

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE FIGHT FOR CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

International Sunday School Lesson for February 19th, 1950

Memory Selection: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."—Galatians 5: 1.

Lesson Text: Acts 15: 1-6, 22-29; Galatians 2: 16.

Our recent lessons have centered in the early Christian activity which sprang up in the city of Antioch. Two weeks ago we saw how the first organized missionary party was sent out and the work done in Cyprus and Asia Minor. Shortly after the return of Paul and Barnabas from their tour a question of ceremony arose to disturb the church at Antioch.

We have seen earlier how the gospel was deliberately carried to the Gentiles in Antioch and then by missionaries to Gentiles in other regions. When the news of the accession of many Gentiles into the church reached Jerusalem the conservative group there has misgivings. These Jews, who had followed the law of Moses, recognized for centuries, could not bring themselves to accept Gentiles into Christianity unless they, too, came into the church through the ancient Jewish avenue of circumcision, and other ritualistic requirements.

From Jerusalem then to Antioch went a group of these critical Jews to advise the new Christians that their entrance into the faith had been irregular and their standing was imperfect. Quite naturally, Paul and Barnabas, exponents of liberality and freedom within the faith combatted this viewpoint and challenged its wisdom. The discussion was involved and led to confusion and misgiving of many.

Therefore, the church of Antioch decided to send a delegation to Jerusalem, where the recognized leaders of the faith resided, and secure an authoritative utterance on the question.

To Jerusalem Paul, Barnabas, Titus, and others proceeded. In his epistle to the Galatians, it is generally accepted now, Paul wrote about this conference. The three leaders from Antioch held preliminary conferences with Peter, the foremost apostle, and with James, the earthly brother of Jesus, who seems to have been accepted as the head of the Jerusalem church. So momentous was the question involved that a general meeting of apostles and elders was called.

At this meeting, fortunately, the exponents of the liberal viewpoint prevailed over the narrow and restricted opinion. Peter recounted his well-known experience with the Gentile Cornelius at Caesarea and reminded the conference that his action there had been specifically approved subsequently.

Paul, Barnabas and probably others, related the outstanding events of their missionary enterprises, dwelling particularly upon the fact that, as at Caesarea, the Holy Spirit had confirmed the conversion of Gentiles leading inescapably to the conclusion that, as had been said before, "to the Gentiles also hath God granted repentance unto life."

