

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the second half year of 1958

# Life and Acts of the Apostles



Issued by the General Conference  
of the S. D. A. Reform Movement

## Introduction:

THE LIFE AND ACTS OF THE APOSTLES represents a wonderful mirror of the believers to the whole Christian church. By the irresistible word of the Master they had been called out of all classes of people. They left all to follow Him and enter into the school of life with the Most High, which would enable them to become pillars and powerful witnesses in the service of the gospel.

It were not the rich teachings which they received daily from Jesus, but primarily the power of the Holy Spirit, which enabled them to do so. By this power they were to take upon themselves and carry the many difficulties and heavy burdens connected with the cause. No temptation was spared them; they met with all kinds of difficulties and trials in life, and rejection from the world was their appointed lot.

Yet, the apostles of Jesus remained faithful unto death, and did not regard their lives any higher than the duties that confronted them. It was in this manner that in a very short time the whole then known world was enlightened with the glorious light of the gospel. Their religious zeal, their faithfulness and determination, are to all who follow Jesus in truth an example and inspiration to gain the victory over world, Satan, and sin.

May we, one day, be able to say with the Apostle, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Tim. 4:7,8.

May the Lord bless teachers and pupils alike. AMEN!

THE BRETHREN.

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TODAY'S OFFERING IS FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Lesson No. 1 - Sabbath, July 5, 1958

## THE PROMISED BLESSING

1. By whom was the "Acts of the Apostles" written?  
Acts 1:1; Luke 1:3.
2. How does Luke call his gospel? Acts 1:1,2;  
Luke 1:4.
3. What did Jesus leave with His disciples before His ascension? Acts 1:2.
4. What commandment did Jesus give His disciples before He left them? Matt. 28:19,20.
5. What was to them an encouragement and inspiration?  
1 Cor. 1:26-28.

NOTE: "For the carrying on of His work, Christ did not choose the learning or eloquence of the Jewish Sanhedrim or the power of Rome. Passing by the self-righteous Jewish teachers, the Master-worker chose humble, unlearned men to proclaim the truths that were to move the world. These men He purposed to train and educate as the leaders of His church. They in turn were to educate others, and send them out with the gospel message. That they might have success in their work, they were to be given the power of the Holy Spirit. Not by human might or human wisdom was the gospel to be proclaimed, but by the power of God." - "Acts of the Apostles," p. 17.

6. For what event were the disciples therefore to wait? Acts 1:4.

7. Why was the fulfillment of the promise of the Father so important? Acts 1:4; 2:33-39.

8. Why was this experience needed?

NOTE: "The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts, or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life." -Ibid., p.31.

9. For what purpose was the Power from on high sent to the apostles? Acts 1:8.

10. How far was the gospel message to be carried? Verse 8, second part.

NOTE: "Christ told His disciples that they were to begin their work at Jerusalem. That city had been the scene of His amazing sacrifice for the human race. There, clad in the garb of humanity, He had walked and talked with men, and few had discerned how near heaven came to earth." -Ibid., p.31.

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Lesson No. 2 - Sabbath, July 12, 1958

## THE SEPARATION

1. What astonishing event were the disciples to witness? Acts 1:9.

2. Could they understand this happening? Verse 10.

NOTE: "While the disciples were gazing upward to catch the last glimpse of their ascending Lord, He was received into the rejoicing ranks of heavenly angels. As these angels escorted Him to the courts above, they sang in triumph, 'Sing unto the Lord, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord, to Him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens...'" - "Acts of the Apostles," pp.32,33.

3. What message did they receive now? Acts 1:10,11.

NOTE: "The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service." -Ibid., p.33.

4. To what place did the disciples go after the ascension of Jesus? How many were they in number? Acts 1:12,13.

5. With what were they occupied during this waiting period? What lesson has it for us? Verse 14.

NOTE: "As the disciples waited for the fulfillment of the promise, they humbled their hearts in true repentance, and confessed their unbelief. . . . The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men, and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. Putting away all differences, all desire for supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship." -Ibid., pp.36,37.

6. One day, how many souls were gathered? What was to them a hard-to-solve question? Acts 1:15,16. (the falling away of Judas.)

7. Of what was Peter convinced concerning Judas? Verses 17-20.

8. What step was now taken by the disciples? Verses 23-26.

9. Who was added to the twelve disciples? Verse 26.

10. By what means does the Lord reveal His will in the New Testament? John 16:13.

NOTE: "The Lord works in no haphazard way. Seek Him most earnestly in prayer. He will impress the mind, and will give tongue and utterance. The people of God are to be educated not to trust in human inventions and uncertain tests as a means of learning God's will concerning them. Satan and His agencies are always ready to step into any opening to be found that will lead souls away from the pure principles of the word of God. The people who are led and taught of God will give no place to devisings of which there is not a 'Thus saith the Lord'."—Spec. Test., Ser. B., p. 28.

"I have no faith in casting lots. We have in the Bible a plain 'Thus saith the Lord' in regard to all church duties. . . . Read your Bibles with much prayer. Do not try to humble yourselves before God, and deal gently with one another. To cast lots for the officers of the church is not in God's order."—Letter 37, 1900.

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Lesson No. 3 - Sabbath, July 19, 1958

## PENTECOST

1. In what place where the believers on the day of Pentecost? What is reported of them? Acts 2:1.

2. What is it that suddenly happened? Verse 2.

NOTE: "The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fulness that reached every heart. The Infinite One revealed Himself in power to His church. It was as if for ages this influence had been held in restraint, and now Heaven rejoiced in being able to pour out upon the church the riches of the Spirit's grace. And under the influence of the Spirit, words of penitence and confession mingled with songs of praise for sins forgiven. . . . All Heaven bent low to behold and to adore the wisdom of matchless, incomprehensible love. . . . The sword of the Spirit, newly edged with power and bathed in the lightnings of heaven, cut its way through unbelief. Thousands were converted in a day."—"Acts of the Apostles," p. 38.

3. Of what was the outpouring of the Spirit a sign? Acts 2:4.

NOTE: "Christ's ascension to heaven was the signal that His followers were to receive the promised blessing. For this they were to wait before they entered upon their work. When Christ passed within the heavenly gates, He was enthroned amidst the adoration of the angels. As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in rich currents, . . ."—Ibid., p. 38.

