

once a week to stay for the Bible lesson. And so the students could (?) stay there and listen to the YMCA secretary give a Bible lesson. And his Bible lesson consisted of trying to tell you the order ~~of~~ of the cities visited by Paul on his missionary journeys. And he tried to get these little boys to know which town he went to first, which he went next, and which he went after that; which were in the first journey, which were in the second, and which were in the third. And those are facts. And what the Bible says about it is true. But it makes mighty little difference to us whether he went to Derbe before he went to Lystra, or whether he went after he went to Lystra. There may be ^{particular} matters where something important will hang on those facts. The ~~import~~ important thing about Paul's missionary journeys is not the precise fact of where he went and what happened in each place, but it's what we can learn from the messages that he gave, and what we can learn from the way God directed him, and the way God used his efforts. And so there are lessons that we draw from it that are the ~~purpose~~ purpose of God's giving us that. There were probably just as important facts about the towns that Peter went to, and Thomas went to, and Bartholomew, and the other apostles. But God has not preserved those facts for us. They would be very interesting to know. But the important thing is not these precise facts, in this case the important thing is what we learn from it about God and about God's messages for us, and about the way that God worked in directing Paul. And most of this we could learn, not quite as well maybe, but almost as well, if we had an equally full account of Peter's journeys or of ~~Nathaniel's~~ ^{Bartholomew's} ~~Nathaniel's~~ journeys, or of Nathaniel's journeys; but probably we learn it better from Paul than from any of these others; and it's the only one we have the information about. But it is ~~these~~ these lessons we draw from it that are the important thing there for us, even though the facts, as given, are definitely true and vital. Now I said something last time about Numbers, and its relevance to the Christian. There you are getting into an area of what you might say, "spiritual lessons." Are these spiritual lessons ~~import~~ important? Well there are spiritual lessons that are very definitely stressed in the Bible; and