

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

DOING THE WORKS OF GOD
(Temperance)

International Sunday School Lesson
for January 31st, 1954.

Memory Selection: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."—John 10:10.

Lesson Text: John 5:1-8.

After his talk with the Samaritan woman and a two-day stay in Sychar, Jesus and his disciples went on to Galilee and, from there, to Cana, where he had performed his first miracle.

There he was besought by a certain nobleman, from Capernaum, to heal his sick son. After receiving evidence of the father's faith in his healing power, Jesus performed his second miracle. He healed the boy and told the father that his boy would live. The father believed, went home and found that his son had begun to get well the very hour that Jesus had told him his son was healed.

This brings John's account of the action of Jesus down to this week's lesson, which tells of two other miracles which Jesus performed. Going down to Jerusalem, to observe a feast of the Jews, Jesus passed a pool where the Jews called Bethzatha. Because of certain healing qualities in the waters of the pool, great multitudes of sick people—the blind, the halt and the withered—gathered there in order that they might dip themselves in the waters and be healed.

There, Jesus beheld a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years and who had become almost helpless because he was unable to dip himself in the pool without help and no one offered to help him. Yet, the mere fact of his being there testified to his desire that he might be made well again.

In order to make him conscious of his own hope and faith, Jesus asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The man then called Jesus' attention to the fact that no one was interested enough in him to assist him into the water.

Jesus told the man to help himself, when he commanded: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." The man, without hesitation or doubt as to his ability to do so, immediately arose, took up his bed and walked. Jesus passed on through the crowd and entered the temple.

It so happened that this miracle of healing was performed on the Jewish Sabbath day. When the Jews saw the man walking with his bed, or roll, under his arm, they informed him that he was breaking the Sabbath. The man answered that he who had healed him had commanded him to take up his bed, but he admitted that he did not know who it was who had healed him.

Later, when Jesus saw the man in the temple, he reminded him that he was now physically whole and to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon him. The man then knew that it was Jesus who had healed him and told the Jews this. Angered, the Jews sought to slay Jesus because he had done these things on the Sabbath day.

Making matters worse, Jesus angered the Jews still further by stating that he was doing the work of "My Father." This infuriated them so greatly that they sought to kill him even more desperately because he had not only broken the Sabbath, but had also claimed that God was his Father, thus making himself equal with God.

After entering into a discourse with the Jews, in which he pointed out the grounds upon which he based his claim to Messiahship, Jesus left Jerusalem and crossed the Sea of Galilee, seeking rest.

While it must be admitted that Jesus was always interested in man's physical health, it is a little difficult to give a temperance application to this particular lesson. Most such lessons deal with intemperance in the use of beverage alcohol, and too much cannot be written or said against such indulgence.

The modern trend today is to consider the alcoholic, or the one who over-indulges in the drinking of alcoholic beverages, a sick person. Perhaps alcoholism is a disease, one of this nation's most deadly diseases. Herbert Eberhardt, in United Evangelical Action, has this to say, in part: "Alcoholism is a primary cause of poor health—and the most deadly of all diseases in the living body. To quote Clinton N. Howard of the International Reform Federation, 'It is the only disease that defiles the body, subjects the will, deranges the mind, impoverishes the victim and damns the soul. Gladstone said that its victims succeeded war, pestilence and famine put together.' Tuberculosis will not lead a man to maltreat his children, but alcohol does. Polio does not lead to heart-breaking crashes on our highways, mutilated bodies and broken homes, but drunkenness does. Heart disease will not pipe a man behind prison bars and pack jails and hospitals, but alcoholism is the chief source of crime and the major corrupter of morals. It is, therefore, unlike any or all other diseases combined."



What has happened to this marvelous world of ours in this twentieth century of God's grace? Mankind seems to be passing through a sea of troubles which has no counterpart in human history.

There are wars and rumors of wars among the nations, and many of the nations themselves are split into warring factions, each faction striving for supremacy, and each intolerant of the views, hopes, and rights of others.

The great trouble with the world is that men have forgotten God. They no longer seek spiritual guidance, but follow the vain ways of the modern world. We have become a cynical, materialistic generation.

If this drift toward world tragedy and chaos is ever stopped, the churches of the world must do it. The world's hope—our hope—is in God and His Church. He alone can save mankind from a sorrowful fate.

The Church seeks to turn the hearts of men from the ways of war and fear and hate to the ways of peace and love.

A WORLD IN TROUBLE

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	Isaiah	1	10-29
Monday	Isaiah	2	1-5
Tuesday	Micah	6	1-8
Wednesday	John	1	13-18
Thursday	Romans	2	1-8
Friday	Ephesians	2	1-10
Saturday	1 Peter	2	17-25

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Daling, 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
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth 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
H. M. Jamieson, 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, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Bennie Crawford, 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
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, 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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Ralph Knight, 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 Do Go