4. How many were witnesses of this heavenly miracle? Acts 2:5,6.

5. What impression was made upon the mass of the people? How many different languages were represented? Verses 6-8.

6. Why was this such a great miracle? What was it that they heard? Verse 8.

NOTE: "Every known tongue was represented by those assembled. This diversities of languages would have been a great hindrance to the proclamation of the gospel; God therefore in a miraculous manner supplied the deficiency of the apostles. The Holy Spirit did for them that which they could not have accomplished for themselves in a lifetime. They could now proclaim the truths of the gospel abroad, speaking with accuracy the languages of those for whom they were laboring. This miraculous gift was a strong evidence to the world that their commission bore the signet of Heaven." -Ibid., pp.39,40.

7. Was the Holy Spirit able to convert all souls present? Acts 2:13.
8. How was this work explained by Peter? Verses 16-18.
9. Of what was it a partial fulfillment? For what time is this prophecy also intended? Verses 19,20.
10. What precious assurance is given to every faithful believer? Verse 21.

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Lesson No. 4 - Sabbath, July 26, 1958

## THE FIRST FRUITS

1. Of what was Peter now fully convinced, and what change had taken place in him? Acts 2:22.
2. By what may be seen that henceforth he had no more fear? Verse 23.
3. What lie, spread by the priests, did he refute with power? Matt.28:12,13; Acts 2:24.

4. Upon what foundation did Peter base his sermon? What must also be the basic foundation of our faith? Acts 2:25-28.

NOTE: "Peter did not refer to the teachings of Christ to prove his position, because he knew that the prejudice of his hearers was so great that his words on this subject would be of no effect. Instead, he spoke to them of David, who was regarded by the Jews as one of the patriarchs of their nation." -"Acts of the Apostles," p.41.

5. What was the light which the Holy Spirit revealed to Peter? What became fully clear to him? Acts 2:29-32.
6. What connection existed between the ascension to heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Verses 33,34.
7. What effect upon the hearers was seen through the speech of Peter? Verse 37.
8. What comforting words had the Apostle for all repenting souls? Verses 38,39.
9. How many reached for the opportunity presented? Verse 41.

NOTE: "They heard the disciples, endowed with a power and energy hitherto unknown, preaching Christ, their words confirmed by signs and wonders. In Jerusalem, the stronghold of Judaism, thousands openly declared their faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah." -Ibid., p.44.

10. By what did these believers prove that their hearts were truly changed? Acts 2:44-47.
11. What sign made it evident that God co-operated with them? Verse 47.

NOTE: "The disciples were astonished and overjoyed at the greatness of the harvest of souls. They did not regard this wonderful ingathering as the result of their own efforts; they realized that they were entering into other men's labors. . . . The conversions that took place on the day of Pentecost were the result of this sowing, the harvest of Christ's work, revealing the power of His teaching." -Ibid., pp.44, 45.

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Lesson No. 5 - Sabbath, August 2, 1958

## A WONDERFUL HEALING

1. What had Israel disregarded? What should not be found among God's people? Deut.15:7,8,4.
2. Whom did Peter and John see sitting at the temple gate? Acts 3:1-3.
3. Upon his request, what did Peter answer this unfortunate man? Verses 4-7.

NOTE: "This unfortunate man had long desired to see Jesus, that he might be healed; but he was almost helpless, and was far removed from the scene of the great Physician's labors." -"Acts of the Apostles," p.57.

4. How did the healed cripple show his thankfulness? Acts 3:8.
5. To what did Peter draw the attention of the people? Verses 12-15.
6. To whom did Peter give honor for this act of healing? Verse 16.

NOTE: "When the disciples saw the amazement of the people, Peter asked, 'Why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?' He assured them that the cure had been wrought in the name and through the merits of Jesus of Nazareth, whom God had raised from the death." -Ibid., p.59.

7. How did Peter address the Jewish leaders? What two reasons did he point out for their attitude towards Jesus? Acts 3:17,18.
8. What admonition does he give to the people? When were their sins blotted out? Verses 19,20.
9. How did he seek to prove the divine mission of Jesus? Verses 22,23.
10. Whose spoken words were to serve as evidences for Christ's calling? Verse 24.
11. What special favor had been bestowed upon the Jewish people? Verse 26.

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Lesson No. 6 - Sabbath, August 9, 1958

## BEFORE THE SANHEDRIM

1. What was caused by the enmity of the priests of the temple and the Saducees? Acts 4:1,2.
2. Could they in this manner check the progress of the work? Verses 3,4.

NOTE: "In order to conceal their perplexity, the priests and rulers ordered the apostles to be taken away, that they might counsel among themselves. They

all agreed that it would be useless to deny that the man had been healed. Gladly would they have covered up the miracle by falsehoods; but this was impossible, for it had been wrought in the full light of day, before a multitude of people, and had already come to the knowledge of thousands. They felt that the work of the disciples must be stopped, or Jesus would gain many followers. Their own disgrace would follow, for they would be held guilty of the murder of the Son of God." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.66

3. What question did the high priest direct to Peter? In what do we see the fearlessness of the Apostle? Acts 4:7-10.

4. To what did Peter draw the attention of the Sanhedrim? Verses 11,12.

5. What did the enemies of the truth finally have to acknowledge? Verses 13,14.

NOTE: "Christ placed His seal on the words that Peter spoke in his defense. Close beside the disciple, as a convincing witness, stood the man who had been so miraculously healed." -Ibid., p.65.

6. What command was given to the apostles? What was their reply? Acts 4:15,16.

NOTE: "The principle for which the disciples stood so fearlessly when, in answer to the command not to speak any more in the name of Jesus, they declared, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye,' is the same that the adherents of the gospel struggled to maintain in the days of the Reformation. When in 1529 the German princes assembled at the Diet at Spire, there was presented the emperor's decree restricting religious liberty, and prohibiting all further dissemination of the reformed doctrines. It seemed

that the hope of the world was about to be crushed out. Would the princes accept the decree? Should the light of the gospel be shut out from the multitudes still in darkness? Mighty issues for the world were at stake. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and their unanimous decision was, 'Let us reject this decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power'." -Ibid., p.68.

