

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PHILEMON: A LETTER ON CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD

International Sunday School Lesson
For December 15, 1946

Golden Text: "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."—II Cor. 3: 17.

Lesson Text: Philemon.

The Epistle to Philemon consist of only one chapter. It is nothing more or less than a personal letter from Paul to his friend in Colossae. It was written while Paul was in prison, as the context shows, therefore, had to be written either from Caesarea or Rome, the two places in which Paul was a prisoner. The weight of opinion, however, is that it was sent from Rome.

The occasion of the letter was the conversion by Paul of Onesimus, a runaway slave, who had formerly belonged to Philemon. By happy coincidence, it chanced that Paul knew Philemon, as shown by his letter, for Philemon was a leader of the church in his city, apparently a man of some means, for Christians had been accustomed to gather at his home. Because of his personal contact with the owner of this slave, Paul was able to handle his case in a very satisfactory manner.

Paul's method of handling this situation is worth careful study by those who would reform evil custom today. While slavery was not to be desired, yet it was the law and in accord with the social custom of the time Paul does not waste his time in an attack upon this social institution, but influences Onesimus to recognize the obligation he was unto Philemon.

In understanding the circumstances, we should not overlook the fact that in that day slaves were often prisoners, captured in war and sometimes men of considerable talent and ability.

So, Paul encouraged Onesimus to fulfill his obligation to his owner and to preserve his own conscience by abandoning the life of a fugitive from justice and returning in trust that his voluntary action would inspire magnanimity upon the part of his owner.

Paul appears to Philemon to res-

pond to the altered attitude of his slave, basing his demand upon the bond of love which should unite every Christian. He asked Onesimus to receive Onesimus as if he were Paul himself and to give Paul the joy which would come from such an example of Christian love and fellowship.

Paul took time to concern himself with the personal affairs of this one slave with whom he came in contact, thus testifying to the eternal value of the individual. Jesus did the same during his life, and his contact with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, and other individuals, show that no pressure of public business, or event was so vital that the great teacher could not concern himself with the eternal welfare of an individual soul.

A realization of the value of individual personality promoted by the Christian religion has been the basis for the gradual emancipation of men.

Paul's approach to his problems points the way for use in this modern day to handle similar matters. He is confident of the love and esteem which Philemon has for him, and he assures him of the mutual regard. He explains to Philemon the attachment which he now feels for his convert, and upon this basis asked that the Onesimus be cordially received.

As it appears that the slave may have taken some of Philemon's property, Paul promises himself to repay, and in so doing delicately reminds Philemon of the debt which he is under to Paul. Paul writes to his friend with confidence that his friend will respond to the high motive upon which the appeal is based.

NEW HOPE NEWS

Mrs. Rosa Turner returned home Sunday after spending several weeks with her sisters, Mrs. James Outlaw of Greenville, N. C., and Mrs. Josh Wood of Washington, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Umphlett of Goldsboro spent the Thanksgiving holidays with Mrs. Umphlett's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Goodman.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Spencer and S. D. Banks were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards and family of Norview, Va., on Thanksgiving Day.

Wilbur Sawyer has accepted a position in Richmond, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dail had as their dinner guests on Thanksgiving Day Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boyce, Miss Faye Dail and Miss Lena Jones of Edenton, Mrs. George Paul of Washington, N. C., Mrs. J. Monroe Nurney, Miss Celia Blanche Dail, Miss Billie

Dail and Austin Dail of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Minnie Perry spent last week with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Julian White.

Misses Celia Blanche and Billie Dail and Austin Dail have returned to their home in Washington, D. C. after spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dail.

ENTERTAINS CLASS

Mrs. J. B. Basnight was hostess to the members of her Sunday School class Wednesday night at a card-popping. Games and contests were enjoyed with Shelton Bagley winning the prize. Cern was popped over the open fire. Those present were Audrey Copeland, Myrtle Whedbee, Howard Ward, Delsie Whedbee, Shelton Bagley, Menis Copeland, Jonnie Ayscue, Nan Ward, Delsie Whedbee and Edna Ruth Lane.

