

Continuation of Paul's Third Journey

Sunday School Lesson for August 22, 1909
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Acts 19:23-29:1. Memory verse 28.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"He said unto me: My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."—1 Cor. 12:9.

THIRD.—A. D. 56 or 57, near the close of Paul's work at Ephesus.
PLACE.—The city of Ephesus.
Suggestion and Practical Thought.
Some Things with Which the Gospel Interferes. The Results.
Business Interests versus the Gospel.—Vs. 21-28.

Paul's Plans for the Future. For at least two years and three months Paul had been working in Ephesus and was about ready to go on extending Christianity even to Rome (see Rom. 1: 13; 15: 23), and on to Spain (Rom. 15: 24), after visiting and strengthening the churches in Macedonia and Greece, and bearing the gifts of Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth and other Gentile churches (Rom. 15: 26) to the poor in Jerusalem.

In Corinth he expected to receive contributions for the poor in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16: 1-4).
He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus (2 Tim. 4: 20), through Macedonia to Corinth (1 Cor. 4: 17-19) to prepare that church for his approaching visit. Paul succeeded in all these plans, but some of them were accomplished in a very different manner.

Paul "stayed in Asia for a season" (V. 22). Apparently for several weeks or months. From the fact that Asia is mentioned rather than Ephesus, its capital, it has been inferred that he did not remain in the city all the time, but labored in the outlying districts.

A Contrast. In our last lesson we saw how Christians voluntarily gave up a bad business, at great cost to themselves, for Christ's sake. Now we find some men who tried to destroy the Gospel because it was injuring their bad business.

"There arose no small stir," commotion, like the sea in a storm. "A certain man named Demetrius." Probably the head of the whole guild of shrine makers.

"Diana." The Ephesian Diana was a distinct goddess from the Greek Diana (the Latinized form of Artemis), who was a virgin, a huntress, a personification of the moon, as Apollo was of the sun. She was worshiped with the vilest debaucheries, as many of the heathen idols were, incorporating the lusts of the flesh in the very ritual of worship.

"Our craft is in danger," because "this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands;" and this "throughout all Asia," the Roman province of that name, of which Ephesus was the capital. All the blessings of the Gospel, the uplift, the renovated character, the happiness and prosperity, and eternal salvation of the great mass of the people, weighed nothing against the money gains of a few men in a bad business.

This was in direct contrast with the character of the Christians, who made great sacrifices in burning their own (not other people's) bad books which were injuring the people.

The Mob in the Coliseum.—Vs. 29-41. "The whole city was filled with confusion." The mob of Ephesus made for the house of Aquila, with whom Paul was lodging. They missed their prey; but as Paul tells us that Aquila and Priscilla had for his life laid down their own necks (Rom. 16: 4), it is likely that these faithful friends, in shielding the apostle, brought themselves into the most imminent peril. The mob, though baffled of their principal aim, seized on Gaius and Aristarchus, two of Paul's associates, and dragged them away as criminals. "Rushed with one accord into the theater," the Coliseum, capable of holding 56,000 people.

Alexander the Jew. The Jews were always especially exposed to persecution, and as the mob would be likely to make no distinction between Jews and Christians, particularly as Paul was a Jew, they put forward a prominent Jew, named Alexander, to defend them.

The Mob Quelled. "The townclerk" at length interfered and argued with the excited people.
1. The worship of Diana was so settled in Ephesus that no company of Jews could overthrow it. You have no real cause for violence. "The image" of Diana "which fell down from Jupiter," their chief god, as meteoric stones fall from the sky.

Thus was peace and quiet restored. The signs of these times meant that it was best for Paul to leave immediately for another field of labor, while Ephesus was settling down into quiet peace, and the church continued to grow in character and numbers. Therefore Paul bade the beloved church good-by and "departed for to go into Macedonia" (Acts 20: 1).

2. Paul had not committed the wrong with which he was charged. His converts had been very careful not to blaspheme the goddess. His method of overcoming idolatry is quite noticeable. The contrast between them and the teachings and character of the idol gods was the argument.

3. There was a better way of redress, if there were need, through the law courts.

4. There was danger that the Roman government might interfere and deprive a turbulent city of its greatly prized liberties.

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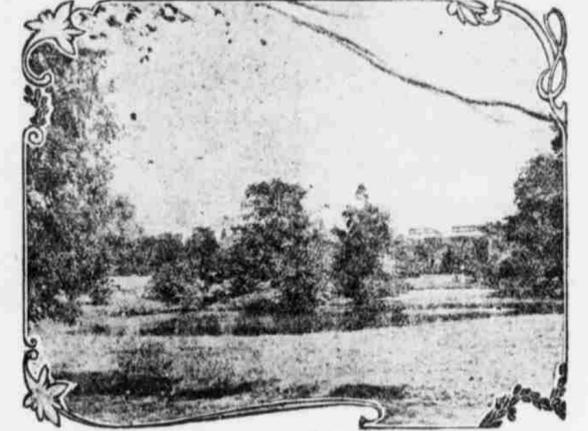
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ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES AT OHIO'S GRAND STATE EXPOSITION.

Night entertainment will be inaugurated at the coming Ohio State Fair, to be held in Columbus Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1, 2, 3 next, and with the superb attractions to be programmed nightly should prove one of the most interesting features of the exposition. The grounds and buildings will be brilliantly illuminated, while band concerts, pyrotechnic displays, free feature performances and the stupendous Spellman shows will provide amusement and entertainment for all visitors. In addition to the evening amusement features, each of the seventeen mammoth exhibition buildings, with their magnificent educational displays, will be open for inspection.



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Parfumed is the scenic beauty of the Ohio State Fair grounds. Delightfully located and comprising 115 acres of rolling land, ornamented with rare shrubbery, flowering plants, artificial lagoons, shaded lanes and broad, clean avenues leading to the mammoth exposition buildings, it is an ideal resort, the equal of any pleasure park in the state. Its beauty will be further enhanced this season from the fact that night exhibitions will be in vogue and grounds and buildings will be brilliantly illuminated each evening of the exposition, Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1, 2, 3. Superb entertainment will be programmed nightly.



GROUP OF HAPPY CHILDREN ENJOYING THE OHIO STATE FAIR.

Children's day at the Ohio State Fair is an announcement that brings joy to thousands of Ohio's future statesmen and first ladies of the land. Note the expression on the faces in the group above reproduced and then spread the glad news that the exposition will this year be held in Columbus Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1, 2, 3 next, and that on the last named date the children of the state will be admitted free at the gates. The program for that day has been arranged with a view of especially appealing to the children, and one and all are cordially invited to attend.

"Good gracious, isn't that your husband across the street quarrelling with the man on the opposite porch?"
"O, they're not really quarrelling. They dispute that way every night. George is a monopolist and Mr. Stiggins is a biplanist."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Canada produces nearly one-half the world's supply of maple sugar, about 18,000,000 pounds annually.
Mrs. Mattie Spelling Robinson Collins of Des Moines has been aided by only eight husbands in her experiments to demonstrate whether or not marriage is a failure. But Mrs. Collins is only 41 years old.
"The Bible says: 'Take no thought for the future.'"
"That's all right in theory, but I always buy a return trip when I go to the races."—Houston Post.

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"You know the artist we met last summer who boasted so of his family connections? Were any of his pictures hung?"
"No, but his grandfather was."—Baltimore American.