

# The Sunday School Lesson

by Bessie Wilbon

## INTRODUCTION:

Following his exhortation to oneness, growth, and maturity in Christ, the apostle Paul turned to the subject of moral behavior among saints: "that ye hence - forth walk not as other Gentiles walk, "in empty pride, ignorance of God, and greedy lust. The life-style of their unconverted neighbors was a constant, oppressive presence with the Gentle Christian's. It was the social soil in which they had grown up; it was their roots of custom and habit. Against all this the apostle shouted urgent warning.

One sentence must suffice to turn the Ephesians from their past behavior and the present pressure of their peers: "Ye have not so learned Christ." In Christ was divine power to overcome the world; in Christ was demonstration of the life in which He would lead; in Christ was divine love, demanding and motivating love in return; and in Christ was victory over sin, and death, and Hell. That victory was now available to the believers - in Christ! Learn Christ and you know the way.

## THE LESSON

"So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to - the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is up right and holy. No more lying, then! Everyone must tell the truth to his fellow believer, because we are all members together in the body of Christ. If you become angry do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day. Don't give the Devil a chance. The man who used to rob must stop robbing and start working in order to earn an honest living for himself and to be able to help the poor. Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you. And do not make God's Holy Spirit sad: for the Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you, a guarantee that the Day will come when God will set you free. Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another as God has forgiven you through Christ." (Ephesians 4: 22-32).

We are too familiar with the corruptions of profanity and blasphemy, belittling God; or vulgarity and obscenity, besmirching man; or gossip and lying, tearing down another in a vain attempt to advance ones self. These are not for the mind or mouth of the follower of Christ. Instead our speech is to be constructive, lifting the spirits of others by support and encouragements. Constructive speech will also include the sharing of God's word, which is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. God's people will talk in such a way as to minister grace, not disgrace, to the hearers.

The Holy Spirit becomes the undwelling companion of the believer at his baptism, and the Spirit's presence becomes the constant evidence and guarantee of our salvation as long as we live. The Spirit comes to dwell with us and within us. At His bringing He brings a generous gift, a basket filled with delectable fruit-love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. There would be no surer way to grieve - cause pain, distress, sorrow, or offense-to such a Guest than to refuse or reject His gift. We need to provide suitable accommodations for the Holy and helpful guest residing within us, and we must surely protect Him from the offense of sharing His abode with roommates such as deceit, malice, greed, and foul language. Grieved by evidence that He is not welcome, the Holy Guest may depart, with all His gifts, graces, and guarantees.

Not only dirty deeds, but dirty jokes, have no place in the Christian's habits. Such shameful conduct and language is not convenient that is, it is an improper engagement of the mind and tongue for the "new man," who "after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 5: 5-17 is a passage of warnings against three things that might lead the believer back into sin and destruction: bad advice, bad company, and indifference.

It is a glorious new life to which we have been called in Christ, but you may have questions such as - Where are its detailed rules of conduct? We must spread truth, control our tempers, be generous, and be helpful rather than harmful. That's fine, but in giving for example, how much must we give, and to what causes? And in language, where is the border line between fair and foul? Why didn't God spell out things for the Christians as He did through Moses for the Jews?

But wait! The Jewish lawyers were still kept busy adding interpretive ground rules to God's plan. And the people became so involved with rules that many of them forgot the plan. In Christ, God has given new life rather than new law - except for the law of liberty, the royal law of love. Our Lord and His Apostles have laid down firm principles and some specific applications. But many of the details remain to be worked out by God's people, each alone and all together, as they meet the changes in daily living.

The new life is also a new relationship with God - a relationship of children who imitate and obey their Father in love, rather than under the compulsion of law.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

# Salvation Is Christ Revealed

By J. M. LITTLE

I'll never forget the time the Lord opened my heart and revealed to me my lost condition. It was a crisis, standing in eternity seeing my lost condition as a lost, guilty, condemned and Hell-deserving sinner. And seeing and knowing that if I received my just desserts, I'd be cast into the lowest and hottest place in Hell. I came to see I had no claim on God, for I hated Him. Yet, I knew I had to get to Christ or forever perish. And seeing my helpless condition made me a beggar, crying for mercy. Have you ever seen your utter helplessness to get to Christ? You will if you are ever brought down under HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION (John 16:7-11).

Many down through the years have sung this old blood hymn but never have known the grace of God in Christ, therefore you cannot truly sing this old blood hymn. That's right if you don't know Christ as your Lord and your Saviour, you can't sing this song.

Then the old divine said, "HOW PRECIOUS DID THAT GRACE APPEAR THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED." Long I struggled with a hard heart of unbelief, and when Christ is from God on High.

It's the greatest thing in all this universe to have the Lord Jesus Christ revealed (Mt. 16:17) to the human heart. Salvation is Christ revealed to the heart. My Lord and my Saviour. Do you know Him? If you do, then I can find fellowship with you in Christ. If I cannot find fellowship with Christ in you, then you are not saved.

If you have a critical and bitter spirit toward me or any other servant of the Lord, then that is a revelation of your spiritual condition. Mary called Him Jesus, the angels called Him Jesus, but I call Him Lord. Yes, His name is Jesus. But how dare you call Him by His Name.

