

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PAUL, A PRISONER FOR CHRIST

International Sunday School Lesson
For March 9, 1952.

Memory Selection: "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."—Philippians 3: 13-14.

Lesson Text: Philippians 3: 4b-17.

In order to get the proper background for the study of this lesson, we should not forget that Paul was in jail when he wrote the letter to the Philippian Christians and that he was not bragging about who he was or what he had done. He was trying to warn these Philippian Christians against certain false teachers who were known as "Judaizers," and who were trying to wreck the church at Philippi by insisting that the old Jewish rites had to be observed.

Paul gives his own Jewish background to show them that he has no confidence whatsoever in those ancient rites insofar as they claimed to be necessary to one's salvation. When Paul came into contact with Jesus and accepted him as his Savior and Lord, he lost all interest in rites and ceremonies.

There was probably no Jew of his time who could boast of a better Jewish background than could Paul. Although living in the Gentile city of Tarsus, Paul, nevertheless, had been brought up according to the strictest interpretation of the Jewish law. He was of the "stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the law, a Pharisee." He had received the best education possible in his day, being educated in the rabbinical tradition of the school of Gamaliel in Jerusalem.

His religious and moral zeal had earned him a position of authority and respect among the leaders of Judaism. So zealous was he, in fact, that he was not content to practice his religion in the Temple at Jerusalem, but he asked permission to take part in the movement of persecution against the early Christians. Probably, more than anyone else of his time, Paul had the right, by birth and by effort, to be assured and self-satisfied.

Then it was that Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus. What a tremendous challenge this must have been to him. To accept Christ meant the renunciation of all his belief in the purity of Judaism and its moral law. It also meant the loss of his position, prestige and power among his fellow Jews.

However, faced with these sacrifices, Saul saw in Jesus something more infinitely valuable than the things he would have to give up in order to be his disciple. Unlike Nicodemus, who followed without real sacrifice, or the rich young ruler, who would not surrender his material possessions, Saul surrendered completely, counting "all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord."

While Saul gave up what some would consider everything—he didn't lose anything worthwhile. He was not only saved from something, he was saved for something. At the moment of his complete surrender, Saul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was conscious within his soul that God had a divine purpose for his life.

From that time on, for Paul no task was too small and none too great to be attempted for his Lord. His obstacle was too difficult and no opposition too strong. Paul preached the gospel everywhere he went, although it often meant persecution, beatings, stonings, imprisonments and ridicule.

Dr. E. A. McDowell suggests the following epitaph for Paul:

Saul of Tarsus, born A. D. 1, died A. D. 68. For some years a relentless persecutor of the Christian Faith, he met Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road, A. D. 36, and from thence onward he was His most ardent follower, in the end giving his life for the cause of Him whom he declared to be the true Son of God. He was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

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BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



ONE WAY TRAFFIC ONLY

On today's busy trafficways you travel only a few feet in the wrong direction before horns blast, traffic cops whistle, and other drivers shout menacingly.

In your daily living, though, there is little such clamor if you choose the wrong direction. You skim along blithely, supposing you are on the right road because others are travelling along with you. Still, others can be wrong too, you know.

The road you travel has to be either right or wrong. And the best way to find and follow that right road for present-day living is to think of the Bible as your road map.

Consult it diligently. Let your minister help you interpret the signs and signals you find in it. It has been a tried and proved map to successful, happy living for many centuries.

Through your Bible and your Church get on the right road—NOW.

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	Mark	1	1-11
Monday	Isaiah	46	1-9
Tuesday	Isaiah	46	9-17
Wednesday	Matthew	7	18-23
Thursday	Luke	13	18-27
Friday	Acts	9	1-12
Saturday	Psalms	5	1-8

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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
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.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES

H. M. Jamieson, 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, 7:00 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

Rev. Bennie Crawford, 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

No Pastor At Present
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 services 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. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

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. H. Oulav, 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