

The Quality Tea
"SALADA"
 ORANGE PEKOE

FOR SATISFACTION
 CALL 274 r 5
 FOR THAT TRUCKING JOB
 OR FOR YOUR WINTER WOOD
Wilson's Haulage

It's a Date . .

THE TIME — every Saturday night
 THE PLACE — Georgetown Arena's lovely
 "ROSE ROOM"
 THE PRICE — 50c per person
 Modern and old tyme dancing with
MODERN AIRES ORCHESTRA
 "sweet and swing"

Sunday School Lesson

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
 PAUL IN ATHENS AND CORINTH

by Rev. R. C. Todd
 LESSON . . . Acts 17:22-36; 18; 1-4;
 Cor. 1; 22-25

It is quite possible for the gospel of Christ to be presented in such a way that its relevance to man's life is not clear. But it was typical of Paul that he never presented the gospel thus; he always couched it in terms that had reference to the situation and the environment in which he found himself. Speaking as he did to people in many different centres, always what he had to say was said with reference to their situation and outlook on life. Just as in last week's lesson we saw him emphasizing the coming of God's Kingdom over against the glory of the Roman Empire in Thessalonica, so this week, as we see him in Athens and Corinth, the gospel he preaches is the Word of God to people in a particular situation, and its relevance to that particular situation is quite clear.

Athens had been for centuries the intellectual centre of the world, but the Athens of Plato, Socrates and Aristotle had declined. The Areopagus which met on Mar's Hill had degenerated into a second-rate debating society, where philosophical and religious subjects were dealt with superficially, frivolously and with an air of complete detachment from life. This intellectual crowd considered themselves religious; indeed as the Revised Version puts it, Paul called them "very religious." But the Authorized Version has him call them "too superstitious." The two usually go together. Religion that is agnostic, based on the worship of an "unknown God" behind Nature, can only be superstition and idolatry. Secular history bears witness to the decline of philosophy in Athens, and the picture which Acts 17 gives of a company of people who indulged in intellectual curiosity, always hoping to hear something new, but trusting to human reason alone to prove the truth of it, is quite true. They took

themselves for thinkers, when they were not thinking very deeply or very seriously, and with no moral seriousness. They considered themselves religious, when in fact they were only superstitious and idolatrous. Such a crowd needed to be awakened to the seriousness of life.

The student of this lesson would be well advised to read more of the context than the lesson text supplies. In order to escape the false conclusion that Paul appealed to these intellectual dabblers solely on the basis of reason and intellect. He did not reason with them as one philosopher with another. He told them that they were being very ignorant and superstitious about an "unknown god"; that the god whom they worshipped in ignorance had fully revealed himself in Jesus and they needed to be in ignorance no longer. They are behind the times. And this God will judge the world according to the righteous standards of His full revelation. All men everywhere, therefore, are called to repent. They may be sure that judgment has come, because God raised this Jesus from the dead. Of course, Paul was unable to prove to the satisfaction of mere human reason, that this gospel was true. Some did believe, but the majority mocked at the idea of resurrection. He was thought a "fool" by these wise men who met to discuss their vague theories about the universe. But he could only say what he was commissioned to say, and hope that some would be awakened to faith. Corinth was a difficult place in which to preach the gospel. It was a seaport and the most important commercial and political centre of Greece. Cosmopolitan in nature, vice and luxury abounded; wealth and poverty existed side by side in extremes. Standards were quite materialistic, and there was a love of luxury and a preoccupation with business and politics. From the passage in 1 Corinthians which is part of our lesson text it is quite clear that Paul preached here, salvation through Christ in his atonement alone — the cross which is "a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks." It might well be asked, what meaning could 'reconciliation', 'atone-

ment', 'salvation through Christ alone', have to that world of commerce and politics of yesterday, any more than it has to our busy world of commerce and politics? What was the relevance to the situation then, and what is the relevance to the situation today?

Well, Corinth was a spectacular example of what becomes of society when it is thus preoccupied, when it is left to its own human resources and its worldly and carnal standards. Luxury, poverty, vice, the suffering of the masses and the hardness of the wealthy and the powerful — it was all there in Corinth. These things, Paul declared to be the result of sin; sinners cannot save themselves; salvation can come only from a divine source, and a divine redemption alone will suffice. The atonement of Jesus Christ provides a way of reconciliation with God; a "way" of salvation, in fact the only "way."

