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## The Sabbath School

### INTERNATIONAL LESSON

**Second Quarter Lesson 8 May 25 1902**

PAUL AT ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA.—Acts 13: 43-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.*—Acts 13: 38.

LEARN BY HEART.

Vs. 46, 47; Gal. 2: 20; 2 Cor. 12: 7-9

HISTORICAL SETTING.

*Time.*—Immediately after the close of the last lesson; probably summer of A D 46 or 47. July, according to Professor Ramsay.

*Place.*—Antioch in Pisidia, Asia Minor.

FROM CYPRUS TO PERGA.—It was probably in July that Paul, Barnabas, John Mark, and perhaps others, set sail from Paphos on Cyprus to the mainland of Asia Minor, and reached Perga, the seaport of Pamphylia on the lowlands of the coast.

Some things are noticeable and interesting about this brief visit to Perga. No preaching there is recorded.

From this time on Paul takes the lead. He is the head of the company.

John Mark left them, and returned to Jerusalem. No reason is assigned; but it was one not satisfactory to Paul (Acts 15: 37, 38) The effects of his return were more than Mark anticipated. He was the occasion of a separation between Paul and Barnabas. It took long years for him to regain what he lost. But he was restored. He was ready to go on the second missionary journey. He did go with Barnabas to Cyprus. He regained the good opinion of Paul, to whom he became a comfort and a profit (Col. 4: 10; 2 Tim. 4: 11).

FROM PERGA TO ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA.—To this journey, without doubt, belong many of the perils and dangers described by Paul in 2 Cor. 11: 23-27. Pisidia was a barbarian country, barely subjugated by Roman arms. The roads were overrun with bandits. Antioch was the chief city of Pisidia in southern Galatia. Greek was understood by many, but among the common people each tribe has also its own language. When the missionaries reached Antioch, they went to the Jewish synagogue on the Sabbath, where, as distinguished strangers, they were asked to speak to the people.

PAUL PREACHES THE GOSPEL IN THE SYNAGOGUE AT ANTIOCH.—Compare Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2: 14 36); Stephen's sermon before the Sanhedrim (Acts 7), Paul's address on the castle stairs at Jerusalem (Acts 21: 40-22: 21), and before Agrippa (Acts 26: 1-29).

The Text. Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Jews.

The Argument. 1. In your past history see the plans of God unfolding for his kingdom.

2. The kingdom was established in the house of David.

3. The promise of the everlasting kingdom was to the house of David.

4. Jesus, a descendant of David is the promised Saviour and Messiah.

Objection Answered. But Jesus died, slain by the rulers at Jerusalem.

Yes, but God raised him from the dead, and he is a living Saviour.

The Application. Here is forgiveness of sins, the way of salvation.

Believe on him or you must perish.

THE AFTER-MEETINGS.—Vs. 43, 44. *Now when the congregation was broken up.* Dismissed, after Paul and Barnabas had left. *Many of the Jews and religious* (devout, worshiping) *proselytes, followed.* Came to the apostles, not waiting till the following Sabbath. *Who* refers to the apostles. *Persuaded.* Induced them. *To continue in.* Implying that they had received the gospel, and come already into *the grace of God* During the week the knowledge of the gospel would be spread everywhere. The apostles would be engaged in conversation with all who came to them, so that *the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city,* not merely Jews and proselytes, but the heathen, *to hear the word of God.* But crowds are a means of success. You must have people to hear you if you would reach their souls.

THE INTENSE OPPOSITION OF THE JEWS.—V. 45. *When the Jews saw the multitude.* They wanted the Gentiles to be saved by becoming Jews. And *they were filled with envy* The jealousy was bad, but it was not wholly base and selfish. It was connected with their religion and their highest hopes. *Contradicting* They denied, argued against. *And blaspheming.* They used abusive language, saying false things about the apostles.

FOUR EFFECTS OF THIS OPPOSITION.—Vs. 46 52. The Apostles grew more bold and decided. *Paul and Barnabas waxed* (grew) bold. The opposition had opposite effect from that which the Jews expected. It made the apostles take a more decided stand in favor of receiving the Gentiles It was a costly step, and required great courage. It made bitter enemies of those who could persecute them. It separated them from their friends and joined them to Gentiles. *It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you* Because: (1) it was God's purpose and command (Rom 1: 16; Luke 24: 47; Acts 3: 26); it was God's command, because (2) the Jews were most prepared to receive the truth, by their long training under God; this order to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles, did not depend upon this rejection of Christ by the Jews, but would have been the more efficacious through the believing of the Jews (Rom. 11: 12) We have done our duty by you, but we cannot stop preaching the gospel because you put *it from you.* You can lose its blessings, but you cannot stop its progress *And judge yourselves.* By your actions you pronounce a verdict against yourselves, that you are *unworthy of everlasting life.* God offers it to you and you thrust it away. God opens the door to eternal life, and you shut it against yourselves.

The Gentiles Became Christians *Lo, we turn to the Gentiles,* and they shall enter the kingdom which the Jews refused. *For so hath the Lord commanded us.* By showing them that Isa. 49: 6 and similar promises were to be so applied. *I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles.* The religion of the Jews was never intended for themselves alone, but for all the world. By refusing to give it to the world, they lost it themselves. So it is still both with individuals and with churches. *Salvation unto the ends of the earth.* The gospel is world-wide. This is one of the great proofs that it is divine. Other religions are for a race or nation or state of civilization. This is for all. *The Gentiles ....were glad.* The good news to them was very great. *Glorified* by word and by deed. *As many as were ordained,* not meaning an arbitrary act but as many as had marshaled themselves, placed themselves in the ranks of those who welcomed the offer of eternal life. The Jews certainly arrayed themselves on the other side. God's plans were not defeated because the Jews rejected the gospel. *The word....was published,* etc. The opposition, as well as the joyous converts, made the gospel known far and wide.

