

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

WHEN WE WORK WITH GOD

International Sunday School Lesson for January 25, 1948

Golden Text: "For we are labourers together with God."—I Cor. 3:9.

Lesson Text: II Corinthians 5:20, 6:10

In our lesson last week we considered the rare privileges that are ours when we belong to Christ. However, we must bear in mind that our privileges carry with them responsibilities and duties.

Paul, in our text this week, outlines this responsibility for us. In working out His plan of redemption for the world, God must have human helpers. Without him, we can do nothing and without us, God cannot accomplish his purpose in the world.

Therefore, Paul declares that those who have accepted Christ are ambassadors on behalf of Christ. It is pointed out that an ambassador of a country must possess the following qualifications in order to be acceptable: (1) He must be a citizen of the country he represents; (2) he must have the interests of that country at heart, although he lives in another country; and (3) he must receive an appointment.

A Christian ambassador must have the same qualifications. Paul tells, in our lesson text, how a person becomes a citizen of Christ's kingdom. He came into this world and partook of our nature. On the cross he bore our sin and, as a result, those who trust him become citizens of the kingdom of God. By the same sacrifice Christ puts into the hearts of each new heavenly citizen a love for the heavenly kingdom and commissions him to serve as an ambassador.

The honor and privilege of being an ambassador also carry real responsibility. A true ambassador has a mission that includes every part of his life, realizing that the manner in which he conducts his affairs and his personal life are open to close scrutiny and his country is either helped or hurt by what he is and does. The ambassador for Christ must not forget that his spiritual citizenship is in heaven and that people in this world are likely to judge his country by the way he acts. His life should be centered around the twofold theme of living a life that truly represents Christ and of speaking the message that Christ would have the people hear—that they should be reconciled to God and become followers of God.

Paul knew that the life of an ambassador for Christ is anything but easy. Misunderstandings arise, harsh criticism and ridicule received and, sometimes even bodily punishment given by those who fail to receive the message of Christ. Paul knew from personal experience the trials that the ambassador for Christ might have to undergo and he, therefore, counsels that they be sure their faith is strong enough to see beyond the dishonor and evil reports. This faith must be able to remind him that although he may be unknown to men, he is known to God and although he

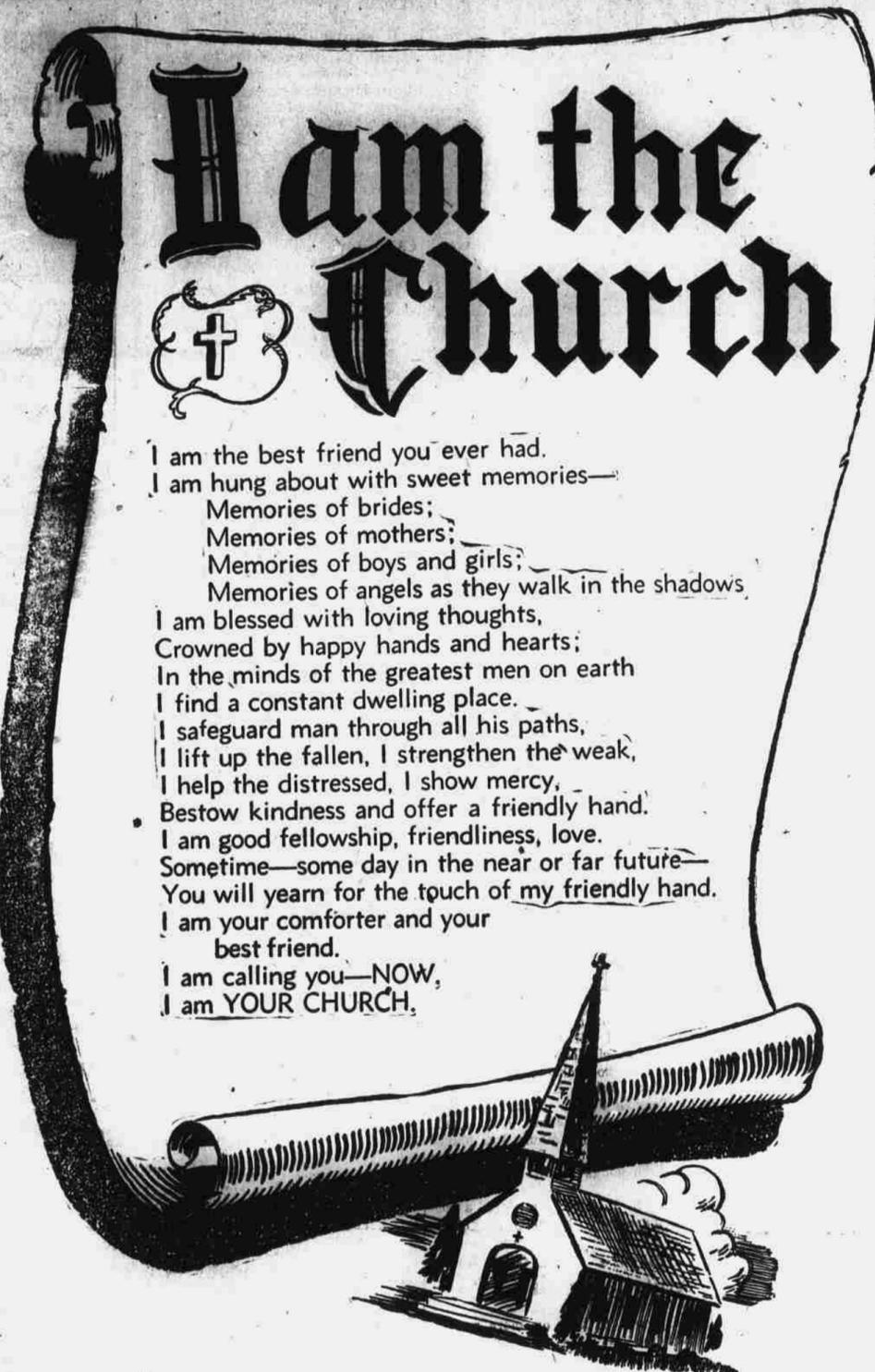
may be chastened, God continues to be with him. He must never forget that, as an ambassador, he is a laborer together with God to accomplish the work of God in the world. We should remember that our God works by a plan. Nothing that comes from his hand shows haphazard or

