

## PAUL AT ICONIUM AND LYSTRA

Sunday School Lesson for May 16, 1909  
Specially Arranged for This Paper

**LESSON TEXT.**—Acts 14:1-28. Memory verses 21, 22.  
**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"All the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens."—Psalm 96:5.  
**TIME.**—Immediately after the last lesson. Perhaps in the autumn of A. D. 47.  
**PLACE.**—Lyconia, in southern Galatia. Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, with a return to Antioch and Perga, and thence to Antioch in Syria.

**Suggestion and Practical Thought.**  
The greater the work a man endeavors to do, the greater the obstacles that he will meet, and the more numerous they will be. It is a principle of physics that resistance increases as the square of the velocity. Paul's work, like that of all true Christians, was very great, and therefore it encountered formidable obstacles.

But these hindrances were overcome, in Christ's strength; and the process of overcoming them strengthened Paul, as it will strengthen us. "A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. Kites rise against and not with the wind. Even a head wind is better than none."—John Neal.

"A great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks (Jewish proselytes) believed;" but there were "unbelieving Jews" (R. V. "disobedient" to the truth), who prejudiced the Gentile populace against the missionaries by their calumnies. For this double reason ("therefore," v. 3) Paul and Barnabas remained at Iconium a "long time," probably several months, since (1) there were so many converts to be instructed in their new faith, and (2) that faith was evidently to be tried by severe opposition and would need to be strongly re-enforced by instruction. Finally, however, the hatred of the Jewish rulers and of the Gentiles whom they influenced (not the Gentile rulers, see v. 5) became so inflamed with the missionaries' bold speech and increasing success, that a plot was formed to stone them as blasphemers. Getting knowledge of this, and mindful of Christ's command (Matt. 10:23) to flee from persecution, Paul and Barnabas escaped, going first to "Lystra," 18 miles south-southwest of Iconium, and then to the Derbe, 20 miles to the southeast of Lystra.

Stories of the gods coming down to man were common among the Greeks and other races. "Like distorted and obscure reflections in muddy water, they give a blurred image of the great truth."—Maclaren. They show that Christ's coming was in response to a universal need. One of these tales was of the visit of Jupiter and Mercury to this very Lyconia. The people thought them to be poor vagrants, refused to entertain them, ridiculed and maltreated them. At last they came to the hut of the poor peasants, Baucis and Philemon, who received them hospitably and entertained them with the best they had. In return, the gods transformed their hut into a glorious temple over which they were set as the chief ministers of worship, while the churlish neighbors were punished by a terrible flood which overwhelmed them. The statue of Jupiter stood before the gate of Lystra, and Ewald suggests that this story of Baucis and Philemon may have been recited year by year at the great festival in this temple.

They "persuaded the people." "Probably they influenced the multitudes to regard the miracle, the reality of which they could not dispute, as the work not of beneficent gods, but of evil demons."—Expos. Greek Testament. They raised a mob, which "stoned Paul," whose bold speech had centered hostility upon himself. What memories of the stoning of Stephen ten or eleven years before must have passed through Paul's mind! "Transformed into a howling mob, like those which even in Christian America shoot negroes, Chinamen and Italians, the quondam worshippers left Paul ready, as they supposed, for the cremation fires or the vagrant dogs."—William Elliot Griffis, L. H. D. Perhaps, as the stoning of Stephen must have moved Paul toward Christianity, the stoning of Paul was the turning point in the life of Timothy. The young man may have been among "the disciples who stood round about him," to give what aid they could, and care for his body if he were really dead.

Note the sudden change in the feelings of the people toward Paul, and compare it with the revolution in the attitude of the people of Jerusalem toward Christ, from "Hosanna!" to "Crucify him!" Compare also the sudden change in the minds of the people of Malta, Acts 28:4-6. The lesson is "not to rate very highly human praise; not to be greatly depressed by human censure. Had Paul been desperately anxious to please Lystra, I fancy that that stoning would have killed him."—Morrison.

How did the missionaries close the first missionary journey? Properly and wisely, with a report to the home church at Antioch in Syria, which had sent them forth.

This report was to the whole church, for all had a part in the work, and needed the stimulus of the report. Every member of the congregation should be in the missionary meeting. (2) It was a modest report, telling what "God had done with them," on their side, as an ally, and not recounting the achievements as their own. (3) It was an encouraging report, a report of progress, telling of the great forward step that had been taken, the admission of Gentiles into the church through "the door of faith," and no longer through the rite of circumcision.

## STREET CORNER ASTRONOMER.

Old London Character Who is Patronized by Peers of Parliament and Other Notables.

London.—Close to the houses of parliament in London at the entrance to Westminster bridge, stands a man with a telescope. His name is George Crocker, and he might properly be called the "parliamentary astronomer royal." Most of the old members of the house of commons and not a few noble lords who attend the upper legislative chamber have peeped through Crocker's star-gazer. For more than fifteen years he has held his post. The police have, on one or two occasions, tried to oust the astronomer, but



Old London Street Corner Astronomer.

