BIBLE SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, December 27th.

By M. S. Briggs

Golden Text:—"I have kept the faith." II Tim. 4:7.

When his life's work was nearly ended and Paul had reached the swelling tide, he looked back over the sixty-seven years of his life, thirty-two of which he had put in in the service of the Master, as he was thirty-five years of age at the time of his conversion just in the fullest of the vigor of maturing manhood, he took a retrospective view of the life's work, as the sun of his life was going down, he was to pay in full his devotion to the very Christ which he was the earthly exponent, and whose gospel he had demonstrated so wonderfully during his missionary tours. He was in the dungeon, and with his faithful friend and co-worker, Luke, was preparing the letter to Timothy, knowing fully that he was soon to go over on the other side, and as the great beyond was just opening to his view, he wrote as in the golden text, "I have kept the faith."

He also said, "I have fought a good fight," and he had, for he had made the fight for the Master and his message to a dying world, and had delivered the message to the people for whom it was intended, notwithstanding the obstacles which were placed in his way. "I have finished my course." This he knew as well, for he had been buffeted in the years which he had been a missionary for the Master. He was beaten many times with rods, stoned and left for dead, had been in a shipwreck more than once and had spent a night and a day in the deep. These hardships had not deterred him at any time from preaching the gospel, these things had not broken his spirit, but as a man he was feeling the strain and was weighted down with more than three score of years, still he was willing to fight the good fight, but he knew by that inspiration which served him so well many times during his life, and this he wrote, "I have finished my course, and there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, and not for me only but for all those who love His appearing." He had fought the good fight, he had finished his course, but of all the finest was he had kept the faith, with all the bumps and maltreatment which he had received he had kept the faith.

During the first twelve years of his life he had lived at the home of his parents at Tarsus in Cilicia, in Asia Minor, and at that time he went to Jerusalem for further study, as he was of a bright mind and his parents desired to make of their son all that was possible. He was placed under the instruction of Gamaliel, who was accorded of being the best student of the scriptures, the law and the prophets of the time, this enabled the young man, for at 12 the Jewish lad was considered as being mature in years, the best of advantages.

For twenty years Paul studied under this great instructor, and at that time he was thirty-two years of age, this was shortly after the beginning of the preaching of the Master on earth. Paul never saw the Master in the flesh, but knew of his miracles, of his preaching, of his crucifiction, and hos resurection from the dead and his ascension to heaven. Still Paul, then Saul of Tarsus, thought himself right in putting down the new sect, which afterwards, under his preaching at Antioch, were called Christians.

He persecuted the new converts to death and held the clothes of those who stoned the martyr Stephen to death. We cannot but think that this scene had some impression on Saul, for he obtained letters from the chief priests that he might go to Damascus to arrest those there who were in the "way" and that he might send them bound to Jerusalem for trial by the Jews. We cannot but think he was something like Jonah, when he was trying to run away from the Lord, for when the light shone upon him as he was nearing Damascus, and the voice of the Master asked, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Saul answered, "Who art thou, Lord?" Knowing full well it was the very Christ whom he was just then persecuting. When he was instructed to go to Damascus, when he had asked the Master, for indeed it was he, "What will you have me to do"

Christ who had placed in the hands of his earthly workers the carrying on of his mission and the carrying of the gospel to the world which he came to save, sent Saul to Damascus for instructions and at the same time instructed Ananias to go see Saul and instruct him in the matter of what he was to do. The Christ, who knew that the world would be slow to receive the report of Saul, told Ananias, Acts, 9:16, "For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my names sake." From this we know only those persecusions and the hardships through which Paul passed were a portion of his experiences and when he said he had fought a good fight we know he had.

Following the opening of Saul's eyes and his baptism, he went to Arabia where, like Moses, when he was in the land of Midean, he spent in meditation and getting the right condition to deliver the Masters' message. Then he returned to Damascus and began to preach of Christ the Son of God, but no one would hear him. He began to realize the position the new church was in when he was its persecutor. He offended the jews at Damascus to the extent that they were going to kill him and watched the gates night and day to prevent his escape. He was let down from a window in the wall like one of the spies which escaped from Jericho, years before.