7. How did the Lord reward the courage and steadfastness of the apostles? Acts 4:21,22.

8. What is of utmost importance for the believers of the latter days? What stand should they take towards questions of conscience?

NOTE: "This principle we in our day are firmly to maintain. The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. . . .

We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way." -Ibid., pp.68,69.

9. What did the apostles do after they were set free? What influence did this have upon the church? Acts 4:23,24.

10. What harmony and unity existed among the apostles and in the church, and how did the Lord bless this spirit? Acts 4:29-31.

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Lesson No. 7 - Sabbath, August 16, 1958

## A WARNING AGAINST HYPOCRISY

1. For what did the love of the truth prepare the first Christians? Acts 4:32-37.

2. For what purpose were the free-will offerings set aside? Verse 35.

NOTE: "The record declares, 'Neither was there any among them that lacked,' and it tells how the need was filled. Those among the believers who had money and possessions, cheerfully sacrificed them to meet the emergency. Selling their houses or their lands, they brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet, 'and distribution was made unto every man according as he has need'." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.70.

3. What can we learn from the experience of the first Christians?

NOTE: "Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence,--all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church; and when in the church of to-day it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have

taken their affections from things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow-men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers." - Ibid., p.71.

4. Who in the church of the apostles did not have this spirit of full surrender? Acts 5:1,2.

5. Whom were Ananias and Sapphira not able to deceive? Verses 3,4.

6. How severely was their attitude of hypocrisy punished? Verse 5.

NOTE: "But God hates hypocrisy and falsehood. Ananias and Sapphira practised fraud in their dealing with God; they lied to the Holy Spirit, and their sin was visited with swift and terrible judgment. . . . Infinite wisdom saw that this signal manifestation of the wrath of God was necessary to guard the young church from becoming demoralized. Their numbers were rapidly increasing. The church would have been endangered if, in the rapid increase of converts, men and women had been added who, while professing to serve God, were worshipping mammon. This judgment testified that men cannot deceive God, that He detects the hidden sin of the heart, and that He will not be mocked. It was designed as a warning to the church, to lead them to avoid pretense and hypocrisy, and to beware of robbing God." -Ibid., pp.72,73,74.

7. Does the Lord test every individual as well? Acts 5:7-10.

8. What influence had this incident upon the church and the world without? Verse 11.

9. What kind of sin was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Verses 3,4.

10. In what way alone can we serve the Lord and please Him? 2 Cor.9:7.

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Lesson No. 8 - Sabbath, August 23, 1958

## FREED FROM PRISON

1. In what manner did God co-operate with the apostles to prove their divine mission? Acts 5:12-16.

NOTE: "The power of the risen Saviour had indeed fallen on the disciples, and their work was accompanied by signs and miracles that daily increased the number of the believers." - "Acts of the Apostles," pp.77,78.

2. What effect had this upon the people? Acts 5:13,14.

3. What reaction had this upon the Jewish leaders? What did they do? Verses 17,18.

NOTE: "Hitherto all the efforts made to suppress this new teaching had been in vain; but now both Sadducees and Pharisees determined that the work of the disciples should be stopped, for it was proving them guilty of the death of Jesus. Filled with indignation, the priests laid violent hands on Peter and John, and put them in the common prison." - Ibid., p.78.

4. In what miraculous manner were the disciples freed from prison? Acts 5:19,20.

5. What happened on the next day? Verses 21-25.

6. What report was brought to the Sanhedrim? What did the captain of the temple now decide to do? Verses 25,26.

7. What question was now directed to the apostles? What was their answer? Verses 28-32.

8. What plan did the enemies of Christ have? Verse 33

9. Who was it that arose in a marvelous manner in defense of the apostles? Verses 34-39.

NOTE: "But in the council there was one man who recognized the voice of God in the words spoken by the disciples. This was Gamaliel, a Pharisee of good reputation, and a man of learning and high position. His clear intellect saw that the violent step contemplated by the priests would lead to terrible consequences." -Ibid., pp.82,83.

10. Did the apostles get discouraged by this experience? Acts 5:41-44.

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Lesson No. 9 - Sabbath, August 30, 1958

## THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEACONS

1. What mutual agreement was made in the first Christian church? Heb.10:34.

NOTE: "Many of these early believers were immediately cut off from family and friends by the zealous bigotry of the Jews, and it was necessary to provide them with food and shelter." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.70.

2. What help was given to these souls that lost everything? Acts 2:44,45.
3. In this matter, what did Satan try to do to destroy God's cause? Acts 6:1.
4. What steps did the apostles take to avert this danger? What plan was presented to the church? Verses 3-5.
5. What was to be considered in a special way in the appointment of these men? Verse 3.
6. By what action were they set aside for this office? Verse 6.
7. Did this first step in organization prove a blessing? Verse 7.

NOTE: "The organization of the church at Jerusalem was to serve as a model for the organization of churches in every other place where messengers of truth should win converts to the gospel. Those to whom was given the responsibility of the general oversight of the church, were not to lord it over God's heritage, but, as wise shepherds, were to 'feed the flock of God, . . . being ensamples to the flock;' and the deacons were to be 'men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.' These men were to take their position unitedly on the side of right, and to maintain it with firmness and decision. Thus they would have a uniting influence upon the entire flock." -Ibid., p.91.

8. Even who accepted the truth when they saw a good organization? Acts 6:7.

NOTE: "The order that was maintained in the early Christian church, made it possible for them to move forward solidly, as a well disciplined army, clad with the armor of God. The companies of believers,

though scattered over a large territory, were all members of one body; all moved in concert, and in harmony with one another. When dissention arose in a local church, as later it did arise in Antioch and elsewhere, and the believers were unable to come to an agreement among themselves, such matters were not permitted to create a division in the church, but were referred to a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, with the apostles and elders in position of leading responsibility." -Ibid., pp. 95,96.

