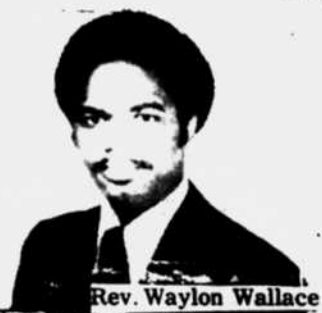


By Rev. Waylon R. Wallace

Sunday School Lesson



Rev. Waylon Wallace

Greetings fellow Bible students! The passage we study this week is Acts 4:32-5:11. Our subject is "Life in the Fellowship." A few years ago some one wrote a song entitled, "What The World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love." Somehow the author of the song realized that the ills of the world were not to be remedied by the enactment of new laws or the forming of new organizations.

The writer saw that folks need a new and radically different attitude towards one another. This new attitude that we so desperately need is the attitude of love. This love must have a basis. That basis is faith in God through Jesus Christ. It was this faith that enabled the early church members to be of one heart and one soul. Our lesson for this week shows us that the early church members demonstrated a sense of responsibility for the physical, material and spiritual well-being of one another. Too often our churches of today minister to one type of need of folk and the neglect of other needs.

Jesus came to save the whole person. When we are concerned about children in our community being fed spiritually, that is hearing the word of God, but have no concern for whether or not there is food on their tables we are not concerned enough. Are the members of your church concerned about one another? Do they bear one another's burdens and share each other's cares?

The early church members did not only have an intellectual concern for each other, but they had a very real desire to share all they had in providing for one another's needs. They cared enough to share what they had. There are many folks who are distressed to see others in hunger, but not enough to share their own abundance with them. On the whole this was not the attitude of the early Christians.

Just as today, there were insincere and imperfect members of the early church. In our lesson we find the story of a man and wife who sold a piece of property and made a contribution to the church from its sale. The only problem was that they both told a lie about the amount they were giving. They said that the amount they were giving was the full total for which the property was sold, when in reality they kept some of the money for themselves. Peter informed them that the property was theirs to dispose of or not as they wished and after the sale the money was theirs to do with as they pleased. It was therefore very wrong for them to lie about what they were doing.

The man and his wife were punished, not for the amount they gave, but for lying. Peter was letting them know that they were not merely lying to men, but they were lying to the Holy Spirit, that is, God. As Blacks and as Black Christians, we are under judgement to failing to support good causes. While the liquor companies and the record companies rake in millions of black dollars every year, black service organizations have to practically beg for funds. Often organizations are criticized by Blacks for not being black enough, when they are operating on white contributions. We have a responsibility

to support those organizations that promote good in our communities, including our churches. Not to do so is not only sin against these organizations, it is sin against God.

We also have a responsibility to God to develop the talents that he has blessed us with. Traditionally, in most of our churches, singing, speaking, piano playing and organ playing have been the only talents given an opportunity for development. Too many talents and abilities go unused and undeveloped. There stand an open door before the church for service in this area. For us to fail in developing our given abilities is sin.

We have a responsibility to God to be truthful. Since Jesus said that he is "Truth," we know that falsehood is sin against God. We must be true to ourselves. The worst type of deception is self-deception. We must be true to others. Folks should be able to have confidence in us. We ought to strive toward that goal. Most of all we must be true to God. May our life in the Christian fellowship help us to overcome the imperfections that mar it. May this fellowship help us to develop the characteristics necessary for its growth and development.

Center To Explore "Area Concept"

After a long day of school, many teachers get in the car and drive to the Education Center downtown for workshops at the Teaching-Learning Center (TLC).

This is a particular problem for teachers in the North Mecklenburg area where some schools are 20-22 miles from the Education Center.

To remedy the situation and to explore the "area concept," a traveling TLC is being developed for elementary schools in the North Mecklenburg area. Rather than several teachers coming to the Education Center, the workshops and teaching materials are taken to the teachers.

The idea of personalized services for teachers was started last fall at the North Mecklenburg area center, 1400 N. Graham Street, explains JoAnn Standifer, curriculum coordinator for the area.

Because of the geographic arrangement of schools in the North Mecklenburg area, distance was still a problem. So the idea of the traveling TLC was suggested and materials were developed for each elementary school in the area.

Church News Briefs

Mount Moriah Church Members To Greet Rev. J. C. Robinson

The Pastor's Aide Society, Church Aide Society, Officers, and members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 381 Crestdale St., Matthews, N. C., stand ready to greet pastor J. C. Robinson and bid him a royal welcome back home after a month's vacation.

Pastor Robinson returns to Mt. Moriah (as well as his other two churches—Olive Branch in Marshville, and Mt. Zion in Albemarle) on Sunday, April 2.

Upon his return he will be presented with a love token by a member of the Pastor's Aide Society, Mrs. Luereener McMurray. A gift will be presented by the Church Aide Society's president, Mrs. Fannie Cureton. Special welcome will be made by Mrs. Maude Porter who will represent the Pastor's Aide Society and the entire church family.

"We wish to extend our many thanks to our own Rev. Clifton Thomas for carrying on in the absence of pastor Robinson," said a church spokesman, who stated that "appreciation and thanks are in order for the wife of our pastor, Mrs. Annie Robinson for her perfect attendance, support, and co-operation as she sat waiting to pick up any pieces that might have been needing attention in the absence of her husband."

Also, on Sunday April 2, pastor Robinson and the entire church congregation will motor at 1 p.m. to Elgin, S. C. to worship with his brother, Rev. J. H. Robinson, and congregation of the Good Aime Baptist Church as they observe their annual homecoming service.



Rev. W. H. Caldwell
...Faith Memorial pastor

CATAWBA PRESBYTERIAL
The Catawba Presbyterian meet at the Saint Paul United Presbyterian Church, Saturday, April 1.

