

**IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson**

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**Lesson for May 14**

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**PAUL IN THESSALONICA**

LESSON TEXT: Acts 17:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT: Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks. — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Strong, active, missionary-minded churches do not just "happen." They are the result of the preaching of a true and powerful message by a faithful and sacrificial messenger. Other factors enter in, but these are the fundamentals.

Paul's ministry at Thessalonica, which is described in Acts 17 and explained in 1 Thessalonians 2, reveals what should be preached and what kind of a preacher is needed. Perhaps some dead or unsuccessful church may learn the secret today and come to new life for Christ.

1. The Message—Christ the Saviour (Acts 17:1-4).

Paul had already met the varying lot of both persecution and acceptance, and had now come to Thessalonica, a large and important city in Macedonia, where he had a lengthy ministry and established a strong church.

What was the message which so signally succeeded in this great strategic center? Well, it was not (as some modern preachers in large cities would seem to think) a series of social, political, or literary discourses. Paul preached Christ. He reasoned with them and presented the Saviour (v. 3) as One who was—

1. Dead for our sin. These people were like us in that they needed a solution for their sin problem. There were doubtless other questions which Paul might have discussed, but he wisely went to the root of their difficulty and showed them "that Christ must needs have suffered."

Without the death of Christ there is no salvation for any man. Only through the shedding of blood can there be remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). Paul had no part in the folly of a "bloodless gospel"—as though there were any such gospel.

2. Raised for our justification. It was not enough that Jesus died, marvelous as that is in our sight. For many a man has died for his convictions, but none has risen from the dead. Christ could not be held in the grave. He arose the victorious Redeemer.

3. Declared to be the Christ. He is more than a man, more than a great leader and an earnest teacher. He is God's anointed One, Himself divine—and our Lord.

Thus Paul presented to the Jews their Messiah, "the Man of Sorrows" (Isa. 53), whose resurrection declared Him to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4), their Redeemer and Lord. Blessed results followed such preaching (v. 4).

II. The Messenger—Approved of God (1. Thess. 2:1-12). Sometime a man with a true message largely nullifies its value by the manner in which he presents it, or by his manner of life in the community.

1. He was faithful (vv. 1-6). One of the great temptations facing the one who is a preacher or teacher of God's Word is to let his fear of men cause him to adjust his message, to use a bit of flattery, to please men.

Paul was "bold in our God" (v. 2), not trying to deceive or mislead anyone (v. 3), seeking only God's approval (v. 4), not trying to make money for himself or gain standing with men by smooth words (v. 5), and not claiming a high position or authority over men (v. 6). 2. He was affectionate (vv. 7-9). How often those who are faithful and bold in preaching the truth ruin the effect of their work by being harsh and unkind. Here is a lesson many of us need to learn.

To be gentle (v. 7) a man must be strong. The cardinal quality of a strong Christian should be that he is a gentleman, or she a gentlewoman. If not, there is not real strength in the life.

Paul gave not only a message, he gave himself—his very soul (v. 8). The people to whom he ministered were "dear" to him. The pastor who looks down at his congregation with hardness, and perhaps hatred for some individual, needs to read this passage and find Paul's secret of success.

He labored with his hands to support himself (v. 9), lest anyone think he was a burden to them. Let no one think that this means that a preacher is not worthy of support. Christ Himself declares that the laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7). But it does show Paul's fine spirit of devotion and sacrifice.

3. He was unblamable (vv. 10-12). Holy in his life before God, Paul was ready to live righteously before men, and thus to stand unblamable before them and before the Lord. This indeed is a life worth in the sight of God (v. 12).

In other words, the preacher was able to say to his listeners, "My life shows you what I mean by my preaching." The true preacher of the gospel will never be satisfied to be a signpost, pointing a way in which he does not walk.