9. Of what importance is organization for the people of God?

NOTE: "Organization was designed to secure unity of action, and as a protection from imposture. It was never intended as a scourge to compel obedience, but rather for the protection of the people of God. . . . Human creeds cannot produce unity." -Elder James White, in "Review and Herald," Jan.4, 1831.

10. What is Satan diligently working at, especially today?

NOTE: "O how Satan would rejoice if he could succeed in his efforts to get in among this people, and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential, and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings, and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God!" -"Gospel Workers," p.487.

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*God is . . .  
a God of Order*

Lesson No. 10 - Sabbath, September 6, 1958

## THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR

1. Who among the selected seven deacons was the most prominent? Acts 6:8. What is reported of him in a special way?
2. What resistance did he have to meet from the learned and scholarly men of the Jewish church? Yet, what were they to experience? Verses 9,10.
3. How did they try to stir up the people against Stephen? Verses 11,12.
4. What false accusation was brought against him? Verses 13,14.
5. How did this witness for Jesus appear before his judges? Verse 15.

NOTE: "As Stephen stood face to face with his judges to answer to the charge of blasphemy, a holy radiance shone upon his countenance, and 'all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.' Many who beheld this light trembled and veiled their faces, but the stubborn unbelief and prejudice of the rulers did not waver." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.99.

6. In what stirring manner did Stephen begin his defense? What was the essence of his speech? Acts 7:2-36.
7. To whom did he appeal to prove his faith in Jesus? Verses 37,38.

8. To what extent did the Spirit of God finally lead Stephen, and with what results? Verses 51-53.
9. What took place now, and how did the Lord help His faithful servant in this hour of trial? Verses 54-56.
10. What Spirit did Stephen reveal even as he was dying as a martyr? Verse 59.

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Lesson No. 11 - Sabbath, September 13, 1958

## THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL

1. After the death of Stephen, what happened to the church? Acts 8:3,4.
2. By this persecution, who entered upon his field of labor? Verse 5.
3. Whose work was now bearing fruit? John 4:4-41; Acts 8:6-8.

NOTE: "Christ's message to the Samaritan woman with whom He had talked at Jacob's well, had borne fruit." "Acts of the Apostles," p.106.

4. What special commission did Philip receive one day? Acts 8:26.
5. What precious experience did he make on this journey? Verses 27-35.
6. What desire did the eunuch express? What was the answer of Philip? Verses 36,37.
7. In what form and manner was this baptism conducted? Verses 38-40.

NOTE: "The man's heart thrilled with interest as the Scriptures were explained to him; and when the disciple had finished, he was ready to accept the light given. He did not make his high worldly position an excuse for refusing the gospel." -Ibid., p.103.

8. What may we learn from this experience? Psalms 14:2.

9. What does the Scripture tell us happened after the baptism of the eunuch? Acts 8:39.

NOTE: "This Ethiopian represents a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip,--- men who will hear the voice of God, and go where He sends them. There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.

An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light, and who was ready to receive the gospel; and to-day angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and enoble their hearts." -Ibid., p.109.

10. What is furthermore reported of Philip? Upon what should the belief of the converted ones not rest, Acts 8:40; Gal.1:1.

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# Search the Scriptures

Lesson No. 12 - Sabbath, September 20, 1958

## THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

1. Whose name is especially mentioned at the stoning of Stephen? With what emotions did he regard the torture of this man of God? Acts 7:58; 8:1.

NOTE: "At the scene of Stephen's trial and death, Saul had seemed to be embued with a frenzied zeal. Afterward he was angered by his own secret conviction that Stephen had been honored by God at the very time when he was dishonored by men. Saul continued to persecute the church of God, hunting them down, seizing them in their houses, and delivering them up to the priests and rulers for imprisonment and death."--"Acts of the Apostles," pp.101,102.

2. What is reported about the zeal of Saul for the Jewish cause? What aim did he have? Acts 9:1.

3. By what means was he especially empowered to continue his work against the Lord? Verse 2.

4. Who met Saul on the way to Damascus? Verses 3-9.

5. What did Saul notice after the vision? Verse 8.

NOTE: "When the glory was withdrawn, and Saul arose from the ground, he found himself totally deprived of sight. The brightness of Christ's glory had been too intense for his mortal eyes; and when it was removed, the blackness of night settled upon his vision. He believed that his blindness was the punishment from God for his cruel persecution of the followers of Jesus." -Ibid., p.117.

6. In which manner did the Lord take loving care for Saul? Acts 9:10-12.

7. Was Ananias immediately ready to go? What remonstrations did he have? Verses 13-17.

8. With what words did Ananias greet the former persecutor? In which manner was Saul healed of his blindness? Verses 17, 18.

9. What was the closing scene of Saul's conversion? Verse 19; Acts 22:14-16.

NOTE: "For three days Saul was 'without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.' These days of soul-agony were to him as years. Again and again he recalled, with anguish of spirit, the part he had taken in the martyrdom of Stephen. With horror he thought of his guilt in allowing himself to be controlled by the malice and prejudice of the priests and rulers, even when the face of Stephen had been lighted up with the radiance of heaven." -Ibid., p.113.

10. What lesson may we learn from the fact that Ananias was sent to Saul by the Lord Himself? Acts 9:6.

NOTE: "Thus Jesus gave sanction to the authority of His organized church, and placed Saul in connection with His appointed agencies on earth. Christ had now a church as His representative on earth, and to it belonged the work of directing the repentant sinner in the way of life." -Ibid., p.122.

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"God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power; but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat." -"Testimonies to Ministers," p.61.

Lesson No. 13 - Sabbath, September 27, 1958

## THE FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE NEWLY CONVERTED APOSTLE

1. What great change had been wrought in the heart of Saul? Where did he begin to preach Christ? Acts 9:20.

2. Did his preaching bring any result? Verses 21, 22.

NOTE: "A general slain in battle is lost to his army, but his death gives no additional strength to the enemy. But when a man of prominence joins the opposing force, not only are his services lost, but those to whom he joins himself gain a decided advantage. Saul of Tarsus, on his way to Damascus, might easily have been struck dead by the Lord, and much strength would have been withdrawn from the persecuting power. But God in His providence not only spared Saul's life, but converted him, thus transferring a champion from the side of the enemy to the side of Christ. An eloquent speaker and a severe critic, Paul, with his stern purpose and undaunted courage, possessed the very qualifications needed in the early church." -"Acts of the Apostles," p.124.