The theme for the meeting is "The Goodly Heritage With An Inspirational Connotation." Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. with Mrs. Charlotte Hampton, the president, presiding. The church is located on Robinson Church Road in Charlotte.

Rev. Bob Walton is the minister. Mrs. Nola Kirkpatrick is the local president.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST
The Ambassadors For Christ Baptist Church, located at 2919 W. Trade St., will celebrate their church's third anniversary on April 9 at 2:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Rev. B. R. Moore, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church here in Charlotte.

FIRST MOUNT ZION
The ladies of First Mount Zion Baptist Church sponsored a building fund drive recently, which awarded the title "Ms.

First Union

Bank's Receiving

Library Books?

First Union National Bank joins Mecklenburg County public and school libraries as drop-off points for "long lost" library books during the April 2-8 observance of OPERATION BOOK RETURN.

The project is a concerted effort to get back overdue books. Library users are urged to look around their homes, dig out any overdue library materials, and bring them back.

"Long lost" materials may be returned to any branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County or any Mecklenburg County branch of First Union National Bank. All Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are also serving as drop-off locations.

Materials turned in at any of these places will then be routed to the correct agency



Rev. J. C. Robinson
...Returns from vacation

First Mount Zion" to the lady who reported the largest sum of money raised.

Mrs. Rosa Ware was accorded the honor. She was crowned by the pastor Dr. C. V. Owens.

"It was a wonderful event in which we will long remember. We would like to thank our many friends for their presence," stated a spokesman for the church.

NEW EMMANUEL

"People will testify what miracles through Jesus Christ have been wrought in their lives," at the "One Day-Great Miracle Service" to be held at New Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ, 3546 Beatties Ford Road, on Sunday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m., according to a church announcement.

"Hearing others testify will increase the faith of listeners and hearers," said the statement. "People who are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ are invited. The unsaved will be helped and strengthened."

In addition to the testimony of a "lady who was born without sight," the service will include "outstanding choir (that) will sing to the glory of God. Come! Get a song of blessing. There is saving grace in singing God's praise," said the statement.

The service is sponsored by



Mrs. Rosa Ware
...Ms. First Mt. Zion"

The Good News of Miracles Out-Reach of New Emmanuel, Queen Estell Thompson, president.

The Rev. Nimrod C. Calhoun is minister and daily counselor of the church.

FAITH MEMORIAL

Rev. J. W. Scales of Port City United Methodist Church, Mooresville, is guest speaker for a service being sponsored by Missionary Group II of Faith Memorial Baptist Church, 211 Lakewood Ave.

Members of his congregation are expected to attend the service, according to a statement from Faith Memorial. The event will take place on Sunday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. Janie Ferguson, Missionary Group Leader, is in charge.

Young Adult Missionaries will host a service for the visual handicapped, the statement continued. Rev. R.L. Carson of Christ Community Baptist Church of Gastonia is guest speaker for the Sunday, April 16, service. The minister is also a professor at Gardner Webb College of Shelby. He will speak at 3 p.m.

Annie Hobgood, director of the young adult group is in charge, said the statement. W.H. Caldwell is pastor of the church.

Bishop Spough
A plaque honoring Bishop Herbert Spough was unveiled

following Easter Sunrise Services at Park Center Sunday morning. The plaque is at the foot of a newly planted white oak tree on the hill overlooking the band shell in Freedom Park. An identical plaque has been placed on the Spough Building at the little Church on the Lane where Bishop Spough was pastor for many years. The award was presented to him by The Citizens Safety Association of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

C. J. Spivey, immediate past president of the association, said Bishop Spough, 81, was honored for his genuine concern and active participation in traffic and automobile safety programs over the years.

As a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, 1937-1964, Bishop

Spough was instrumental in establishing the student-driver-education program here. He has also helped start the safety Sabbath Program, a week-long safety program that begins the week before Labor Day in which church congregations of all denominations stress highway safety.

Bishop Spough was founding member of Charlotte's Alcoholics Anonymous group and he preached many sermons and wrote many articles on the "drunk-driver" problem for his nationally syndicated column, Everybody Counselor."

The site for the plaque was chosen because Bishop Spough was the first person to conduct the Easter Sunrise Service on that spot in Freedom Park. The Easter Sunrise Service has become one of Charlotte's recognized religious observances.

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Rev. Coleman W. Kerry

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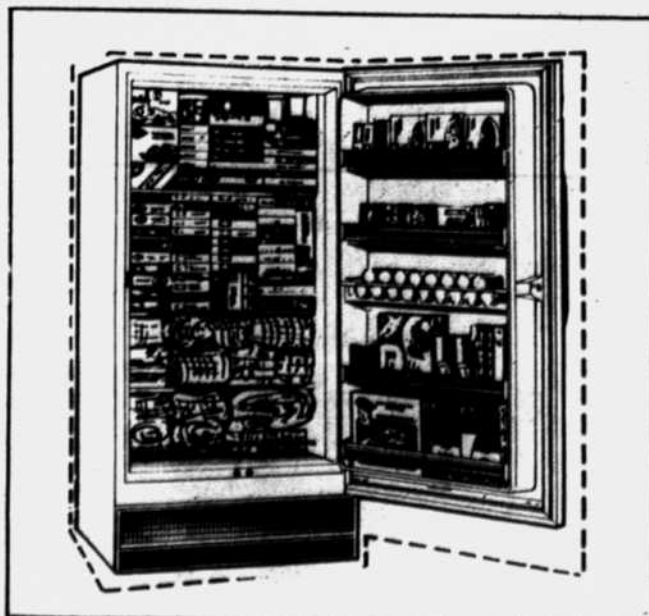
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