

Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

Confronted by a Risen Lord
Acts 9:1-31; 1 Cor. 15:3-11

And he said, "Who art thou Lord? And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." This scene, and the exchange of words, took place between Jesus and Saul of Tarsus. The time was about three years after Christ's crucifixion, and Saul had nearly completed his travel from Jerusalem to Damascus, a destination of some 150 miles. Saul was a chief persecutor of Christ's disciples. He was at this time traveling to Damascus to arrest and imprison those disciples teaching and preaching the gospel there. Saul, whose name would soon be changed

to Paul, has always been one of my favorite Bible characters. He was a man sincere in his convictions. As Saul, a Jewish Pharisee, he was devout in his religious practices, and therefore believed that those following the teachings of Jesus were enemies of God. History indicates that he was from a wealthy family and received a good education from a Greek teacher. His home town of Tarsus, being part of the Roman Empire, made him a Roman citizen. He entered into the persecution of Christians with zeal and enthusiasm. In this same manner he would later enter into the work of the Lord. The lesson for today records Saul's conversion experience that changed

him from a persecutor of Christians, to Paul the Apostle, who taught and preached Christ's gospel, read Acts 9:1-31; 26:1-23; 22:1-21, to get the full picture.

Saul's Confrontation with Christ Acts 9:3-9

After the stoning of Stephen, in which Saul was at least a consenting witness, most disciples fled Jerusalem seeking safety in other cities. Saul however was pursuing them, and at this point was nearing the city of Damascus. Verses 3 and 4 of the chapter tells what happened. As he and his company was traveling, suddenly a bright light shined round

about from heaven. The sudden flash of light overwhelmed Saul and he apparently fell to the ground. He then heard the voice of Jesus speak to him saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Saul replied, who art thou Lord? Then Jesus answered and said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." This was Jesus of Nazareth, as Paul would later say in recounting the experience to a crowd in Jerusalem. It seems possible that Saul actually saw the Glorified Christ at this point, and knew for sure that He was the Jesus who was crucified and had come forth from the tomb alive. Saul believed. Jesus then instructed Saul to go to a certain place in Damascus and wait.

Those traveling with Saul led him away to the appointed place because Saul and been blinded. There Saul waited three days without sight, neither food nor drink as related in verse 9.

Saul Visited by Ananias Acts 9:10-16

We note in the scriptures that from time to time God calls forth people for special tasks. People that we have not known about before nor do we hear about them afterwards. Beginning with verse 10, one such incident is related to us. His name is Ananias, a disciple living in

Damascus. How important it is for Christians to be in tune to God, willing and able to do the Lord's work. While Ananias was fearful at first to go and minister unto Saul, because Saul's reputation as a persecutor had proceeded him, he did so after being reassured. For God said, "Go thy way; for his is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my names sake." Saul the persecutor would become Paul the apostle, the persecuted. There would be suffering involved proclaiming God's Word. One day, in the future, it would cost him his life.

Area church news

Bethany United Methodist Church, Belvidere will hear Mr. Willie H. Hoffer preach in a special service Easter Sunday. The service begins at 11 A.M. Hoffer is a Certified Lay Speaker and has preached in many churches in eastern N.C. His home church is Williamston UMC, Williamston.

The public is cordially invited. The Silverstones of Moyock and the Jr. Gospel Singers of South Mills will be singing at the **Bagleys Chapel Baptist Church,** Winfall, Easter Sunday night at 7 P.M.

This is sponsored by Mrs. Marian C. Stallings and the youth of the church. Rev. Willie B. Moore is host pastor.

The **Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church** will be having special services celebrating the Easter season.

Friday at 7:30 P.M., there will be a Good Friday Communion Service, which will include the annual 'Love Loaf' breaking. Each of the church families has placed 'love loaf' coin banks on the dinner tables during Lent, placing loose change in them for world hunger. The families contributed \$300 through this ministry last Easter.

Also Friday evening, the Wesleyan Youth will begin their annual 'Planned Famine', going 30 hours without food to identify with starving

people, and to raise money to help alleviate the plight of the 10,000 people who die daily from hunger-related causes. The church teenagers also raised \$300 last year through the contributions of concerned people. To contribute \$6 (representing \$2 for each meal the teens will skip) call Mary Ann Long at 426-5396 or Kathy Miles at 426-8510.

Both the 'Love Loaf' ministry and the 'Planned Famine' program are ministries of World Vision, International. All monies contributed will go directly to World Vision. None is kept by the Wesleyan Youth or by the church.

On Easter Sunday morning the church will begin a Spring Enlargement Campaign, 'Celebrate Life'. This attendance building effort will continue through Pentecost Sunday, May 22. Services Sunday morning include Sunday School for all ages at 10 A.M. and Morning Worship at 11 A.M. There will be special singing, including selections by an a capella mixed ensemble.

Other regularly scheduled services are Wesleyan Youth on Sunday at 6 P.M. followed by the worship service at 7 P.M. On Tuesdays the Wesleyan Youth 'Power Hour' meets for crowdbreakers, team competition and study in the Word at 7:30 P.M. Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. there is a

discussion-style Bible Study in the sanctuary. The group is currently studying I Corinthians.

All friends and neighbors of the bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church are invited to participate in these services. The church is located 5 miles northeast of Hertford between Winfall and Belvidere, 1 1/2 miles east of Highway 37.

For more information, contact the pastor, Daniel E. LeRoy at 426-7476.

Bethel Baptist Church will hold an easter Sunrise Service at 6 A.M. Sunday School will follow at 10 A.M. and worship service will be held at 11 A.M. led by the choir. The Rev. Charles Middleton is in charge.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 7 A.M. at Snug Harbor Park, sponsored by the Snug Harbor Civic League.

