

Church news

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BY T.P. ALEXANDER

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The first call on our time is to the Lord's service

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.

"He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The Apostle Paul had an extremely gifted insight into the relationships between the believers and the church, believers and Christ, and Christ and the church.

Indeed, Paul likens the believers, who make up the church, to be the Body of Christ. As such they were to walk in oneness, that is, to be singly minded, having the same purpose and the same goals. They are kingdom people; mission compelled and representatives of God's Kingdom. They are Christ's ambassadors.

In his Ephesian letter, Paul is addressing those whom he had influenced during his ministry in Ephesus. They had become "fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19) but they still lived in pagan surroundings. They needed continuing Christian instruction, motivation and encouragement. The same may be said of all Christians.

One commentator said concerning Paul's letter to Ephesus, "Christ is the head of His body, the church; Christ is the foundation of His spiritual building, the church. The body is to glorify its head; the building is to grow into a suitable dwelling for God's spirit."

THE BODY IS ONE. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

In chapter three Paul described his commission as apostle to the Gentiles, hence his care, concern and prayer for the saints at Ephesus. Since, at that time he was a prisoner in Rome and, as such, was unable to minister to them in person, he writes an appeal for their faithfulness in the Lord's work. What was it that brought Paul's concern for the Ephesian saints to the forefront of his thinking?

It was possibly his astute spiritual knowledge of how God works through people to accomplish his purposes. Thus, every believer has a destiny, and Paul wanted all of those given into his charge to fulfill

their prescribed destiny. Holy history records an ample number of those who failed to fulfill their destiny.

In these six verses, Paul set forth the basics of Christian obedience. He said, first of all, that they were to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they were called." Did we read that right? Did Paul say that our vocation in life was to serve the Lord? If so, then the first call on our time is to the Lord's service, and that our work, profession, or business, is second.

He went further. He stated the requisite of Christian attitude, such as lowliness, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. Jesus is to be both our example and Lord. Matthew recorded that Jesus was "meek and lowly in heart."

Secondly, Paul now gives his attention to seven "ones," which are the divinely supplied foundation for unity in the church. If the church is truly the body of Christ, it cannot be more than one body. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." (Vs 4)

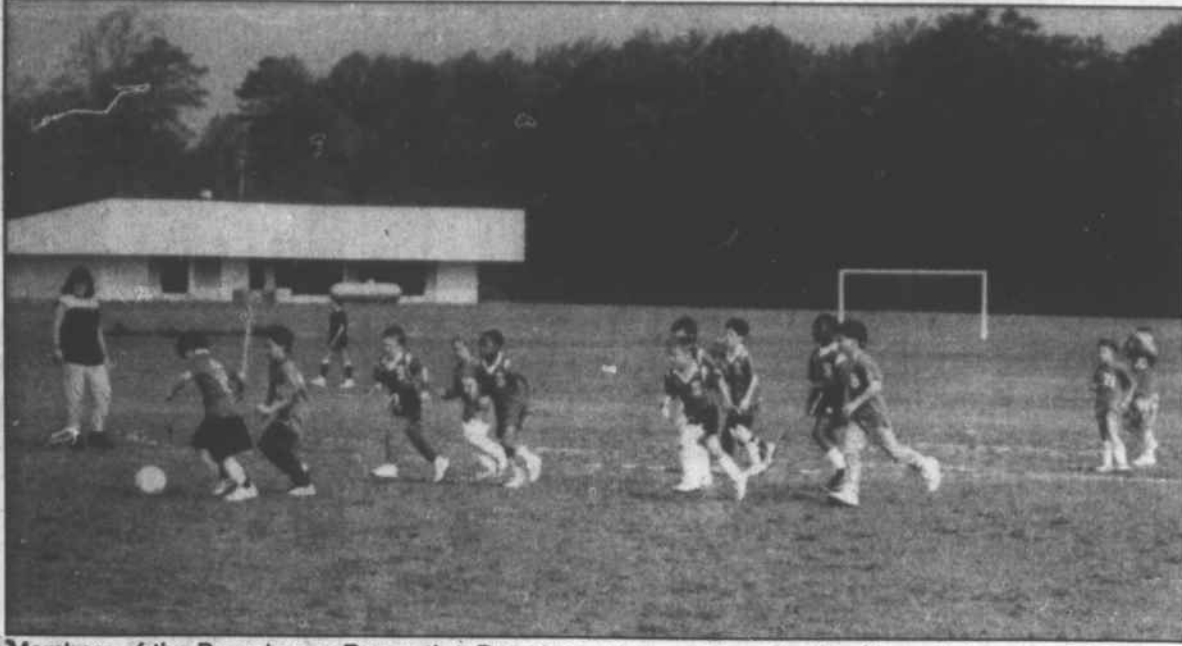
Paul continues in verses 6 and 7, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Paul is writing to the Ephesian Christians about building up the body of Christ; the church. That which binds them together in oneness, the common denominator of unity, is one Lord, Christ Jesus; one faith, belief and trust in Christ Jesus; one baptism, that which was given by Christ as an example, and one God, the Creator and Ruler of all things.

