

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### GROWING THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

International Sunday School Lesson for July 18, 1954.

Memory Selection: "Thy word I have laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."—Psalm 119:11.

Lesson Text: Acts 17:10-11; I Timothy 4:13-16; II Timothy 2:15; II Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12.

If the engineer failed to study his blueprints, or the doctor failed to keep up with the latest in medical books, or the lawyer failed to study his law books, he would not be long before their lack of study would become apparent to the general public and their practice would fall off accordingly.

Yet, Christians oftentimes fail to feel the need for Bible study to keep themselves informed on the words of God, in order that they might more nearly follow God's commands for their lives.

Our lesson for this week commends to us anew the value of regular and consistent Bible study. Luke, who wrote the Acts, tells us that the Berean Christians, whom Paul and Silas visited, were more noble than the Christians in Thessalonica, in that "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Luke's words indicate that these people were a higher level people, more gracious, better mannered, and more open to receive the truth—why? Because, he explains, they were not content with mere listening, they examined the Scriptures—the Old Testament, of course, because the books of the New Testament had not then been written—in order to see if what they were being told was true.

Then, Paul, in a personal letter to a young preacher, Timothy, writes to encourage the young man in his difficult task. Things were not going as well as Paul might have hoped because false teachings were being circulated in Ephesus. So, in Verse 13, of chapter 4, Paul tells Timothy to devote much attention to the public reading of the Scriptures, to preaching and to teaching. There is much value in the proper reading of God's word in public, so much so that more emphasis should be placed upon it. God's Word will speak effectively for itself if it is effectively and distinctly presented to the people.

In verse 16, Paul summed up the central purpose of all Bible study. He told this young man that if he would be diligent in the search of truth, in his study and in his presentation of what he learned, he would save himself and others from the erroneous teaching which was at that time prevalent in Ephesus. Regular and consistent study of the Bible today will help all of us to hold on to God's truths and thus not be swayed by the many "isms" of our day. In this way, we save ourselves from error and by our position may make possible the saving of others, who, falling victims to such teachings, might never know God's truth.

Probably, one of the most familiar verses in all the Bible is II Timothy 2:15, in which Paul exhorts young Timothy to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Certainly, Christian growth requires that we study the Bible. And, the obligation to be a good workman has a divine side to it. The Christian works not alone for the approval of men, or for their enlightenment—however important that may be—he should work so that he may proudly submit his work to God for His divine approval.

In our second selection from Paul's second letter to Timothy, which was written by Paul while in the Roman jail, the great Apostle implores his young friend to remain steadfast in the "things which thou hast learned and has been assured of." Paul reminds Timothy that, from his infancy he had been acquainted with the sacred writings, which were inspired and which are full of power for one who believes.

To an even greater extent, the Christian's Bible, adding the New Testament to the Old, is a source of inspiration and power, and comfort, because no one can read the story of the life of Jesus and reflect upon his teachings without being impelled to a higher and nobler life.

Verses 16 and 17 of this chapter give us a digest of the proper uses to which we may put Bible study. Paul declares, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."

Former President Herbert Hoover was right when he declared: "The study of the Bible is a post-graduate course in the richest library of human experience."

(These comments are based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ, U.S.A., and used by permission.)

GO TO SOME CHURCH

## "OH, FOR PEACE AND QUIET!"

Whether you are a businessman or a housewife, a fellow who makes the wheels go 'round, or a woman in industry, there come times when you long for peace and quiet.

You'll find quiet in woods like these, but not a silence. The wind whispers through the trees. Birds murmur softly. Insects squeak tunelessly. The soft lap-lap of water against the shore is like distant drumbeats. There is infinite peace, but never silence.

Much closer to you is another haven of peace—your church. Here too you will find quiet, but no dead, spiritless silence.

Instead you will find relief from your worries, and inspiration to keep doing your best. You will find the friendliness of others like you seeking inspiration in these troubled times.

For the peace and quiet that will carry you serenely through the week, go to Church Sunday.

### 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	Isaiah	30	15-21
Monday	Isaiah	65	17-25
Tuesday	Zechariah	4	6-10
Wednesday	John	14	21-27
Thursday	John	20	19-29
Friday	Galatians	5	16-25
Saturday	Philippians	4	4-9

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## Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
James O. Mattox, 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**  
W. E. Thompson, Pastor  
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

**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**  
Hugh Ross Williams, 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**  
James Rahenkamp, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.  
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 A. M.  
Morning Worship 11 A. M.  
Evening service 8 P. M.

**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 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. 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. Vivian Evans, Pastor  
Sunday School every first and third Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Preaching service at 11:15 A. M.  
Sunday School every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 A. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go