

Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

Good News for Former Enemies
Acts 11:3-18

Some Background: Last week's lesson dealt with Saul's conversion to Christianity. After his conversion Saul began to preach in Damascus, but his preaching soon aroused opposition among the Jews and he was forced to leave the city. Following these events, the record in the book of Acts shifts from the activities of Saul to those of Peter. Peter traveled from Jerusalem to Lydda, and then to Joppa. While there he had a vision of a great sheet, with all kinds of unclean animals in it, being let down out of heaven. God was preparing Peter for a visit of three messengers

from the Gentle Cornelious. When Peter accompanied them back to Cornelious house, it became obvious to him that God was opening the doors of salvation to the Gentiles. Peter witnessed to Cornelious about the good news of Christ, and Cornelious along with his household believed and were baptized.

Opposition to Peter's Action
Acts 11:23

The events of today's lesson pick up as Peter returned to his home area of Jerusalem. There was a welcoming committee waiting for him. Their purpose was to contend, or question, him about his association with and indeed witnessing to a gentile. The committee was probably made up of

Jewish Christians, and the situation involved one of prejudice. First, Jews considered gentiles to be unclean from a religious standpoint. Secondly, the gentiles were not circumcised and this group Christians insisted that circumcision was necessary for membership in the church.

How unfortunate that people should allow prejudices to keep them from rejoicing over souls who had made a Christian commitment. We may say, but that happened in the first new testament church, in the first century, and today we are more enlightened. History indicates that the church has wrestled with

prejudices throughout all the centuries, even the twentieth in which we live. Christ declared that salvation was for all people, of all nations, economic levels and conditions notwithstanding.

Peter's Response to the Opposition
Acts 11:4-17

Peter did the only sensible thing he could—he recounted for them the events that had convinced him that it was God's will for the Gentiles. Read verses 4-17 for the entire account. There are many lessons for us contained in these scriptures. Two stand out however. First, the revelation of God's will to men. I read recently where someone said that God reveals Himself to those people who ear-

nly seek His will and who will do it once they know it. Peter was of like mind to the committee who was there to ask for an accounting. Peter was Jewish and had been taught the scriptures in the Synagogue from his youth. He was well acquainted with the laws of Moses and the provisions setting forth dietary restrictions, read Leviticus chapter eleven. When God showed him in a vision all the various animals, fowl and creeping things and admonished him to kill and eat, Peter declined. These animals were all unclean in the Jewish eye and to eat any of them would break the Jewish law. What God was now revealing to Peter was

that old things were passed away, behold, all things are new. The second lesson is the Holy Spirit. Peter delivered the Gospel message to Cornelious and his household and the Holy Spirit did the rest. Christian people need to constantly remind themselves of this.

Conclusion of the Critics
Acts 11:18

"When they heard these things they held their peace and glorified God, saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life". This conclusion would have a profound effect influence on christianity and upon the whole history of the church.

Church news

At the Lighthouse on Friday, April 8 Yostiah Lord from the Teen Challenge Center in Petersburg, Pa. will be sharing his testimony and more. This will be for all ages starting at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, April 9 the movie "God Owns My Business" will be shown. This movie is about a man who made God Lord of his life including his business.

Admission is free and the movies are always of excellent quality. The movie will start at 7:30 P.M.

Revival services will be held at Piney Woods Friends Meeting in Belvidere, April 11th through Sunday morning worship service at 11 A.M., April 17th. Winfred Crouse of Trinity, N.C. will be our guest evangelist. Mr. Crouse is pastor of Popular Ridge

Friends Meeting, a graduate of John Wesley College, and an outstanding Friends minister. Services will begin each night at 7:30 P.M. with special music being provided by churches in the community. You are invited to join us in worship and prayer at each and every service.

There will be revival services at Burgess Baptist Church beginning

Sunday evening April 10 at 7:30 P.M. Ballards Bridge youth group will perform in concert. Monday evening the Rev. Mike Willard, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Elizabeth City will be speaking. Tuesday evening the Rev. Kenneth Bunch from Geneva Baptist Church in Camden County will be speaking.

Wednesday evening the Rev. George Cooke from Ballards Bridge Baptist Church will be speaking. Special music will be performed each night. The host pastor is Noah A. Toler. The public is invited to attend

The Hertford Pentecostal Church on Grubb St. will hold a weekend revival April 8-10. The speaker will

be Margaret Soloman of Nashville, N.C., a native on Trinidad. Services will start at 7:30 P.M. Friday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 A.M.-7 P.M.

Perquimans students win Forensic honors at Virginia contest

Students from Albemarle Academy's 8-12 grades, including nine from Perquimans County, recently participated in the Association of Virginia Academies' Forensic Meet held at Isle of Wight Academy in Isle of Wight, Virginia.



Kim Miller, left, and Jason Harrell were both first place winners in the Forensic Meet held recently at the Isle of Wight Academy. Both are students at Albemarle Academy from Perquimans County. (Photo by Pat Mansfield)

Individual winners who contributed to this success were: first place winners—Jason Harrell, oratory; Kim Miller, humorous dramatic oral interpretation; and Kent Winslow, humorous poetry reading.

Second place winners were: Sandy Sawyer, humorous prose reading; Rodney Saunders, serious poetry reading; Penny Deaton, serious poetry reading; and Greg Harrell, serious prose reading.

Placing third were: Kim Cruise, serious dramatic oral interpretation; Holly Green, serious dramatic oral interpretation; Ricky Watkins, serious dramatic oral interpretation; Mark Johnston, humorous dramatic oral interpretation; Sonny Larabee, oratory; Ann Morgan, after dinner speaking; and Scottie Winslow, spelling. The sponsor of the forensic team is Mrs. Charlene Phippen.

Participants from Perquimans County were: Jason Harrell, Dawn Elliott, Scottie Winslow, Holly Green, Greg Harrell, Melinda Harrell, Kim Miller, Danielle Dail and Melody Jones.

Cards of Thanks

I would like to thank each and everyone who remembered me with flowers, cards, gifts and prayers while I was a patient in Albemarle Hospital and since my return home.
May God bless each of you.

Bobby Winslow

The love and concern extended me during my recent illness was heart warming. I am very thankful for friends who care.

Sincerely,
Elsberry Lane

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Your clergyman should be notified of a death in the family as promptly as the funeral director, so that he may be helpful to the bereaved, and prepare the eulogy. His calling makes him uniquely qualified to deal with the emotional distress of a grieving family.

Respectfully,
Margaret Soloman

SWINDELL FUNERAL HOME

HERTFORD, N.C.
426-7311

Spruce Up For Spring

Complimentary Mary Kay Facial

Call Peggy Rohrer at 426-9217 and arrange a skin care facial that is both educational and complimentary.

Beauty starts with good skin care.

Happy April 15.

Now we can take a bit of the edge off that date that strikes terror in the hearts of American taxpayers.

With an NCNB IRA, you can ease your taxes by:

1. Contributing now or before April 15, and taking your deduction in either 1982 or 1983, whichever works best for you.
2. Avoiding taxes on the interest your IRA earns every year, until you start withdrawing money from your account.

And, even people who have a pension plan where they work can also invest up to \$2000 a year in an IRA with us. (If you're a working couple, you can also invest up to \$4000.)

The new IRA at NCNB. One of the biggest tax breaks in American history is right in your neighborhood. Come see us. But do it before you file your 1982 taxes. So that you can get started on the first of your many happy returns.

Working individuals can contribute as much as 100% of their salary or wages, up to a maximum of \$2000 (\$4000 total for working couples). Substantial interest penalty for early withdrawal. All depositors insured to \$100,000 by FDIC.

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