

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS COMMISSIONS THE TWELVE

International Sunday School Lesson for November 16th, 1952.

Memory Selection: "He who finds life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it."—Matthew 10: 39.

Lesson Text: Matthew 10: 1, 5-7, 24-27, 34-39.

As a basis for proper consideration of this lesson, we would recommend that the student read both the tenth and eleventh chapters of Matthew's gospel.

The results of Jesus' activity in Galilee had been important. The people hailed him everywhere and his popularity with them steadily increased. On the other hand, the religious leaders allied themselves against his reforming agitation. Between them and the political leaders, Jesus realized that there was the possibility of conflict.

It is estimated that, at the time of Jesus, the population of Galilee was about three million, for that time a very populous area, containing several hundred cities, made up Palestine. Coming in contact with these masses of uneducated men and women, who were ignorant of the fundamental nature of God and his purposes for mankind, Jesus was vitally concerned for their spiritual welfare and often voiced the need for additional workers to accomplish his mission.

With accurate foresight, Jesus sensed the future sufficiently to realize that his personal activity could not be indefinitely prolonged. The conviction inevitably led him to the initial steps in planning for the continuance of his ministry. It would be necessary eventually to have other exponents of the gospel replace him. In the meantime, the selected apostles could multiply the physical contacts and carry his message to many more people. There was no doubt about the existence of the need and previous experiences had convinced Jesus that the common people were eager and anxious to hear spiritual truth.

We have the names of the twelve disciples given to us in various gospels but, in all these lists, the twelve are divided into three specific groups and the leader of each group is always named first. We see Peter head a quartet composed of himself, Andrew, James and John. So Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew constituted the second group; while James, Thaddeus, Simon and Judas the third. The names of some differ slightly but the identity is clear. To them, Jesus gave complete power to perform miracles and sent them forth.

In the tenth chapter of Matthew, we have a rather full account of this missionary enterprise, including rather detailed instructions given them by Jesus. He instructed them to confine their ministry at that time to the Jews; later on, the field of missionary activity was enlarged. They were to preach the same message that Jesus delivered—that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. At the same time, they were to perform their acts of love and mercy which had marked the activity of Jesus himself and were empowered to have control over unclean spirits, diseases and all manner of afflictions—being cautioned to give as freely as they had received.

