

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHURCH UNDER PERSECUTION

International Sunday School Lesson for June 24th, 1951.

Memory Selection: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life."—Revelation 2: 10.

Lesson Text: 1 Peter 5: 6-11; Revelation 1: 9-11a; 7: 9-10, 13-14.

Practically every newspaper we pick up today has one or more news dispatches from the war front, telling of unusual heroism on the part of some soldier, sailor or marine, in the face of trying circumstances or in the midst of terrible danger.

At the time Peter wrote his epistle, which forms part of the Scripture basis for our lesson this week, the early Christians, and Peter himself, were undergoing severe persecutions, being imprisoned and mistreated in every imaginable way. This was during the reign of the evil Nero, when Christians were sought out by dogs and torn to bits by wild animals.

Peter and the other disciples had been persecuted and imprisoned, yet he and they remained faithful, so he could, out of his own experience, advise others. Peter declared: "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you." We are to look to God in humble trust, believing that He cares for and watches over His own. Therefore, in times of trouble, Christians should remain calm (sober), vigilant, ever on the alert against temptation, and doing all possible to resist the devil, who, Peter says, goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Peter explained that the fiery trials come to try us, to prove us, and, as it is necessary for fine metals to be tested by fire, so that the dross may be burned away and the gold purified, so Christians are tested and proved. History shows that the early Christians proved themselves faithful. The courageous way they acted during the terrible persecutions heaped upon them, did more than anything else to defeat their enemies. Christianity conquered because the early Christians would not be conquered, but bore their crosses with songs of triumph rather than with cries of defeat.

Now, the scene changes from Rome to the Isle of Patmos, where the Apostle John had been banished. The early Christians were being persecuted for no other reason than that they were Christians. John wished to encourage them to be faithful by relating to them the vision he had received from God—of God and of Heaven. He not only saw God, but he also saw a great multitude of people—the faithful from every nation—clothed in their white garments of purity, worshipping the Almighty with palm branches—the symbols of victory, in their hands.

John also saw the Lamb, standing near the throne of God—a partner with Him in ruling the Universe. Who is the Lamb? He is the Son of God—Jesus Christ, who "became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jno. 1: 14). John the Baptist declared, "Behold the Lamb of God" (Jno. 1: 36). John said the robes of the multitude were white because they had been washed "in the blood of the Lamb." In His death on the cross, Christ showed God's love and bore man's penalty. Those who accept Him are redeemed by His blood.

God has not only provided a way of salvation, he has also given us victory over tribulation, supplying our needs and comforting our sorrows. Christians all over the world today will do well to remember that God helps to meet the distressing circumstances of this life and he also gives promise of final victory in the life to come, if we remain faithful.

He does not promise to eliminate troubles from our lives, but he promises to give us victory over them if we ask Him for help. Someone has said that Christians should never pray that troubles be removed from their lives, but that God would give sufficient strength to bear them.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

**YOU OWE THEM AN EXPLANATION**

These lads may not know why they enjoy the freedom that is the heritage of American youth, so it is up to you to tell them what freedom means.

When you do so, explain how the flag and all the symbols of our great democracy are possible because of the Church.

The historical fact is that freedom in the state, as we know it, is the natural and logical result of Christian teaching of equality and justice. It was through the powerful influence of our Christian forefathers that the fundamental idea of a free civil government was developed.

When you think of the American way of life, which we all cherish, remember it is our heritage from the founding fathers. Then be grateful for their rugged fidelity to religion and to the Church.

To become a member of the Church—the greatest of all institutions—is the least you can do to show gratitude for the priceless privileges you enjoy today.

**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	Matthew	7	7-14
Monday	Ephesians	2	19-22
Tuesday	Deuteronomy	4	3-9
Wednesday	Deuteronomy	4	29-31
Thursday	Psalms	146	1-9
Friday	John	21	15-19
Saturday	Psalms	68	4-13

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## Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Dilling, 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, Paston

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.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
James F. Burke, Pastor  
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.  
Sunday School 9:45 A. 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**  
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. Yew, 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, 8:00 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. Wulf, 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

**BEREA 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. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 8 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