

# CHURCH

## Sunday School lesson

Peter may have visited the church and was known as a stalwart Christian leader and apostle. Apollos was a dynamic speaker, and eloquent preacher, who had come to Corinth after Paul left. Those who claimed to be of Christ presented a puzzle. If they claimed to follow "The Christ", it shouldn't present a problem. All Christians should. I suspect; however, that Christ's name was used in a sectarian sense, to distinguish them from others, which would be wrong. The point, of course, is this: All of us have had, at some time or other in our lives, Christian leaders who we felt a special affinity towards—a close relationship with. When the time came that our Christian work led us in different directions and we had to part, we bade them a Christian

farewell and fell in behind our new leaders. Comrades in the work of the Lord. Listen to how Paul chastized them in verse 13. "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" Paul is saying, in essence, that what they are doing is foolish. Christ is the only one.

### GOD AND HIS WORKERS.

(1 Cor. 3:5-11; 13-15)  
In these verses Paul sets about to do some serious teaching about the principles of working in God's kingdom. By implication he is telling them something else as well. Apparently some of the Christians needed Christian growth and maturity. Their pride and desire for prestige was showing through. They were honoring the servants of God more than

God. Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." (Cor.3:6)  
(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons.)

### A DIVIDED CHURCH

(1 Corinthians 1:10-15; 3:5-15)  
"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:11)  
The church located in Corinth in the first century has been the object of many studies, and many sermons. The church embodied many of the problems which churches in later centuries have had; problems which caused division within the congregation. Paul had established the church on his second missionary journey. The city of Corinth was known for its wickedness. So well known was this fact that

the phrase "like a Corinthian" was often used to describe a person, or a group's, evil acts. Paul had spent about a year and a half building up the church and teaching Christ to its members. Later, after he had traveled on to new fields of endeavor, he began getting reports about the church, all of which weren't bad. Mr. James G. Vanburen, writing for the Standard Lesson Commentary of International Sunday School Lessons, had this to say in describing the problems in the church. Quote, "The Christians there were rich in utterance and knowledge and spiritual gifts, but their faults were appalling. They were blandly tolerating immorality among themselves; they were taking their disputes before heathen judges; they had problems about love and marriage; they were unsettled about their relationship to the idolatry about them; their own worship was disordered. The spiritual gifts that enriched them had also produced pride and envy. Some of them were so ignorant of the basic facts of Christianity that they denied the resurrection." (Unquote) Is it any wonder that so many studies and sermons have been forthcoming? Paul would deal with these problems in time,

but first he would deal with their problem of division. When a church membership becomes divided, the church's mission is sidled to the back burner.

### PAUL'S CALL TO UNITY.

(1 Cor. 1:10-15)  
In verse 10 Paul calls the members to get together, to unify and to speak the same thing. Further, they should join themselves together in the same mind and

judgement. Apparently Paul was concerned, first, that they should get back to the business of preaching and teaching Christ's Gospel. What was the cause for division among them? Some claimed to be followers of Paul; some, Apollos; some, Cephas (Peter) and some, Christ. Paul had established the church and no doubt had led many of them to become believers.

## Letter to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to commend the Town of Hertford Utility crews and our Town Manager, Bill Cox, for the outstanding work they did and the long hours they put in over the last few days in the wake of the hurricane. Many of us were without current because of falling trees and limbs. The task seemed too much to handle but men began even before the storm started letting up. We know for a fact that they worked well into Saturday without a break for sleep or food.

Its a thankless job which we take for granted and don't appreciate until we lose power like

this. They worked long and hard and we appreciate what they did.  
Larry Swindell  
Marion Swindell

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Dear Friends,

The burden of making funeral arrangements during the stress of bereavement can overwhelm a grieving widow.

Relief from this chore can be provided by prearranging the funeral service. Either a modest or an elaborate funeral can be specified. A trust fund, earning interest to keep pace with inflation, can be set up with a local bank or savings & loan. We offer to explain the procedures at Swindell Funeral Home.

### Swindell Funeral Home



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## Church news

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Hertford Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses has made plans to attend a two-day circuit assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses that will be held this Saturday and Sunday at the Martin County Auditorium in Williamston, N.C. More than 1200 Witnesses and interested persons from nine other congregations are expected to attend.

According to Kelly Bond, local minister, "Doing Our Part in Glorifying God" is the theme of the new series of circuit assemblies starting in September. "We have many reasons for wanting to glorify God," Bond said. "Unlike people of the world who are quick to praise men for their accomplishments while remaining blind to Jehovah's wonderful, our objective in life is to 'do all things for god's glory,' (Cor. 10:31). 'This circuit assembly program will help us to do that," he said.

"Besides featuring encouragement for pioneers and for those who may be able to take up the pioneer ministry, the Saturday program highlights the need to keep strict watch on how we walk if we are to glorify God. (Eph. 5:15, 16) Specific counsel is offered on how to avoid being ensnared by demoralizing elements in this wicked world and on the need to impale fleshly desires," Mr. Bond said.

