SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE SPOKEN AND THE WRITTEN WORD—Acts 17;1-15; 1 Thessalons 2:112.

Printed Text ,Acts 17:1, 5-11; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

Golden Text—The word of God is living and a ctive and sharper than any two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12.

The Lesson in its Setting

Time—A.D. 51.

Place—Thessalonica on the Gulf of Salonica in northern Greece, and Beroea, forty miles from Thessalonica somewhat inland.

The Plan of the Lesson

Subject: The Power of the Word of God When Preached, the Right Approach to Its Earnest Consideration.

1. Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia. Amphipolis was about thirty-three miles from the city of Philippi, and Apollonia was about thirty miles farther on. These two cities, as well as the next one mentioned, were all on the famous road called the Via Egnatia, which extended for a distance of over five hundred miles, from the Hellespont to Dyrrachium. "It was really the continuation through Macedonia of the Via Appia (see Acts 28:16) and it might be truly said that when St. Paul was on the Roman road from Troas to Philippi he was on a road which led to the gates of Rome." They came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews. Thessalonica was the largest and the most populous city in Macedonia.

5. But the Jews being moved with jealousy. "When the Jews saw proselytes and Gentiles, and many of the leading women of the city, convinced by St. Paul's teaching, they must have felt that his influence was silently undermining theirs. Took unto them certain vile fellows of the rabble. The word here translated "rabble" is from a word meaning "the marketplace," and hence, "loungers in the marketplace." And gathering a crowd, set the city on an uproar. The unfairness and deliberate baseness of these Jews is revealed here. They went out and brought together a great mob, which, of course, could not be controlled by reason, but were driven on to do outrageous things under the power of mysterious mob psychology. And assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them forth to the people. Of this man Jason, we know nothing further from the New Testament records; he may or may not be the one by the same name referred to by the apostle Paul in Romans 16:21.

6. And when they found them out, they dragged Jason and certain brethren before the rulers of the city. The word here translated "rulers" is the Greek word politarches, a word that occurs in no other place in the New Testament and in no Greek classical writer. The remarkable accuracy of the author of Acts is again shown in his use of this very word, for in this very city of Thessalonica, an inscription on an arch spanning a street of the city has been preserved an arch which is assigned to the time of Vespasian, on which this very word is to be found The inscription itself was placed by the British council in 1876 and is now in the British Museum in London. Crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also. What a magnificent tribute to the power of the Christian faith within our generation of the ascension of our Lord!

7. Whom Jason hath received: and these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar. "This may here refer to the successive decrees of the Emperors against treason." Saying that there is another king, one Jesus. This was the charge, the political charge of high treason, brought against the Lord himself by the Jews (Luke 23:2; John 19:12, 15).

8 And they troubled the multitude and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. 9. And when they had taken security from Jason and the rest they let them go. "The charge brought against Paul was subtly conceived and most dangerous."

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Beroea: who when they were come thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. Beroea was about forty miles from Thessalonica.

11. Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica. The word here translated "noble" is used elsewhere by the apostle Paul in speaking of men who are noble born (1 Cor. 1:26) It is the word from which derives Luke 19:12). Why they were more noble Luke is about to tell us. In that they received the word with all readiness of mind. See Matt. 26: 41; Mark 14:38; 2 Cor. 8:11, 19; 9:2). Examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so. The word here translated "examining" is used elsewhere by St. Luke of a judicial inquiry or investigation (Luke 23:14; Acts 4:9; 12:79; 28:18).

7. But we were gentle in the midst of you, as when a nurse cherisheth her own children. (Cf.Matt. 23: 37). The word here translated "cherisheth" is used in Eph. 5:29 and in Deut. 22:6. It is used of the hen bird setting over its young in the nest.

8. Even so, being affectionately desirous of you, we were well pleased to impart unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls because ye were become very dear to us. (Cf. Phil 2:17; 2 Cor. 12:15). Note carefully how words expressing love pile up in these verses.