3. What plan was laid by the blinded Jews? Acts 9:23, 24.

4. How was he freed from his deadly danger? Verse 25.

5. To what place did Paul now go? Gal. 1:13-17.

NOTE: "Here in the solitude of the desert, Paul had ample opportunity for quiet study and meditation. He calmly reviewed his past experience, and made sure

work of repentance. He sought God with all his heart, resting not until he knew for a certainty that his repentance was accepted and his sin pardoned." - Ibid., p.125.

6. After his stay in the wilderness, where did Paul go? Gal.1:18.
7. What disappointment waited for him as he returned to Jerusalem? Acts 9:26.
8. Yet, who befriended and brought him to the apostles? Verse 27.
9. Who became the most faithful co-worker with the apostle? Acts 11:25.

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TODAY'S OFFERING IS FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Lesson No. 14 - Sabbath, October 4, 1958

## THE FIRST GENTILES ARE CONVERTED

1. At the time of the conversion of Saul, where did Peter work? Acts 9:32.
2. What experience did he make there? Verses 33-35.
3. Who lived at Joppa? By what person has this city become so well known? Verses 36-40.

4. What outstanding faith did Peter reveal there? Verses 40,41. What words were here fulfilled?
5. What event took place at Caesarea? On this occasion, who stood in the focal point of divine interest? Acts 10:1,2.
6. To whom was Cornelius directed in his search for truth? How precise was the address of Peter given? Verses 3-6.

NOTE: "The explicitness of these directions, in which was named the occupation of the man with whom Peter was staying, shows that heaven is acquainted with the history and business of men in every station of life. God is familiar with the experience and work of the humble laborer, as well as with that of the king upon his throne." - "Acts of the Apostles," pp.133,134.

7. After Cornelius had received these instructions, what did he do? Acts 10:7,8.
8. How did the Lord prepare Peter for his visit to the Gentiles? Verses 9-14.

NOTE: "This vision conveyed to Peter both reproof and instruction. It revealed to him the purpose of God, — that by the death of Christ the Gentiles should be made fellow-heirs with the Jews to the blessings of salvation. As yet none of the disciples had preached the gospel to the Gentiles. In their minds, the middle wall of partition, broken down by the death of Christ, still existed, . . . " - Ibid., pp.135,136.

9. What truth did the Lord desire to reveal to His disciples? What could Peter now clearly understand? Verses 15-28.

NOTE: "The time had come for an entirely new phase of work to be entered upon by the church of Christ. The door that many of the Jewish converts had closed

against the Gentiles, was now to be thrown open. And the Gentiles who accepted the gospel were to be regarded as an equality with the Jewish disciples, without the necessity of observing the rite of circumcision." -Ibid., p.136.

10. On what principle did Peter base his preaching? Acts 10:34-43.

11. What happened during his preaching service? Of what was this a proof? Verses 47, 48.

NOTE: "There are in our world many who are nearer the kingdom of God than we suppose. In this dark world of sin, the Lord has many precious jewels, to whom He will guide His messengers. Everywhere there are those who will take their stand for Christ. Many will prize the wisdom of God above any earthly advantage, and will become faithful light-bearers. Constrained by the love of Christ, they will constrain others to come to Him." -Ibid., pp.140,141.

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Lesson No. 15 - Sabbath, October 11, 1958

## FREED FROM PRISON

1. What strict punishment was meted out against the believers by Herod? Acts 12:1,2.

2. What did this wicked king do, when he saw that it pleased the Jews? Verses 3,4.

3. What did the believers do on the other hand? Verse 5.

NOTE: "The death of James caused great grief and consternation among the believers. When Peter also

was imprisoned, the entire church engaged in fasting and prayer." -"Acts of the Apostles," p.144.

4. What special precautions were taken during the last night that Peter was to live? Acts 12:6.

5. In what miraculous manner was Peter freed from prison? Verses 7-10.

6. Only when did Peter become conscious of his freedom? Verse 11.

NOTE: "The heavenly light faded away, and Peter felt himself to be in profound darkness; but as his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, it gradually seemed to lessen, and he found himself alone in the silent street, with the cool night air blowing upon his brow. He now realized that he was free, in a familiar part of the city; he recognized the place as one that he had often frequented, and had expected to pass on the morrow for the last time." -Ibid., pp. 147,148.

7. Following this, where did Peter go? Whom did he meet there? Acts 12:12.

8. Who opened the door? What could the assembled believers not grasp? Verses 13-17.

9. What excitement prevailed in the prison the next morning? What punishment did Herod decree upon the innocent keepers? Verses 18,19.

NOTE: "In the morning a large concourse of people gathered to witness the execution of the apostle. Herod sent officers to the prison for Peter, who was to be brought with a great display of arms and guards, in order not only to insure against his escape, but to intimidate all sympathisers, and to show the power of the king.

When the keepers before the door found that Peter

had escaped, they were seized with terror." Ibid., p.149.

10. What terrible punishment befell Herod during a blasphemous festival? Acts 12:20-23.

11. Yet, what is recorded of God's cause? Verse 24.

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Lesson No. 16 - Sabbath, October 18, 1958

## THE GOSPEL AT ANTIOCH

1. What special talents were found in the church at Antioch? Acts 13:1.

2. What message came to the church by the Holy Spirit? Verse 2.

3. Was this message obeyed? By what action were the two apostles set aside for their office? Verse 3.

NOTE: "Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself, and the ceremony of the laying on of hands added no new grace or virtual qualification. It was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office, and a recognition of one's authority in that office. By it the seal of the church was set upon the work of God." - "Acts of the Apostles," pp.161, 162.

