

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPECT FOR LAW

International Sunday School Lesson For August 19, 1961.

Memory Selection: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's"—Luke 20: 25.

Lesson Text: Luke 20: 19-26; I Peter 2: 13-17.

Among the questions asked Jesus during the last Tuesday of his life was one in respect to paying tribute to Caesar. The Pharisees, who were strict theologians and patriotic, combined with the Herodians, who were those supporting the rule of Herod, in an effort to trap Jesus and cause him some discomfiture.

After some flattering preliminary remarks, the direct question was asked: "Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" The hope was that whichever way Jesus answered, he would stir up the enmity of a powerful faction. For, if he advised the payment of the tribute money, he would encounter the opposition of the strict, patriotic Jews, who were bitterly opposed to the Roman dominion over them, whereas, if he advised against the payment, he could be cited to the Roman authorities, which was, as a matter of fact, one of the charges later filed against him.

Jesus answered the question in a very effective manner. Calling for a denarius, the Roman silver coin which was used as tribute money, he called attention to the fact that Caesar had issued the coin. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," meant that the Jew should pay his legitimate share of the taxes as compensation for the advantages which the Roman government afforded him. The tax defrayed the cost of the order which was maintained in the Empire, its judicial processes, the defense of its army against barbarians, its excellent roads, its security and many other advantages.

Jesus, however, did not stop there in prescribing the duties that a citizen owes to his government. He added the clause "and unto God the things that are God's." While every citizen owes his government obedience and support, he does not owe it, or any man, anything that would contravene the laws of God as he interprets them or that would imperil his mortal soul. So churches should teach citizens their responsibilities in civil duties and their obligations to participate in government, but with great care and caution that the exercise of these are carried out upon the high plane which serves both God and man at the same time.

Peter, in his epistle, advises Christians to live righteously in their communities, so that those who are prone to criticize them can see their good works. Peter felt that a man or woman conscientiously following the principles of the Christian religion, would be different from other unconverted in the same community. Sad to say, though, today it is somewhat difficult, at times, to differentiate church members from those who make no profession of Christianity. Peter's advice for the Christians is to answer criticism by "good works," and reminds us of the admonition of Jesus himself, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good work and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

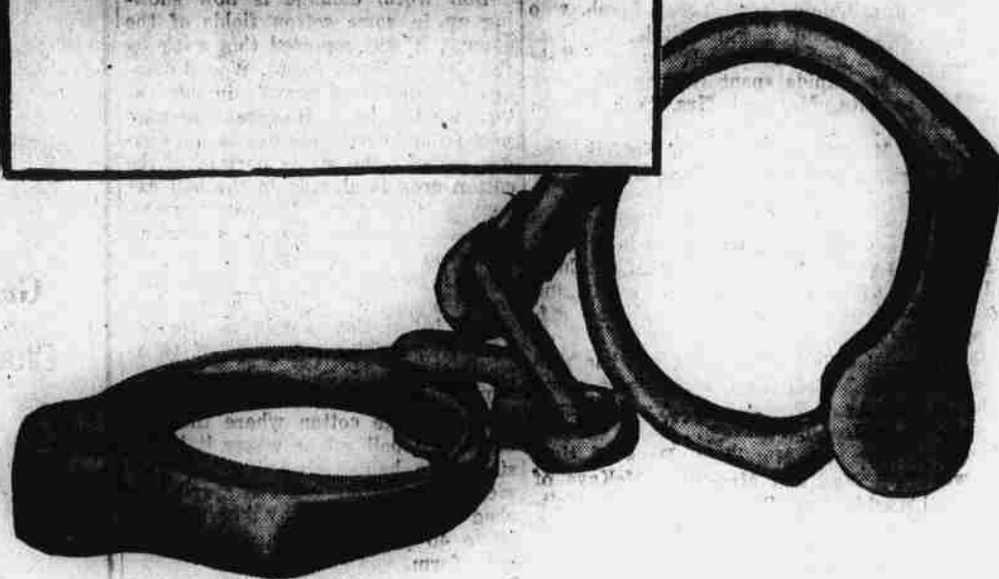
Notwithstanding the fact that the rulers in Peter's day were pagan and hostile to the Christian faith, Peter advised the Christians to obey the laws of the land, again repeating the thought that by "well-doing," they would answer their opponents. Peter did not approve all the laws and recognized customs of his day, but he knew that orderly government and respect for authority were conditions necessary for any improvement in the social order.

In one verse, Peter very succinctly gives four rules for Christian citizenship: (1) Honor all men. (2) Love the brotherhood. (3) Fear God (4) Honor the King. The first was a recognition of the fact that every man is created in the image of God and has possibilities of eternal life. The second is to encourage the mutual helpfulness and affection which should exist between those working for a common and great cause. The third appeals to obedience to the righteous ordinances of God, fearing the inevitable punishment which comes from disobedience. The fourth advises recognition of temporal authority, which is necessary to avoid anarchy and chaos, recognizing that the influence of Christianity can multiply better in a peaceful, orderly world.

It seems to be a popular tendency in this country to disregard any law which one particularly dislikes. Traffic regulations are constantly flouted. It might be well for all of us to remember that the foundation of a democracy is respect for law under a government chosen by a majority of the people. Without a respect for and an obedience to laws, there must inevitably be anarchy and chaos.

GO TO SOME CHURCH

BRACELETS



Handcuffs are made of steel—the stuff with which we build bridges and skyscrapers and churches!

But all men have not learned to build. Some have learned to destroy.

Hence, in a land where men treasure freedom, there must be handcuffs for some in order that the rights of all may be safeguarded.

But there is a better way. Religious training is a sure vaccine against the spiritual disease that produces criminals. The Church can provide our children with the God-given moral foundations on which life should be built.

And which is the stronger safeguard of the things we hold dear? A pair of steel "bracelets" ... or a Church crowded with eager children and conscientious parents?

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.

Sunday ... Acts 12:1-7
Monday ... Acts 20:24-28
Tuesday ... Romans 8:12-17
Wednesday ... Mark 8:1-8
Thursday ... I Corinthians 8:16-18
Friday ... Luke 9:46-50
Saturday ... Hebrews 11:24-30

For schedule of yearly readings, write American Bible Society, 450 Park Ave., N. Y. 22, N. Y.

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- 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**
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Chureb 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, Paston
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 Sunday 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.
- WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church sevices every third Sunday at 3 P. M.
- 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
- 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 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