SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON X.—September 6.

TURNING TO THE GENTILES. — Acts 13 : 13—14 : 28;

Romans 10 : 8—15.

Printed Text Acts 14 : 8—13, 19, 20;

Romans 10 : 8—13.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I have set thee for a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 13 : 47.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—The visit of the apostles to Antioch in Pisidia took place in 48 A.D., while the work in Iconium and at Lystra occurred the following year, A.D. 49. The Epistle to the Romans was written in A.D. 57.

Place.—Antioch in Pisidia was about one hundred miles from Perga, located near the river Anthios, in the district of Galatia called Phrygia. Iconium was about ninety miles southeast of Antioch, while Lystra was about thirty miles further southeast of Iconium, and Derbe about twenty miles still further to the east.

"And at Lystra there sat a certain man, impotent in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked." The details of this man's condition are characteristic of Luke's interest as a physician in the diseased condition of those whom he describes.

"The same heard Paul speaking: who, fastening his eyes upon him." The same verb is used of Paul in Acts 13 : 9; 23 : 1. "And seeing that he had faith to be made whole." The man's heart shone out in his face, and the Spirit within the apostle recognized that was a fit object to be made by his cure a sign unto the men of Lystra.

"Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped up and walked." Cf. the healing of the lame man at the Gate Beautiful (Acts 3 : 8).

"And when the multitude saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men." Heathen stories of descents of the gods to the earth were common enough, but it was only among barbarous people like the Lycaonians that men were still prepared to believe them. The old descent of Zeus and Hermes, and how they were hospitably entertained by Baucis and Philemon, belonged to this region and thus the people believed that the gods had again descended. Of course Paul and Barnabas did not know what these people were saying.

"And they called Barnabas, Jupiter." This was the Greek god Zeus, the king of the gods, of stately and commanding presence. "And Paul, Mercury, because he was the chief speaker." Mercury was the Greek god Hermes, the chief attendant of Zeus and the god of eloquence.

"And the priest of Jupiter whose temple was before the city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the multitudes." The garlands here spoken of were made of wool with leaves and flowers interwoven, and were used to adorn the victim, the altar, and the priests at a heathen sacrifice. Though the apostles did not know what these people were saying, they realized what was in their minds when they saw what they were doing, and at once protested with all their power against such a misinterpretation of themselves.

"But there came Jews thither from Antioch and Iconium: and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul, and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead." Some of these Jews came a distance of one hundred and thirty miles to harm the apostles. How quickly fickle people change their enthusiasms!

"But as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and entered into the city: and on the morrow he went forth with Barnabas to Derbe." The narrative undoubtedly leads us to recognize in St. Paul's speedy recovery from such an outrage, and his ability to resume his journey, the good hand of God, upon him. We may well notice St. Luke's reserve, not dwelling upon the apostle's sufferings and his carefulness in refraining from magnifying the incident.

"But what saith it? The word is night thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach." This statement of Paul's is a continuation of the argument of the preceding verses. The righteousness which is offered in Christ does not demand our ascending to heaven to get it or descending into the abyss to obtain it, but it is immediately at hand.

"Because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord." Confessing Christ as Lord is publicly acknowledging his full and final authority over us. "And shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The word heart here means the whole soul, the inner man, including the understanding and the affections. Saving faith is not mere intellectual assent, but a cordial receiving and resting on Christ alone for salvation.

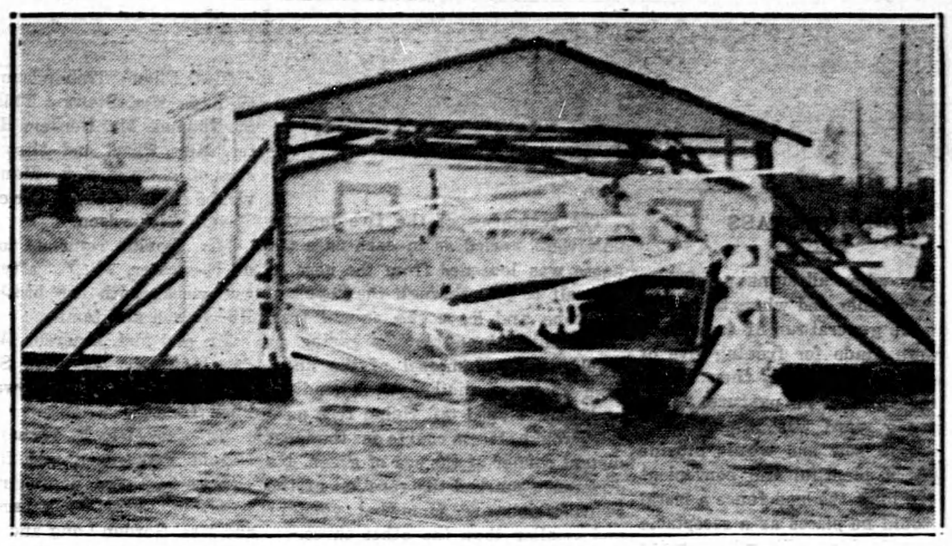
"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." This may be paraphrased as for when a man believes in the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart he is accepted by God as righteous, i.e., he has been justified. "And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The confession with the mouth represents the whole process by which the Christian in his life on earth owns and obeys Christ as his Lord; it thus stands for the narrow path along which the justified move to their promised and assured home, and final salvation.