4. To what place did the apostles travel, and who accompanied them? Acts 13:4, 5.

5. What experience did the apostles make on the island of Cyprus? Verses 6, 7.

6. In what manner did the sorcerer try to hinder the work of the gospel before the deputy? Verse 8.

7. Yet, how did Paul withstand him in the power of the Holy Spirit, and what did he say to the sorcerer? Verses 9-11.

8. Who became fully convinced about the truth of the teaching of Christ by this event? Verse 12.

9. From Cyprus, to what place did the apostles go? Where did they go on the Sabbath day? Verses 13, 14.

10. What were the servants of Jesus requested to do by the rulers of the synagogue? To what object did Paul direct his preaching? Verses 15-23.

11. In which manner did he prove the mission of Christ? Verses 30-37.

12. Which important message did Paul proclaim? Verses 38-41.

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Lesson No. 17 - Sabbath, October 25, 1958

## THE GOSPEL AMONG THE GENTILES

1. What did the Gentiles request after the preaching of Paul on the Sabbath? Acts 13:42.

2. What impression was made, and what result was seen by the Jews and proselytes following the Sabbath service? Verse 43.

3. What happened on the following Sabbath? How did the Jews behave? Verse 45.

4. What courageous and important decision did the apostles of the Lord now reach? Verses 46, 47.

5. What was the result seen among the Gentiles? Verses 48, 49.

6. To what step did the Jews resort to hinder the truth of the gospel? Verse 50.

7. In accordance with the admonition of the Saviour, what did the apostles do? Verse 51.

8. What experience were Paul and Barnabas to make at Iconium? Acts 14:1-3.

NOTE: "The apostles, however, were not turned aside from their mission; for many were accepting the gospel of Christ. In the face of opposition, envy, and prejudice they went on with their work, 'speaking boldly in the Lord;' and God 'gave testimony unto the word of His grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands'." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.177.

9. What came as a result of the preaching of the gospel? Acts 14:4-6.

10. To what decisions did the apostles come? Verse 6.

NOTE: "In every age and in every land, God's messengers have been called upon to meet bitter opposition from those who deliberately chose to reject the light of heaven. Often, by misrepresentation and falsehood, the enemies of the gospel have seemingly triumphed, closing the doors by which God's messengers might gain access to the people. But these doors cannot remain forever closed; and often, as God's servants have returned after a time to resume their labors, the Lord has wrought mightily in their behalf, enabling them to establish memorials to the glory of His name." -Ibid., p.179.

## EXPERIENCES AT LYSTRA AND DERBE

1. Whom did the disciples meet at Lystra? Acts 14:8.

2. What did Paul notice during his service? Verse 9.

3. What words of faith healed the cripple? Verse 10.

NOTE: "At one time while Paul was telling the people of Christ's work as a healer of the sick and afflicted, he saw among his hearers a cripple, whose eyes were fastened on him, and who received and believed his words. Paul's heart went out in sympathy toward the afflicted man, in whom he discerned one who 'had faith to be healed.' In the presence of the idolatrous assembly, Paul commanded the cripple to stand upright on his feet. Heretofore the sufferer had been able to take a sitting posture only; but now, he instantly obeyed Paul's command, and for the first time in his life stood on his feet. Strength came with this effort of faith, and he who had been a cripple 'leaped and walked'." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.181.

4. How did this miracle effect the people that saw it? Acts 14:11-13.

NOTE: "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.' This statement was in harmony with a tradition of theirs that the gods occasionally visited the earth. Barnabas they called Jupiter, the father of gods, because of his venerable appearance, his dignified bearing, and the mildness and benevolence expressed in his countenance. Paul they believed to be mercury, 'because he was the chief speaker,' earnest and active, and eloquent with words of warning and exhortation." -Ibid., p.181.

5. Did Paul and Barnabas permit the people to honor them in this manner? What did Paul say to these blinded humans? Acts 14:14-18.

6. What persecution came upon the disciples? Verse 19.

NOTE: "The disappointment that the Lystrians had suffered in being refused the privilege of offering sacrifice to the apostles, prepared them to turn against Paul and Barnabas with an enthusiasm approaching that with which they had hailed them as gods. Incited by the Jews, they planned to attack the apostles by force. The Jews charged them not to allow Paul an opportunity to speak, alleging that if they were to grant him this privilege, he would bewitch the people." -Ibid., p.183.

7. What happened after the stoning of Paul? What experience did he make? Acts 14:20.

8. In which manner did the apostles strengthen the followers of Christ in their faith? Verse 22.

9. What other important work was done by them in the church? Verse 23.

NOTE: "As an important factor in the spiritual growth of the new converts, the apostles were careful to surround them with the safeguards of gospel order. Churches were duly organized in all places in Lyconia and Pisidia where there were believers. Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system was established for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers." -Ibid., p.185.

10. What did the apostles do when they returned from their missionary journey? Acts 14:24-28.

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Lesson No. 19 - Sabbath, November 8, 1958

## PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY THE APOSTOLIC COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

1. What teaching threatened to bring confusion to the church at Antioch? Acts 15:1.

NOTE: "While the apostles united with the ministers and lay members at Antioch in an earnest effort to win many souls to Christ, certain Jewish believers from Judea, 'of the sect of the Pharisees,' succeeded in introducing a question that soon led to widespread controversy in the church, and brought consternation to the believing Gentiles. With great assurance these Judaizing teachers asserted that in order to be saved, one must be circumcised, and must keep the entire ceremonial law." -"Acts of the Apostles," pp.188,189.

2. In order to solve this problem, what decision did the believers reach? Acts 15:2.

3. On their way to Jerusalem, how did the disciples strengthen all the churches during their journey? Verse 3.

4. By whom were Paul and Barnabas received, and what developed during their gathering? Verses 4,5.

5. Of what did Peter remind the assembled council? Verses 7-10.

6. What decision did he reach? Who supported the stand of the apostle? Verses 10-12.

7. During this apostolic council, who presided as chairman? What did James say, and what position did he, as leader, take? Verses 13-19.

NOTE: "The Holy Spirit saw good not to impose the ceremonial law on the Gentile converts, and the mind of the apostles regarding this matter was as the mind of the Spirit of God. James presided at the council, and his final decision was, 'Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God.'

This ended the discussion. In this instance we have a refutation of the doctrine held by the Roman Catholic Church,—that Peter was the head of the church. Those who, as popes, have claimed to be his successors, have no scriptural foundation for their pretensions. Nothing in the life of Peter gives sanction to the claim that he was elevated above his brethren as the vicegerent of the Most High." —Ibid., pp.194, 195.