The hostess served popcorn, nuts, cookies and bottled drinks.

Veterans Administration cleared over 84,000 requests for physical examinations during September for pensions or compensations, the highest total to date.

CIRCLE NO. 2 MEETING

Circle No. two of the Hertford Baptist Church met Monday evening with Mrs. Charles Johnson and Mrs. Olivia Hobbs as hostesses. Mrs. W. E. Hoffer had charge of a very interesting program, the subject being "Christmas For Christ". Mrs. V. A. Holden gave the devotional. A reading "Christmas in Europe" was read by Mrs. Tommy Miller. Mrs. C. W. Duling and Mrs. W. E. Hoffer each read a Christmas poem. Carols were sung and Mrs. T. E. Raper. Mrs. I. A. Ward and Mrs. C. W. Duling offered prayer.

During the business meeting the officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

Mrs. Charles Johnson, chairman and pianist; Mrs. B. W. Pennington assistant chairman; Mrs. R. L. Holmes, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. J. W. Hampton, program chairman; Mrs. Lois Daniels, young people's director; Mrs. B. T. Wood, community mission chairman; Mrs. Olivia Hobbs, social chairman; Mrs. Tommy Miller, publicity chairman.

During the social hour Mrs. Johnson entertained the members and guests with a Christmas party. The

entire lower floor was beautifully decorated in colors of red and green. Mrs. Johnson gave a Christmas story, the title being "The Meaning of Christmas." Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. B. W. Pennington were presented gifts from the Circle. The hostesses then invited all in the dining room

where a cold plate with hot rolls and coffee were served.

Eighteen members and two guests were present. At the close of the party Mrs. Johnson presented each member and guest with a gift. The January meeting will be with Mrs. B. T. Wood.

For sale

I am offering for sale very desirable building lots, located on U. S. Highway No. 17, near Perquimans High School, known as the C. W. Gaither property.

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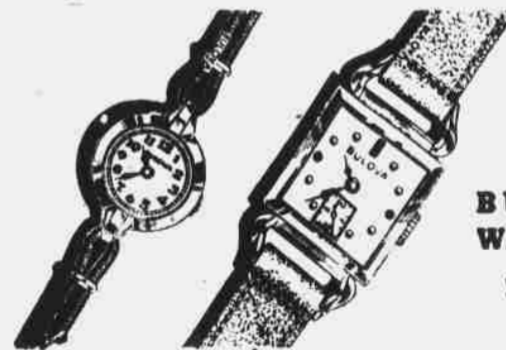


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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

How to Stop Worrying

I guess folks in our town do about as much worrying as in yours—over housing and prices, and crops, and jobs—and the little domestic problems that are always coming up.

Dad Hoskins, who's lived to the happy age of eighty, has a simple formula for stopping worry. About every problem, he asks himself: Is there anything I can do about it? If there is, he never postpones making a decision, or taking necessary action.

If there isn't anything he can do about it, he sets aside a "worrying

hour" after dinner, and gets his worrying over in one concentrated period. When that's over, he relaxes over a friendly glass of beer with Ma Hoskins—and they talk about pleasant things together, until bedtime.

From where I sit, that's as workable a formula as you could find... right down to the mellow glass of beer that seems to wink away your worries.

Joe Marsh

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Sells 406-607 Insurance Building, Raleigh, North Carolina.

PUBLIC SALE

I will offer for sale, to the highest bidder, at public auction at the S. G. Nowell Estate, on Saturday, December 21, 1946, at 10 o'clock A. M., the following farm equipment and other items:

- One Lot of Corn and Hay
- One 2-row Fertilizer Sower
- One Single Row Fertilizer Sower
- One Weeder
- One Double Cole Corn Planter
- One Cotton Planter
- One Peanut Planter
- One Disc Plow
- Two Double Listing Plows
- One Champion Plow
- One Riding McCormick-Deering Cultivator
- One Cart and Wheels
- One Horse
- One Mule
- One Cow
- One Lot of Corn and Hay and Several Other Items

TERMS: CASH AT TIME OF SALE

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