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**TICKETS AND INFORMATION HAROLD WILES**  
PHONE 58

**The Sunday School Lesson**

Sunday, February 22

**PLANTING A CHURCH IN A PAGAN CITY**

Golden Text—You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Cor. 6: 19-20.  
Lesson Text—Ac 18: 1, 8-11, 2 Cor 6: 14-7: 1.  
Exposition—1. Paul at Corinth Ac 18: 1, 8-11.  
From Athens, the city of culture, philosophy and politics Paul goes to Corinth, the city of commerce, architecture, wealth, luxury and notorious immorality. "The city of vice par excellence in the Roman world." Here he first met Aquila and "his wife Priscilla" who became very important members of the Church of Christ (v. 26; Rom. 16: 3, 4; 1 Cor. 16: 19; 2 Tim. 4: 19). It was apparently an insignificant matter that brought Paul in contact with them—"he was of the same trade." But God uses things just like this for the promotion of His kingdom. It would be well if we would make more of them for the same purpose. Are you a merchant? Make a point of getting hold of merchants for Christ. Are you a blacksmith? Cultivate the blacksmiths. An unrighteous edict of Claudius had driven Aquila and Priscilla out of Rome. It doubtless seemed to them a bitter thing, but God turned it to their good, to no less good than their eternal salvation (Pa. 78: 10). There are men today who think it wrong, "a lack of faith," to do manual labor or any secular work for their own support or that of their families, because God has "called them to preach." If there was ever a man about whose call to preach there could be no possible doubt, it is Paul, and yet he wrought with his hands (ch. 20: 34, 35). He got right down to

honest toil, and set a wholesome example for the church and for us (1 Cor. 9: 6-12; 2 Thes. 3: 8, 9, 1 Thes. 2: 9). We need many Pauls today, men so on fire with the gospel and love for souls that they will not wait for some one to promise them support before they will preach, but, if need be, support themselves. Paul preached, too, while he worked. To an audience of two; a small audience, but how those quiet meetings counted for eternity. Probably he got tired during the week, but every Sabbath found him at his post. Note a very expressive statement in the II V. "Paul was constrained by the word." Paul had meditated upon the Word of God until it had so gotten hold of him that he could not keep still (Jer. 20: 9; Ac 4: 20). It impelled him on. It showed him, and "empowered" him, with the thought that Jesus was the Christ, and he must tell it out. But the Jews were not willing to receive Paul's testimony. "They opposed themselves and blasphemed." The most faithful testimony will often be received in that way. That does not prove it untrue, or that it has been unwisely put. It simply shows the thoroughgoing badness of the hearts of even religious men. But Paul's testimony was not in vain after all. A large and singularly gifted church grew at Corinth. Paul in the face of all their opposition and rejection could say "I am clean." It is a great thing for any man to be able to say that. We can only say that we are "clean from the blood of all men" (Ac 20: 26), when we can say we are "clean from the blood of all men" (Ac 20: 26), when we can say as Paul does in the next verse, "For I shrink not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God." If we do not warn men, if we do not declare unto them the way of life, then the blood is upon us (Ezek. 33: 4, 8, 9). But are we indeed clean from the blood of all in our homes, in our churches, in our Sunday school classes, in our

community, in the lands beyond the seas?  
II. Call to Separation from the Old World, 2 Cor. 6: 14-7: 1.  
The Christians at Corinth were comparatively early converts. They were surrounded by unbelievers. The pagan cults from which they had been converted still had contact with them. Even the Jews who accepted Christ as their Saviour were under the city's pagan influence. This is evidenced in the corrections urged by Paul in both of his letters to the Corinthians. It was one thing to win these people to Christ and quite another to teach them the way of life which Jesus exemplified. They had much to unlearn. Their very environment threatened to wear them away from Christ. Paul draws a clear line of separation. To form an affinity with the ungodly and profane is contrary to any man's spiritual welfare. On the side of the world Paul lines up "unbelievers; unrighteousness; darkness; Bellial (evil concentrated in the person of Satan); infidel idols; unclean things; filthiness of flesh and spirit." On the other side there is righteousness, light, Christ, he that believeth in the temple of God, God as Father, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. There is only one thing a convert to Christ can do in order to successfully live the Christian life and that is to separate from sin in any form and also to refuse affinity or fellowship with sinners. This has always been God's requirement. It was so in the case of Israel. It is an obligation resting on the Christian.  
Nothing is more harmful to the Christian than to live with worldly things on their level. It alienates testimony, stifles prayer, drives the peace of God out of their hearts and frequently traps Christians in Christ-dishonoring sins.  
Nature's first line of defence against soil erosion is the vegetation which covers the earth.

**Co-Operation with A Blackjack**

By Joseph Lister Rutledge

The leaders of labor are wise enough to know that an appearance of hearty co-operation is useful in gaining public approval, and convincing the thoughtful worker that his leaders are using every friendly approach in order to find a common ground with management for the mutual good of industry and labor. It is quite true that there have been individual cases where labor leaders have been of that mind, but how widespread is it?  
You don't achieve co-operation with a torch and blackjack, so note the gentle and understanding tone of a resolution recently adopted by the UAW-CIO Executive Board. "Support the 1949 Demands."  
"Whereas for three years the corporations which control American industry have pursued their policies of price increases and profiteering which have robbed workers of every wage increase and have robbed the consumers of their purchasing power. The nation is threatening with a major depression unless the greed and profiteering of these corporations is effectively resisted and brought to an end."  
"Out of the billions of dollars which monopoly corporations have salted away out of profits during the war and postwar years, corporations operating on other people's money have diverted corporate funds to their personal enrichment. Shamelessly these managements have set up their double standards—one for the inside clique, another for the worker whose labor and lives go into producing the profits which these insiders control."  
Now let us all gather round together and discuss our problems in the same co-operative spirit, quietly, understandingly and without a hint of animus.

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