8. What resolution was given to the church? Acts 15: 20-29.

9. Did this resolution have a beneficial influence upon the whole cause?

NOTE: "The entire body of Christians was not called to vote upon the question. The 'apostles and elders,' men of influence and judgment, framed and issued the decree, which was thereupon generally accepted by the Christian churches. Not all, however, were pleased with the decision; there was a faction of ambitious and self-confident brethren who disagreed with it. These men assumed to engage in the work on their own responsibility. They indulged in much murmuring and fault-finding, proposing new plans, and seeking to pull down the work of the men whom God had ordained to teach the gospel message. From the first the church has had such obstacles to meet, and ever will have to the close of time." —Ibid., pp.196,197.

Lesson No. 20 - Sabbath, November 15, 1958

## THE CROSS IS ELEVATED

1. What proposal did Paul have for his co-workers after they had spent some time at Antioch? Acts 15:36.

NOTE: "Both Paul and Barnabas had a tender regard for those who had recently accepted the gospel message under their ministry, and they longed to see them once more. This solicitude Paul never lost. Even when in distant mission fields, far from the scene of his earlier labors, he continued to bear upon his heart the burden of urging these converts to remain faithful, 'perfecting holiness in the fear of God'." —"Acts of the Apostles," p.201.

2. By what incident were the two great apostles separated? Acts 15:37-41.

NOTE: "Barnabas was ready to go with Paul, but wished to take with them Mark, who had again decided to devote himself to the ministry. To this Paul objected. He 'thought not good to take . . . with them' one who during their first missionary journey had left them in a time of need. He was not inclined to excuse Mark's weakness in deserting the work for the safety and comforts of home. He urged that one with so little stamina was unfitted for a work requiring patience, self-denial, bravery, devotion, faith, and a willingness to sacrifice, if need be, even life itself. So sharp was the contention, that Paul and Barnabas separated, the latter following out his convictions, and taking Mark with him. 'So Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; and Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God'." — Ibid., p.202.

3. Later on, whom did Paul choose as a young co-worker? How much did he love him? Acts 16:1.

NOTE: "The great apostle often drew the younger disciple out, questioning him in regard to Scripture history; and as they traveled from place to place, he carefully taught him to do successful work. Both Paul and Silas, in all their association with Timothy, sought to deepen the impression that had already been made upon his mind, of the sacred, serious nature of the work of the gospel minister." -Ibid., p.204.

4. What vision did Paul have at Troas? Acts 16:9.
5. What great importance was attached to it? Verses 10-12.
6. In what European city did Paul and his co-workers begin to work? On what day did they have their divine service? Verses 12,13.
7. Who was the first fruit of this labor? Verses 14, 15.
8. How did Satan, here also, try to hinder the work? Verses 16-18.
9. What followed after faith had gained the victory? Verses 19,20.
10. What wonderful experience with God did they make in this fearful hour? Verses 25-40.
11. What blessed results were brought to the keeper of the prison and his family? Verses 29-34.

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*Believe and Obey!*

Lesson No. 21 - Sabbath, November 22, 1958

## THESSALONICA AND BEREIA

1. In which city did the apostles now work? Acts 17:1.
2. Although he worked among the Gentiles, what remained a steady custom with Paul? Verse 2.
3. On what subject did Paul preach on three Sabbaths, and with what result? Verses 3,4.
4. Again, what was not lacking? Verse 5.

NOTE: "As in the places formerly entered, the apostles met with determined opposition. 'The Jews which believed not' were 'moved with envy.' These Jews were not then in favor with the Roman power, because, not long before, they had raised an insurrection in Rome. They were looked upon with suspicion, and their liberty was in a measure restricted. They now saw an opportunity to take advantage of circumstances to re-establish themselves in favor, and at the same time to throw reproach upon the apostles and the converts to Christianity." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.229.

5. What accusation was brought against the apostles? Acts 17:7.
6. Where did they go after escaping their enemies? Verse 10.
7. What good testimony was given of the believers at Berea? Verse 11.

NOTE: "The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice. They were willing to investigate the truthfulness of the doctrines preached by the apost-

les. They studied the Bible, not from curiosity, but in order that they might learn what had been written concerning the promised Messiah. Daily they searched the inspired records; and as they compared scripture with scripture, heavenly angels were beside them, enlightening their minds and impressing their hearts. . . . If in the closing scenes of this earth's history, those to whom testing truths are proclaimed would follow the example of the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily, and comparing with God's word the messages brought them, there would to-day be a large number loyal to the precepts of God's law, where now there are comparatively few." -Ibid., pp.231,232.

8. Who accepted the truth at Berea? Acts 17:12.
9. What former enemies followed Paul to Berea? Verse 13.
10. What counsel was given to Paul by the brethren? Verse 15.

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Lesson No. 22 - Sabbath, November 29, 1958

## PAUL AT ATHENS

1. What was it that greatly stirred the spirit of Paul at Athens? Acts 17:16.

NOTE: At that time Athens had not less than 3,000 images of strange gods.

2. How did he begin his work in this idolatrous city? Verse 17.
3. With whom did he come in conflict, and what did they inquire of him?

NOTE: "Among those who encountered Paul in the marketplace were 'certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics;' but they, and all others who came in contact with him, soon saw that he had a store of knowledge even greater than their own. His intellectual power commanded the respect of the learned; while his earnest, logical reasoning and the power of his oratory held the attention of all in the audience." -"Acts of the Apostles," p.235.

4. With what were the Athenians and strangers mostly concerned? To what did Paul draw their attention? Verses 21,22.
5. How did he use this opportunity? Verse 23.
6. What difference did Paul establish between God and the gods of Athens? Verses 24,25.
7. In worshiping the true God, what must not be forgotten? Verse 25.
8. What was already determined by the Creator a long time ago? Verse 26.
9. What does the Lord desire that all creatures should do? Verse 27.
10. To what extent are we dependent upon God? Verse 28.
11. What was the success of Paul at Athens? Verses 32-34.

