

CHURCH

Sunday School lesson

THE WORD OF LIFE (John 1:1-18)

"The word was made flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)
Last week in our lesson entitled "A Witness to Good News," we mentioned that the apostle wrote so that people would know that "Jesus is the Christ." There was a great deal of concern about it during the first century.

Jesus is referred to in the Scriptures in many ways. He referred to Himself almost always as the "Son of Man." His followers referred to Him as Jesus, His given name, or Christ, His official title. But in His deeper spiritual meaning He was referred to as "The Light," "The

Truth," "The Word," or "The Life."

All of these have a very special connotation. The light, in Him there is no darkness. The truth, in Him there is no falseness nor deceit. The word, He is God's message manifested to the world as absolute. All else is subordinate to the word.

The life, through Him there is no death. Our Scripture lesson for today is from John's Gospel entitled "The Word of Life." John and his brother, James, were firebrands, in the younger years. Jesus, on one occasion, referred to them as "The sons of thunder," but later would refer to John as the "beloved

disciple."

It was into his care that Jesus assigned His mother's keeping from the cross. The Apostle John truly has great Christian credentials. In our lesson for today John begins at the beginning, and takes us back in eternity before the world was formed to show that Christ was in God before creation.

Note how John began the first two verses of his gospel.

PROLOGUE TO JOHN'S GOSPEL (John 1:1-2)

"In the beginning was the word and word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John

takes us back beyond history, back to the real beginning of all things.

In so doing he lays the ground work for Jesus' deity that is beyond question. For those who assume that the life of Christ began with his birth some 2000 years ago should give careful study to these Scriptures.

God, His Son Christ, and the Holy Spirit — the trinity was present and involved in the creation. Christ "The Word" would become physical and flesh at God's appointed time.

John notes in verse four, that "in Him was life; and the life was the Light of Men." Not only did the Word live, He imparted life to

all other living things.

JOHN AND THE WORD (John 1:6-13)

The author of John's Gospel wrote in verse six that, "there was a man sent from God, whose name was John." The person spoken of here was John the Baptist, son of Zachariah, the priest.

He was not a self-appointed preacher of righteousness but a man sent from God with a divine mission. His mission was to go before Christ and bear witness of the Light.

The Light of Truth had entered a darkened world, that all men through Him might believe. Jesus, Himself, said to John,

"among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." (Matthew 11:11)

The angel Gabriel, when announcing the forthcoming birth of John, said to Zachariah, "For he will be great before the Lord."

THE WORD INCARNATE (John 1:14)

"And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

In the simplest of language John expresses the most profound theological thought. God's Son, the Word of Life, became flesh and dwelt on earth. God had set in motion, and would make a new covenant with the people. This one would be written on their hearts and minds that they should not forget.

Church news

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church Sunday School will present its Christmas program Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. The Superintendent, Mrs. Rosa B. Gibbs, invites all parents and friends to be present.

Morning worship will be at 11:00 a.m. The Rev. J. H. London will be preaching on the subject, "The Light of the Lord's Presence." The Senior Choir, under the direction of Sis. Mary L. James, will be singing.

The Christmas Eve Mid-Night Worship will start at 11:15 p.m. and end at 12:30 a.m. Christmas morning. The fifth Advent candle will be lit. The public is invited to come and bring a friend.

HERTFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hertford United Methodist Church will celebrate the birth of Christ and the 200th anniversary of American Methodism with Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The bicentennial celebration commemorates the Christmas Conference which convened December 24, 1784 in Baltimore, Maryland, the beginning of the Methodist church in this country. The public is invited to participate.

UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING

Up River Friends Meeting will have a special Christmas

program on December 23 at 7:00 p.m. The program, entitled "Holy Is His Name," will feature a dramatization of the Christmas story, the adult and youth choirs and a special duet.

The program will conclude with a candlelight ceremony. Everyone is invited to attend.

BAGLEY SWAMP WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church will hold its annual Christmas program this Sunday evening, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The program will feature the children of the church saying their Christmas speeches and acting out the Nativity scene. The main program will be a Candlelight Worship Service.

Following the Christmas program, a time of fellowship and refreshment will be enjoyed in the church fellowship hall.

Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church is located five miles northeast of Hertford, between Winfall and Belvidere, one and one-half miles east of Highway 37. The pastor, Dan LeRoy, and the people extend a cordial invitation to all to attend.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There will be a live Nativity scene at Epworth United Methodist Church in Winfall on Sunday, December 23, from 5:30 until 6:30.