From Damascus when he escaped he returned to Jerusalem having been away for five years, and went to the Apostles who were very loath to receive him notwithstand they had heard that he had become a Christian. However Peter and Barnabas received him and interceded with the other of the opostles and he was received by the members of the band of Christ while on earth.

Saul preached in Jerusalem and those who knew him when he was a persecutor of the church, were not willing to believe him, and those of the Jews, who were against the Christians, sought to kill Paul, and he then departed with the aid of others of the church and made his way to his old home at Tarsus of Celicia.

Here he remained for a year and during that time Barnabas, hearing that there had been a church established at Antioch, went there to see about how the infant church was getting along and preached there for some time, but found it a big job he went to Tarsus and sought out Saul, who came and assisted in the preaching. The two stayed there for three years, and it was there that the disciples were first called Christians, and also that Saul was called Paul.

Paul was then forty-four years of age and had been preaching the Christ, the Son of God for nine years. At this time Paul was called upon to go to Jerusalem to confer with the elders of the church and as there was a famine in Jerusalem, took with him the contributions for the church at Antioch was indeed very pronouncedly missionary in their tendencies. When he returned to Antioch he was forty-five years of age and he, with Barnabas, hearing the command of the Christ, when he stood on the mount just as he was ascending to heaven, when he said, "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to all nations, making disciples of them and lo I am with ye always, even to the end of the world."—Mark 16:15.

Here began the real work of Paul as a missionary to the gentiles, but still when he entered a new town he always went first to the sinagogue, where he preached, and when they did not hear him he went to the gentiles, for indeed he was selected by the Master for that purpose. The first trip was with Barnabas, they sailing from Antioch to the Island of Cypres and made a journey through that island, then going to Asia Minor, or more properly at that time called Asia. Here they went into the interior and arrived at a town called Antioch of Oasida, they preached, establishing a church as they did at Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, they then retraced their steps and returned to Antioch.

Paul with others again went to Jerusalem to meet with the elders of the church there to know for a certainty that it was not necessary for one to become a Jew in order to become a Christian. When they returned to Antioch, Silas accompanied them and he, with Paul, made the second missionary journey while Barnabas went with Mark, they going to Cypres.

Paul and Silas went over the ground which they had been before, strengthening the churches. After they had done this Paul thought to preach in Asia, but the spirit would not allow and he was called to Europe and the first place in Europe was Phillipi, there Lydia became a member of the church, Paul preaches in Phillipi, Thessolonica, Berea, and then went to Athens.

After having preached there for a time he went to Corinth and thence to Ephesus, where a mob would have liked to have killed him because he preached a new belief. From Ephesus to Jerusalem, then back to Ephesus and to Mascedonia again and into Greece, where he received a vision telling him he must go to Jerusalem and then he was to preach the gospel at Rome.

He returned from Corinth to to Ephesus and then to Jerusalem where he was arrested, he then being fifty-eight years of age. Here an attempt was made to kill him by the Jews, and forty of them swore with an oath that they would neither eat or drink until they had slain Paul, but they did not get to do this. Paul was immortal at that time, that is he had a mission which the Lord had given him, telling him at Corinth that he must appear for him in the preaching of his gospel at Rome, and while many things looked as though a combination of causes would prevent Paul from going to Rome, but not so, that was his destiny when the Master had said for him to, the elements are all Gods, and they were the friends of the purpose and mission with which Paul was charged. He spent two years in prison at Caeserea, then came the trial of the shipwreck of which we have so shortly studied. Then the two years at Rome when he preached and Paul was then 63 years of age.

At the end of the two years of imprisonment and which time Paul put in in preaching, he was released, and then came a three years period of world wide evangelism, of which the Acts of the Apostles make no mention. It is claimed that he preached over western Europe and went as far as Spain. However this be as it may we find him again in prison at Rome and this time not in his own hired house but in the dungeon. This was an underground prison, with the only light or ventilation from above. At wet times there was much water in this hole and at other times the water would subside and there was much deep mud.