**"As We See It"**

(By J. A. Strang)

WE WOULDN'T be very good Canadians if we weren't proud of our own Canadian army. It is the only volunteer army in the world today and it might be a good policy to state that fact more often. The men comprising our army overseas joined up voluntarily and as we all know are the pick of the nation. They are highly thought of over in England and we all know they will be giving a good account of themselves any day now. Many of them have already seen service in Sicily and Italy. Many of them have been killed in action and a great many others have been wounded—many of the wounded have already been returned to Canada. Yes, we here at home, have good reason to be proud of our Canadian army. You may not have a son or daughter in that army but your neighbor has. They still need equipment in order to carry on to the best advantage and equipment still costs money. It takes a lot of money to provide equipment of so many kinds for that Canadian army. This is where we step into the picture. We are the ones that are asked to lend that money to our Government in order that those lads over there will not lack for anything needed. The Sixth Victory Loan is under way right now. We may not all be able to purchase large amounts of bonds but we can all buy just as many as possible. We mentioned that we were proud of our Canadian army. Suppose we see to it, that that same Canadian army can be as proud of us when we again go over the top in this Sixth Victory Loan. We still have a great deal to be thankful for here at home. Our nights are not disturbed by air raids and we still get plenty to eat. We could still do without many luxuries that we still enjoy without suffering very much from so doing. Suppose we all decide to buy all the bonds that we possibly can and then when we have bought them suppose we decide to hang on to them for the duration. They may come in handy when the war is over.

AS WE WRITE these lines we are still looking for that warm spring shower that never does, come as early as we would like it to. The best spring day to date was Wednesday of last week, and it was remarkable the way the wheat seemed to change color in a few hours that day. It was the first day that the furnace was let go out and we never missed it. We noticed a few working on the land that day and it seemed to be working nicely. We did our first spring planting that day also. And now we have green onions to look forward to and spinach also. Last spring we had trouble with our hot bed plants because there wasn't enough sunshine to get them to grow properly. However, this year there is plenty of sunshine and they seem to grow nicely. If you have never done any gardening you have very little idea of all the fun and satisfaction that you have missed.

WHEN WE hear of wounded men whom we know, being returned



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from overseas it seems to bring the war right home to us doesn't it. The soldier that we have in mind was wounded in Sicily. It was a hip wound and after spending two months in the hospital, gangrene set in and it was decided to amputate the leg. He had suffered a great deal and he says that the moment the leg was amputated he felt like a new man. He was sent to England and spent several months in the Canadian hospital there and then was returned to Canada, coming over on the Lady Nelson which arrived at an Eastern Port on the 15th of this month. Coming home on the boat he developed malaria. Tough luck seemed to follow him alright. He was a plumber by trade and was a good one at that. His home is in Owen Sound; however, we understand that he will be in the London hospital for some time. We knew this lad as a youngster and it does seem tough luck for him. Our own son visited him quite often in the hospital in England and his visits were appreciated alright. He always thanked him for visiting him. There isn't much to find fault with is there when a lad who had given a leg for his country still humbly thanks a visitor for dropping in to see him? And still some of us here at home feel awfully sorry for ourselves and wonder if this war is never going to be over. We don't know how lucky we are.

**SGT. DAVIDSON WEDS**

The Presbyterian Parsonage was the scene of a quiet wedding ceremony when Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs. and the late Hazelton Hale of Georgetown became the bride of Sgt. W. Davidson of the R.C.A.F. Malton, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Davidson. Attending the couple were Mrs. Robert Rennie and Chas Hill of Georgetown.

**MONDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB SEND SHIPMENT**

The Monday Night Knitting Club have completed another shipment of knitted children's garments for British War Victims, and have sent it to Toronto to be included in the Tamblin Drug Store shipment.

The girls have sent: 14 children's sweaters, for children three to twelve years old; 1 boy's knitted suit; pair of socks. Also included is a quilt.

The Knitting Club has filled two Ditty Bags and given them to the local branch of the Navy League.

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**ADDRESSES ON THE MOVE ...**

WHEN a man is wounded in action or seriously ill, he is rushed through field and base hospitals with all possible speed, to the place where most effective treatment can be given. Because of this rapid movement, his mail may not "catch up" for some time, yet, if ever he longed for a letter from home, it is at such a time.

To offset possible delays, a new "Short-Cut" mail service has been put into effect. A Priority Casualty Card is filled in and rushed by Air Mail to his friends or relatives with instructions to add the words "In Hospital" to the unit address they usually use.

Letters mailed from Canada bearing the words "In Hospital" are routed direct to the records office in the United Kingdom or the Central Mediterranean Force, as the case may be. They are given preference in transport, whether sent by Air Mail or regular mail. Thus they will reach the addressee faster than ever before.

It is inevitable that in tracing men who have been moved, or wounded, some delays occur. But you can rest assured everything that can mean speedier deliveries of letters to your men is being well and thoroughly done—and will be done.

When you get a Priority Casualty Card be sure the words "In Hospital" are added to the regular unit address when writing overseas.

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