

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A HUMBLE AND GREAT HEARTED LEADER

International Sunday School Lesson For September 7th, 1952.

Memory Selection: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."—Psalm 51: 10.

Lesson Text: II Samuel 12: 1-7, 13-15; 16: 5-13; 18: 32-33; 19: 18-20; 24: 24.

Continuing our study of David, we find that as long as David kept close to God, everything went along well. However, sin entered into his life. He saw and became enamoured of a very beautiful woman. Inquiring as to who she was, he learned that she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of his army officers.

Once ensnared, he drifted deeper and deeper into sin until he realized that something would have to be done. When his first plan failed, David had to resort to something more desperate. So, he had Uriah sent into the front ranks, so that he would be killed.

As is usually the case, David would not, at first, admit his wrongdoing. However, God used Nathan, the prophet, as his accusing finger to point out to David the enormity of his sin. Using what looked like a very simple parable of another rich man, who took a poor man's only lamb, Nathan brought the king's guilt home to him. David's anger was greatly aroused by the story and demanded that the rascal who had done this thing was worthy of death and should be required to restore the lamb fourfold. Then Nathan shouted, "Thou art the man." David realized the truth of the accusation.

Knowing that God was displeased with him, David did not try to alibi or excuse himself, but confessed his sin to God. He made no plea for mercy but left himself in the hands of God and God rewarded his penitence by forgiveness. With the realization of his forgiveness, relief came, as surely as it does today. Only in confession and reconciliation will the sinner find relief.

We must point out that while David's sin was forgiven, he suffered from that day forward as a result of his wrongdoing. God forgives the sinner but the laws of nature still require that the sin be punished. When Christians sin, they cause people to doubt the fact that God can help a man to live better and sometimes to even doubt the reality of a Christian's salvation.

The rebellion of his own son, Absalom, was one of David's greatest trials. His favorite son, Absalom nevertheless decided to dethrone David and install himself as king. In his attempt, he succeeded in driving his father from Jerusalem, taking over the city and the government. The king was forced to flee across the Jordan and had Absalom continued to pursue David at that time, he could have succeeded in his purpose of dethroning him. But he tarried to enjoy, for a while, the early fruits of his conquest, tarrying long enough for David to have time to gather his forces together.

Joab led the followers of David against the forces of Absalom and succeeded in having the young man killed, almost breaking the heart of his father. Piteful indeed is the cry of David, at the news of Absalom's death. "O my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

An incident which took place on his flight from Jerusalem illustrates again the submission of David to the will of God. When one of David's men wanted to kill Shimei, a kinsman of Saul, for cursing the King, David rebuked him. This refusal on David's part shows his realization that God was chastising him for his great sin. Therefore, David submitted to the will of God, considering it to be his just punishment.

Toward the end of his reign, when a great pestilence came upon Israel, David prayed earnestly for his poor "sheep." After this prayer, the prophet Gad told him to make a sacrifice at a certain place. The owner of the spot, Araunah, offered to give David the spot for the offering and animals for the sacrifice. David refused the offer, because he knew that the sacrifice would have to be his very one, if it were to have any merit with God. He declared, "I will verily buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing."

As we pointed out in our lesson for last week, David's consciousness of the loving care of God was a great influence on his life and the life of his people. It became their greatest.

(Continued On Page Two)