Here under these conditions was the epistle to Timothy written of which the present lesson is a portion. It was here that Paul, with Luke as a companion wrote, as in the Golden Text: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."—II Tim. 4:7.

Mrs. Sophia Ray of Huntington, West Virginia, who has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Nickson near this city departed this morning for her home in the east after a pleasant stay here.

Trimming the Tree

By Frances Grinstead

THE decorated tree, around which our Christmas holiday centers, has an origin older than Christianity itself. In ancient days trees were held sacred to various good and evil spirits and offerings to them were hung upon the branches. To the Teutons the fir tree, with its symmetrical spreading branches, was a symbol of the sun and they celebrated the winter season by decking it in tinsel, flowers, toys and other ornaments.

Christian use of the tree symbol probably began in Germany, but there are many stories of the first Christmas tree. One is that Martin Luther, walking under the stars one Christmas Eve, was moved by their wonder as a revelation of the nearness of God to man. When he reached home, he took a little fir tree and put lighted candles on its branches to explain his thought to the children.

With age-old traditions behind it, it is fitting that the typical Christmas tree in these days is decorated purely for the sake of its own beauty. Small and graceful, it often stands on the library table, gifts heaped around its base, or in miniature form graces the dining table, the center of cheer until New Year's. If it is to shine in the memories of children through years to come, its ornaments must be hung with as much thought as ever the old Teutons gave to the placing of their sun-festival gifts. The secret of decorating a tree effectively is to make its decorations look as if they grew there. One secret of that is to place the ornaments at the points of growth,

where the limbs branch and where the twigs leave the branches; the other is to place ornaments that look heavy where the tree looks strongest, well back on the branches and toward the lower part of the tree.

It is a good thing to lay out the materials for decoration with those of like shape and color together and to handle one kind of decorations at a time. In this way it is easy to distribute masses of trimming and spots of color evenly and to see that the different kinds are well intermingled. It is a common mistake to place most of the ornaments on the tip ends of the branches, under the impression that they will show up best there. As a matter of fact, a few ornaments well placed on the body of the tree are more effective than if they are scattered on the outer circumference.

The remainder of lights reflected from various ornaments should also be considered; those with glassy surfaces shine with a different glow from that of tinsel, and apples, oranges and cornucopias of candy must not be expected to counterbalance brighter surfaces. So distribute the decorations having a different kind of surface. The glassy ornaments will relieve the dark masses of the tree if they are hung well back in it, but dull-surfaced objects, if not too large, should be hung in nearer view. A good place for fruits, which are heavy but too dull to show in the body of the tree unless there is a break in the foilage, is on the sturdy lower limbs.

The small electric lights which have superseded candles for the Christmas tree should be arranged in orderly gradation from the lower limbs to the top. A pretty effect is produced if tiny white bulbs are substituted for the vari-colored ones that usually make up these circuits and each light enclosed in a small paper cone of soft yellow or orange. These cones projecting downward give much the same impression as the vertical effect of candles.

Chains of tinsel and colored paper are effective decorations if they are used rightly. They should not be sim-

ply strung around the tree, weighing on the tips of its branches, so that they seem to fetter it. If they wind branches, as a vine might, they seem to belong in the tree.

Toys may have their place on the tree itself, if they are decorative. An amusing doll perched on a limb, a bright-colored horn gleaming in the shadows, a rubber ball suspended high in the branches, will delight the children.

The grown-up who trims a Christmas tree has a chance for once in the year to be an artist—with the most appreciative public in the world. The children on Christmas morning will recognize his work as a masterpiece if he only remembers two rules: First, the tree's the thing; it must be treated as a unit and every bit of decoration must further the total effect. Second, don't overload it; if it is not smothered with trimming, the tree itself is the very best part of the decoration.

