

Sunday School Lesson

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temis) in Asia was centered in Ephesus. The Ephesians had built a majestic marble and gold temple in her honor.

The economy of the city depended largely upon the temple treasure, the trade of the pilgrims, and the sale of souvenirs. The effectiveness of Paul's preaching is evident in the fact that the sale of these souvenirs began to fall off.

Demetrius, a leading silversmith, gathered the workers of the craft and cleverly played upon their emotions. He persuaded them that the temple and fame of Diana were endangered, and a riot ensued. Only after considerable time was the town clerk able to restore order.

The courageous acts of heroic Christians of long ago make exciting reading, but what do they mean to us? The silversmiths, trade was dependent on a cult that kept people in superstitious dread and promoted licentious religious practices. Paul's converts were freed from their fear of the nature gods, and they were introduced to the ideals of personal purity. But because his teaching hurt business, outraged people cried that their religion and their nation were threatened.

Are we much different? After exhaustive testing, the surgeon general's office reported a definite correlation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Yet aggressive promotion of cigarette smoking continues. Similar indifference is manifested in the sales of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, gambling devices, and pornography. Even legitimate businesses constantly resist regulation of standards, packaging, and advertising in the public interest. Where profit is at stake, principle is often a casualty.

Time and again Paul faced the opposition of mobs. Nearly every week we see riots on our television screens. Often the reasons for these protests are legitimate; they focus attention on real problems that gentler measures have failed to correct. In other cases the disturbances, like those in Ephesus, have been fostered

by unscrupulous people trying to cover up political maneuvering, looting, or other opportunistic activities. Recognizing the real motives is often hard. And mob action is not the best way to establish impartial justice.

Persons who disapprove of mob action or demonstrations should feel a special call to work for the redress of grievances through the action of courts, legislatures, and private agencies.

In a time of turmoil and unrest, Christians will still do well to heed the advice in 1 Peter 3: 13-17: Be zealous for what is right. Reverence Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make a defense of your faith, but do so with gentleness and reverence. Keep a clear conscience. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

For thy church we praise thee, O Lord. She has nurtured us in youth, guided us in maturity, and sustained us in trial. Fill us with compassion for those who do not know thy love, and make us instruments for the spread of the gospel. Amen.

Hospital Sick List

DISCHARGES

(Continued on Page 6)

- Mrs. Helen Holt
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- Miss Rosetta Garner
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Brown Summit, N. C.
- Mrs. Mildred Akins
306 Avalon Road
- Mrs. Janie Young
1120 Cottage Grove Ave.
- Mrs. Ruth Hinton
912-A Broad Avenue
- Mr. Albert Hopkins
Route 2, Box 329
Gibsonville, N. C.
- Mr. Vergus Mock
46-C Clara Cox Apts.
- Mrs. Annie Potts
1304 Flagg Street

- Shirley Allen
2415 Phillips Avenue
- Mrs. Mildred Brown
801 Dunbar Street
- Mrs. Janie Webb
1812 Bywood Road
- Mr. Horace Lewis
741 Alonza Court
- Mr. Robert Lawhorn
1206 Sloan Street
- Miss Edith Williams
826 King Cotton Hotel
- Will Meadows, Jr.
1538 Thom Court
- Miss Beverly McEachern
- Mr. James Scales
110 Melrose Court
- Mr. Ronald Liles
301-A Gant Street
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- Mr. Charles Walker
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"When I go home may quiet reign
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In those I love when I go home.
When I go home, my glory Crown
When heaven's host to Him bow down,
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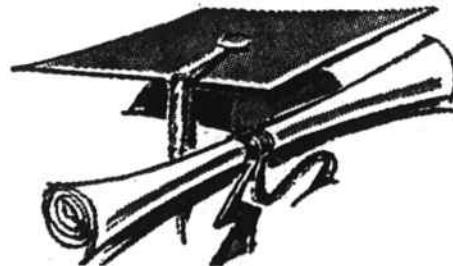


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