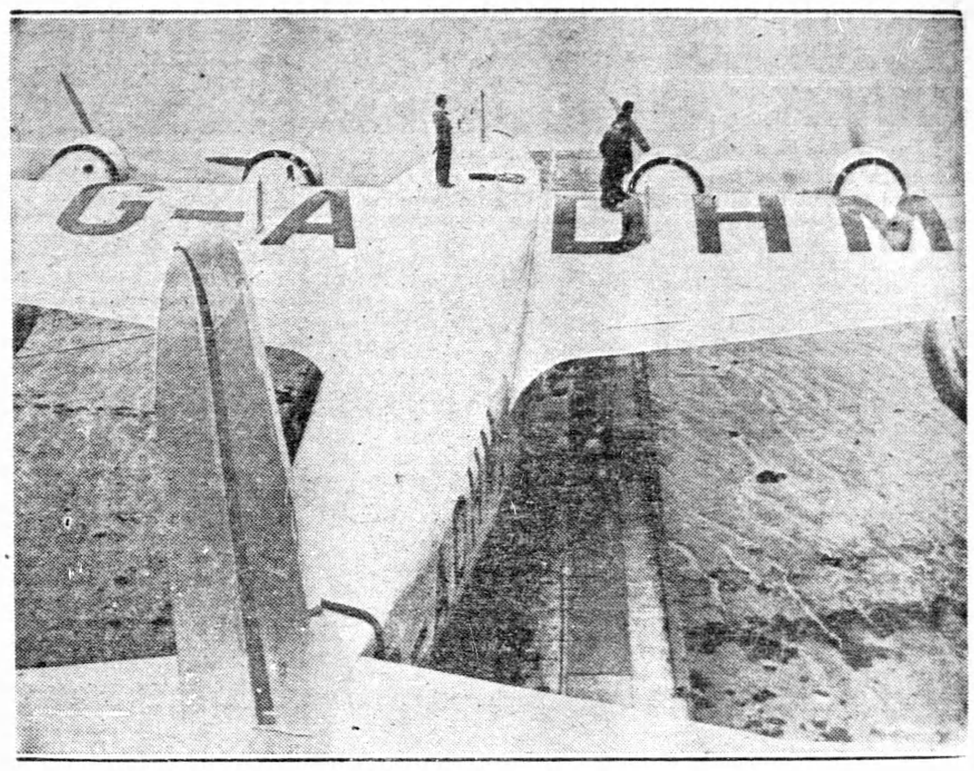
9. For ye remember, brethren, our labor and travail: working night and day, that we might not burden any of you, we preached into you the gospel of God. Undoubtedly the members of the early Thessalonian church were poor, and Paul was determined that he would not burden them by making it necessary, while he was in Thessalonica, for them to support him; consequently, he worked through the week at the handicraft, which he had undoubtedly been trained in when a young man before his conversion, the making of haircloth tents, which are still in constant use in the Levant (see Acts 18:3; 20:34).

10. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and righteously and unblamably we behaved ourselves toward you that believe. The word "holily" has reference primarily to one's relationship to God, and the word "righteously" to one's honest relationship to men; while the word "unblamably," of course, means that the disciples were so undeniably living godly and upright lives that no one could honestly place any just criticism against them.

11. As ye know how we dealt with each one of you, as a father with his own children, exhorting you, and encouraging you, and testifying. "Exhorting" is the general term for animating address; "encouraging is the calm and consoling side of exhortation as addressed to the afflicted or the weak 'Testifying' (see also in Gal. 5:3; Eph. 4:17) expresses its solemn warning element." One can only testify about those things concerning which one has a personal experience.

12. To the end that ye should walk worthily of God. Paul lived what he preached; he preached as he lived. Who calleth you into his own Kingdom and glory. "The meaning is that God is the inviter to whom they owe their admission into the kingdom, and that they must habitually live in a manner which befits such a privilege (see 2 Thess. 7:14 ;1 Cor. 1:9; Gal. 5:8; Col. 3:15; 1 Tim. 6:12)."

Ready For Tests Before Fyling Atlantic

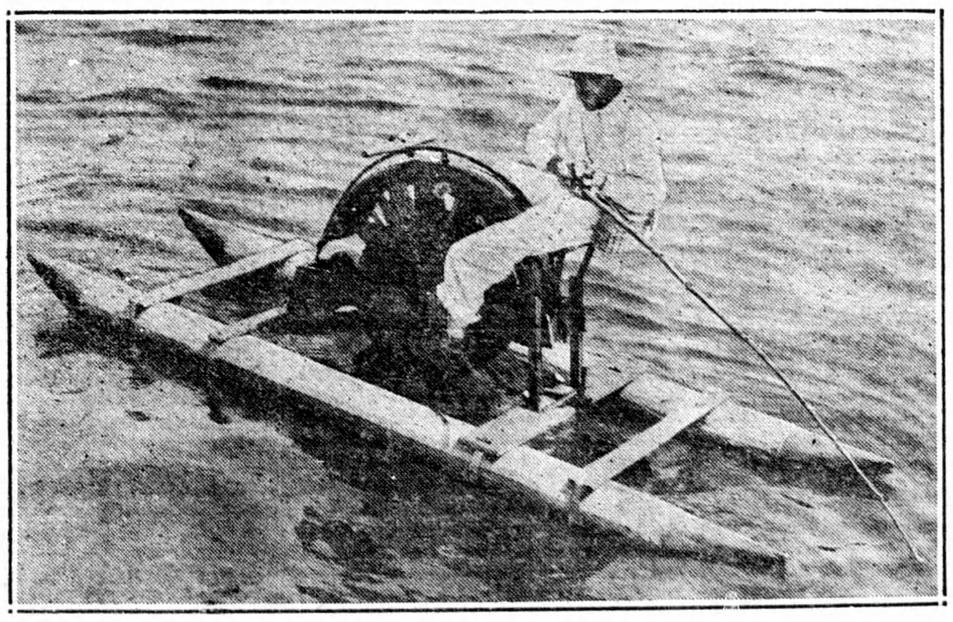


The Caledonia, the first of long range flying boats being built for Transatlantic passenger service, on the slipways before taking to the water for a series of test flights. Regular Transatlantic flights are expected to be inaugurated next summer.

