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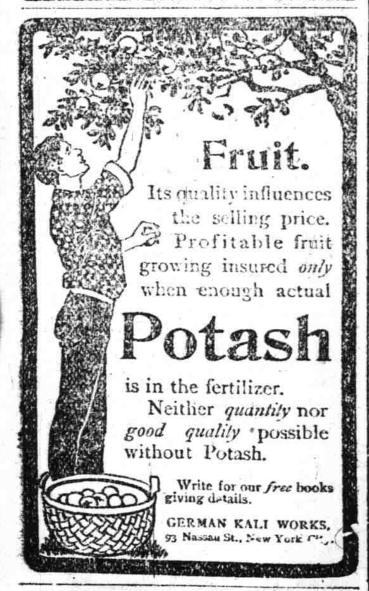
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#### SABBATH SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 19.

Subject: The Early Christian Church, Acts 11., 37-47-Golden Text, Acts xi., 47-Memory Verses, 37-39-Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

notes to pierce or penetrate with a needle, and thus to pierce with grief or acute pain of any kind. They were stung with remorse and alarm; convicted of sin and deeply distressed. "Men and brethren." This was an expression denoting affectionate earnestness. "What shall we do." How can we escape the wrath that seems certain to fall upon us because of having crucified the Messiah? This is the question asked by every penient sinner. See Acts 9: 6; 16: 30. They had a sense of guilt and danger and a readiness to yield to the claims of God. Every door of hope seemed shut in their faces, but a great

38. "Peter said." Peter does not act as superior to the other apostles, but as spokesman for all of them. "Repent." Evangelical repentance is, first, contrition;

second, reformation.

39. "For the promise." The promised influences of the Holy Spirit, and of pardon and salvation through repentance and faith in the Redemer. "Unto you." Even the murderers of God's Son were included to the invitation to come and repent, and openly confess Christ, and live for the

glory of His name. 40. "Many other words." Thus we see that this account is only a brief report of Peter's discourse. "Testify." The same word is translated "charge" in 1 Tim. 5: 21, and might be so rendered here. He bore witness to the promises of Christianity; to the truths pertaining to the danger of sinners and to the truth respecting the character of that generation. "Exhort." Entreating them by arguments and promises. "Save yourselves." Do those things necessary to your salvation. Forsake your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. "This crooked generation" (R. V.) They were to save themselves from the condemnation pronounced against that wicked and backslidden nation, "which had upon it the guilt of special crime, and a, doom of special destruction." Many a man has lived in a crooked generation and has kept straight.

41. "Then." Immediately, at the close of the sermon. A prompt acceptance of the word is the beginning of true conver-"That received His word" (R. V.) While "gladly" is omitted in the R. V. yet it is true that those who come to Christ should come gladly, "rejoicing in Christ should come gladly, "rejoicing in the privilege of becoming reconciled to God." "Were baptized." As a sign that they had accepted Christ as their Saviour. "The same day." While 3000 were added to the number of Christians in one day, it does not say that this number was baptized in one day. "Three thousand." This was a glorious beginning for the infant church; the disciples would be greatly encouraged. "Souls." Persons. This was the first effusion of the Holy Spirit under the preaching of the gospel, and it shows that such scenes are to be expected in the that such scenes are to be expected in the church, and that the gospel is fitted to

work a rapid and mighty change in the hearts of men. This was an amazing draught of fishes on the part of Peter.

42. "They continued steadfastly." Perseverance is the result of a fixed purpose. Peter was definite in his preaching. The people were definite in their decisions. people were definite in their decisions. "In the abostles' doctrine." In the doc-trine taught by the apostles, which they received of Jesus and preached under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Any attempt to edify without instruction and doctrine as the basis, is neither in accorddoctrine as the basis, is neither in accordance with the example and command of Jesus, nor with the practice and principles of the apostles, and is therefore unevangelical. "And fellowship." The Spirit united them in the bonds of peace. "In breaking of bread." In token of their love and unity as the family of God, the brethren of one Parent. "In prayers." United prayer strengthened the tie of Christian brotherhood, and kept them baptized into one Spirit. baptized into one Spirit.

