

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

CHRISTIAN GIVING

International Sunday School Lesson for August 22, 1954.

Memory Selection: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Acts 20:35.

Lesson Text: I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-9.

One of the greatest responsibilities which can come to a Christian is his responsibility of wealth. Even the man of moderate means has many opportunities for unselfish helpfulness. Failure to realize and measure up to the obligation of one's dollars means spiritual failure.

There is no way to separate money from the progress of the Christian kingdom in this world, because of the necessity of dealing in material markets. The church, the mission, the hospital, the orphanage, the college, and every other institution for good, seeking to serve because of love, faces the necessity of buying in a material market where only gold is coin.

Of course, the church can sometimes become too materialistic. Undue pride in the costliness of the church building, or the pastor's home, or some other monumental concession to pride, is harmful error on the part of those entrusted with a spiritual task. On the other hand, the work cannot be accomplished without some material means. There must be a place of worship, a pastor's home, and such material accessories.

These material essentials can only be obtained when the spiritually-minded members furnish the money. These must give of their wealth and possessions for the sake of the cause and the work to be accomplished. The management of the church must exercise discretion and judgment in the matter of money demands—too much emphasis on financial needs outbalances the spiritual mission of the church.

Christian giving is, of course, a part of one's Christian stewardship, which acknowledges that God is the owner of everything, by right of creation, and that he just lets us hold and use what is really his, for a time and that, eventually, everything that we may have, or own, really goes back to the Heavenly Father in some way.

Acknowledging the above to be true, what return shall the Christian make to God for the use of His possessions? If we rent an apartment, a store-building or a farm from another, we naturally expect to pay rent—a certain stipulated sum—for the use of the property rented. Yet, when some one—be it preacher, Sunday School teacher, or worker—mentions that one should set aside a certain, stipulated sum out of one's earnings as holy unto the Lord, many people raise their hands in holy horror and say that the one thing they don't like about the church and its workers is their everlasting emphasis upon giving money.

Regardless of possible over-emphasis here and there upon the financial needs of a religious organization, the fact remains that most Christian work is handicapped by the lack of sufficient money. Mission enterprises abroad, reconstructive rebuilding of human lives at home, healing those sick in body and limb, and many other "good works" demanded by the law of love, are inadequately supported.

When so-called Christian people are disturbed by the calls for giving to the kingdom of God, it is a pretty good sign that they are conscience-stricken at the paucity of their own responses; that they realize they are selfishly enjoying most of their possessions and income, and do not want to part with any portion of their material wealth to help any cause or anybody.

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, praised the Macedonian Christians for their liberality and generosity in giving to the unfortunate believers in Jerusalem, and called attention to a very important fact, when he said that these Christians "first gave their own selves to the Lord." When Christians dedicate "their own selves to the Lord," there will be no question about their generosity, their service or their living.

A consecrated Christian realizes that God is dependent on his servants even as each of His servants is dependent on Him. The way He has chosen of getting His work done in the world, of serving men and women everywhere, of saving lost souls, is through every Christian man, woman, boy and girl. He wants more than a small proportion of your money. He wants part of your time, your energy, your talent and your God-given ability used for Him in service to others. God doesn't judge you by the amount of your gift. The question He asks is, "Did you do your best?" Anything less than your best is an unworthy gift to God, who loved us so much "He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Elizabeth Bibesco reminds us that "blessed are those who give without remembering, and take without forgetting."

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



THE GREATEST WEAPON AGAINST COMMUNISM

A victim of an Iron Curtain Country escaped and found refuge in the United States.

In America he worked where he liked. He went to and from town, or crossed state lines as he wished. Never was he stopped and asked for "papers." Never were his belongings searched or confiscated. Never, when he went to bed at night, was he haunted by the fear of being torn ruthlessly from home and loved ones to be sent away forever. Yet these things are happening right now in his native country.

"Abroad, there is terror in many hearts," said this refugee, "that you Americans cannot understand because you have never experienced it . . . and God forbid you ever shall."

"This above all you must remember: The greatest weapon you have against Communism is your Bible and your Religion."

In other words, American Citizens, "Go to the church of your choice this Sunday—and every Sunday. Keep Christianity thriving. It's your mightiest weapon against the dark devices of Communism."



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	Psalms	24	1-10
Monday	Psalms	34	11-22
Tuesday	Matthew	5	18-24
Wednesday	Luke	4	14-21
Thursday	Luke	21	1-4
Friday	John	12	1-8
Saturday	Galatians	5	1-19

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FORTY FAVORITE CHAPTERS IN YOUR BIBLE

The following forty favorite chapters from the Bible have been compiled by the American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. They are the result of an exhaustive poll conducted over the entire United States, and of course reflect personal preferences.

1st day Genesis 1	15th day Micah 6	29th day John 17
2nd " Exodus 20	16th " Matthew 5	30th " Acts 2
3rd " Deut. 5	17th " " 6	31st " Romans 8
4th " Psalms 1	18th " " 7	32nd " " 12
5th " " 23	19th " " 25	33rd " I Cor. 13
6th " " 27	20th " Mark 15	34th " " 15
7th " " 45	21st " Luke 2	35th " Ephesians 6
8th " " 91	22nd " " 10	36th " Phil. 4
9th " " 103	23rd " " 15	37th " Hebrews 11
10th " " 121	24th " " 24	38th " James 1
11th " Isaiah 55	25th " John 1	39th " I John 2
12th " " 60	26th " " 3	40th " Rev. 21
13th " " 83	27th " " 14	
14th " " 85	28th " " 15	

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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, 6th 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.

CHAPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Virgil Evans, Pastor
Sunday School every first and third Sundays at 10:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting every second and fourth Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go