# Church

## Paul addresses the Romans on the issue of righteousness

Sunday School lesson-

PAUL AND THE ROMANS (Read from your Bible Romans Chapter, 1)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greeks." (Romans 1:16)

With today's study we begin a thirteen week study in the book of Romans, under the theme "The Right-eouness of God." Before entering into the Scripture study for today's lesson, some background thoughts are in order. The Apostle Paul was demonstrately one of the strongest New Testament character of the first century. He was a Jew and prior to his salvation experience, a pharisee and a Roman citizen

He did not, so far as we know, meet Jesus personally during Christ's

Homecoming set

Snug Harbor Community Church

will celebrate the "Gathering of the

Church in 1981" on Sunday, June 7,

A covered dish luncheon will be

served at 12:30 p.m. followed by a

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Sunday

School begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mr.

Horace Hurdle in charge. Morning

worship begins at 11:15. Music will be

rendered by the senior choir with

short service and fellowship.

Church calendar

Bay Branch church schedule

three year ministry on earth. Yet Christ made him oneof the apostles and taught and revealed to him knowledge of Christ's gospel and the Kingdom of God. Paul was called to be a particular apostle and missionary to the Gentiles, which inclued all races of people except Jewish. At the time of Paul's writing the epistle to the Roman Christians (church), he had not been to Rome, and, in fact,

had not established the church there. Yet, his care, and concern, for the church which we see revealed inhis letter, shows how deeply committed he was to his calling and to service to the Lord Who had saved him. Paul was strong in Christian character, deep in Christian knowledge, devout and zealous in Christian service. He was human like you and me, but he was a giant for the Lord. I would that

that could truly be said for all us Christians today.

IDENTIFICATION (Romans 1:1-7)

Paul was first known as Saul. Since he was from the town of Tarsus in Asia Minor, he was known as Saul of Tarsus. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and he was educated in Jerusalem in the school of Gamaliel who was a famous teacher, a member of the Sanhedrin, which was the Jewish ruling body. In the first verse Paul identified himself. "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God."(Verse 1)

One just cannot find better credentials than that. In one simple statement Paul portrayed to his reader his true relationship to the Lord. It was without pretense and

void of ego. He was a servant; an Apostle who was separated from the world unto God's service. Following Paul's initial statement of introduction he told his readers about Jesus; the one he was servant to and an apostle for.

Finally, as noted in verses 1-7, he saluted the church at Rome, graced the saints who were members and delivered a message of peace from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus

> **EXPLANATION** (Romans 1:8-15)

"First I thank God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." (Verse 8)

In these verses Paul explains to the church the purpose of his letter. This was a church whose memers principally were Gentiles-Paul was the Apostle whose mission was to the Gentiles, and they were in his care. It was encouraging to Paul that the church was known for it's faith and he thanked God for it. He let them know that he would be praying for them regularly. It is common to all of Paul's letters to churches that he mentions the church's strengths and calls their attention to their short comings.

> **AFFIRMATION** (Romans 1:16-17)

"Therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just hall live by faith." (Romans 1:17)

One thing which always comes through in Paul's letters. No matter the purpose, or intent, of the letter,

Pictured left are members of the Snug Harbor Combo. The combo played recently at the senior citizens picnic. The played a selection of gospel music during the picnic held last Wednesday at Missing Mill Park.

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very shortly Paul directs the mesage and the reader to Christ Jesus. That's as it should be for He alone is "The Author and Finisher of our faith." (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)





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First Baptist schedule

Winslow Grove A.M.E. Zion will hold their annual Men's Day program June 7, 1987. The Rev. Oliver Kee, Associate Minister of Riddick

superintendent in charge.

Grove Baptist Church be ghuest speaker at 7 p.m. The Moses Temple Community Male Chorus will render

rooms now in use.

All are welcome.

vance of Trustee Day.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

The First Baptist Church Sunday ject "What Jesus Say About Mar-School begins at 9:45 a.m. with acting riage." Matthew 19:5. The young adult choir will sing under the direc-Morning worship starts with Pastion of Donald McClain. tor London preaching from the sub-

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# ANSWER NOW OR LATER

By Raymond C. Needham, Paster **Hertford Baptist Church** 

As Pilate stood before the taunting mob, he raised life's most serious question — "What shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" The blood thirsty crowd wanted Him to be put to death. In fact, they asked for the release of a confirmed criminal in preference to Jesus, whose life was entirely without sin. So their answer to life's greatest question was, "Away with Him, we want nothing to do with Him!" They made the tragic mistake of countless others down through history. They refused to acknowledge that they needed a Saviour, and thus concluded that if they chose to reject Him, then that is the end of the matter

It is true that there were those who accepted Jesus as the Saviour who was sent from God, and there were those who refused to accept Him. just as men do today. Thus many gave their answer affirmatively, trusting Him unto life eternal, others answered negatively, remaining in their lost condition. Someone may say, "So what! That just means that some people believe on Him and some people don't believe on Him."

There is more to it. We may answer in one of two ways this great question, "What shall I do with Jesus?" However, that does not mean that a man is through with Jesus. Neither Pilate nor the mob was free from any further consideration of this Galilean. In just a few days they were confronted with the fact of His resurrection from the dead, and then His ascension back to the Father. Even that is not the end of the

story. God gave His Son for the whole world, and the whole world shall one day acknowledge Him for who He is. In Phlippians 2:9-11 we read the following:

Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, That at the name of Jesus every knee shoul bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, And that every tongue should con-

fess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father. let us look at the great question this way. God loved me and gave His Son that I might have eternal life. If He loved me that much, how can I do other than gladly and thankfully accept Him into my heart as Saviour and Lord? How could I refuse One who never did anything but good to all? If my answer to Him is "Yes," I shall ever rejoice for that decision. On the other hand, if my answer to Him is "No," then I may be sure that one day, along with multitudes of others who refused Him, I shall bow and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, after which I shall be separated from His loving presence.

"What shall I do with Jesus?" I cannot really be neutral. May the knowledge of His wonderful love that provided for us eternal life move us to gratefully and joyfully receive Him as Saviour and Lord.

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