The apostles were driven away, only to spread the gospel the more. *The Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women,* of social position and rank, perhaps wives of *the chief men.* The women were more intensely religious than the men, and were urging on the men. All their devotion and zeal becomes a power to do wrong. Thus many good men have persecuted those better than themselves. *Expelled them out of their coast.* The persecution was probably an outbreak, and the apostles, for the sake of peace, retired from the place. *Shook off the dust.* So Christ had commanded them to do as a testimony (Matt. 10: 14), not in anger, but to show them that the blame must rest upon themselves. *Came unto Iconium.* A large city, sixty miles to the southeast of Antioch in Pisidia.

Great Joy. *And the disciples were filled with joy.* It might have been expected that they would leave gloom and despondency among their discouraged converts; but it was not so. They left behind them the joy of a new hope. *And with the Holy Ghost.* And this was the source of their joy, their strength, and their firmness. Great is the power of Christian joy. A religion of gloom may be sincere and solid, but it lacks the strength, the consolation, the attractiveness of a religion of joy.

### The Seven Wonders of Korea.

Korea, like the world of the ancients, has its "seven wonders." Briefly stated, they are as follows: First, a hot mineral spring near Kan Shantoa, the healing properties of which are believed by the people to be miraculous. No matter what disease may afflict the patient a dip in the water proves efficacious.

The second wonder is two springs, situated at a considerable distance from each other; in fact they have the breadth of the entire peninsula between them. They have two peculiarities—when one is full the other is always empty; and, notwithstanding the fact that they are connected by a subterranean passage, one is bitter and the other pure and sweet. The third wonder is a cold-wave cave—a cavern from which a wintry wind perpetually blows. The force of the wind from the cave is such that a strong man cannot stand before it. A forest that cannot be eradicated is the fourth wonder. No matter what injury is done to the roots of the trees, which are large pines, they will sprout up again directly, like the phœnix from her ashes.

The fifth is the most wonderful of all. It is the famous floating stone. It stands, or seems to stand, in front of the palace erected in its honor. It is an irregular cube or bulk. It appears to be resting on the ground, free from support on all sides, but, strange to say, two men at opposite sides of a rope may pass it under the stone without encountering any obstacle whatever. The sixth wonder is the hot stone, which from remote ages has lain glowing with heat on top of a high hill. The seventh and last Korean wonder is a drop of the sweat of Buddha. For thirty paces around the temple in which it is enshrined not a blade of grass will grow. There are no trees or flowers inside the sacred square. Even the animals decline to profane a spot so holy. These are very great wonders if true.—Outlook.

### Worship in the Sunday School.

In his book, A Manual of Sunday-School Methods, Addison Pinneo Foster says concerning worship in the Sunday school:

There undoubtedly should be a large place for worship in the Sunday school, but is it the primary idea of the Sunday school? It is desirable that all who attend the Sunday school should attend the morning service of worship where a sermon is preached. Care must be taken that the Sunday school does not so cover all the functions of religion that the morning service shall seem needless and the young become content with absence from the great congregation. The exercises should be supplementary to the more formal worship of the house of God and excite a desire for it. They should not usurp the place of the morning service.

The prayers in the school are of great importance. They are to voice the needs of the whole school, to bring the minds of children and teachers into a proper condition, to bind the school to God. They should not be carelessly or hastily offered, but after thought, and by those who appreciate the needs of the school and sincerely desire God's blessing. While the superintendent will lead in these prayers, it is desirable that the teachers, and sometimes the older scholars, after previous notification, take up the duty in turn.

### What He Lived For

The story is told of an old colored man, who has been a slave and was used to the severest kind of labor. There was no need of a slave driver for him, however, as his tasks were conscientiously performed.

Corporal, as the old slave was called, was a Christian, and believed with an unalterable firmness in the truths brought to him. In his own simple way he was a good deal of a philosopher and did not a little good by the everyday showing of his quiet faith. Finally the time came for Corporal to leave this world. The doctor said to him: Corporal, it is only right to tell you that you must die.

Bless you, doctor, don't let that bother you; that's what I've been living for, said Corporal, with the happiest of smiles.—Ram's Horn.

God is all to thee: if thou be hungry, he is bread; if thirsty, he is water; if in darkness, he is light; if naked, he is a robe of immortality.


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**GASTRIC TROUBLES.**

"I had suffered three years at least from gastric troubles. I could not sleep a night. My head ached and my feet would be cold as ice. My bowels were not regular and I had such cramps from gases burning on my stomach that I would faint away. I was in such misery that I would have rather died than live. About three months ago I was induced to try Ripans Tabules. My body was tied up towards me. My brother recommended Ripans Tabules to me. My friends obtained some for me from the nearest drug store and I would not now be without them. They relieved me of all the foul gases that formed in my stomach and they saved my system from the effects for which I had been taking physics all the time. I have no more gases, my appetite is perfect, I have no more headaches and can sleep well; in fact, I feel as light as the air. I weighed 190 pounds, and that is saying a good deal for a woman who weighs 190 pounds. I am sorry that I did not commence using the Tabules a year ago, for they would have saved me a great deal of pain and suffering."

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