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

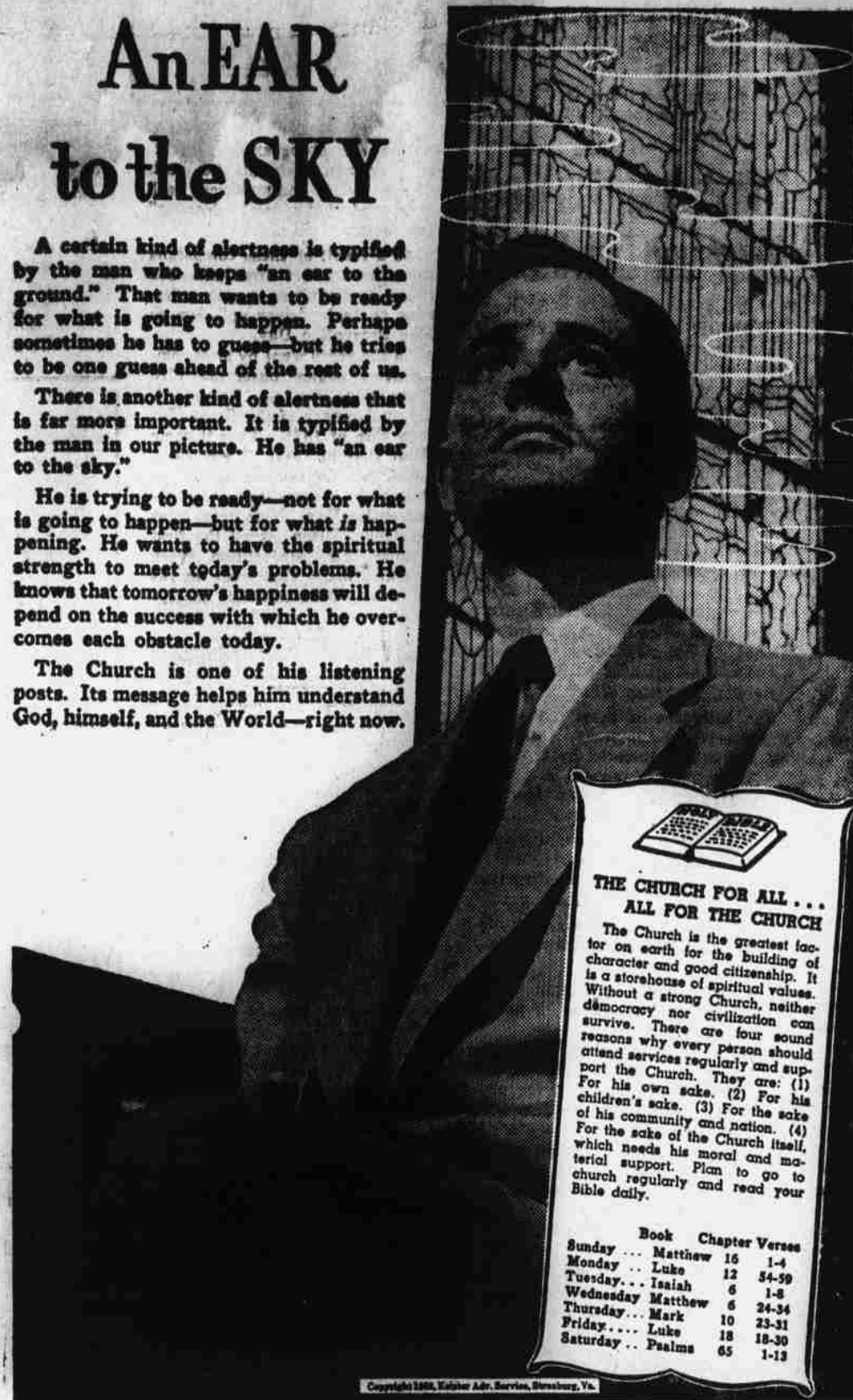
An EAR to the SKY

A certain kind of alertness is typified by the man who keeps "an ear to the ground." That man wants to be ready for what is going to happen. Perhaps sometimes he has to guess—but he tries to be one guess ahead of the rest of us.

There is another kind of alertness that is far more important. It is typified by the man in our picture. He has "an ear to the sky."

He is trying to be ready—not for what is going to happen—but for what is happening. He wants to have the spiritual strength to meet today's problems. He knows that tomorrow's happiness will depend on the success with which he overcomes each obstacle today.

The Church is one of his listening posts. Its message helps him understand God, himself, and the World—right 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	Matthew	16	1-4
Monday	Luke	12	54-59
Tuesday	Isaiah	6	1-8
Wednesday	Matthew	6	24-34
Thursday	Mark	10	23-31
Friday	Luke	18	18-30
Saturday	Psalms	65	1-13

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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
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., 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. 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. 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