

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHRISTIAN'S WAR (Temperance)

International Sunday School Lesson for August 9th, 1953.

Memory Selection: "It is right not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother stumble." Romans 14: 21 (RSV).

Lesson Text: Ephesians 6: 10-20; Romans 14: 19-21.

We turn quickly from a consideration of the factors which make up a Christian home to the necessary steps in growing a Christian life. Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, turns from instructions on applying the Christian gospel to what we might call the commonplaces of life, dealing with the conflicts the Christian individual must face. He uses the soldier as an illustration and every weapon he mentions for the Christian's armor is one of peace and love.

Paul realized that the Christian life is a continual struggle against the forces of evil. Every day and every hour, the Christian is confronted with the temptation to do wrong and must be on the alert to resist these urges. Paul's challenge involves two factors: first is the exhortation for preparation and the other is that this preparation must be in the Lord. Human effort alone will be unavailing. It is only as our human efforts are linked up with our faith in God that we can hope to succeed in our struggle.

Against the forces of evil, only a fully-armed and carefully-trained soldier can succeed. The Christian is urged to be "completely" armed, with the "whole armor" of God. Without any of the parts, listed by Paul for a soldier of his day, the fighter would not be fully protected. Paul, in order to fully emphasize this point, enumerates and describes each part of the necessary armor, as follows:

The belt of truth. The belt, or girdle, held all the other pieces of the soldier's armor in place and gave the wearer full freedom to use the other parts of his armor. The girdle, therefore, to Paul, represented truth, sincerity, honesty with God and man. Certainly, the value of truth to the Christian needs no emphasizing. Lying, cheating, stealing and hypocrisy are all despised by God and condemned by the world.

The breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate was a vitally necessary part of the soldier's armor, protecting the heart and other vital parts of the thorax. Paul compares this to the Christian's rightness of character. The heart was thought of as the center of life, and uprightness of character defends the heart from the temptations and assaults of evil. The man who knows he is right can enter any conflict without fear.

Shoes of the gospel of peace. Paul compares the military sandals of the Roman soldier, which enabled him to stand in slippery places and move swiftly and safely into battle, to that sense of peace which belongs to the Christian who is wearing the whole armor of God. Peace with God gives security and confidence even in the midst of war, and in times of trouble and adversity.

The shield of faith. This was one of the most important weapons of defense the Roman soldier carried. The shield, usually made of wood for lightness and covered with leather, protected the "fiery darts" which the enemy threw at him. Faith in God is the shield of the Christian. Where faith is strong, the Christian is impregnable.

