

On Trial in Jerusalem Acts 23:30, 23:11

Paul's life seems to have been one crisis after another. Probably this was because he was out on the cutting edge, clearing new land and planting the Gospel seed. In last week's lesson, we studied his conflict in Ephesus with the business men who saw in Paul a threat to their lucrative business of making shrines for the worship of the goddess Diana.

Leaving Ephesus, he revisited the churches in Macedonia and Greece. Then he began his journey back to Jerusalem. Along the way, he stopped at Caesarea, where the prophet Agabus warned him that if he went to Jerusalem, there would be trouble waiting for him.

Paul persisted in going, and the prophet was right in his warning. In Jerusalem, he was attacked by a mob in the temple, but was saved from serious harm by the Romans. Paul's defense before the temple mob, wherein he attempted to give an account of his conversion experience, did not deter the mob.

The Romans held him in protective custody until a formal hearing could be held the next day. Our lesson text for this week begins at this point — the hearing on the following day.

Paul's Hearing Acts 23:30 — 23:10

Paul was to get a hearing before the Jewish Sanhedrin, a ruling council consisting of some seventy men, with the high priest Ananias presiding. As we read the account of the hearing, we get a picture of Paul standing in the center of a council chamber, surrounded by somber and hostile men, who were not particularly intent on justice.

Their minds were already closed — they simply wanted evidence that would convict him. Paul's opening statement to the council included a phrase (Verse 23:1) which opens a question in our minds: "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." We remember Paul's life before his conversion, when he was a chief persecutor of Christians and wonder if he intended his former life to be included in this statement, of "good conscience."

Paul was a Pharisee before his conversion, a strict keeper of the Jewish laws. At that time, he considered Christians to be God's enemies — and in "good conscience" he wanted them imprisoned and quieted.

Now that he had become a Christian and an Apostle, he knew his

acts were conscientious. The chief priest was infuriated; however, and he ordered Paul to be slapped in the face — the humiliation.

Paul's response to this was strong — he referred to Ananias as a "whited wall", a pious hypocrite, alluding to the practice of covering walls with white plaster to conceal the cracks and imperfections.

Paul's Strategy Acts 23:6-8

Paul undoubtedly knew some

members of the Sanhedrin — some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees. Their beliefs were sharply in opposition to one another.

The Pharisees believed in a life after death, the resurrection, also in Angels and other forms of spiritual existence.

The Sadducees denied these things; in fact, they were thoroughly materialistic, believing this physical

world is the only world there is.

Since they did not believe in a judgment after death, their concern was for this life — and what they could accumulate. History shows this pattern of philosophy has repeated itself frequently; for people who deny a life and judgment after this life, morality soon vanishes. Goodness and morality is the product of a Supreme and Righteous God, as expressed in the lives of believers.

The hearing before the council was over, the divisions between the council members split them and put the meeting in disarray. Read verses 9-10, for it records that the Pharisee faction declared, "We find no fault in this man," and, "Let us not fight against God." Man cannot thwart God's will, that is for sure. (Lesson based on International Sunday School Lessons by the Lesson Committee.)

Church news

The Junior Youth Group of Calvary Pentecostal Holiness Church in Belvidere traveled to Dublin, Va., Friday May 13 to represent the Eastern Virginia Conference in a regional talent competition on Saturday morning, May 14.

Entries included a watercolor painting by Gary Scellato and a vocal ensemble: Jackie and Kim Dall, Lisa Cartwright, Ted Turner, Tony Besso, Tony McCotter, Floyd Layden, Gary Scellato. These two entries were judged 2nd runner-up out of groups and individuals from four conferences: Eastern Virginia Conference, Virginia Conference, Western North Carolina Conference and East Tennessee Conference.

The painting and vocal ensemble had won first place trophies in their categories at the conference level in Richmond, Va., on April 23rd.

Earlier, the group had entered eight categories and won four first places in the Elizabeth City district Teen Talent Competition, Junior Division.

Others of the youth group who participated in the earlier events also made the trip to Dublin. These included: Bruce White, Earl Ward, Billie Carol Layden, Dale Copeland and Joseph Scellato.

Other members and friends of the Calvary congregation traveling with the group were: Charles Cornelius, Wendy Byrum, Stacy Nixon, Maude Ellis, Joe Scellato, Sr., Anita Copeland, Kathy and Tina Turner, Lori White, and youth leaders Kathy and Lonnie Raper, Lorene Elliott and Rev. and Mrs. Albert Giminder.

The Youth Singers of Great Hope Baptist and Center Hill Baptist Churches will present "Reach for a Star" this Sunday, May 22, at Great

Hope Baptist Church. The program, in honor of Youth Sunday, includes four speakers from the group, Martin Mansfield, Donna Elliott, Tay Boyce, and Michele Parrish. Special music will be presented by the group with a solo from Lynn Elliott. The public is invited to attend and worship with them.

Oak Hill A.M.E. Zion Church will present the 50 State Paganent on Sunday, May 22 at 6 in the evening. The public is invited to attend.

The Elizabeth City Chapter of Women's Aglow will meet this month on May 28 at Tucks at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant to Pat Robertson of CBN. She is a graduate of Northeastern Bible College and attends Calvary Baptist church in Virginia Beach. Come and bring a friend.

This Friday night at the Lighthouse in Elizabeth City, the movie, "Corrie", about Corrie Ten Boon, a sequel to "The Hiding Place" will be shown at 7:30. The film will last one hour.