The Rev. Ronnie Woolard of Bethlehem Church of Christ will speak.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

The public is invited. The service will be held at the clubhouse if it rains.

Up River Cemetery, on Road 1001 13 miles north of Hertford, will be the beautiful setting for a Community Sunrise Service Sunday, April 3 at 5:45 A.M. Hosted by Up River

Friends Meeting, in case of bad weather the service will be held at the Friends Meetinghouse on Road 1208 about a mile from the cemetery.

There will be special vocal music by a group from Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church plus a clarinet trio from Up River Friends. Scripture will be read by Donald Ray Stallings of Bethany United Methodist Church. Guest speaker will be Rev. Frank Warren, retired United Methodist pastor from Topeka, Kansas. Lanier White will share a personal testimony. The closing prayer will be given by Rev. George Weilmore, pastor of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

The public is cordially invited to this occasion of Easter worship.

"Jesus Lives Forever", a cantata by Eugene McCammon, will be

presented by the combined choirs of Up River Friends Meeting at their 11 A.M. worship on Easter Sunday. Following congregational singing and a period of "open worship", the Cantata will be directed by pastor Rendel Cosand and accompanied by Richard Pronto. Soloists are Lynn Lassiter, Sharon Lane and Veronica Rountree.

Up River congregation will have a continental breakfast in their Fellowship Hall following the Easter Sunrise Service.

The churches of the Hertford community will come together to share in a united sunrise service at 5:30 A.M. at the Missing Mill Park on Grubb St. Special music will be the combined youth choirs under the direction of Billy Wooten and ac-

companied by Ann Thach. Rev. R. Ed Keaton, pastor of Hertford Pentecostal Church will bring the morning message.

The other ministers will be participating in the service. (In case of inclement weather the service will be held at the Hertford Pentecostal Church.) A time of fellowship with coffee and doughnuts will follow at the Senior Citizens Center. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

There will be a gospel concert at the **Hertford Pentecostal Church,** 715 W. Grubb St. on Friday, April 1 at 7:30 P.M. Featured groups will be the Perry Family, the Glorybound Singers, the Reflections and Rev. Billy Olds with the Chappell Hill Baptist Quartet. The public is invited to attend.

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Winfall

The Citizens of the Town of Winfall are hereby informed that the Town intends to apply to the North Carolina Department of the Natural Resources and Community Development for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

In an effort to involve the Citizens of Winfall in the planning of the Town's Community Development Program, a public hearing will be held at the Town Hall on April 5, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing will be to explain the Small Cities CDBG Program and to allow the Citizens of Winfall to express their views concerning community development needs and priorities.

Lloyd R. Morgan, Mayor

People briefs

Mr. and Mrs. George Winslow and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zaluski have returned home after spending a few days on Canaan, Conn. visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fred Adams and Mr. and Mrs. David Adams and family.

Marjorie Hefren has returned home in I Jamesville, Md. after visiting in Hertford.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Baker, Jr. and family of Clayton will spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Byrum and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Baker, Sr. in Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Chesson spent a few days in Raleigh with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Don Chesson.

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Pickhardt from New Smyrna Beach, Fla. are guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Bagley.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bumbarger of Hickory spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Britt visited Mrs. Lila Inman who is a patient at Leigh Memorial Hospital in

Chesapeake.

Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Ainsley and Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Williams have returned home after a 10 day European Tour.

Mrs. Joe Proctor, Jr. and daughters of Roanoke, Va. are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harland Hurdle at Belvidere and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Proctor, Sr.

Donna Thach of Raleigh is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thach, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Chappell, Jr. of Richmond, Va. were guest of relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Mac White and Mr. and Mrs. Estes Copeland of Belvidere were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Roberts and Mrs. N.W. Chappell at Va. Beach.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Ainsley, Jr. and family of Wilmington and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pressley and family of

Raleigh will spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Ainsley, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Reames of Va. Beach were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Layden of Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Estes Copeland of Belvidere were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hedrick of Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCloskey and family of Norfolk will spend the holidays with Mrs. R.B. Thach.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Winslow attended the NCAA Tournament in Syracuse, N.Y. this past weekend. They also toured the Niagara Falls during their stay.

Hospital Notes

Shirley Edenfield is in Pitt Memorial Hospital. J.W. Ward is in Albemarle Hospital. Kay Winslow has returned home from Chowan Hospital.

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Jesus Christ enlightened us to Love the Lord thy God with all thy being and thy neighbor as thyself. He also admonished us to "Love thine enemy".

Our international enemies have problems, just as we have. If we have difficulty loving them - should we not at least have non-stop consultations, to understand each other's problems and needs, and then join in humane disarmament? The \$200 billion annually in weaponry we both would save, would likely finance the solution to most of our national problems.

Sincerely

Mona Swindell

SWINDELL FUNERAL HOME

HERTFORD, N.C. 426-7311

Cards of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank all our friends, neighbors, relatives and church organizations for their prayers, cards, flowers, visits and gifts while I was in the hospital and since I have returned home.

It was such a comfort to know that so many caring people were thinking of me.

May God bless each of you.

Sincerely,
Esther Elliott

I would like to thank each and everyone of you who remembered me with cards, flowers, visits, phone calls and for every other act of kindness shown me during both times of hospitalization and since my return home.

Most of all, I want to thank you for your many prayers.

May God bless each one of you.

Wesley Nelson

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<p>REED OIL COMPANY Exxon Products Hertford, N.C.</p>	<p>PEOPLES BANK & TRUST COMPANY MEMBER OF FDIC HERTFORD, N.C.</p>