

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE BEGINNINGS OF SIN

International Sunday School Lesson for April 8th, 1951.

Memory Selection: "For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."—Romans 6: 23.

Lesson Text: Genesis 3: 1-6, 9-15, 24.

Last week we studied the beginning of things—the creation of the world and of man. The lesson for this week explains the beginning of sin, or what sin is and does.

It will be helpful in studying this lesson to remember that our Bible was written by an Oriental people and that God was teaching his children in the infancy of the race by means of simple, pictorial language. Literal interpretation of every detail is not necessary nor always helpful. In the story related in the third chapter of Genesis, we see a picture painted by an early Hebrew author, depicting the revelation from God which had come to him.

Profound spiritual truths are in this story—the choice between good and evil, the fact of sin and its consequences, the existence of and the pricking of conscience, and the individual's relationship to his Creator. The story of Eden pictures a glorious paradise, or Eden, (which means delight), inhabited by the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. They enjoyed great happiness, living in such close intimacy with their Creator, God, that we read that God walked and talked with them.

However, God had forbidden Adam to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" and this command was relayed to Eve. Satan, in the guise of a serpent, brought to Eve the first choice in the exercise of her God-given freedom of will. His approach was shrewdly planned. First, he misrepresented God's command, then when Eve included the toughing of the tree in the divine prohibition (according to Jewish tradition), he pushed her hand against the tree. When nothing happened, the serpent denied the truth of God's statement that eating of the fruit of the tree would bring death. Eve then more closely examined the fruit, finding it good for food, most attractive to the eye, and, with the added power of making one wise, if partaken of. Eve yielded to the temptation and partook of the fruit. Not being satisfied to have disobeyed herself, she persuaded Adam to partake also, which he did.

"How directly this speaks to our day! The same old temptation is repeated! So many want to taste of life. They will be denied on experience. Into the Eden of youth, the serpent creeps today. It needs to be thundered forth! There are things which are wrong, eternally wrong, therefor forbidden!" (R. C. Gillie).

Shame and a desire for secrecy immediately followed this act of disobedience and sin. Realizing their sin, they attempted to hide from God. When God called, Adam responded: "I heard thy voice in the garden and was afraid, because I am naked; and I hid myself." His answer betrayed his guilt, but Adam tried to pass the blame for his sin to Eve and also to God, who had given him his companion. Eve, when questioned, blamed the serpent. Guilt for our sins cannot be passed on to others—we alone are called upon to pay the penalty.

In passing sentence in punishment for this sin of disobedience, God did not punish the serpent alone for tempting Eve, nor Eve for yielding to the temptation and then persuading Adam to sin also. Each received his own punishment! For the serpent, He decreed degradation; for the woman, pain and sorrow, for the man, bitter toil; and for both, exclusion from the Paradise he had given them. They could no longer enjoy the close intimacy of God's presence and fellowship. From a life of ease, where everything was provided for them, they were turned out to work for their own livelihood. This is a fact which everyone discovers—that disobedience, whether it be to parents, to law, to nature, or to God—spoils everything, takes all the real joy out of living and turns happiness to disaster.

It might be well for us to remember the saying of Plato, the philosopher: "Sin and penalty go through the world with their heads tied together."

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!
GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY



LABORATORY TESTED

Almost everything you buy today has been tested in the laboratory. Its worth has been proven.

But what about the pattern by which you live? Is it a concoction of your own mind, or a new formula for success, or is it a Religion?

If you are a Christian, your creed has been tested in the laboratory of life. For almost two thousand years men have believed, served, worshipped, lived and died—many of them heroically—in the Faith that is yours.

The Christian churches of this community do not offer any new remedy for all life's problems. But they preach and teach for our own time the Way of Life that Jesus taught.

And now, as then, men find peace and happiness in that Way. Through twenty centuries that has been proven by faithful Christians.

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 | Titus | 2 | 1-6 |
| Monday | 1 Thessalonians | 5 | 12-22 |
| Tuesday | 1 Timothy | 1 | 12-17 |
| Wednesday | Ephesians | 5 | 5-14 |
| Thursday | Romans | 12 | 1-8 |
| Friday | Romans | 20 | 15-20 |
| Saturday | Galatians | 6 | 1-10 |

THIS PAGE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

Lynch Funeral Home
PHONE 2511 HERTFORD, N. C.

Simon's
OUTFITTERS FOR THE FAMILY

Robertson's Cleaners
PHONE 2976 HERTFORD, N. C.

DOZIER'S FLORIST
FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS PHONE 4606

W. M. Morgan Furniture Company
HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS — G. E. APPLIANCES

Winslow-Blanchard Motor Co.
YOUR FORD DEALER

Hertford Locker & Packing Co.
A COMPLETE LINE OF FROZEN FOODS

Towe-Webb Motor Company
CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH SALES AND SERVICE

I. C. Blanchard & Company, Inc.
"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1823

Hertford Cleaners
PHONE 2651 HERTFORD, N. C.

CANNON CLEANERS
PHONE 2511 DEPENDABLE SERVICE

Hertford Livestock & Supply Co.
PHONE 2501 HERTFORD, N. C.

Major - Loomis Lumber Company
HERTFORD, N. C.

Hertford Oil Company
SINCLAIR PRODUCTS — U. S. TIRES

Jordan's Barber Shop
BILL JORDAN, Prop.

Hertford Banking Company
MEMBER F. D. I. C.

Hertford Hardware & Supply Co.
PAINTS - HARDWARE - BUILDING MATERIALS

Reed Oil Company
ESSO PRODUCTS

Hertford Furniture Company
"MOVED IN TOWN, IT'S TRUE, BUT STILL RETAIN LOW PRICES, TOO"

The Southern Cotton Oil Company
HERTFORD, N. C.

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
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 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
J. S. Craffin, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. 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.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. 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 8 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 School, 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
A. L. Chaplin, 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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wolf, Rector.
10:00 A. M., Church School, Every Sunday
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer
2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion
Third Sunday

BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. E. 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