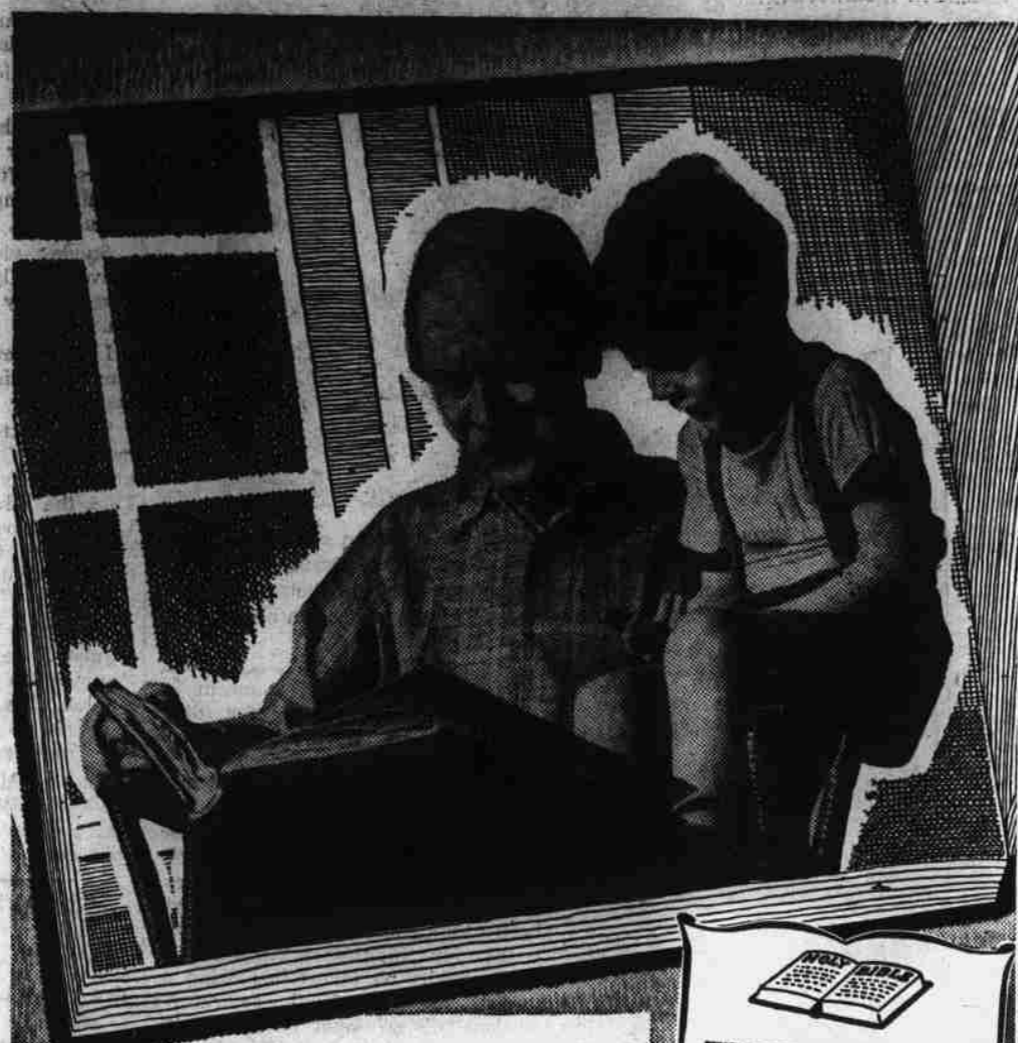
The helmet of salvation. You will notice that the verb here changes from "put on" to "take" or "accept." The helmet is a fitting symbol for salvation since it protects the most vital part of the body and is above all the rest. Adequately-prepared Christians have first of all "accepted" from God the gift of salvation, which gives assurance that he is kept forever by the power of God and is a protection in the lifelong battle against the forces of evil.

The sword of the Word of God. This is the only weapon of offense mentioned by Paul in the entire list of armor. The word of God, which is given by the Holy Spirit, is the Christian's answer to the arguments of the evil one. It contains the plan of battle which the Christian must follow; and its truth is the keen edge that wins the victory over evil and puts to flight the angels of Satan.

In order to keep this armor in proper condition, there must be constant use. Paul passionately urges all good soldiers of God to rely, not on having armed themselves completely but on the power of God through prayer. Christians must ever be alert, awake to every opportunity to deal a death blow to the evil forces around him. All these forces make up a mature Christian soldier, whom God is proud to have on the battlefield of life, representing His cause.

(These commentaries are based on the International Uniform Sunday School Lesson outlines, copyright by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

GO TO SOME CHURCH



GRANDPA'S SCRAPBOOK

It's all there—in Grandpa's Scrapbook. The story of his life. His baptismal certificate, the newspaper clipping about his kicking that winning field goal, the now-yellowed wedding invitation, the snapshot of their house-warming, the announcement of Mama's birth, the blue ribbon that Grandpa's steer won at the county fair.

And, on a page all by itself, is a Children's Day program from our little Church, the day I sang "Jesus Loves Me" with Danny Andrews!

Grandpa always says, "That's the page I like best. It's a blessing to know yer grandson is goin' in the right direction."

And then with a far-away look in his eyes he says, "You keep up yer fine work in Sunday School, Lad. Whether yer kickin' a field goal, or plantin' yer corn, or servin' God in yer own humble way—you have to keep goin' in the right direction!"

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.

Sunday	Book Chapter Verses
Monday	Deuteronomy 11 13-21
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34 7-16
Wednesday	Luke 8 4-15
Thursday	I Corinthians 15 35-38
Friday	Galatians 6 1-10
Saturday	I Thessalonians 4 7-18
	Timothy 3 1-16

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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. 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. Wulf, 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