

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### SUSTAINING FAITH

International Sunday School Lesson for March 19, 1950

Memory Selection: "I know whom I have believed and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me."—II Timothy 1:12.

Lesson Text: Acts 26: 19-23; Romans 5: 1-8; Hebrews 12: 1-2.

Our scripture reference breaks into a very dramatic situation. Paul is before King Agrippa, telling of his transforming vision on the road to Damascus. Then, he goes on to relate the effect his vision had on his life and work and, in doing so, revealed the heart of the Christian religion.

The Apostle Paul's experience began with a vision of the Living Christ, a vision which led to heroism and endurance. George A. Gordon, in the Revelation and the Ideal, declares: Everywhere today hosts of God's people need the faith that sustained the apostle. A vision means the end for which a good man lives. Paul's vision was heavenly, and he pursued it to the last breath of his life. His vision sets him apart and makes him worthy of lifelong study. The strength, the continuity, and the passion of his devotion to the ideal lent distinction to his career. We wish to know about his vision and its value for men today.

The vision of Christ became the foundation stone of a sustaining faith for Paul. This dynamic faith changed him from a persecutor to one persecuted. The name of Jesus, which he had cursed, became more precious to him than life itself.

What was the character of the faith that sustained Paul? Bolstered by that faith, he had the courage with stand all kinds of persecution and to stand before kings to proclaim his belief in Jesus Christ. Paul's faith was one that grew out of his knowledge of the holy scriptures—Moses and the prophets. We must remember that Paul was well learned in the scriptures of his day, being a Pharisee. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he had come to see that all the marks of the long Promised Messiah of the Old Testament were to be found in Jesus.

In the book of Romans, particularly the passage given for our consideration, Paul, the theologian, the chief interpreter of Christianity, is dealing with the problem of sin and how the sinner can get right with God and keep right with him. This "rightness" alone brings peace. William James, the psychologist, once wrote about a man "consciously right, superior, happy" who, by faith, becomes "consciously right, superior happy." Such faith means trusting God for deliverance through belief in Christ and acceptance of salvation through his death on the cross.

The life of a Christian is not a bed of roses, warns Paul. Paul had learned through tribulations of many and varied sorts, that God had used troubles to make him a better man. Sorrow or suffering may sweeten and ennoble, or it may embitter and harden. The effect depends on the individual himself or herself. Christ died for the ungodly. He accepted suffering in order that all those who believed in him might escape the suffering and punishment for their sins.

Paul's sustaining faith was the result of experience. Having met Jesus on the Damascus road, Paul knew, from that time on that Jesus was risen from the dead and was the divine Son of God. For him, it was not speculation, it was fact. No faith is worth having that does not stem from actual experience. We should remember, however, that experience differs for each individual. For most of us, there is no climactic event like that which convinced Paul of the truth of Christ. Our assurance comes from trusting Jesus and finding that He is always by our side, to help us in every hour of need. The words of the hymn, "Just When I Need Him, Jesus is Near," are good to keep in mind, as we run the race of life. The author of Hebrews, using the symbol of the old athletic races as typical as the Christian's life, suggests that, using the faith that sustains, we should persevere to the end, looking always unto "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

# ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING



### 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 the sake of his community and nation. (3) 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.

	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Matthew	5	38-42
Monday	Matthew	14	16-21
Tuesday	Matthew	19	16-22
Wednesday	Mark	8	1-9
Thursday	Luke	12	29-34
Friday	Acts	2	43-47
Saturday	Acts	4	32-35

These are days of many and serious world problems, which America cannot ignore. Cold war, strikes, revolution, conflict are the phrases that make today's headlines.

Numerous are the theories advanced for solving these problems. Statesmen, economists, and diplomats have tried and failed to achieve their goal of world peace.

But there is another force at work that promises greater success. This is the power of love, fellowship, and understanding—and it takes its banner under the name of Christianity.

On Sunday, Christians the nation over will gather together to pool their wealth, talents, and faith in ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Only through such united efforts as this can the world come to know the peace that it desires.

Come to Church this Sunday morning and share with others the peace and security that you know will come from Christian living and Christian faith.

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## Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Duling, 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 Sch., 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.  
Church services, 8:00 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.

**BEREA 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