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By Ed Nofzige



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SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38; Ephesians 5:8-21
DEVOTIONAL READING: Philippians 1:4-9.

Christian Character

Lesson for March 14, 1948

WHO is the most valuable person in your community? In many communities it has come to be the custom to select the Man of the Year, or the Woman of the Year, the idea usually being to name the person, through a process of sampling of public opinion, who has rendered the outstanding service of the year.

Sunday's lesson is a dramatic scene out of the long ago, picturing a community's tribute to a truly great man, the apostle Paul. Read Acts 20:17-38, and you will have the story.

LOVED AND HONORED
THE first impression I get from this story is the fact that these people of Ephesus loved Paul. They loved him enough to lay aside their work and hasten to the nearby seaport of Miletus to see him for the last time, and to bow down in his presence and honor him.

Why did they thus love Paul? Because he had told them about God. You need not read again the record of Paul's ministry in that important city of Ephesus to be reminded of how greatly he had served them in the name of Jesus.

Loved and honored! What a tribute to the worth of Christian character! Wouldn't you appreciate the tribute which they paid Paul as the goal out yonder to which you strive? Boys and girls of today may thus be honored tomorrow, if they will live for Jesus as Paul did.

THE POWER OF RIGHT LIVING
PAUL not only told the Ephesians how to live, but illustrated day by day in his own life what he preached to them. The most eloquent sermons are not spoken, but lived. "What you are speaks so loudly I can't hear what you say."

The boy and man who plays the game straight are putting into practice what the teacher and preacher proclaims on Sunday. The power of right living will win its way today, just as it did in the long ago when Paul witnessed for Jesus in Ephesus.

It was not easy to live for Christ in Ephesus, nor is it easy to live for him in Chicago or Los Angeles or Boston or Miami, but it is the one way to ultimately impress the world of the reality of Christianity.

PAUL'S CONSUMING PASSION
WE ARE what we are becoming, and never was this axiom of life more powerfully illustrated than in the case of Paul. "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," Philippians 3:14. And in Ephesians 5:6-21, Paul reviews the qualities of conduct which produce worthwhile character, admonishing all Christians to strive for these qualities.

"I live, yet not I, Christ liveth in me," is another of Paul's watchwords, and still again, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me."

It was the consuming passion of his life to embody the teachings of Christ in his words and in his works. It is conceivable that the people at Ephesus had come to see Christ in the life of Paul, and that his daily ministry in their midst convinced them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.

WHAT AM I WORTHY?
THE question then emerges, What am I worthy to my community? When I come to the end of the journey, will the people who know me best honor and love me for what I have done?

I can see the people of Ephesus bowing on the dock at Miletus, kissing this weary old servant of the Lord. It is a beautiful scene. This tribute meant more to Paul than all the gold of Ephesus would have meant. It was compensation of abiding worth to him. And what is vastly more important, it was glory to God which must have evoked the praise of the angels about the great White Throne.

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On God's Word

John Wycliffe, in the introduction to his translation of the Bible into English in 1380, wrote as follows: "When the teachings of the Bible are generally accepted and acted on, then shall we have a government of, for and by the people." Four hundred years later the American republic was established—the first great democracy—and it was successful because the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were founded on God's Word.

A. J. CAVENAUGH

Wallace N. C.
JEWELER

**DIAMONDS WATCHES
WATCH AND JEWELRY
REPAIRING & ENGRAVING**

AFTER TAXES



**Faison Men To Organize
Chamber Of Commerce**

At a supper meeting, held in the Faison community building Friday evening at 7 o'clock, a five-man committee was appointed to study the best ways of organizing a Chamber of Commerce for the Duplin Produce center, with instructions to report back to interested citizens in another meeting set for Friday, March 12 at 7 p. m.

The committee, composed of Joseph L. King, C. A. Decker, James H. C. Hill, A. M. Davis and J. B. Stroud, was also instructed to draw up a proposed constitution, set of by-laws, and to sound public opinion on the possibility of such an organization; being a success in Faison.

Movement for the organizing of a Chamber of Commerce has been going on in Faison for the past few weeks, and culminated in a public meeting last Friday night.

At this meeting Charlie McCullers, executive secretary of the Kinston Chamber of Commerce, was principal speaker.

J. B. Stroud was elected temporary chairman and opened the meeting, following a delicious supper served by the ladies of the Methodist Church. He called upon James H. C. Hill to present Mr. McCullers, whose address consisted of needs purpose and responsibilities of a Chamber of Commerce. He strongly urged that Faison organize a Chamber in order to avail itself of the opportunities for progress, which such a body could produce.

At the conclusion an open forum was held, and as a result of the opinions expressed, the above named committee was elected to work out the details of getting the Chamber of Commerce properly organized and started.

About 50 interested business men attended the meeting.

term of County Court are as follows: Robert Pickett, Dempsey W. Smith, E. J. Summerlin, Jr., Henry Tyndall, J. H. Moore, C. E. Whitfield, Zollie Korngay, Mike H. Henderson, A. Lawrence Mathis, William Foster Wells, C. R. Johnson, Frank Taylor, Randolph Fattrell, W. S. Tedlock, C. W. Moore, O'Neal Britt, Jonas Sumner, Her-

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