Hay! Bales of Fun!

Pretty farmerettes pitch in to make the annual hay and dairy festival at Hynes, Cal., interesting to the visitors to the world's largest hay market. The gals look husky enough to shine at hay making.

Floats A New Idea



Barney Fry, sportsman and inventor, introduced this one for deep sea fishing off Venice, Cal. He calls it a hydrocycle. It is propelled by a paddle wheel, operated similarly to a bicycle, mounted between two 14-foot pontoons. He claims a speed of 10 miles per hour.

Loyalists Attack Rebel Stronghold

With heavy losses reported to have been inflicted on both sides, more loyalist troops arrive at Porto Christo, Majorca, in Federal advance on Palma.

The Greatest Things

(Osman)

The best day: Today.

The greatest deceiver: One who deceives himself.

The greatest mistake: Giving up.

The most expensive indulgence: Hate.

The cheapest, stupidest, and easiest thing to do: Finding fault.

The greatest trouble maker: Talking too much.

The worst bankrupt: The soul that has lost its enthusiasm.

The best teacher: One who makes you want to learn.

The best part of any one's religion: Gentleness and cheerfulness.

The meanest feeling: Jealousy.

The greatest need: Common sense.

Farm Queries

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College

The business of farming is yearly becoming more and more dependent upon facts that have been gathered regarding livestock and livestock management, crop production, soil management, disease and insect control and business organization of the farming industry. Individual problems involving one or more of these and many other phases of agriculture, engage the attention of Ontario farmers from day to day.

Through this column farmers may secure the latest information pertaining to their difficulties.

Address all inquiries to Farm Problems Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., Room 421, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto, Ont.

1. QUESTION: How important is the organic matter or humus problem?

ANSWER: The humus or organic matter supply in cultivated soils in Ontario bids fair to become a major problem. In some sections, farmers are burning straw piles. In many others they are keeping less and less livestock which means a diminishing supply of manure. In still other sections, they are growing cultivated crops such as corn, potatoes or sugar beets on the same soil year after year without alternating with crops such as clover or alfalfa, the second growth of which can be plowed under as green manure. All too rarely are green manure crops grown to be turned under as soil improvers. The reason for this seeming forgetfulness is not carelessness, but is simply an expression of the ambition of Ontario farmers to make their soils return an increasing interest on investment. Nevertheless, forgetfulness to keep up the Organic matter in the soil has ruined many a good countryside and it is inevitable that farms where such neglect has been practised will face a deteriorating soil which very quickly will mean loss and less crops.

Ohio Experiment Station faced this situation forty years ago. After growing corn on the same ground for thirty years, the full amount of organic matter in the soil was ascertained. It was found to be approximately 1-3 of that which was in the original soil. On the other hand, where crops were grown in rotation, and manures and fertilizers used judiciously, the organic matter was maintained and the soils were increasingly productive. Two outstanding, and not fully explained instances of the benefit of organic matter, were found at the Rothamsted Station, England. The Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, England in 1934 reported as follows: "One set of long continued experiments brings out an important property of the organic matter. On the Rothamsted mangold plots part of the ground has had no farmyard manure or any other organic manure since 1843, while part receives farmyard manure every year. During the recent dry seasons the plants on this latter area started much earlier and grew much better in the early part of the season than those without organic matter, partly at any rate due to the better tilth and the larger amount of soil moisture retained where organic matter had been given. The classical instance of the unexplained effects of farmyard manure, however, is on Hoos field at Rothamsted where a plot that received farmyard manure from 1852 to 1871, but nothing since still gives nearly double the crop of barley obtained on the adjoining plot that has been similarly treated since 1871, but had received no farmyard manure during the preceding 20 years. At the time of writing (mid-July, 1934) the barley on this old manured plot is strikingly better than that on the old unmanured land, suggesting some benefit from the farmyard manure given more than 60 years ago. We have not yet succeeded in accounting satisfactorily for this result."

When Ontario farmers fully appreciate the great services of organic matter, much more attention will be given to this important phase of soil handling

2. QUESTION: I fertilized for sugar beets and lost the crop. Will there be any plantfood left in the soil from the fertilizer that was applied?

ANSWER: If the soil is in good condition, about neutral in reaction, that is, neither sour nor sweet, there should be a considerable amount of phosphate and potash which was applied for the beets still available in the soils for crops of next year. In all probability the rain and snow will have removed much of the soluable nitrogen, but green crops or corn which are grown on this soil next year should find a considerable help from the phosphate and potash which was added for the sugar beets.

3. QUESTION: What fertilizer value has the waste from tomatoes? Where we grew tomatoes this year, quite a lot remained on the ground after picking. We live near enough to the canning factory so that we can get considerable waste pulp and skins of tomatoes. Have these any value as fertilizer?

ANSWER: Tomato fruit contains about 2 per cent. nitrogen, 7 per cent phosphoric acid and 35 per cent. potash, while the leaves and stalks contain about 35 per cent. nitrogen, 1 per cent phosphoric acid and 45 per cent. potash. This will give you a idea of the fertilizer value of this material when it is left on the ground.

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