"On Sunday helpful suggestions on personal Bible reading are offered. Practical counsel will be given on 'Seeking God's Glory, Not Our Own.' Newly interested ones especially will benefit from hearing the public talk at 2 p.m. Sunday on the subject "Global Peace—From What Source?" to be given by D. Raftopoulos from the world headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in New York," said Bond. "All those attending this circuit assembly program should come away refreshed spiritually and strengthened in faith," Bond concluded.

All sessions of the assembly are free and the public is invited. BAY BRANCH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Sunday School begins at 10:00 with Mrs. Esther Hunter in charge. Morning worship begins at

11:15 with the Rev. J.A. Elliott, presiding. The elder of the Elizabeth City District will bring the message. Holy Communion will be observed. The Senior Choir will furnish the music. Mrs. Barbara Shannon is the organist.

At 2:00 p.m. the Rev. W.A. Moore and the people from Center Hill Baptist Church will render service, sponsored by the Senior Usher Board.

The public is invited to attend.

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Morning worship begins at 11:00 a.m. Pastor London is Preaching from the subject "The Church's Motivation" Luke 19:13. The young-adult choir will render the music under the direction of Bro. Larry Felton.

Revival begins Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. with St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church and the Rev. Thomas McPherson is preaching.

Monday night the Rev. Walter L. Leigh and Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion conducts the service at 8:15 p.m. The New Haven and Joppa Baptist Churches conducts devotion at 7:30 p.m. The remainder of the week different churches will be conducting devotions, and different choirs will be rendering the music at 8:10 p.m. The Reverend M.I. Ivory Jefferson,

Evangelist, is in charge Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. Jefferson is the pastor of the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Hampton, Va.

The public is invited to attend. Dinner will be served at the parsonage each evening and refreshments are served at the church.


### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The annual meeting United Methodist Women of the North Carolina Conference will be held Oct. 4-5 at Methodist College in Fayetteville.

A new time has the meeting scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Friday and end at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Walter and Betty Whitaker, former missionaries in Latin America, will be the featured speakers. Also scheduled is a play, "Peacemaking", skits, a Love Feast, choice of 10 workshops, installation of officers, candleburning and pledge service.

Group singing will be led by Ellis Henry Townsend.




## Card of Thanks

I would like to thank my friends, neighbors and loved ones for the prayers, visits and lovely cards of comfort I received during the loss of my brother - Johnnie C. Miller, Sr.

May God richly bless all of you,  
Maude M. White

## Deadly Diseases of Church Folks

Reverend Henry Bizzell, Pastor  
Hertford United Methodist Church  
Market Street Hertford, N.C.



We ought to be concerned about the health of the churches and church folks.

What is a disease? "Webster's International Unabridged Dictionary" gives the following definition: "Disease: A condition which impairs any or all of the natural or regular functions of the body - any disordered or depraved condition or element: moral, social, or political." The last half of the definition is especially appropriate to the intention of this article.

A diseased church person is one whose functions as a member of the church is in a state of disorder or depravity. Here is a list of some diseases which afflict church folks:

- 1) Sunday Sleeping Sickness - This is a peculiar disease. It erupts only on Sunday. The person affected functions normally every day except Sunday. Then he is laid low. Every other day he may rise as early as 6:30 or 7:00 a.m., but on Sunday is absolutely

unable to get up until too late for Sunday School or Church Worship. Very strangely, the disorder begins to wear off soon after 11:00 a.m. and he/she is able to carry on an accelerated schedule of activity - golf, boating, family outings, work in the yard, etc.

- 2) Spectatoritis - Now, I like to watch others play football, baseball, soccer, etc. I cannot play the sports - never could. However, I like to watch others play. I am a spectator, not a participant. Spectatoritis is a disease deadly to church folks. Come and sit - never become a part of the game. Others are responsible for the action - the choir, the preacher, etc. Preachers work just one hour each week. Everyone else just dresses up, comes, and sits. Somehow, the congregation is to be "spoonfed" - pour in the spiritual nourishment. What a deadly disease!
- 3) Schizophrenia - The Divided Self - This is a wide-spread disease of

church folks. There are our jobs, our families, our civic involvements, clubs, sports, recreation, social lives, and there is our church. All of these compete for our attention - pull on us, divide us. The church is only one among many "pulls" on our lives. Frequently, the church gets only what is leftover! This is a deadly disease of church folks - Schizophrenia.

- 4) Poor Vision - Who is more impaired than the individual who cannot see, the individual who must feel his way in the dark? Poor vision may be the result of ignorance, or pride, or prejudice. When people can see and know about themselves and their relation to God and their relation to other persons, then they can function with vigor and strength.
- 5) Hypersensitivity - Those afflicted wear their "feelings on their sleeves", "have a chip on their shoulder" and are always "up in the miff tree." This is a deadly

disease of church folks.

- 6) Heart Trouble - This is the real disease, the basic problem. When the heart is strong and healthy, when it is right, we can overcome the other ailments. A heart warmed by the welcomed presence of God can overcome all the problems. The first five diseases we have mentioned are symptoms of the real disease - heart trouble. When the heart of the individual belongs to God, we can cope with all the other problems.

Good health to you!

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