On Saturday night, the Del Rays and the Mighty Clouds of Faith will be ministering in song. Ministry starts at 7:30, and will be broadcast live from 8 to 9:30 p.m. over WCNC Radio. "We call it Soul-A-Thon night" said a spokesperson from the Lighthouse. Phone counseling is now available if you wish to know the Lord Jesus

and need someone to pray with you or show you in the Word how to know Christ. If you have prayer requests for things such as sickness, family problems of other things, they are available with call-in counseling. Just call 335-2141 or 335-7036. Please call, help is available.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish will celebrate its 135th birthday on Sunday, May 22 at the 11 a.m. service. At the service, two garden benches will be dedicated and the lectern bible. The bible will be dedicated in memory of the Parish's first rector, William Edward Snowden, 1818-1861 and the first senior warden, Benjamin Smith Skinner 1795-1861. Following the service, there will be covered dish luncheon on the lawn.

Senior calendar

The following is a list of this weeks activities at the Perquimans County Senior Center located on Grubb St. in Hertford, N.C.

- May
19—Bible Study Class, 1-3:00
20—Blood Pressures Checked for Free, 9-12:00 and 2-5:00
23—Exercise Class, 10-11:00; Crochet, 1-4:00
25—Bingo, 2-4:00
26—Bible Study Class, 1-3:00

Hertford BPW meets

The Hertford Business and Professional Women's Club met Thursday, May 12 at the Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. building for their monthly meeting. Officers for the year 1983-1984 were installed by District XI Director, Iva Lange of Elizabeth City. They were: Secretary: Helen Felton, Treasurer: Bonnie White, Vice-President: Paula Dall and President: Janice Boyce.

The Business and Professional Women's Club holds their monthly meetings every second Thursday and is open to all women who are employed. Its objectives are to elevate the standards of women in business and in the professions; to promote

the interest of business and professional women; to bring about a spirit of cooperation among women of the United States; and to extend opportunities to women through education along lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activities. They are "women helping women."

Hertford Business and Professional Women's Club is actively supporting the newly formed Albemarle Hopeline, its services, and reasons such a service is needed in the area.

Anyone interested in joining the Hertford BPW, can contact any member or call Janice Boyce at 426-7737.

Extended benefits will end May 14

An estimated 21,000 jobless workers in North Carolina will no longer receive extended benefits from unemployment insurance claims according to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. The extended benefits program will end May 14.

Changes in the insured unemployment rate determine the beginning and end of an extended benefits period. When the insured rate rises above 5 percent, an extended benefits program is triggered on and must remain in effect for 13 weeks. At the end of the 13 week period, if the rate falls below 5 percent, the program is terminated automatically.

Due to recent insured unemployment rate declines, the week ending May 14 will be the last payable week for those claimants now receiving extended benefits.

The most recent extended benefits period began in February 1983. Payments have totaled more than \$24 million since that time. Extended benefits, for a period up to 13 weeks, have been paid when an unemployment insurance claimant exhausted regular benefits.

While no extended benefits will be available after May 14, a claimant

may be eligible for federal supplemental compensation (FSC) for a period up to 10 weeks beyond regular benefits.

Unemployment insurance claimants are advised to contact the local office of the Employment Security Commission for complete information and service.

Look who's new

GODFREY

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Godfrey, of Route 3, Hertford, are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, first son, Justin James Godfrey, born May 4 at Albemarle Hospital.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hallett Hobbs of Tyner.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Godfrey of Route 3, Hertford.

Mrs. Godfrey is the former Debbie Hobbs of Tyner.

BREEDLOVE

Mr. and Mrs. Triston Powell Breedlove of Nashville, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter,

Mary Elizabeth, born May 12 at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bryant of Hertford.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Breedlove of Nashville.

Mrs. Breedlove is the former Bettie Bryant of Hertford.



For Your Information

Dear friends,

It is wise for the family to become acquainted with the funeral director of their choice before the need for his services arises. Then when the inevitable need occurs, they can approach him with a greater feeling of confidence to arrange the funeral service. Feel free to phone and arrange to visit us at your convenience, so that you may become better acquainted with us and our facilities.

Respectfully,
Marian Seidell

SWINDELL FUNERAL HOME

HERTFORD, N.C. 426-7311



newly published book written by Dr. Veitch, Literature Puzzles for Elementary and Middle Grades.

Read aloud presentations had been arranged by Ms. Evelyn Neptune, Childrens Outreach for Pettigrew Regional Library. Readings were presented by Jane Phelps, Creswell Elementary School and by Sabrina McJilton, Washington County Library.

The members divided into county groups to discuss National Library Week Activities in their libraries, plans for Summer Reading Program, and plans for Children's Book Week in November. The members of each county group also arranged for visiting other libraries in their counties.

"The sinner who spends and gives away is better than the devotee who begs and lays by."
Sadi

Pictures are worth a thousand words . . . Prints are now available of Perquimans Weekly photos.

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Cards of Thanks

The Family of the late William B. Jones would like to thank and acknowledge with grateful appreciation the prayers, words of consolation and all acts of kindness extended in our trying hours of sadness with the loss of our beloved husband and dear father.

The Jones Family,
Mary, Cheryl & Thelma

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for the flowers, gifts, cards, visits, food and most of all your prayers shown to me and my family while I was in Lee Memorial Hospital and since my return home.

Thank you,
Sarah "Sallie" Rountree