

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PAUL UNDER GUARD IN ROME

International Sunday School Lesson for May 10, 1953.

Memory Selection: "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."—Romans 8: 28 (R.S.V.)

Lesson Text: Acts 28: 14b-24, 30-31.

This lesson is the climax of our study of the life of Paul, greatest missionary the world has ever known. In a sense, it must be a review of the high spots in his career, beginning with his conversion on the Damascus road, the message given by God to Barnabas as to God's mission for Paul and ending with his imprisonment and death as a martyr to the cause to which he had so fervently devoted his life.

There is no doubt that it was Paul's undying ambition to preach the gospel and he bent his endeavors in that direction. It looked as if he would be denied his desire but, toward the close of his ministry, while he was in Jerusalem, the Lord made it known to him that he was to go to Rome with divine approval (Acts 23: 11).

To trace his experience enroute to his eventual arrival in Rome is a most interesting revelation. From Ephesus, he went to Jerusalem, where he conferred with the leaders of the faith. To please the orthodox Jews, he followed the ceremony of purification in the Temple. His enemies, however, having seen him with Gentiles, complained that he had carried them into the Temple, a forbidden act, and their accusations quickly stirred up the mob.

Paul was seized and roughly handled before he was rescued by the Tribune Lysias, commander of the Roman soldiers. He was given an opportunity to address the crowd but the fury of the crowd was so great that Paul was ordered scourged to secure a confession, whereupon Paul claimed immunity from such punishment as a Roman citizen. He was carried before the Sanhedrin, of which he had been a member and, after a conversation with the Chief Priest, Paul raised the question of immortality, knowing that the Pharisees and the Sadducees differed in their beliefs at this point. As expected, the issue transferred the attention somewhat from Paul, as the Pharisees upheld his viewpoint. So vigorous was the resulting contention that the Roman officer carried him away.

The Jews were determined to get rid of Paul. His nephew, learning of their plans, warned him and Paul was sent, under escort, to Caesarea, the capital of Judea. Before Felix, the governor, Paul's accusers presented their charges and Paul replied to them. Felix understood the Jewish differences and how seriously they regarded religious questions. However, he postponed a decision, keeping Paul in prison, but with indulgences, for two years, some thinking that Felix was waiting to be bribed to release him.

Felix was succeeded as governor by Festus, who was a better man. He again heard the charges against Paul and Paul's denial of their accusations. Festus was about to send Paul to Jerusalem for trial, which would mean his certain doom, so Paul exercising his privilege as a Roman citizen, appealed his case to Caesar. This meant that he would have to be sent to Rome.

Paul and several other prisoners were turned over to the Centurion Julius. Enroute to Rome, they suffered shipwreck, following which Paul and the entire 276 on board the ship, spent three months on Malta, where Paul, taking advantage of the situation, preached the gospel. Then, they embarked on a third ship, finally landing on the mainland at Puteoli, from which Paul made his way to Rome.

Arriving in Rome, Paul was continued as a prisoner but, while a guard was chained to him, he was allowed considerable freedom in so far as his stationary residence was concerned. He conferred with leading Jews, delivered a great address to a large gathering of his racial kindred and continued his work for the gospel. Paul was not brought to trial. Eighteen months with no pressing charges brought against a prisoner were considered sufficient to free him, so Paul was liberated. For several years he labored and traveled, some think he went to Spain. Then came the burning of Rome under Nero and the Christians were blamed. While in Greece, probably, Paul was arrested and sent to Rome where he was lodged in close and cruel confinement, only to end when he was beheaded outside the walls of Rome. So ends the record of this great Apostle. As death grew nigh, he could write: "I have fought the good fight. I have finished my course. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

BE A BETTER CITIZEN! GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



BABY-COACH

Customs may differ among the races and may change with the times, but certain institutions in human life have remained constant through the centuries. One of these, is Motherhood.

Progress has given Mother new methods and new equipment for her age-old responsibilities. But the love and understanding which are the heart of Motherhood have never depended on science for their expression.

One unchanging sphere of material responsibility has been the religious development of children. From primitive tribal religions up to Christianity, mothers have guided and encouraged the growth of each successive generation in spiritual faith.

The Christian Church salutes all faithful mothers. They have led their families to an ever deepening realization of the sacred bond which unites the Church and the Home in a common devotion to Jesus Christ.

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	Deuteronomy	5	6-16
Monday	Micah	6	1-8
Tuesday	Psalms	19	1-14
Wednesday	Romans	12	1-13
Thursday	Galatians	6	1-10
Friday	Ephesians	6	1-8
Saturday	Colossians	3	18-25

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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
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, 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. Virginia 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 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.

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 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