careless planning. If God uses a plan in the making of the minutest things in the physical universe, he certainly goes by a plan in saving a lost world. In the working out of some of his plans, God works alone and does not ask human assistance. However, in the great work of soul-winning, God

left a place in his plan for human initiative and effort and he expects Christians to take their place in his plan. As Christ's ambassadors we can take the gospel of Jesus to people whom we cannot bring to Christ. Jesus once said, "Go out into the

highways and hedge and compel them to come in." In the early days of the Christian church, all Christians were missionaries and took the gospel of Jesus to the homes and to the market places. Today, the average Christian leaves the preaching of the

Be a Better Citizen! Go to Some Church Next Sunday



I am the Church

I am the best friend you ever had.
 I am hung about with sweet memories—
 Memories of brides;
 Memories of mothers;
 Memories of boys and girls;
 Memories of angels as they walk in the shadows.
 I am blessed with loving thoughts,
 Crowned by happy hands and hearts;
 In the minds of the greatest men on earth
 I find a constant dwelling place.
 I safeguard man through all his paths,
 I lift up the fallen, I strengthen the weak,
 I help the distressed, I show mercy,
 Bestow kindness and offer a friendly hand.
 I am good fellowship, friendliness, love.
 Sometime—some day in the near or far future—
 You will yearn for the touch of my friendly hand.
 I am your comforter and your best friend.
 I am calling you—NOW,
 I am YOUR CHURCH.

- Perquimans Church Services**
- HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**
 C. W. Duling, Pastor
 Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
 Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
 Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
 Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
- HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**
 D. L. Fouts, Pastor
 Church School, 9:45 A. M.
 Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
 Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
 Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
 Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
 Choir rehearsal Saturday, 8:00 P. M.
- BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**
 Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
 Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
 Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
 Young People's Meeting, 6:00 P. M.
 Evening Worship, 7:00 o'clock.
 Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.
- BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
 W. H. Marler, Pastor
 Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.
 Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.
- BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**
 Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
 Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
 Burgess and Bethlehem Churches hold Christian Union together on second and fourth Sundays.
- PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**
 E. B. Edwards, Pastor
 First Sunday:
 New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
 Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
 Second Sunday
 Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
 Cedar Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
 Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
 Third Sunday
 Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
 New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
 Fourth Sunday
 Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
 Woodland Church, 3:00 P. M.
 Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
 Fifth Sunday
 Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
 Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.
- HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**
 E. T. Jilson, Rector
 Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
 Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
 Church School, 10:00 A. M.
 Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
 Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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