THE BUILDERS AND THEIR GIFTS. (Ephesians 4:7-12)

Up to this point the apostle has spoken mainly of the whole body and it's total unity. Now he turns to the individual members and their personal contribution to the building up the body of Christ.

Through God's grace members are given certain gifts of the spirit. These are given to prepare and enable individuals for work and service to the church. Paul lists three reasons why Christians are equipped through special gifts.

(a) To prepare Christians for service (b) to give them the ability to perform the work (c) to edify, or glorify Christ, through His body, the church. Finally, the individual is to grow up in Christ likeness.



Members of the Perquimans Recreation Department soccer team, the Panthers, fight a tough Plymouth opponent. The local teams have not fared well against the strong Plymouth youth this season.

Churches set services

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mrs. Esther Hunter in charge at 11:30. Rev. James Modlin, Jr., associate minister at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, will render service.

Music will be rendered by the Senior Choir. Mrs. Katie Lightfoot is organist. The service is sponsored by the Senior Usher Board and the Missionary Department.

Bethel Baptist Church

Bethel Baptist Church Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. Church service will be at 11 a.m. The Rev. Gordon Shaw is the pastor.

Chapel on the Sound

Chapel on the Sound at Holiday Island begins Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Worship service follows at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m., we have Bible Study, and Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., Prayer Meeting. Choir practice follows at 8:00 p.m.

The Rev. Wayne Jarrett is the pastor. We are non-denominational and welcome everyone to join us in our worship and fellowship.

Emmanuel Pentecostal

Emmanuel's Sunday School will be held at 9:30 a.m. with worship service at 11:30 a.m. Friday Evening Bible Study is at 7:30 p.m. Home prayer groups meet various nights of the week. For more information call Ella at 426-5950.

The Rev. W. E. Vaughn, pastor welcomes everyone to join us in worship and Bible study.

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church School will begin at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship will follow at 11:00 a.m. It will be a special Mother's Day worship. Rev. J. H. London will preach from the subject "Are You a Real Christian Mother?" 2 Timothy 1:3. The senior choir will sing under the direction of Sister Barbara Shannon,

organist. We will honor the oldest mother and mother with the most children.

Hertford Pentecostal Church

Hertford Pentecostal Church Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. Worship services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bible study is held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Gene Boyce is the pastor.

All are welcome to join us in these services.

Hobbsville Baptist Church

The Hobbsville Baptist Church will be observing our annual Homecoming Day on May 21. We will have special singing and an inspirational message brought by the Rev. Dave Pyatte, pastor. We would like to invite the public to attend. We will have a church-wide meal following our 11 a.m. worship. The children's choir will be singing also.

Poplar Run A.M.E. Zion

The annual Mother's Day program at Poplar Run A.M.E. Zion Church will be observed Sunday, May 14th, at 11:00 a.m.