Crocker is not a man who is moved easily, and his "pull" with members of parliament has been so strong that the police have had to let him alone. Crocker is one of the few interesting "types" of character left to London in these days of modernity. He is a ruddy-faced, jovial looking man of 60, whom communion with the stars has provided with a fund of philosophy all his own.

"Yes, I have seen a good many changes in my time," he said recently. "I have stood for many years at the entrance to this bridge, and you would be surprised at the number of well-known folk who have come to my telescope to have a peep at the stars, or else, on cloudy nights, to have a look at the face of 'Big Ben'—the largest clock dial in the world."

"I have made a fair living from my telescope since I started 15 years ago. In fact, this is my second instrument. It cost me £200—all saved up from pennies collected here on the bridge. I was encouraged to buy the new instrument by Sir Robert Ball, the famous astronomer royal. He came to the bridge one night and had a look through, paying his penny in the usual way. He had a good, long look, and I thought of charging him extra. Then he began to move the machine around and find stars for himself. You know, I don't usually allow customers to work the instrument. However, I didn't say much, and after awhile, he began to tell me a lot about certain stars. He spoke of 'distances' and 'diameters' in a way that soon showed me that he knew all there was to know about astronomy.

"When he left he gave me some cards to a lecture which 'Sir Robert Ball' was to deliver at the Royal Institute. I did not know at the time that he himself was Sir Robert, but when I got to the Royal Institute I saw that the famous scientist and my customer were one and the same person. He laughed at the joke, and then he talked to me about my telescope. He said it wasn't up to much and advised me to get a new one. I attended a lot of his lectures and I became so interested that I took up the study of astronomy seriously. As soon as I got well into it I saw that my old instrument was indeed a poor one, and I began to save up to buy a new one. I managed in the course of a few years to get together the necessary cash. Sir Robert told me where to buy my new instrument and the best kind to buy for the money. Thus I set up the present one."

"I have had a lot of people besides astronomers to look through my machine. The Rt. Hon. John Burns often stops and has a peep through on his way home from parliament at night. Though a cabinet minister, he often walks home across Westminster bridge at night all the way to Battersea—a good hour's walk. He likes to have a peep at the stars and a chat."  
"Then again, I have had Sir Benjamin Stone, Lord Rosebery, Balfour and lots of others to look through. They always have a word or two with me and pay their pennies like the rest of folks—sometimes a little more."

**Towboats on Western Rivers.**  
Some of the inland towboats reach huge proportions. The largest ever built to ply the western rivers tows coal on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. It is made almost exclusively of steel and is twice as powerful as the next largest boat. The coal towing capacity of this peculiarly constructed steamer when in barges holding 12,000 bushels each would cover an area equal to a city block.

The fact that the river boats are still built on the same lines as those of 50 years ago is not due to lack of invention on the part of the builders, but they are retained on account of the peculiarities of the streams on which they are used. Exhaustive tests have proved that the old original type of construction with the stern wheel is far better than any of the other types.

**Touched All Right.**  
"Isn't it pathetic after all, the story of the poor farmer, robbed of his little all by the green goods pirate?"  
"I must admit there is something touching about it."

## AN INTERESTING PAINT TEST

There is a very simple and interesting chemical test by which to detect impurity in paint materials. Thousands and thousands of people, all over the country, are making this test. It is a sure way to safeguard against the many adulterated white leads which are on the market. Any one can make the test—all that is needed is a simple little instrument which may be had free by writing National Lead Company, 1902 Trinity Building, New York, and asking for House-owner's Painting Outfit No. 49. The outfit includes also a set of color schemes for exterior or interior painting, or both, if you wish, and a book of specifications. No houseowner should make any arrangements for painting till he gets this outfit.

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## NEVER SAY DIE.



She—But if you have completely cured Mrs. Tooter, you have done away with one of your most lucrative sources of income.

The Doctor—Ah, but I'll present her with my bill, and then I'll have to treat her for nervous prostration.

To Help Him Save.  
H. H. Rogers plunged into the politics of Fairhaven last month in order to secure prohibition for the beautiful Massachusetts town that is his birthplace.

"Mr. Rogers is against drinking," said a Fairhaven man. "He thinks, for one thing, that drinking brings on extravagance and thriftlessness."

"Mr. Rogers stopped and shook hands with me on the street the other morning."

"Glad to see you out again," he said. "Hope you'll vote the right ticket. You've been sick, haven't you?"

"Yes," said I. "Stomach trouble. I guess I won't get to the Easter blow-out. The doctor has ordered me to give up champagne."

"You haven't paid his bill, yet, eh?" said Mr. Rogers, and he walked off chuckling.

## An Error.

He had dined exceedingly well and was standing in the hotel lobby, hatless, and looking exactly as if he were quite at home there. It was no wonder that the hotel guest walked up to him and inquired impudently: "Where's the news stand?"  
"Dunno."  
The guest glared.  
"I'll report you for insolence," he hissed.  
"Huh?" inquired he who had dined well. "Report m?"  
"Say, what are you? A bellboy or a detective or—what?"  
"I'm a haberdasher," answered the other, with a pleasant smile.  
The other snorted and withdrew.