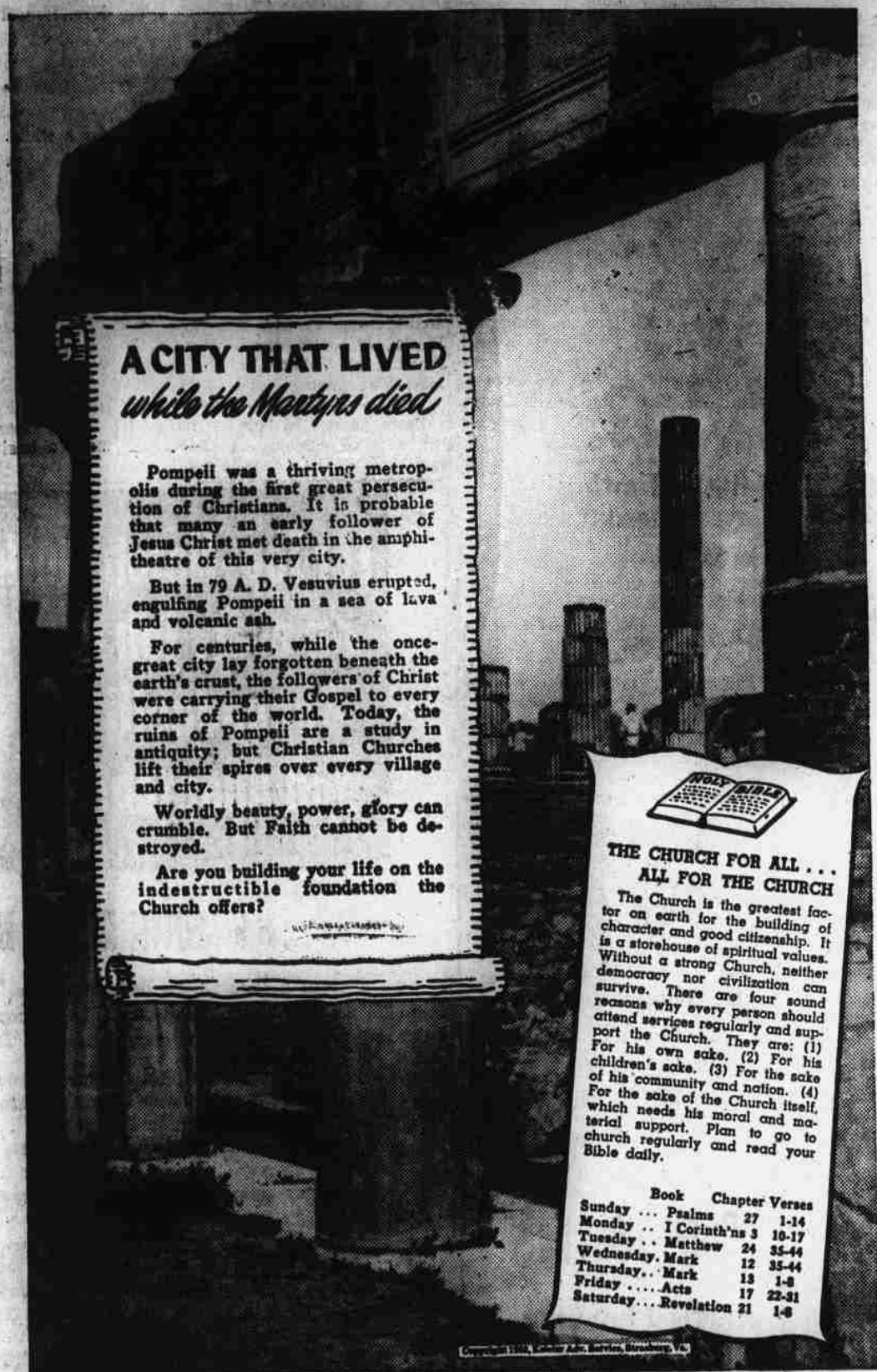
In sending out these representatives, Jesus did not promise them an easy task. No peaceful life of pleasure was pictured for them. They were advised to take no gold nor surplus clothing, but to depend upon the worthy people in the communities they visited for the necessary things of life. Jesus was afraid that materialism might grip his cause and cause them to forget the real heart of his mission.

Persecution and punishment might await them and Jesus told the twelve that they would be as lambs in the midst of wolves—advising wisdom and harmlessness, but reassuring them by bidding them not to fear those who could kill the body but could not harm the soul. "Beware of men," he advised his ambassadors, fully realizing the truth that righteousness encountered a mighty conflict with ignorance and evil and knowing the extent of the opposition which would be met by them.

Jesus realized that the ideals that he had come to establish would provoke the least opposition and division among men. He illustrated by telling the disciples that families would be divided in allegiance to his kingdom and declared that no man was worthy of his cause who placed earthly parentage higher than his mission.

He warned his disciples that they would be hated because of their message, that they would be accused of being in league with the devil, but this should not discourage them inasmuch as he himself had not been spared. He encouraged them to be unafraid and to speak and preach, receiving comfort in the paradoxical assurance that he who loses his life in service to God would find it.

While the disciples were active in



## A CITY THAT LIVED while the Martyrs died

Pompeii was a thriving metropolis during the first great persecution of Christians. It is probable that many an early follower of Jesus Christ met death in the amphitheatre of this very city.

But in 79 A. D. Vesuvius erupted, engulfing Pompeii in a sea of lava and volcanic ash.

For centuries, while the once-great city lay forgotten beneath the earth's crust, the followers of Christ were carrying their Gospel to every corner of the world. Today, the ruins of Pompeii are a study in antiquity; but Christian Churches lift their spires over every village and city.

Worldly beauty, power, glory can crumble. But Faith cannot be destroyed.

Are you building your life on the indestructible foundation the Church offers?

### 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.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalm	27 1-14
Monday	I Corinth's	3 16-17
Tuesday	Matthew	24 35-44
Wednesday	Mark	12 35-44
Thursday	Mark	13 1-8
Friday	Acts	17 22-31
Saturday	Revelation	21 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.

**BETHELEHEM 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**  
D. Virgin Pike, Pastor  
Church School 10 A. M.  
Morning Worship 11 A. M.  
Young People's Meeting 7 P. 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.

**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**  
Rev. Ralph Knight, 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