NEW HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

The choir of New Hope Methodist Church will present a Christmas musical entitled, "Forever Christmas," Sunday December 23, at 8:00 p.m. The public is invited.

A nursery will be provided.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

This Saturday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. the Lighthouse of 505 E. Church St., Elizabeth City, is having a candlelight service as they present "A Ceremony of Carols."

The children and staff are coming together in an evening of musical worship to our Lord. The public is invited to come and worship. All will be blessed as we come together to give our best, ourselves, to Him.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

STARLITE CHURCH

On December 23, there will be a musical program at the Starlite Church, 316 Market St., Hertford. Guests will be Jerry Zachary and the Block Boys at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and worship God.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Moravian Love Feast will be observed this Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, at First

Presbyterian Church in Edenton. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Gil Burroughs will direct the choir and Jackie Copeland is the organist.

Mrs. Shelby Strother will sing "O Holy Night." Ruth Mitchener sings a solo part in "While Lately We Watched."

Off-street parking is available across from the church building. All the community is invited to

this service of joy and peace.

The church building is located on U. S. 17 business, south in the 300 block of W. Queen St., Edenton.

PERQUIMANS UNITED METHODIST CHARGE

The Perquimans United Methodist Charge will hold services Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at Cedar Grove, 10:00 a.m. at Oak Grove and 11:00 a.m. at Epworth.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held to discuss annexation plans of the the area surrounding the Town of Hertford, as proposed by the Hertford Town Council, on Thursday, January 3, at 7:00 P.M. at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

For Your Information

Dear friends,

As Christmas Day nears and families gather, it is our sincere wish that all of you enjoy a very Merry Christmas and remember its true meaning.

Respectfully,

Marian Swindell

SWINDELL
FUNERAL HOME



HERTFORD, N.C.
426-7311

Put Your Best Face Forward

Call for a complimentary facial — receive a personalized skin care program and general glamour tips — and see why we say . . .

Our's is

"The Cosmetic That's More Than A Cover-Up"

CALL

PEGGY ROHRER at 426-9217

Beauty Consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics

Clifton & Clifton



Monuments, Inc.

WE WANT TO ASK YOU
JUST TWO QUESTIONS.

Why pay 20% or more for a cemetery memorial? Why buy from someone who sells memorials as a sideline?

OUR ONLY LOCATION
Hwy. 17 South, across from
Whistling Pines, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 to 5
Saturday 8 to 12 noon
335-1570
Jolish & Sheila Clifton, Owners

A Word From Mt. Sinai

Once we get past all the glitter and glamor of Christmas it is still a time to remember. I remember, as a boy, my father going to the front door, opening it and waving goodbye and thank you. We children would rush to the door but whoever he was waving to was gone by the time we got there.

Mother was busy in the kitchen, but who was hungry at a time like this? It's time to find a package with "George" on it.

It was war time, WW II. we didn't get a lot. An orange, a popcorn ball, a pair of socks, very practical gifts, the kind that aunts and uncles always give. Yet the spirit of Christmas has its fulfillment when that special package has your name on it but it doesn't say who gave it.

God gave His Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes. A very practical gift, but one of joy that will last forever. Receive Him this Christmas.

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

The Following Merchants Take This
Opportunity To Invite You To Attend
A Church Of Your Choice This Sunday

Member FTD
**DOZIER'S
FLORIST**
Harris Shopping Center
Day Phone 426-5721 Night 426-7592

**WOODLAND
Dress Shop**
108 S. WOODLAND
HERTFORD
426-5620

DARDEN
Department Store
109-111 N. CHURCH ST.
HERTFORD
426-5464

HOLLOWELL OIL CO.
SUPPLIERS OF
OIL PRODUCTS
Mobil
PHONE 426-5745

WINSLOW-BLANCHARD
Your **FORD** Dealer

Phillips' Furniture Co.
FACTORY OUTLET
NEW & REJECT
FURNITURE
U.S. 17 BYPASS,
HERTFORD, N.C.

The Perquimans
Weekly
Perquimans County's Only Newspaper
For And About Perquimans People

**A 10% DISCOUNT
ON ALL PRESCRIPTIONS**
IS OFFERED TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
60 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
426-5527 **WOODARD'S PHARMACY**

REED OIL COMPANY
Exxon Products
Hertford, N.C.

**PEOPLES BANK &
TRUST COMPANY**
MEMBER OF FDIC
HERTFORD, N.C.

Wrap Up Her Christmas
With A Special Gift
From
**Woodland
Dress Shop**

Card of Thanks

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say: Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever the part. Your kindness to Noah and the family during his illness and death will always remain in our memories.

The Noah Gregory Family