

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### CHRIST'S STANDARD OF MORAL PURITY

International Sunday School Lesson For June 1, 1952.

Memory Selection: "Thou shalt not commit adultery."—Exodus 20: 14.

Lesson Text: Exodus 20: 14; Matthew 5: 27-32; Mark 10: 2-9.

Every normal person has to contend with the temptations of the flesh, but it is unwise to assume that man is essentially evil. The original purpose of the Seventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" was to preserve the sanctity of family life and this cannot be preserved if the individuals who establish the family are guilty of impure living which impairs the moral integrity of the individual, involved, injures the life of the family and saps the strength of the community.

The standard of moral purity is embedded in this Commandment, wherein chastity is commended and impurity forbidden. In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus, quoting this Commandment, extended its meaning and application from act to motive, thought, and desire. Jesus also magnified the marriage bond, as one human bond which should be sacredly kept, as God planned from the creation of Adam and Eve.

There is a very close connection between one's inner life and his outward acts. The Psalmist declares, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." The attempt to live a life of personal purity in an unchristian social order calls for continuous struggle. It is not an easy task because one is ever conscious of the tension between what we are and what we ought to be.

There are two ways, or paths: the path of the wicked and the path of the righteous. In the words of the poet, John Oxenham, "The high soul takes the high road, while the low soul gropes the low." If it were only a matter of choice, however, the task would not be so difficult, but, as it is, as suggested by Proverbs, the wicked are not content in their wickedness, but are ever seeking to persuade others to join them.

Jesus stated the ideal of personal purity before marriage and of absolute fidelity after marriage, when he declared, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt: 5: 28). He condemned the impure thought and the outward act. He knew that the lustful imagination is the real spring of an unclean life.

If everyone would remember that, as Paul declared, "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit," (1 Cor. 6: 19), there would be fewer who would be willing to desecrate that temple by impure living. Nor should anyone forget the warning, "The wages of sin is death" and "as ye sow, so shall ye reap."

The excuse for impure living, particularly among young people, is that a young man must "sow his wild oats" before settling down to the humdrum routine of adult life. This reminds us of a statement in The Youth's Companion, "Wild Oats" takes something out of the soil of a man's life that no system of crop rotation can restore." It is unfair to one's own personality and to the unborn generation for a man to do anything that would in any way adversely affect himself or those who will come after him.

A clean mind is essential to a clean life, for the influence of the mind over the body is very powerful. Fill the mind with noble thoughts and high ideals and the foundation of character is strengthened. A clean mind and a pure heart enable a person to be sincere and upright in word and deed and, surely, the world needs such citizens today.

Those who would live cleanly face innumerable temptations, among them being the urge to use alcohol in some form. The extent of the liquor problem in this country has been clearly stated in a volume entitled, "Alcohol, Science and Society," by E. M. Jellinek, of Yale University. He states that there are, in the United States, about 100,000,000 persons of drinking age; approximately half of whom use alcoholic beverages; 3,000,000 have become excessive drinkers and about 750,000 are chronic alcoholics.

The use of alcohol encourages unfaithfulness on the part of the user. At the base of most modern divorces is infidelity of one or both of the parties. We should all be concerned about the divorce record of the United States. In 1946, the peak of divorces was reached—618,000. In the year 1948, the total of homes broken by both divorce and legal separation was about one and three quarters of (Continued on Page Two)

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

## SOMETHING'S Missing



Tom has a ballbat and Joe has a mitt. They are two sturdy, normal, active boys, eager for a good time. But something is missing.

There is no ball. They can swing the bat in thin air all day long, and wave and pound the mitt. Yet all their motions are completely senseless if they have nothing to strike at or to catch.

You are a fortunate normal American, eager for a good time and happy life. But perhaps there is something missing in your life too.

Do you go through the motions of earning a living, clothing and feeding your family, finding entertainment, yet everything seems rather empty and senseless?

Perhaps then God is missing. Seek Him and your life will take on new meaning with vital purpose. "Seek and you shall find—"

### 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	1-12
Monday . . . . .	Luke	5	1-11
Tuesday . . . . .	John	14	12-21
Wednesday . . . . .	Acts	2	1-10
Thursday . . . . .	Acts	4	1-12
Friday . . . . .	Acts	8	26-28
Saturday . . . . .	James	1	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**  
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 8 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.  
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. E. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Services 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