

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### PAUL PLANTS THE GOSPEL IN NEW FIELDS

International Sunday School Lesson for April 16, 1939

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "As a wise masterbuilder I laid a foundation; and another buildeth thereon."—Cor. 3:10.

(Lesson Text: Acts 14:1-7; 19:23)

Last week we saw how they left Antioch of Pisidia as a result of the hostility fostered by the Jews. The missionaries proceeded to Iconium, where the gospel message was first given in the local synagogue and both Jews and Greeks accepted. After a long stay, the opposition became more violent, whereupon the party moved on to Lystra.

At Lystra, where there seems to have been no synagogue, Paul was attracted by a life-time cripple in the audience before him. This man's spirit had been touched and his strong faith became apparent to Paul, who, in a loud voice, called upon him to walk. The miracle was the result of two strong souls meeting—one with faith and the other with vision to recognize the trust and acceptance in the other. Naturally, the miracle created considerable comment.

The natives of Lystra had been brought up in the superstitious semi-religion of their day and locality. Their worship was directed towards placating a varied host of deities, familiar to most of us who have read the mythological stories of the ancients. One of these relate how Jupiter (Zeus) and Mercury (Hermes) in the guise of mortals visited this very section. Consequently, confronted by the miraculous cure of the cripple, the pagan crowd promptly assured a repetition of the story, seeing in Barnabas and Paul the divine pair who had fooled many of their ancestors.

The inhabitants of Lystra, led by the priest of Jupiter, promptly attempted to render to the supposed gods the customary ritualistic worship. Oxen and garlands were brought up for the proper sacrifices to the deities. Sacrifice was not a strange rite to the Jews, either, but he remembered, but Paul and Barnabas were horrified at the prospect of their assumption of divine honors. They quickly explained their mortal kinship with those who would deify them and used the occasion to preach about Jesus.

Shortly afterward, there came to Lystra the unbelieving Jews from the cities previously visited, and their bigotry and intolerance soon fanned their victims into crusading zeal. The mob which wanted to worship the missionaries as gods were soon turned to critics and foes, and attacked the missionary apostles. Paul seems to have received the most severe punishment, for he was stoned and left upon the earth as dead. However, he revived, but the next day the missionary party went to Derbe.

The stay at Derbe was without outstanding events apparently, and after a ministry there Paul resisted the temptation to visit the home folks at nearby Tarsus so that he and Barnabas might return to Antioch by the various continental cities already visited. This they did, building up and cementing the new body of be-

lievers. Both to the home church in Antioch (of Syria) Paul and Barnabas returned and their splendid report of the Gospel being preached to the Gentiles was made.

A year's time had been occupied in this first great missionary journey, and fourteen hundred miles had been covered. Paul had definitely assumed his role as missionary to the Gentiles, having frankly declared to the Jews in Pisidian Antioch that it was necessary to speak the word to them but since they rejected it, "to, we turn to the Gentiles." The fact that Christian missionaries brought the Christian religion to our European ancestors and that our nation is today Christian can be traced directly back to the beginning of this missionary enterprise in the ancient Syrian city of Antioch. To Paul, more than any other man, the spread of the new faith was due.

There are pagan faiths yet alive today, but as Robert E. Speer points out: "Mohammedanism is spreading in Africa and India, but it makes no effort of any significance to convert America or Europe or Japan. The bounds of Confucianism are contracting. Shintoism has withdrawn from the lists as a religion, and claims now only the place of a court ceremonial and a burial rite. Zoroastrianism, one of the worthiest of the ancient religions, has almost vanished in the land of its origin, and numbers comparatively few adherents in India. Hinduism is geographically limited, save as a philosophy, by its disciple of caste and Buddhism is rejected in Japan by the very men who might succeed in propagating it elsewhere." On the other hand, Speer declares: "Christianity is moving out all over the earth with steadily increasing power, with ever-multiplying agencies, with ever-enlarging devotion, and with open and undiscouraged purpose to conquer the world."

### CRESWELL

Gilmer Wagoner, a senior at High Point College, was the week-end guest of his brother, the Rev. Forest Wagoner.

Miss Virginia Phelps, accompanied by her guest, Miss Mary Foy Peterson, spent the week-end in Raleigh with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Phelps.

