

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE WAY OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

International Sunday School Lesson for May 31, 1953.

Memory Selection: "Faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."—I Corinthians 13: 13 (R.S.V.).

Lesson Text: I Corinthians 13: 1-13.

As pointed out in our lesson for last week, there was some discord and confusion among the members of the Church at Corinth, so much so that Paul felt it proper to write an epistle to them, advising them and warning them of the effects of their strife. Then, nestled among the other chapters is a chapter that stands in marked contrast to the others. In it, Paul gives the foundation stone for Christian living—love and then in a manner which someone has called "The Beatitudes set to music," he sums up the crux of the matter in one of the loveliest hymns ever composed by mortal man.

If you will examine it, you will find the 13th chapter of I Corinthians divided neatly into three sections: the first three verses dealing with the values of love. In verses 4-7, the virtues of love are delineated; and the victories of love are listed in verses 8-13.

Paul makes it clear, in the very beginning, that love is absolutely necessary if life, in any of its spheres, is to have any value or profit or meaning whatever. No matter what one would accomplish in this life, if it does not have its root or base in a spirit of love, it cannot reach its highest fruition. Certainly, in the realm of the spirit, one who speaks, prays or acts without love in his heart for God or his fellowman, his actions are empty, hollow and insincere. Jesus had something to say about those who perform deeds without love in their hearts—"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

In verse 3, Paul proceeds to show the contrast between the striking works of love and love itself. It conveys a rebuke of all pretentious giving or self-sacrifice. God looks beyond our actions to the motives behind them. In verse 4, Paul points out that the proof of the depth of one's love is shown by its fruits. Love is long-suffering, is kind. It is not quickly excited to anger or passion; it is patient under provocation and mild in spirit.

It seems that the Corinthian Christians had showed a spirit of envy and self-conceit in regard to the gifts which they possessed. In their zeal to get the best of these spiritual gifts, or to make it appear that what they had was the best, they had forgotten this greatest gift—love. Paul declared that "love envieth not, love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil, rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; beareth all things; believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

"Love never faileth." Real love lasts to the end and love always wins. Love increases in degree but remains the same in kind, while knowledge and prophecy will be replaced by a different kind of knowledge—more perfect in degree and quality. Paul illustrates all this by describing the growth and development of human personality. As a man, he put away childish things. He matured, greatly stronger in faith and in his knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Prof. George B. Sterna has given the following paraphrase of Paul's description of love, which we think is worth quoting here:

"The noblest deeds of generosity, the greater deeds of self-sacrifice, are morally worthless if love is not their motive. Love is patient under provocation, is not jealous of other's good fortunes, is not vainglorious nor proud, is averse to unseemly contentions, is unselfish, does not yield to anger or hate, nor harbor revenge; glories not in the triumph of wrong, but in the triumphs of righteousness; endures, trusts, expects, and perseveres without limit.

"Love is an imperishable virtue, the gifts of prophecy, of tongues, of knowledge, serve a temporary purpose and shall pass away. For these gifts are all partial, and the partial must all give place to the perfect principle, the source of all goodness. Our future perfection in love will be as much greater than our present spiritual endowments and attainments as the speech and thought of mature manhood are superior to those of childhood. For how imperfect is our present apprehension of divine things!"

BE A BETTER CITIZEN! GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



THE WORLD IN HIS HAND

Got the world in your hand young man? You have the best part of it. Your hand is on the church door—it will open a world of love and hope and fulfillment for you, a world of goodness that you can hold on to.

There will be other doors that open on other things, plenty of them, things that won't seem fair, that will hurt, that will let you down. Hold on to the world you have. Enter it often.

Some of us have tried other doors. When we did we lost the look that is in your eyes.

Some of us have found your door and your look again after years of searching.

Hold on to the world you have young fellow. Someone who loves you put that door within your reach, someone with wisdom enough to know that you can never find a world worth clinging to outside the Church.

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	Proverbs	1-16
Monday	Matthew	7-13-23
Tuesday	Luke	11-5-13
Wednesday	John	3-13-21
Thursday	John	10-7-16
Friday	I Cor'th's	13-1-13
Saturday	Revelation	3-14-22

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Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go

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. Virgil 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, 10:30 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**
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.