"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame." No Christian by believing in Christ ever has anything to be ashamed of. Christ never disappoints.

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him." To call upon the Lord is to worship him, to believe in him, to accept his offer in Christ.

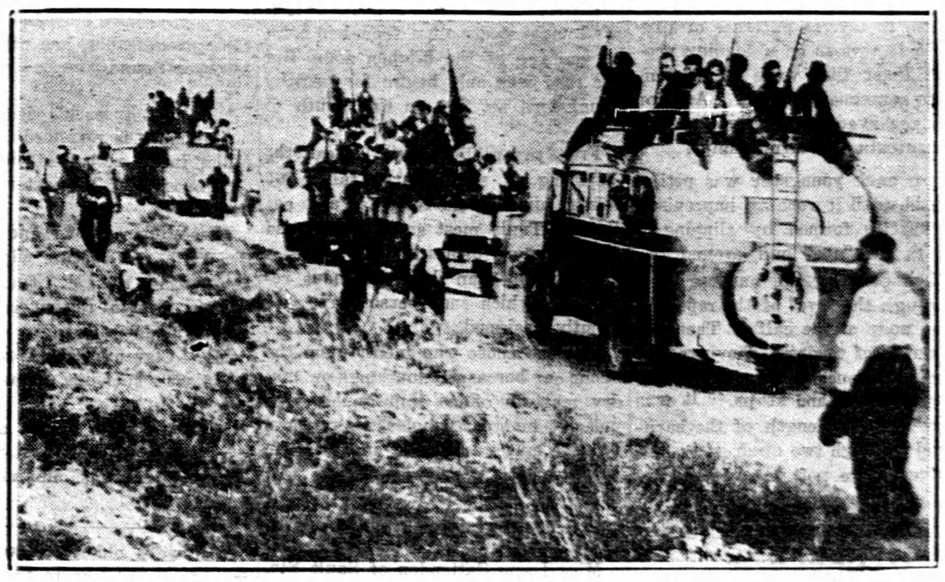
"For, Whosever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The quotation is from Joel 2:32 (Acts 2: 21). The availability of salvation in Jesus Christ to all men everywhere could not be more emphatically stated than in these verses. Twice do we find the word whosoever. Once do we find the word all.

"CRASH KING" BREAKS IN AGAIN



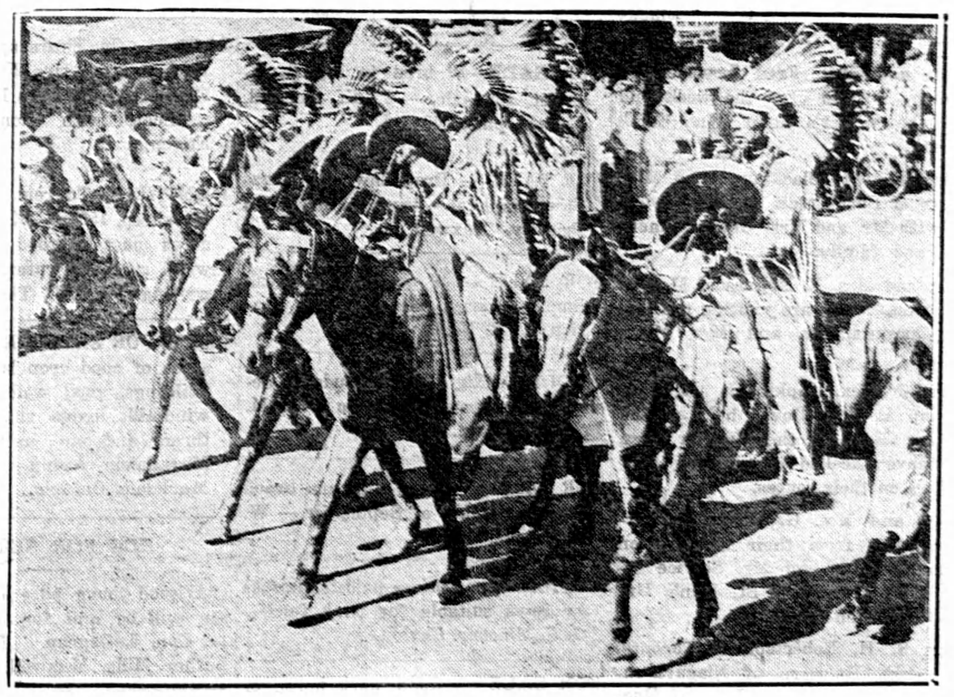
Driving his speedboat at the rate of 55 miles an hour, Dr. C. C. McWilliams, noted stunt man, crashes through a wooden house built on two rafts on the lagoon of Burnham Park, Chicago, during "Carnival of the Lakes."

