

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE UNIVERSAL GOD

International Sunday School Lesson for December 18th, 1949

Memory Selection: "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."—Jeremiah 29: 13.

Lesson Text: Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-14; 31: 3.

After the Babylonians had forced Jerusalem to end its rebellion by an unconditional surrender, the ablest and best of the population, all those who might be dangerous as leaders of a revolt, were carried away captive to Babylon. Those who were left behind under the rule of the Babylonian appointed king, Zedekiah, were a sorry lot indeed.

But these who were left, weak though they were, attempted to plot rebellion and to persuade some of the earlier exiles in Babylon to join in the plot. Jeremiah, who had remained in Jerusalem, denounced as godless folly such a plan and he took advantage of an embassy which the king was sending to Babylon to write to the exiles, trying to dissuade them from the madness of stirring up trouble there. It is this letter that we have as a basis for our study.

Jeremiah reminds the exiles that God is not confined to the temple nor to the city of Jerusalem, nor to the land of the promise, but in their far-off land of captivity. God's people may find him in prayer and find him in all the plenitude of power, able and willing to bless. Thinking as they did of Jehovah as something limited in the full exercise of his powers to the holy land, the exiles could find hope only in an expectation of their own speedy restoration to their homeland.

Jeremiah wanted to give his people a realization that Jehovah was the one God of all the earth, independent of all geographical limitations, always ruling in a righteousness which would never tolerate sin even in Jerusalem, everywhere present to guide and bless all those who called upon him.

This theme—the availability of God—is the message of the Bible. All great souls who were lived can attest its truth. Fellowship with God may be had by every one at any time, in any place on one very simple condition. It can be had by those who really want it and only by those. It is a very great thing, the greatest thing in life and, like every other great thing, it can be had only by focusing life upon it.

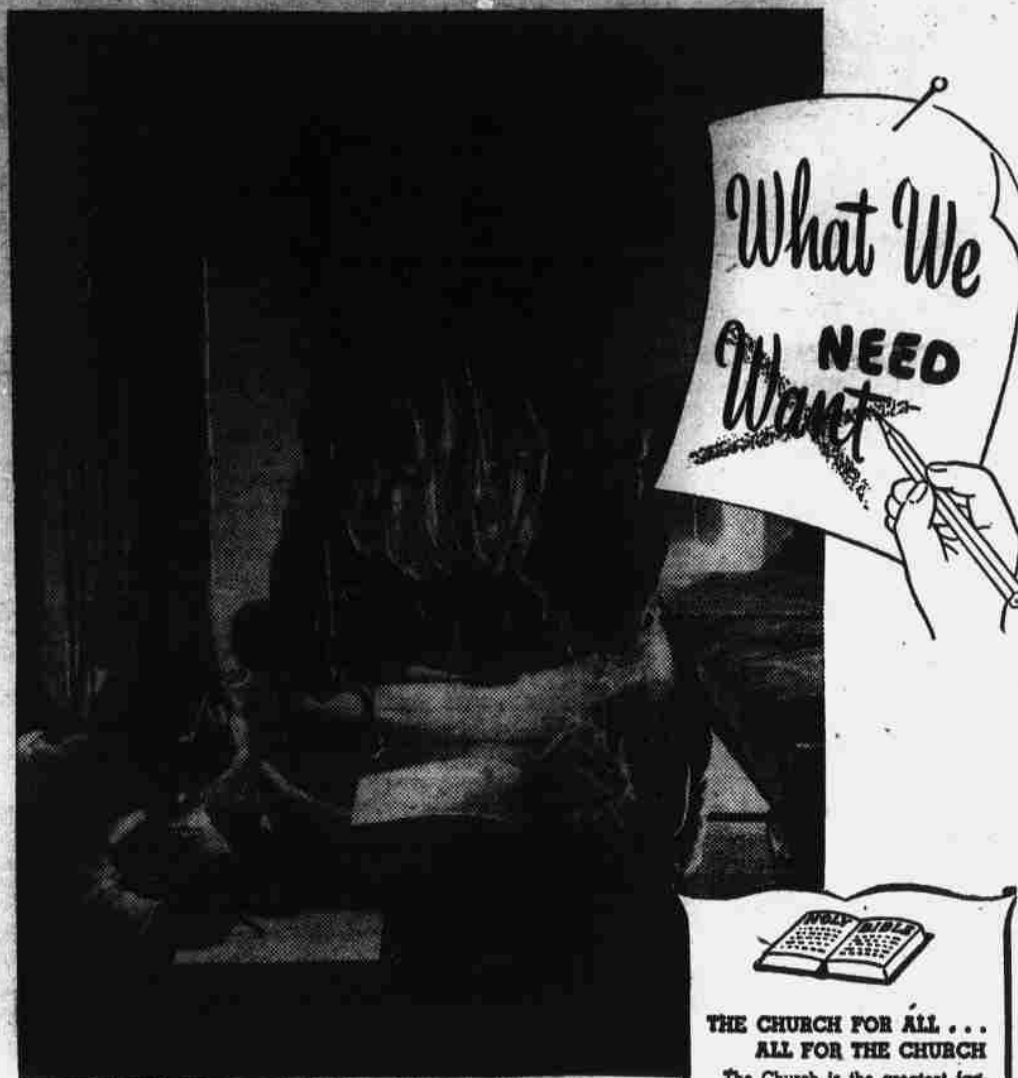
It is well to remember, also that God is not only available to all, but he is inescapable to all. Whether we take God into our lives or not, we cannot vote ourselves out of his world or escape the operation of his laws. God has a part in every transaction in which we are concerned and he who decides its ultimate outcome in the shaping of our destiny. This is true whether we know it or not, or whether we acknowledge it or not. Our failure to know it simply means that our life calculations are being made in ignorance of the most important element in every situation.

It is a kind of madness which leaves God out of our thinking and our planning. A text we might well have printed and hung up where we can see it easily is: "Be Not Deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This truth is as true today as it was when Paul first wrote it to his Galatian converts.

And, let us remember, God is anxious to meet the wanderer seeking to return to him. Even though Judah disobeyed Him and insulted Him with willfulness and idolatry, God stood by and did not utterly forsake him. It was this trustworthiness, sturdy God whom Jeremiah counted on to bring the people out of their captivity at the end of their seventy-year punishment.

Jeremiah knew that when he needed God, He was near by, available. How wonderfully this faith is realized in Him who promised, "Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world." God is a personal God, a God with personality. We do not pray to some vague "first cause," but to One who hears and loves us. It is this realization of the Presence that brings vitality to prayer and the courage to live a good life. Life is a different thing to a man who believes in and puts his trust in Jehovah God.

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	23	1-6
Monday	Luke	14	15-24
Tuesday	Acts	3	1-6
Wednesday	Acts	4	5-12
Thursday	Romans	13	8-10
Friday	Isaiah	45	6-11
Saturday	Psalms	8	1-9

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That all-important letter to Santa; in it we told him the many things we wanted. We were children then . . .

Now, as adults, we have discovered a new approach to Santa. Wherever possible, we drop little hints about the things we need, in the hope that we'll receive useful gifts.

The first Christmas came while the world was still very young. The people of Bethlehem were looking for the kind of king who would live in a palace. That was the sort of Messiah they wanted.

But God gave them a Child in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger . . . a babe destined to become a spiritual King . . . the kind of Messiah the world needed.

The mark of spiritual maturity is the realization that sacred needs are more important than secular wants. This is the Christmas season. Come to your Church and receive GOD'S GIFT.

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Harold C. Turner, Pastor
Church services at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. W. Davis, Supply Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday Sch., 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 8:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
Ben O. Merritt, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go