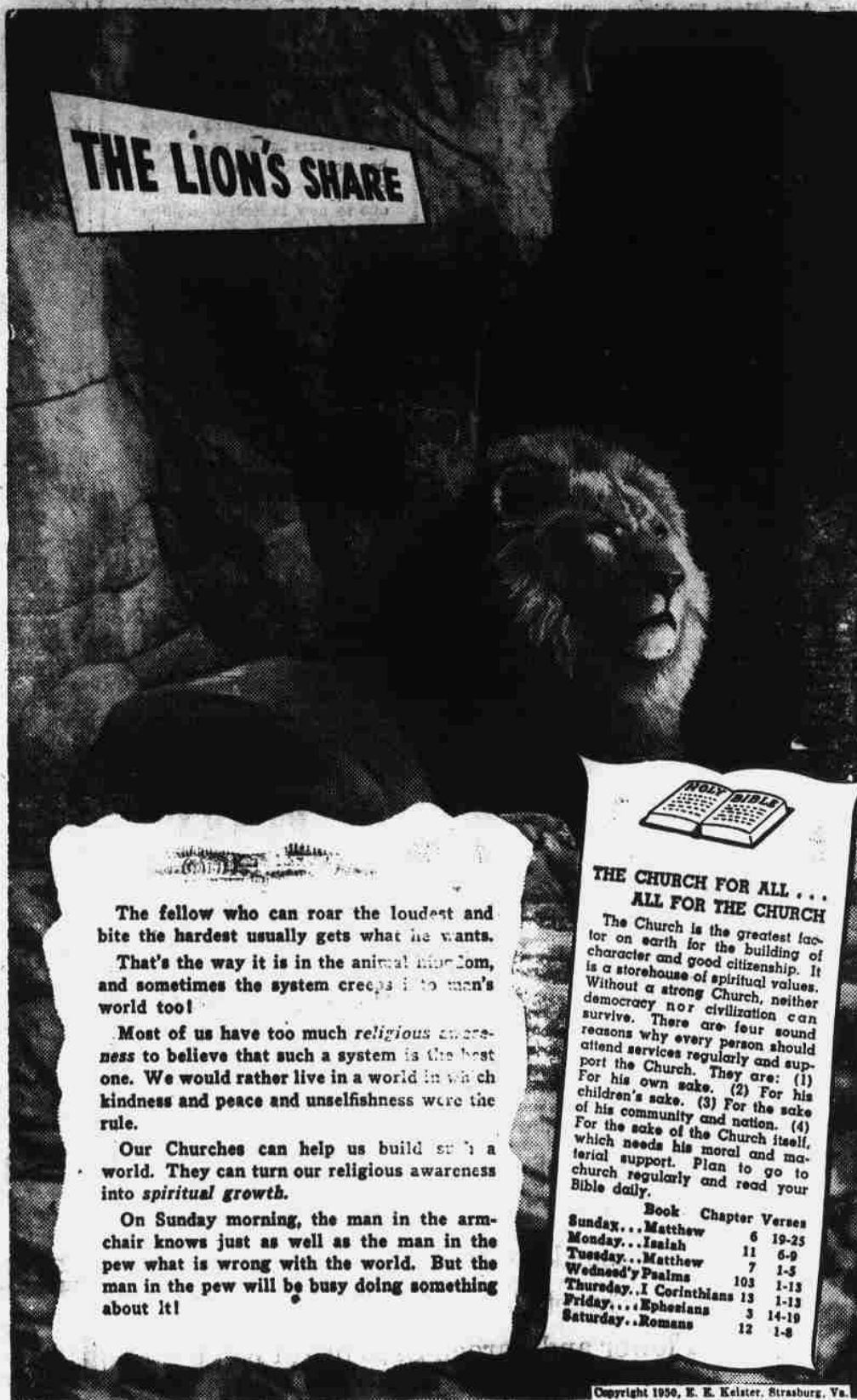
The decision of the conference was adopted upon the suggestion of James, who suggested that only a few simple observances be requested from the Gentile Christians. These were particularly necessary with Jewish Christians possible and friendly. The verdict was forwarded to the church at Antioch in a written communication carried by Judas and Silas. The latter remained in Antioch and subsequently accompanied Paul on his second missionary tour.

The decision of the council made no ritualistic observance necessary for salvation. It was a charter of liberty for the Christian conscience, although, in subsequent centuries organized Christianity forgot the principles declared. In subsequent ages, with one predominant church, "the communion of saints was a chaingang at lockstep with one long whip cracking down the line to prevent any man's deviating."

At length, under the leadership of outstanding exponents of freedom, such as Luther, Calvin, Knox, Wesley, and others, the principle of freedom in Christianity from super-imposed requirements and distorted thinking was achieved.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



### THE LION'S SHARE

The fellow who can roar the loudest and bite the hardest usually gets what he wants. That's the way it is in the animal kingdom, and sometimes the system creeps into man's world too!

Most of us have too much religious awareness to believe that such a system is the best one. We would rather live in a world in which kindness and peace and unselfishness were the rule.

Our Churches can help us build such a world. They can turn our religious awareness into spiritual growth.

On Sunday morning, the man in the arm-chair knows just as well as the man in the pew what is wrong with the world. But the man in the pew will be busy doing something about it!

### 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	Matthew	6	19-25
Monday	Isaiah	11	6-9
Tuesday	Matthew	7	1-5
Wednesday	Psalm	103	1-13
Thursday	I Corinthians	13	1-13
Friday	Ephesians	3	14-19
Saturday	Romans	12	1-8

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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, 7:00 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, 7:00 P. M.

Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:00 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**

E. R. Meekins, Pastor  
Church School, 11:00 O. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Carl Bjork, 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 School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.  
Church services, 3:00 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