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## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XII. - Third Quarter, For Sept. 19, 1909.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, a Comprehensive Quarterly Review-Golden Text, Acts xix, 20-Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association.] LESSON I.-Paul's second missionary journey-Antioch to Philippi-Acts xvi, 6-15. Golden Text, Acts xvi, 9, "Come over into Macedenia and help us." The lessons of this quarter cover Paul's second and third missionary tours and illustrate the things that even to this day may befall the Spirit filled and Spirit sent servants of the Lord. Souls will be saved, companies of believers gathered, but there must be faithful and persistent seed sowing, patient waiting and absolute surrender to the Spirit's control and guidance.

LESSON II.—The Philippian Jailer, Acts xvi, 25-40. Golden Text, Acts xvi, 31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." A most unlikely/convert, at a most unlikely time, in a most unlikely place, but thus God works, not as we would think or expect, but as He sees best, asking us to be willing to suffer with and for Him, who bore so much for us, and praise Him through it all, if only souls may be saved by seeing His power and believing in Him.

LESSON III.-Paul at Thessalonica and Berea, Acts xvil, 1-15. Golden Text, Ps. cxix, 11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Everywhere God works by His Spirit, through His word as Jesus is preached. The Spirit uses only His word as the means by which He accomplishes the will of God. The written word tells of the living word, and by the word God is revealed, even as the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel by the word of the Lord (I Sam. iii, 21).

LESSON IV .- Paul at Athens, Acts xvii, 22-34. Golden Text, John tv. 24, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." The great adversary is content to let men worship any kind of a god and as many gods as they please if he can only keep them from knowing the one true God, the only Creator, Redeemer and Judge of all mankind.

LESSON V.—Close of Paul's second missionary journey, Acts xviii, 1-22. Golden Text, John xvi, 33, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." God always has a "Be not afraid" for every one who is fearful, whether it be Abram or Isalah or John or Paul or von, dear reader, whoever you are, if only you are a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

LESSON VI.—Paul's instructions to the Thessalonians, I Thess. v. 12-24. Golden Text, I Thess. v, 15, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man, but ever follow that which is good. In this probable first letter which he wrote we have a fair cample of all His instructions. Seved by the grace of God through the gospel of His Son, to serve Him and to wait for His Son from heaven, walking worthy of God while we wait for His kingdom.

LESSON VIL-Paul at Ephesus on his third missionary journey, Acts, xix, 8-20. Golden Text, Acts xtx, 17, "The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified." This is the story of Paul's three years at Ephesus when through Him all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, and to make manifest the pre-eminence of that name over the evil one and all evil spirits God caused special miracles to be wrought through Paul.

LESSON VIII.—The riot at Ephesus, Acts xix, 23-30, 35-41. Golden Text. II Cor. xii, 9, "He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." When the name of the Lord Jesus is magnified and the word of God grows and prevails the adversary will surely show his wrath; hence this riot in the name of Diana of the Ephesians whom all Asia and the world worshipeth.

LESSON IX .- Paul on Christian love. I Cor. xiii, 143. Golden Text, I Cor. xiii, 13, "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." Consider how much that is outwardly good and praised by men may be in the sight of God as nothing. "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke xvi, 15). The love of Gcd, which is the greatest thing we ever heard of, must be known and betieved and the Son of God received before any service can be ac-

ceptable to Him. LESSON X .- Paul's farewell to the Ephesians, Acts xx 2-88. Golden Text, Phil. iv. 13, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me." Having been to Europe and being now on his way to Jerusalem, he utters these farewell words. He magnified the gospel of the grace of God, the word of God, and on man's part faith and re-

pentance. LESSON XL-Close of Paul's third missionary journey, Acts xxi, 1-17 Golden Text, Acts xxi, 14, "The will of the Lord be done." Services at Tyre, Ptolemais and Caesarea mark the close of this third great journey in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the special thing to be noted seems to be his being forbidden by the Holy Ghost to go to Jerusalem (21, 24), and yet his determination to go, thinking, no doubt, that it was simply the kindness of the brethren and their desire that he should not suffer unnecessarily.

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