His title is Lord. So many of you so commonly say "Jesus." You never address Him Lord. Yes, His name is George Bush, but would I go into the White House and address him as "George?" a thousand times no! Then would you think to address the Son of God as mere "Jesus?" But His title is "Lord."

There is no comparison between the two, and I wouldn't dare address Him as "Jesus." I bow at His feet, He's my Lord and Redeemer. If you ever come to know Him as your Lord, you'll not go around calling Him "Jesus." You will call Him "Lord."

How many of our preachers and Bible teachers call Him "Lord?" Only a very few of our church members today have learned the Lordship of Christ. If you never come to know Him as Lord, you'll never know Him as Saviour. May the Lord help you and grant you repentance to fall at His feet crowning Him as your Lord and your Saviour. Amen.

Continue to listen to our late Pastor, L. R. Shelton, with THE VOICE OF TRUTH BROADCAST each Sunday morning at 7:30 over WAGI-FM, 105.3, coming from Gaffney, S.C.

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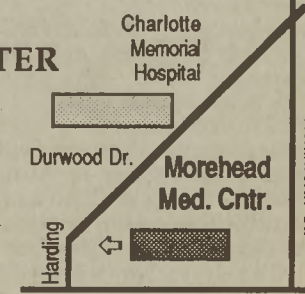
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## POST OBITUARIES

### BEASLEY'S FUNERAL HOME

**Mr. Charles Herbert Chavis**, 59, of 2831 Wedgefield Dr. died May 8, 1989, at his place of residence. Funeral service was held at Beasley's Chapel. Burial was in Beasley's Memorial Garden.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Ida Mae Foste Chavis; brothers, Mr. Bobbie Chavis of Greensboro, Mr. John Chavis of Los Angeles, CA, and Mr. George Chavis; sisters, Ms. Gwendolyn B. Chavis and Mrs. Walter Walk.

**Mrs. Jessie C. McNeil**, of 401 Lincoln St. - Belmont, NC, died in Mercy Hospital. Funeral service was held in Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC. Burial was in Henry's Chapel.

Survivors are Mr. Harold McNeil, Mrs. Iranthia Isles, Mr. James McNeil, Mr. Charles McNeil, Mr. Jerome McNeil, Mr. Donald McNeil; sister, Ms. Janie Guthrie, Ms. Elzlia Crosby; 13 grandchildren.

**Mr. James Sibby**, of 2401 Julia Ave. died May 8, 1989, in Cabarrus Memorial Hospital. Funeral service was held in Beasley's Chapel. Burial was in Beasley Memorial Garden.

Survivors are her niece, Ms. Dorothy Robinson; brother, Mr. Fred Sibby.

### LONG & SON MORTUARY

**Mr. James Randolph**, of 3116 Ross Ave. died in Charlotte Memorial Hospital. Funeral service was held at Reeder Memorial Baptist Church. Burial was in York Memorial Cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Gussie Randolph of Charlotte, NC; son, Mr. J.B. Glenn of Monticello, SC; sisters, Mrs. Alex Yarbber of Charlotte, NC and Mrs. Annie White of Monticello, SC; 6 grandchildren.

**Ms. Flossie Mae McIlwain**, of 2009 St. Mark St., Charlotte, NC - died in Mercy Hospital. Funeral service was held at Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial was in Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Survivors are her brothers, Mr. Thomas McIlwain and Roy C. McIlwain both of Charlotte, NC; sister, Mrs. Bernice M. Erwin of Charlotte, NC.

**Mr. Rickey Lanard Rainer**, of 1942 Longleaf Dr., Charlotte, NC - died in Charlotte Memorial Hospital. Funeral service was held in China Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Pineville, NC.

Survivors are his mother, Mrs. Willa Hill; brother, Mr. James Rainer; sisters, Ms. Stephanie Rainer, Ms. Tomica Rainer, Ms.

Shannon Rainer; grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis all of Charlotte, NC.

**Mr. Franklin Hassan**, of 3616 Beatties Ford Road died May 14, 1989, in Mercy Hospital. Graveside service was held at Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, Taylorsville, NC.

Survivors are his mother, Mrs. Susie Wilson of Taylorsville, NC; daughters, Ms. Komoa Johnson of Los Angeles, CA, Ms. Lavern Jones of Statesville, NC, Ms. Tiffany Cain of Charlotte, NC; brothers, Mr. Robert L. Miller, Rev. William A. Westfield both of Taylorsville, NC, (Jim) Sala Huddin Hassan of Wilksboro, NC, (Thomas) Mahammad Hassan, Mr. Michael Westfield, Mr. Kenneth Henry Westfield; sister, Mrs. Vivian Greene all of Charlotte, NC.

**Mr. Randy Neal Watt**, of 4048 Hamilton Dr. died May 15, 1989, in Mercy Hospital. Funeral service was held in Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church. Burial was in church cemetery.

Survivors are his father, Mr. Henry Watt; mother, Mrs. Maxine Watt; sisters, Mrs. Delfreda Watt, Mrs. Renita Spears, Ms. Betty Watt, Ms. Ursula Watt, Ms. Constance Watt; half-brothers, Mr. See Obituaries On Page 6B.

**The Charlotte Post**

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Deadline for entries is JUNE 5, 1989. Send to:

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