

Arabia lolling in the sun. From what else we know of Paul, I'm sure he was going through that Old Testament with a fine tooth comb. He was reading this verse, and that verse, and comparing this and comparing this, ~~MM~~ and praying God to open his eyes and ~~MM~~ help him to understand and see what all of this meant, and making himself ready for the work that God had for him.

Dr. Stam read us that passage in which Paul did something he hated to do. "Oh," Paul said, "I hate to defend myself; I hate to." He said, "I feel like a fool doing this; but," he said, "there are false apostles and deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ and trying to lead you astray from what I'm giving you, and nobody else is standing up for me, so I've got to do it myself," he said. "I'm going to tell you what I did." And then he went ahead, and Dr. Stam read us.... and as you read those words, don't they make you feel as though you'd never done anything for the Lord? As you read what Paul experienced, "In stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, ~~MM~~ in deaths oft; of the Jews, five times received I forty stripes save one...." How many people, if they got thirty-nine stripes once, would go back for another? It's mighty easy, when people get that sort of treatment once, for them to decide that the Lord called them to some other kind of work, and that that's not the sort of work they ought to go forward in. But Paul says five times he went through that terrible experience of receiving thirty-nine stripes. "Thrice was I beaten with rods; once was I stoned; thrice I suffered shipwreck..." Acts on y te ls about one time, and that's a harrowing account; but he says, three times it occurred. "A night and a day, I've been in the deep; in journeyings often; in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in weariness, in painfulness, in hunger and thirst, besides those things that are without, that which