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*Christ is our Wisdom*

Lesson No. 23 - Sabbath, December 6, 1958

# AT CORINTH

1. What lesson did Paul learn at Athens? 1 Cor.2:1-4.

NOTE: "In preaching the gospel in Corinth, the apostle followed a course different from that which had marked his labors at Athens. While in the latter place, he had sought to adopt his style to the character of his audience; he had met logic with logic, science with science, philosophy with philosophy. As he thought of the time thus spent, and realized that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labor in Corinth, in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.244.

2. What friends of the truth did he meet at Corinth? Acts 18:1,2.

NOTE: "Among the Jews who had taken up their residence in Corinth, were Aquila and Priscilla, who afterwards became distinguished as earnest workers for Christ. Becoming acquainted with the character of these persons, Paul 'abode with them'." -Ibid., p.243.

3. What special circumstances surrounded Paul at Corinth? What did he write about this later? Acts 18:3; 1 Cor.9:18,19.
4. Of what did his message in this city consist? 1 Cor.2:2-4; Acts 18:5,6.
5. When the synagogue was closed to them, where did the believers meet? Verse 7.

6. Who was converted in this place? Verse 8.
7. What comforting message did the Lord give His servant? Verses 9,10.
8. Following this success of the gospel, what came upon them again? Verses 12,13.
9. Whom did the Lord use to help His servant? Verses 14-17.
10. How long did Paul stay at Corinth? Verses 18-21.
11. Where did Paul finish his second missionary journey? Verse 22.

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Lesson No. 24 - Sabbath, December 13, 1958

# PAUL AND APOLLOS AT EPHESUS

1. To what country did Paul go on his third missionary journey? Acts 18:23.
2. Which worker of God's kingdom came to Ephesus? What does the Scripture say concerning him? Verses 24,25.
3. Who was instrumental to reveal to Apollos the more perfect plan of divine salvation? Verse 26.
4. What is further reported of the blessed work of Apollos? Verses 27,28.
5. What remaining gap in the work of Apollos and his followers was Paul able to fill with the whole truth? Acts 19:1-6.

6. What great work was Paul able to do at Ephesus, and what accompanied it? Verses 9-12.

NOTE: "The apostle Paul, in his labors at Ephesus, was given special tokens of divine favor. The power of God accompanied his efforts, and many were healed of physical maladies." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.286.

7. How did Satan again try to hinder and imitate the work? Acts 18:13,14.

8. How was the power of Satan revealed? Verses 15-17.

NOTE: "Thus unmistakable proof was given of the sacredness of the name of Christ, and the peril which they incurred who should invoke it without faith in the divinity of the Saviour's mission." -Ibid., p.288.

9. In what manner was the proof of true conversion furnished? Acts 18:18,19.

NOTE: "By burning their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed that the things in which they had once delighted they now abhorred. It was by and through magic that they had especially offended and imperiled their souls; and it was against magic that they showed such indignation. Thus they gave evidence of true conversion." -Ibid., p.288.

10. What was said concerning the word of God? Verse 20.

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*Follow the Light!*

## THE UPROAR AT EPHEBUS

1. At the close of his blessed activities at Ephesus, what was the plan of Paul? Acts 19:21,22.
2. What attack did Satan plan, to bring Paul and his co-workers into danger? Verses 23-26.
3. What was the name of the goddess of the Ephesians to whom they brought divine adoration? Verse 27.
4. What brethren had to suffer under this uproar? Verse 29.
5. What faithful brethren tried to shelter Paul from this danger? Verses 30,31.
6. What did the blinded mob cry for fully two hours? Verses 32-34.
7. What man of understanding succeeded in quietening the uproar? Verses 35-38.

NOTE: "The decision of the recorder and of others holding honorable offices in the city, had set Paul before the people as one innocent of any unlawful act. This was another triumph of Christianity over error and superstition. God had raised up a great magistrate to vindicate His apostle and hold the tumultuous mob in check. Paul's heart was filled with gratitude to God that his life had been preserved, and that Christianity had not been brought into disrepute by the tumult at Ephesus." - "Acts of the Apostles," p.295.

8. With what sensible words of admonition did the townclerk end the attack against God's work? Acts 19:39,40.

Lesson No. 26 - Sabbath, December 27, 1958

## PAUL TRAVELS TO JERUSALEM

1. When the uprising at Ephesus had subsided, what was Paul's decision? Acts 20:1,2.
2. Later, how did he describe his experience during this journey? 2 Cor.7:5-7.
3. Why was it that Paul had to change his traveling plans? Acts 20:3.

NOTE: "Having completed his work at Corinth, he determined to sail directly for one of the ports on the coast of Palestine. All the arrangements had been made, and he was about to step on board the ship, when he was told of the plot laid by the Jews to take his life. In the past these opposers of the faith had been foiled in all their efforts to put an end to the apostle's work. . . .

Upon receiving warning of the plot, Paul decided to go around by way of Macedonia. His plan to reach Jerusalem in time for the Passover services had to be given up, but he hoped to be there at Pentecost." - "Acts of the Apostles," pp.389,390.

4. Who accompanied Paul as a representative of the church? Acts 20:4,5.

NOTE: "Paul had with him a large sum of money from the Gentile churches, which he purposed to place in the hands of the brethren in charge of the work in Judea; and because of this he made arrangements for these representative brethren from various contributing Churches, to accompany him to Jerusalem." -Ibid., p.390.

5. How long were they at Troas? On what day was this farewell meeting conducted? Verses 7,8.
6. What did the brethren do on this meeting day? Did this day have any special significance to them? Verse 13.
7. When at Ephesus, how did he make contact with the church? Verse 17.
8. What words did he speak to the elders? In what uncertainty did he live? Verses 18-23.
9. Yet, what was he prepared to endure? Verses 24-26.
10. What solemn words of earnest admonition did he use in leaving his brethren whom he had learned to love so much? Verses 28-38.

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## A NEW YEAR'S WISH:

MORE love to Thee, O Christ! More love to Thee;  
Hear Thou the prayer I make On bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea, More love, O Christ, to Thee!  
More love to Thee! More love to Thee!

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