

Sunday School Lesson

By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

On hands and knees the king wandered in the meadow, nibbling at the grass. The cattle, perhaps, looked curiously at this strange, hairless animal grazing among them; but they did not molest him, and he grazed on as mindless as they. The king was learning a lesson. Before this training session began, Nebuchadnezzar was very pleased with himself. With unbound pride he surveyed great Babylon, a monument to his power and glory. In that hour God snatched away his mind and power. The idiot king must now live like an animal until he could understand that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomever He will." After some time God gave him back his mind. Now he "blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him that liveth forever, whose dominion is everlasting dominion," (Daniel 4). God rules!

LESSON BACKGROUND

Paul's missionary strategy was to plant the gospel in big cities, from which it could spread. Paul preached in Ephesus for more than two years. It is not surprising that Paul wanted to teach in Rome, the chief city of the world. Since his going was delayed, he wrote a long letter, (Romans 1:8-15; 15:22-29). Chapter 12 of that letter gives practical instructions for various phases of Christian living. Chapter 13 begins with a discussion of a Christian relationship with his government.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation, (Romans 13:1-2).

Who cares about the 55 speed limit? That's not God's ordinance is it? Yes it is. God established the government that established the speed limit, and whoever drives faster than that is breaking God's law as well as man's. And they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. If the highway patrolman catches them, they may be found guilty and fined. But they will be guilty before God whether the patrolman catches them or not. If we think that speed limit is unreasonable, we ought to petition our law makers to change it. But Christians do not ignore and break a law because they do not like it. An exception must be made, of course, when obeying the law would compell one to disobey God. When the apostles were ordered to stop teaching about Jesus, they did not obey. They said, "We ought to obey God rather than men," (Acts 5:29). But such cases are rare, and we must beware of giving our own opinion the force of a command from God.

The purpose of authority is to suppress evil and encourage good. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same," (Romans 13:3).

There are exception, of course, and Paul knew that very well. No less than eight times he himself had been whipped legally but unjustly, (2 Corinthians 11:24, 25). Still, what he says is a good, short statement of the purpose of government. It is to make people afraid to do wrong, and to praise those who do right. Obviously, our government is not providing enough terror to keep everybody from doing wrong; but it is trying, and certainly robbery and murder and rape and arson are much reduced because people are afraid of being punished.

"Responding to God's Authority." That is the title of this lesson. All of us Christians realize that God's authority is complete - but how is our response? God directs us through His Word. How much attention do we give to learning His will? How conscientiously do we follow it? God not only gives His Word, He also delegates authority to various people on earth: the parents in the home, the teachers in the schools, the elders in the churches, the officials in the states. How carefully do we make ourselves subject to these people?

Law is designed to keep one person from hurting another. When you love a neighbor as yourself, you need no law to forbid every harmful deed. You would no more hurt him than you would hurt yourself. Thus, the law is fulfilled: its purpose is accomplished without any need of law. You keep the law without trying, just because you love the neighbor.

Paul says we obey the law not only because of wrath, but also for conscience's sake. The violators are concerned only with wrath. Some people have no conscience with regard to minor violations. They do not realize that they are disobeying God - or if they realize it, they do not care. How's your conscience?

Prominent in our study is God's command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Great as this is, it takes second place. Towering above it is the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15).

Open our eyes to see Your way, and tune our minds to follow it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Planned

November 5-6, are CMS teacher workdays. Those days are holidays for students, but teachers will use the time to hold conferences with parents.

"Our goal is to touch base with virtually every student's parents at the elementary level," says Dr. Robert Hanes, deputy superintendent. Dr. Hanes says secondary teachers also will be available for conferences with parents who would like them. Any parent who has not been contacted by their child's school and would like to schedule a conference during those workdays should call the school.



Angel J. Chavis
...Communications major

Angel Chavis Reigns As Homecoming Queen

Greensboro - Angel J. Chavis of High Point, a freshman majoring in communications at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, is the "1984-85 Homecoming Queen" for the campus.

Miss Chavis was crowned on Saturday, October 27, during half-time of the soccer game between the UNC-G Spartans and the Generals of

Magazine Lists

Chambers Among Most Influential Blacks

Nominees for the 1984 American Black Achievement Awards have been announced by the editors of EBONY magazine. Winners will be selected by EBONY's "100 Most Influential Black Americans" and awards will be presented at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

Nominated were: For the Jackie Robinson award for athletics: Valerie Brisco-Hooks, Carl Lewis, and John Thompson.

Business and Professions award: Julius Chambers, Horace B. Edwards, and Mary H. Futrell.

Dramatic Arts award: Harry Belafonte, Diahann Carroll, Dorian Howard, and Howard E. Rollins, Jr.

Fine Arts award: Alvin Ailey, Gwendolyn Brooks and Wynton Marsalis.

Music award: Michael Jackson; Patti LaBelle, Prince, and Lionel Richie.

Martin Luther King Jr. Public Service award: Willie Brown Jr., W. Wilson Goode, and Dorothy Height.

Religion award: Bishop Philip R. Cousins, Bishop Leontine T. C. Kelly, and Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor.

Washington and Lee University. UNC-G won the match, 7-0. Miss Chavis was elected to the honor over five other contestants in balloting by the UNC-G student body.

Sponsored on the homecoming court by the Neo-Black Society, a UNC-G student organization, Miss Chavis received the winner's traditional crown and bouquet of red roses from Cynthia L. Moore of Charlotte, who was last year's homecoming queen at UNC-G.

Earlier in September, Miss Chavis was the winner of the "Miss Neo-Black Society" Pageant on campus. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Chavis of 530 Radford St., High Point.

First runner-up for homecoming queen was Angela M. Stirewalt, a junior interior design major and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Stirewalt of 2139 Sheffield Ave., Kannapolis. Second runner-up was Rachel Hohn, a junior technical theater major and the daughter of J. J. Bruce Hohn of 1122 Edgebrook Drive, Winston-Salem.

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