

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PLANTING A CHURCH IN A PAGAN CITY (Temperance)

International Sunday School Lesson for February 26, 1950

Memory Selection: "You are not your own; you were brought with a price. So glorify God in your body."—I Cor. 6: 19-20.

Lesson Text: Acts 18: 1, 8-11; II Corinthians 6: 14-18; 7 1.

Paul, leaving Silas and Timothy in Berea, proceeded to Athens alone. This famous city at that time had descended some from its heights of glory but it was still wonderful for its works of art and other attractions. The Acropolis and the Parthenon are among the outstanding masterpieces of architecture of all time.

Paul's personality soon sensed the contrast between his own inherited faith in the only God and the worship of various deities by the inhabitants of Athens. Pliny states that about this time Athens contained over three thousand statues commemorating and honoring almost every possible variety of gods and other supernatural beings. A Roman poet remarked that it was easier to find gods in Athens than men. The leading philosophic sects in Athens were the Stoics and Epicureans.

From Athens Paul proceeded to Corinth, situated on the little narrow strip of earth which unites the northern and southern portions of Greece. There is some reason to believe that Paul left Athens under compulsion, although no mention is made of any physical disturbances. Corinth had been destroyed by the Romans about two centuries before this time but had been restored by Julius Caesar about a century before Paul's visit.

Corinth was a large city, of more than half a million people, renowned for its volume of trade and shameless licentiousness. Significant of the latter was the fact that one thousand courtesans officiated as priestesses in the worship of Aphrodite. Notwithstanding these discouraging facts Paul established one of his strongest churches in this city as a result of his eighteen months work there.

Paul's experiences in Corinth followed a development similar to that in other cities. First, he preached to the Jews and Proselytes of the synagogue (one of the rulers was converted) but, eventually, the opposition of the Jews forced him to leave the synagogue, which he did with his customary renunciation of responsibility and declaration of reaching out to the Gentiles.

However, as a missionary, Paul spent more time in Corinth, Ephesus and Rome than in all the other places together. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he singled out these populous centers because they were the outstanding cities of his day. As Corinth, Ephesus and Rome went, so went the world of his day.

Corinth was classified as a "pagan" city, which means a "God-less" city, although as pointed out above to more than three thousand gods. With all the gods they worshipped, the Corinthians did not worship the one true God. There are many cities today which resemble Corinth, in that they seem to be given over to the pursuit of wealth, worldliness and wickedness. Only the churches of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, can combat the evil and sinfulness of these pagan centers.

What is the responsibility of the Christian in a pagan community? Paul declares that Christians should live in the world but not belong to the world. He says to Christians, "Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch no unclean thing." This is a reference taken from the Old Testament, but its truth is still applicable. The lives of believers should be so clean and pure, that, like the believers of the first century, those looking on will be led to say, as they said of old, "They have been with Jesus."

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

### SECURITY and Happiness



The simple faith of this child is written all over her beaming little face. The awed expression, the clasped hands, and the prayerful eyes show without a shadow of a doubt that this small girl has been taught truths of the Christian Faith.

Already she has been taken regularly to the services of the Church, habits which she will not likely break as she grows older. At night Mother tells her stories from the Bible, and at bedtime she kneels reverently to pray before she falls asleep.

A child with such training has been given the greatest insurance of happiness that parents can bestow. No matter what course her life may lead, she will always be able to rely upon her early teachings as her greatest source of comfort and direction.

Only by giving your children the benefit of Christian training can you hope to bless them with security and happiness in the future. It is never too early or too late to begin. Take your children to Church this Sunday.

**THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH**

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	John	4	21-26
Monday	Matthew	10	1-6
Tuesday	Luke	6	29-48
Wednesday	Psalm	8	1-9
Thursday	Matthew	4	17-22
Friday	Luke	10	25-37
Saturday	Isaiah	40	1-8

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## Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Dalling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

**BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Harold C. Turner, Pastor  
Church services at 3:00 P. M.  
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor  
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

**PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
E. B. Edwards, Pastor

First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.

Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. 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, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:00 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**

E. R. Meekins, Pastor  
Church School, 11:00 O. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor  
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**

Elizabeth White, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services, 11 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

**PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH**

Carl J. Yow, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

G. M. Singletary, Pastor  
Sunday Schoc., 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.  
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**

Ben O. Merritt, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 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, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday 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.

**BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Walker Perry, Pastor  
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

A. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go