A. L. Holmes and W. D. Peal attended the chamber of commerce meeting at Swan Quarter Monday evening. Governor Clyde R. Hoey and Representative Lindsay Warren were among the distinguished guests. Dr. G. A. Martin was in Raleigh on business Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claud Murray, of Effland, were guests of Mrs. Murray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Davenport, Sr., during the Easter holidays. Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Starr of Windsor, were week-end guests of Mrs. J. W. Starr.

O. L. Lassiter, of New Bern, spent the week-end here with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brinn left Sunday to attend the wedding of their daughter, Elizabeth, in Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Walker and children, Harry, Jr., and Alice Dillon, visited relatives and friends in Creswell on Saturday.

The Rev. Forest Wagoner, Gilmer Wagoner, of High Point, and Mr. and

### Doctor and Nurse



Romance and drama within hospital walls comes to Taylor Theatre, Edenton, Sunday in "Four Girls in White." Florence Rice and Alan Marshall are the principal protagonists of the new film.

Mrs. Tom Tarkenton, of Columbia, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Hatfield on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Holmes, Mrs. A. S. Holmes, Mrs. Ida Swain and Miss Caroline Swain motored to Terra Ceia Sunday to see the tulips.

The children of the Methodist Protestant Sunday School enjoyed the annual egg hunt Monday afternoon at the home of Chester Craddock.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Gregg and children, Iris Jane and Lael June, spent the Easter holidays in Norfolk, Va., with Mr. Gregg's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Peal and children, Francis and Walter, Jr., visited Miss Elizabeth Peal at St. Mary's, Raleigh, on Sunday. They were accompanied back by Miss Lillian Lackey, who had spent the week-end with her parents at Kings Mountain.

Miss Martha Weston Jones spent the week-end in Belhaven.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Vickers, of Oxford, were week-end guests of Mrs. Vickers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Swain.

### OAK GROVE

Miss Evelyn Parrish, of Washington, D. C., visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Parrish, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Nixon and children, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Nixon and children, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gosser, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Oliver, T. L. and Vandy Nixon spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Byrum.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Wilkins and baby spent Sunday with Mrs. Wilkins' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Nixon.

Misses Mable Lee and Josie Mae Forehand spent the week-end with Miss Dorothy Mae Bunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Selby Byrum and baby, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bunch and children, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Harrell and son, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Peele and children and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harrell were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Nixon Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Bunch visited Mr. and Mrs. Gus Bunch Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Forehand and family, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Copeland and Miss Doris Copeland were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bunch on Sunday.

Mrs. R. N. Privott visited Mrs. R. O. Furry, at Center Hill, Friday afternoon.

George Bunch, member of a CCC outfit, is spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jet Bunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Driggs and son, Bobby, from near Edenton, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Perry, of Brayhall, spent Easter with Mrs. Jesse Nixon.

Mr. and Mrs. Daughtrey Bunch and

daughter spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jet Bunch.

Misses Celia Rae Nixon, Edith and Marie Bunch were dinner guests of Misses Louise and Eloise Bunch on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Bunch and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bass on Sunday.

Mrs. Levi Nixon and children called on Mrs. J. B. Bunch Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Morris and baby were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Parrish on Sunday.

Miss Bertie Mae Jones has mumps. Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Parrish and children visited Mrs. Parrish's mother, Mrs. Ransey White, at Hobbsville, Sunday.

Miss Ethel Harrell dined with Miss Sallie Marie Harrell Sunday.

Melvin and Marvin Bunch entertained a number of their friends at an Easter egg hunt Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Driggs and son, Bobby, Mrs. Jesse Nixon and Miss Jessie Nixon called to see Mrs. Jesse Lane Sunday morning.

Mrs. J. D. Harrell and Mrs. Lonnie Bunch spent Tuesday with Mrs. Edward Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bunch visited Mrs. Jesse Nixon Sunday afternoon.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

An Easter egg hunt held Monday afternoon at the home of Miss Alice Mae Hassell in the Macedonia section was enjoyed by a large number. Included in those present were Misses Lorinne and Lois Bunch, Lillian and Carolyn Ashley, Doris and Alice Mae

Hassell, Evelyn and Frances Ann Goodwin, and William Layton, Horace Rae, George Earl, Paul Gilbert and Melvin Hassell, Earl and Willard Goodwin, Mrs. H. E. Bunch, Mrs. Lester Layton, Mrs. Earl Ashley, Mrs. Horace Hassell and Mrs. W. B. Hassell. The prize for finding the largest number of eggs was awarded to George Earl Hassell. Refreshments were served by the hostess, and games were played.

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