Capt. Shirley Wiggins Yates, USN retired, will be the guest speaker. She is a native of Winfall and a member of Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

The young adult choir will render the music, with Mr. Larry Felton as pianist.

Snug Harbor Church

Snug Harbor Community Church holds a Worship Service Sunday at 9 a.m. followed by Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m.

On Sunday evenings at 7 p.m., there is an Adult Bible Study; Youth Group Meeting (6-12 yrs.) and a Teen Group Meeting.

Bible Study is also held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

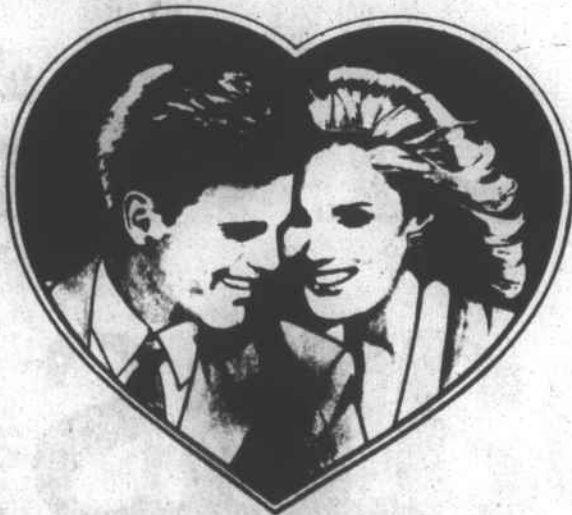
We are an Interdenominational Church. The Rev. Stanley Nixon is the pastor. All are welcome to join in our activities and fellowship.



Mallard ducks visited the Hertford Municipal Building last week. Employees fed the fowl corn, and tried to coax them to the back of the building where they would not be in as much danger of being hit by cars, but the ducks said, "No." They stayed at the front of the building.



Stacy Whitley, art student at PCHS, recently attended a seminar in Raleigh at the N.C. Art Museum with her art instructor, Joan Wood.



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MOTHER'S DAY

Raymond C. Needham
Pastor, Hertford Baptist Church

The word "Mother" has a very special meaning in our thinking, and our observance of "Mother's Day" next Sunday will surely be accompanied by a sense of love and gratitude for this special lady in our lives and homes. Motherhood has, recent years, come under attack by some who regard it as a second rate role in life, as something that is degrading, depriving a woman of fulfillment and the attaining of her potential. Yet, what could be a greater achievement in life than to have reared a child who has learned to reverence God, and out of that reverence, become a preserving influence in the society of which he is a part?

Our concept of motherhood is also a reflection of the value we place upon the life of a child. Think of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, who became a faithful, God-fearing leader of the nation Israel. She prayed for a son, and when he was born, she regarded him as a gift from the Lord. We are not surprised to learn that her chief desire for Samuel was that he might be used of the Lord all the days of his life. Thus we hear her saying, "For this child I prayer...therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." (1 Samuel 1:27,28). Her baby boy was not regarded as a burden and an inconvenience.

Another worthy mother from God's word is Eunice, the mother of Timothy, another young man who became a blessing to others. When the apostle Paul wrote to him he "Called to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (II Timothy 1:5). We read also that Timothy had known the scriptures from his youth. His mother sought God's best for for him.

Perhaps the greatest influence regarding the destiny of our nation lies with our mothers. This is to take nothing from the tremendous responsibility of the fathers; but it is the mother who usually gives the intimate daily care to the child. Her words, her touch, her compassions expressed are all keys in the formulation of that tender life. It would be unrealistic to say that her responsibility is not a great one; but it would be equally unrealistic to deny that she has one of the highest privileges know, for she has in her hands the opportunity of moulding a life for good.

As we honor our mothers and express our thanks for all that they mean to us, let us pray for God's blessings upon them, for their task is indeed demanding, but there is One who is able to supply their needs.



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