Thyatira. The city of Thyatira, on the confines of Lydia and Mysia, and one of the seven churches of Asia addressed in the Apocalypse, was celebrated in very early days for its purple dyes and purple fabrics. Which we shipped God. Who was truly religious. She was thus prepared for further light. Whose heart the Lord opened, enlightened, impressed by his Spirit, made willing. And when she was baptized. As soon as she believed, she made a public profession of her faith in the appointed way,—by baptism. Primitive piety was not hidden piety. And her household. Whether we are to understand by this term her children, or her work-people or all these, cannot easily be decided. If ye have judged me to be faithful. Then prove it, and reward me by coming into my house, making it their home. She constrained us, strongly urged them.

Note 1. From how small a seed a great church grew.

2. Lydia, the first convert, and was the beginning of the Christian work in Europe. Compare the growth of Women's work in the church,—the Women's Boards of Missions, of Women's Christian Temperance Union, etc.

3. The quiet, gentle manner in which Lydia was born into the kingdom of heaven, in contrast with the other Philippian family, whose conversion is recorded in the same chapter. There are many ways to the one goal.

The Teacher Who Does Not Understand.

Miss S. is a lovely girl, but she does not understand the children. Consequently she is never at ease with her class, and is always complaining of its insubordination. A teacher who does not understand children has mistaken her vocation. She may be erudite, profound, accomplished, but she hasn't the key to child nature and she would better attempt some other line of work. Children are perfectly willing to orderly and well-behaved, and they greatly prefer a strict to a variable rule. What they do not like is weakness. The teacher who is irritable, who scolds, who rages, who is unjust, is one who does not understand herself. In my girlhood I had a teacher who used to cry in the recitation room when the pupils were inattentive. Poor thing! I can see her now, probably she was only a girl like those she tried to instruct, sensitive, unimpressive, and easily flustered, and when her lip quivered and she could not see the page for tears, one would have thought the class might have been sorry for her. Some of them were; some championed her; some tried to induce others to be more decorous. But the end was Miss D's departure, a brilliant scholar but no disciplinarian, and her place was taken by a Miss W.—, who had no trouble at all. Parents and teachers alike never get control by crying for it. The thing is impossible.

An indispensable requisite to success in teaching is sympathy and liking for children. Unfortunately many young women select teaching as their work, because there is a weekly holiday, or because the vacations are frequent and long, or because the pay is reasonably good and considered sure. None of these reasons should be governing ones, when the fact is remembered that no other vocation is of equal importance with this, and that the teacher who appreciates

her opportunities ought is moulding the minds of the next generation.—Crisis, Intelligencer.

A Game of Books.

A clever hostess conceived a most original entertainment for a few friends. After a tempting repast had been disposed of, the guests repaired to the parlor where a dozen quaint and amusing pen and ink sketches were handed around, together with a small note book and pencil for each. Each sketch was supposed to represent some well-known book, and each guest was given an opportunity to put on his or her thinking cap and name the volume in his note book and pass the sketch on. Here are some of the books that were sketched:

The House of Seven Gables was simply a rough sketch of a house with seven gables.

An Old-Fashioned Girl, was represented by a girl of ye olden times in simple and quaint costume with a school bag on her arm.

A small, snow-covered house was enough to suggest Snow-Bound to many of the guests.

The Lady and the Tiger ought not to have puzzled anyone but it did though it was a simple sketch of a lady's head in one corner and a tiger in the other.

On one card appeared, 15th of March, which seemed more baffling than all the others. It proved to be Middlemarch.

Helen's Babies, was a cute sketch of two chubby boys in night robes.

The Heavenly Twins was represented by twin stars in the heaven.

Darkest Africa needed nothing but the face of a darkey boy with a mouth stretched from ear to ear.

One of the sketches was a moonlight scene with ships going in opposite directions and was easily guessed to represent Ships that Pass in the Night.

Anyone with originality can devise many other amusing sketches.

Don't be Afraid to Work.

One thing that keeps young men down is their fear of work. They aim to find genteel occupations, so they can dress well, and not soil their clothes, and handle things with the tips of their fingers. They do not like to get their shoulders under the wheel, and they prefer to give orders or figure as masters, and let some one else do the drudgery. There is no doubt that indolence and laziness are the chief obstacles to success.

When we see a boy, who has just secured a position, take hold of everything with both hands and jump right into his work, as if he meant to succeed, we have confidence that he will prosper. But if he stands around and asks questions when told to do anything; if he tells you that this or that belongs to some other boy to do, for it is not his work; if he does not try to carry his orders in the correct way; if he wants a thousand explanations when asked to run an errand, and makes his employer think he could have done the whole thing himself, one feels like discharging such a boy on the spot, for he is convinced that he was not out for success. That boy will be cursed with mediocrity, or will be a failure. There is no place in this century for the lazy man. He will be pushed to the wall.—Success.

It is truly British to follow the soldier with the school-teacher. Britain did in the Sudan, and is now doing it in South Africa. The Mother of Nations has not forgotten how to plant contented colonies.—Star.

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