## Work of Fish Hatcheries.

As the result of special efforts in the hatchery work during the year the output of fish and eggs in 1908 was greater than ever before in the history of the national bureau, reaching a total of 2,871,456,280. Of this number 2,413,809,225 were young fish distributed for the stocking and restocking of public and private waters, and the remaining 457,647,055 were eggs delivered to state and foreign hatcheries. The output of young fish exceeds the greatest previous record for any one year by \$76,000,000.

## NOT DRUGS Food Did It.

After using laxative and cathartic medicines from childhood a case of chronic and apparently incurable constipation yielded to the scientific food, Grape-Nuts, in a few days.

"From early childhood I suffered with such terrible constipation that I had to use laxatives continuously going from one drug to another and suffering more or less all the time. A prominent physician whom I consulted told me the muscles of the digestive organs were partially paralyzed and could not perform their work without help of some kind, so I have tried at different times about every laxative and cathartic known, but found no help that was at all permanent. I had finally become discouraged and had given my case up as hopeless when I began to use the pre-digested food, Grape-Nuts."

"Although I had not expected this food to help my trouble, to my great surprise Grape-Nuts digested immediately from the first and in a few days I was convinced that this was just what my system needed. The bowels performed their functions regularly and I am now completely and permanently cured of this awful trouble. Truly the power of scientific food must be unlimited." "There's a Reason."

Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

## VARIETY.



Hewitt—I've been pinched for money lately.  
Jewitt—Well, women have different ways of getting it. My wife kisses me when she wants any.

## A CURE FOR FITS.

The Treatment is to Accomplish What Science Has Been Struggling to Attain for Centuries.

The intense interest that has been manifested throughout the country by the wonderful cures that are being accomplished daily by epileptic still continues. It is really surprising the vast number of people who have already been cured of fits and nervousness. In order that everybody may have a chance to test the medicine, large trial bottles, valuable literature, History of Epilepsy and testimonials, will be sent by mail absolutely free to all who write to the Dr. May Laboratory, 543 Pearl Street, New York City.

**Mrs. Howe's Opinion.**  
Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's sense of the ridiculous has always been a saving grace, leading her to avoid grandiloquence. On one occasion a lady at Newport, trying to get a fine sentiment out of her, said, one moonlit evening on a vine-lung veranda: "Mrs. Howe, do say something lovely about my piazza!" Whereupon every one listened for the reply. In her delicately cultivated voice Mrs. Howe responded: "I think it is a bully piazza."—New York Herald.

**Eyes Are Relieved by Murine**  
when Irritated by Chalk Dust and Eye Strain. Incident to the average School Room. A recent Census of New York City reveals the fact that in that City alone 17,925 School Children needed Eye Care. Why not try Murine Eye Remedy for Red, Weak, Watery Eyes, Graduation, Pink Eye and Eye Strain? Murine Doesn't Smart; Soothes Eye Pain. Is Compounded by Experienced Physician. Contains no Injurious or Prohibited Drugs. Try Murine for Your Eye Troubles. You Will Like Murine. Try It in Baby's Eyes for Scaly Eyelids, Drug-Gritty and Itchy. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago, Will Send You Interesting Eye Book Free.

**The Great Necessity.**  
She laid down her Ruskin wearily. "It says here," she mused, "that 'man should resemble a river.' I wonder what that means. Do you know, dear?"  
Dear looked up from a batch of bills. "Sure I do," he growled. "It means that you don't amount to shucks these days unless you own a couple of banks."

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, Ohio, and that he has in his hands and possession of the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY, sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 5th day of December, A. D. 1908.

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**Gardens with Schools.**  
The school-garden idea has been remarkably developed in San Antonio, Tex., which is said to have more gardens attached to its schools than any other place of its size in the world. There are 949 of these cultivated plots attached to the 29 schools, the gardens varying from one-tenth to one-quarter of an acre.

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**The Burnt Child.**  
Stern Parent—Bobby, I thought I told you to order that trunk sent around right away, all ready to use. The trunk has come, but there is no strap.  
"Well, pa, I told the man he needn't mind sending the strap."

**Use Allen's Foot-Ease.**  
It is the only relief for Swollen Smarting, Tired, Aching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures while you walk. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, Etc. Don't accept any substitute. Name on wrapper FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

**No Injuries.**  
"Bre'r Jones done fall off de watah wagon."  
"Was he hurt?"  
"No, suh. He was a hardened sin-nah."

Send postcard request to-day for sample package of Garfield Tea, Nature's herb remedy for constipation, liver and kidney diseases. Garfield Tea Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

**German Proverb.**  
"Punch you drive Nature out with a pitchfork, she always comes back."

**SORE EYES,** weak, inflamed, red, watery and swollen eyes, use PITT'S EYE SALVE, 25c. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

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"Miss Adele has such a mobile face."  
"Yes, I have noticed at times its automatic expression."

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Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coal-Ed Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable. SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

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