43. "Fear came." Awe and reverence took the place of human philosophy. No frivolous conversation had place among them, but rather a pious, devotional atti-tude possessed them. "Many signs and wonders were done." Not human expe-

riments, but divine operations through men devoted to the service of God. 44. "All things common." Themselves and all they had belonged to God, to whom also belonged their poorer brethren, and they held what they possessed in trust for God and His saints. There was no community of goods absolutely and universally enforced as a necessary and permanent arrangement of the church. This is plain from Acts 5: 4; 9: 36; 12: 12; 21:

16: Heb. 10: 34; 13: 2. 5, 16; 1 Cor. 16: 2.
45. "Possessions." Lands, houses.
"Goods." Personal property. "Parted." "Goods." Personal property. "Parted." Indicating that the sale and distribution took place from time to time as called for.
"Had need." They did not sell all their
possessions or relinquish their title to all
their property, but they so far regarded
all as common as to be willing to part with it if it was needful to supply the wants of the others. It is still the duty of the church to supply the needs of its poor

"In the temple." This does not mean that they were continually in the temple, but they did not forseke the temple services and were present at the hours of prayer—at 9 o'clock in the morning, at noon, and at 3 in the afternoon. "Breaking bread at home" (R. V.) This may mean that select companies ate together at their lodgings when they returned from public worship. This was probably an ordinary meal, eaten together, and closing with the Lord's supper. "Meat." This means food of any kind. "Gladness." Rejoicing. This is one of the effects of the grace of God. Gloom cannot exist in a heart where the Holv Ghost dwells. "Singleness of heart." This means with a sincere and pure heart. They were satisfied of prayer-at 9 o'clock in the morning, at cere and pure heart. They were satisfied and thankful. There was no deceit or hy-

and thankful. There was no deceit or hypocrisy.

47. "Praising God." Their hearts were full of praise. It is as natural for Christians to praise God as to breathe. "Having favor." The common people heard them gladly. They were esteemed for their simplicity and charity, and for the purity and loveliness of their lives. The Jewish leaders had not yet entered into a systematic opposition to them. "The Lord added." It is the work of the Holy Ghost to save men and bring them into the church. "That were being saved" (R. V.) Only saved men are fit subjects to be received into the Christian church. When a church becomes filled up with unsaved, worldly people, it ceases to be a church and sinks to the level of a mere social institution. stitution.

The more grandmothers a boy has the more he is apt to be spoiled.

Marking Our Northern Boundary.

On that part of the boundary line deliminiting Canada an dthe United States, between Rouse's Point and the River St. Lawrence, some of the fragile momuments of wood and mounds require attention, and in some cases replacement. To inspect them with a view of finding out their exact condi-37. "They were pricked." These earnest words delivered by the apostle
"pricked" in their hearts. This word deto go over the ground, and report the tion, the Canadian Government and that to go over the ground, and report the facts as they find them. Many poles are said to have disappeared; an admonition that less perishable materials will require to be used as substitutes. Where the monuments have disappeared the problem will be to find the exact places which they occupied. Mounds are scarcely suitable for this work, for, besides being subject to denuding influences, they may be maliciously tampered with, and put out of easy recogdeal is done when men begin to inquire | nition. Some durable material ought to be substituted for materials that are perishable or unstable, and we take it for granted that this course wil be foilowed.

Kaiser Wilhelm allows no chance pass that will serve to make himself and his family popular with all classes in Germany. Of course the crown prince is dedicated to the army and likewise Etel Fritz. To the navy was given Acalbert, and now he has given two other sons, not to the law, nor to the church nor to medicine, but to agriculture. It has been announced that Princes August William and Oscar will learn, in addition to the many other things they are taught, practical agriculture. Their father has given them a small farm at Pleon, and with a hali dozen of their school-fellows they will dig and plant in the most scientific manner, selling their products at market prices to the Empress. Not only will they dig and plant and weed, but they will have to milk two cows and look after the chickens.

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Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

rice and beans.

break to crack a looking glass.

cluding me."



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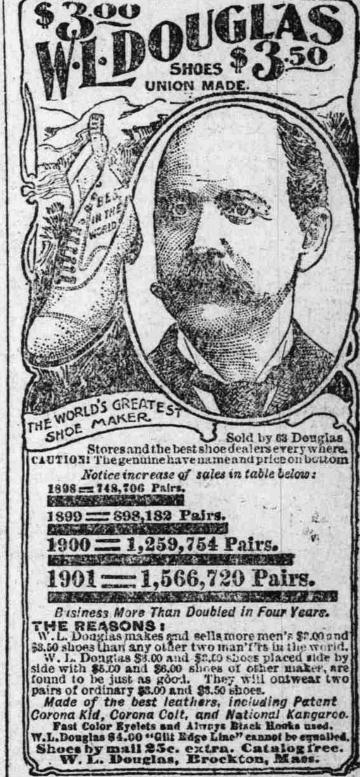


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