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WANTS A TARIFF CUT UPON COTTON GOODS

Washington, Dec. 22.—As one of a series of bombardments of republican tariff policies, Representative Oldfield (Ark.), chairman of the democratic national congressional committee, introduced in the house today a resolution for the appointment of a special committee of five members to investigate duties on cotton goods with a view to downward revision of rates.

In a statement explaining the purpose of the resolution, Mr. Oldfield singled out four cotton mills controlled by Senator William M. Butler (rep., Mass.), chairman of the republican national committee, as an example of what he regarded as giving proof that existing duties are unnecessarily high.

The Butler companies named by Mr. Oldfield are the Butler Mill, the Hoosac Cotton mills, Ned Bedford Cotton mills corporation, and Quisset mill. The Butler mill, the New Bedford Cotton mills corporation and the Quisset mill, he said, each have reported stock dividends during recent year besides regular dividends of from 6 to 8 per cent.

CARRIERS WILL CONFER UPON FLORIDA EMBARGO

Washington, Dec. 21.—All railroads and common carriers serving Florida territory have been asked by the interstate commerce commission to send representatives here Wednesday to consider an embargo affecting that section.

The continued inability of the carriers especially along the east coast, to give service on the scale demanded by the rush to the state gave rise to the meeting.

The situation has been further aggravated by a decision of the American Railway Express company to shut down even on the movement of fruits and fish to the north out of the state.

Mrs. J. A. Whiteman and daughter, Mrs. J. A. Johnson and little children and Harold Whiteman, drove up this morning from their home near Nehawka and departed on the early Burlington train for Omaha

Blank books at the Journal office.

Best Wishes for Your Christmas

A Christmas a year—
That's not such a lot,
So let's all be happy,
With grievances forgot.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

H. G. Klinger, Produce Buyer

Yuletide Joy to Everyone

May joy, good will and peace prevail in your hearts and homes this season of Yuletide. And may your happiness and success be increased in 1926, is our cordial wish.

Frady Garage

The Brightest Christmas For Everyone

May four home be full of sunshine;
And your heart so very glad—
You'll say this was the brightest Christmas
That you have ever had!

Tidball Lumber Company
Good Lumber—Hot Coal

Our Town's a Good Town

Our people are a good people. We all have a great deal to be thankful for.

May This be a Very Merry Christmas

for you and those whose happiness depends upon you and may the New Year bring you rich rewards.

The Handy Way Grocery
Martin & Jones, Props.
Telephone 116 So. 6th St. Plattsmouth, Neb.

Season's Greetings

Here's hoping your Christmas will be cheery and bright and that good fortune will smile on you through the days of 1926.

AND TO THIS WE ADD OUR THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS OF THE PAST

E. A. WURL
"THE CORNER STORE!"
—Dry Goods and Groceries—
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Plattsmouth, Nebr.

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FOR THE FRIENDS OF THIS STORE DURING CHRISTMAS AND THE COMING YEAR

This is Our Wish Sincere

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Service and Quality — Four Deliveries Daily
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Greetings for Christmas and the New Year

To our new and old friends, accept our sincere thanks for your past favors.

Chilton & Fullerton Cafe
Basement Main Hotel

May Your Christmas Be Merry

AND YOUR NEW YEAR FULL OF CHEER

If we knew more to wish for our patrons we would do it, for we think you deserve it.

Lugsch, The Tailor
Telephone 166 514 Main Street
Plattsmouth, Nebr.

The Christmas Candle's Glow

May it spread joy about you and light the way for each of our patrons into a Happy year filled with prosperity for every one.

W. A. WELLS
Telephone 13 South 6th Street
Service Our Motto

Anybody Can Make a Wish, But--

There's not a firm nor an individual in this town who can put more heartfelt sincerity in a Christmas message than that which we send you.
May multiplied joys be yours this Christmas and all through the year 1926.

Frank E. Vallery
Dodge Bros. Car Agency Real Estate
Phone 308—Main Street