MOVING UP TO FIGHT



Using every means of transportation available, including trucks and buses, Spanish loyalists start to battle lines around Saragossa after clearing way by capturing town of Azaila.

CHIEFS RIDE AT CELEBRATION

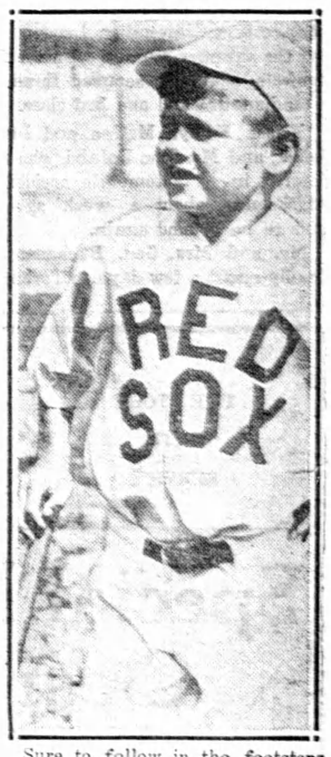


Indian chiefs, whose ancestors wiped out the Whitman Medical Mission in historic Whitman massacre in 1847, pictured in full regalia as they rode in Whitman centennial parade in Walla Walla, Wash.

STAR AND WIFE SAIL

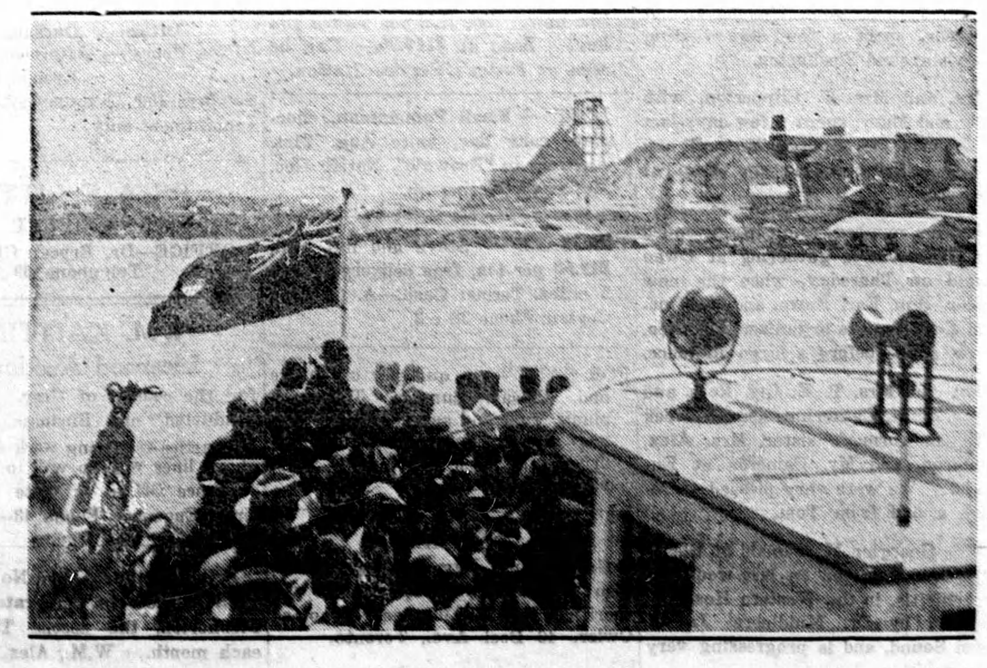
Basil Rathbone, stage and motion picture star, and Mrs. Rathbone shown as they sailed for Europe on liner Normandie.

STRIKINGLY LIKE HIS FATHER



Sure to follow in the footsteps of his father, Jimmy Foxx, Jr., son of the heavy hitting first baseman of the Boston Red Sox, is already noted for his ability to give the ball a long ride when he plays with his camp team at Camp Sokokis, Bridegton, Me. (right).

SULLIVAN FROM THE WATER



A view of the surface plant at Sullivan Consolidated Mines Limited taken from the water during the visit of members of the Montreal Board of Trade to the property a few weeks ago. (Photo: C.N.R.)

MURDER CHARGE FOLLOWS FIRE PROBE

Following the inquest into the recent disastrous fire in Montreal when three firemen lost their lives in the destruction of the Maison Canadian, Julius Cohen (left), is being held on a triple murder charge, and Romeo Vidal, is being held on an arson charge.