What was true of the situations in Athens and Corinth in large measure is true of our modern society. The outlook on life which the majority of people have, even the so-called "educated," is essentially frivolous and superficial. They are agnostic, acknowledging some vague sort of deity behind the universe, even though it cannot be proven rationally and scientifically. They attend churches in fits and starts, but have no real Christian faith. And the result is a sort of nature worship, a superstitious idolatry, and a lack of moral seriousness as well as intellectual depth and honesty. The increase of lawlessness and immorality in our time, the cynicism and materialism of modern civilization, the existence side by side of wealth and poverty, the present day craving for luxury and the power which money supplies, the preoccupation with politics and business — these are characteristics of our age which strikingly resemble those of Corinth in Paul's time. But all our problems, from whence do they arise? Do they not arise from our sin before God? And to solve them must not man be reconciled to God? When one thinks of the vast political, educational, economic and scientific efforts which are being put forth to bring order out of the chaos of our world, there is deep pathos in the fact that none of these efforts can succeed so long as man remains in sin. Sinners cannot save themselves from the natural consequences of their sin. Nothing can rectify the ills of the world which does not take into account the radical nature of sin, and the fact that man, unreconciled to God, is powerless to defeat it.

The Christian Church is not alone in seeing the predicament. There is consternation in many quarters today over the trend toward despair and ruin from which mankind is unable to extricate itself. But the Church alone knows what can be done, and that is to witness to the power of Jesus Christ from whose hand alone can help come — the power which alone can save mankind from spiritual mental and physical ruin. That does not mean that the results will be astounding, or that the world will be saved from further calamity and war. This witness will cause some to believe, but the majority will mock out of their shallow and superficial attitude to life. Upon these judgment will come. But the Church will have borne its witness that there is no other power under heaven whereby men are saved, but the power of the crucified, resurrected, and ever-living Christ, and that is all it is commissioned to do. And when the Church is true to its commission the future can be left confidentially in the hands of God.

JEAN CHESTER, ERNEST WEST, WIN HALTON JUNIOR FARMERS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Six Halton Junior Farmers competed in the Public Speaking Competition staged in the Milton High School auditorium on Friday, November 8th. President Geo. S. Atkins of the Halton Junior Farmers was in charge of the evening's programme, and a delightful programme it proved to be. Norval Juniors were represented by Jean Chester and John Lyons; Acton Juniors by Donald Switzer and Ernest West; Milton by Cedric Harrop; and Palermo by Erla Wendover. In addition to the six addresses there were two entries in the amateur entertainment, namely Miss Blanche McKinnon, soprano soloist, representing Acton Juniors and a six-piece orchestra from the Milton Juniors.

The Judges were Mrs. R. S. Adams, Miss E. E. Carson, and Geo. E. Elliott, all of Milton, whose decision in public speaking went to Jean Chester of Norval in the girls' section, and Ernest West of Acton in the boys' section.

In the amateur entertainment Miss Blanche McKinnon was the winner. These three young people will represent Halton Juniors at the District Competition to be held in the Water-down High School next week.



Bridging the Gap

Unavoidable delays in settling an estate, due to estate taxation and the routine of probate, frequently leave a family with little available cash for current living expenses.

To bridge this gap, an inexpensive life insurance policy will provide money for current living expenses, and you may be certain that it will be immediately available.

For further information, consult

HOWARD GRAFF
 Charles Street - Phone 317-J
GEORGETOWN, ONT.

OUTSTANDING IN RETURNS TO POLICYHOLDERS

ROSEDALE FLORAL CUT FLOWERS
 Wedding and Funeral Design Work
PHONE 283j
 Market St. We Deliver

Fine Diamonds
 DRESSER SETS
 COMPACTS
 WATCHES — PENS
L. A. KEULEMAN JEWELER
 Phone 456 - Brampton

WHITMEE TAXI
PHONE—241

Memories
 to honour a lifetime for lifetimes to come.
 — Moderately Priced —
Monuments & Markers
 A card or letter will bring our service to your door.
OAKVILLE MONUMENT WORKS
 29 Colborne St., Oakville (on Highway)



"RED HEAD DUCKS" by T. M. Shortt, Ornithologist.
 The above illustration shows red head ducks in their natural Canadian habitat.



THE HUNTER—a Conservationist
 The hunter, too, becomes a conservationist if he adheres rigidly to bag limits, kills destructive animals and birds whenever possible and respects the forest laws regarding camp fires, etc.

Over the cool, sun streaked marsh — a breath-taking whirr-r-r . . . heralds their coming. "RED HEADS", twin symbols of brilliance and grace, sweep overhead — are gone. But conservation measures will ensure their return, year after year, in increasing numbers.
 *Sanctuaries have been established, many of them being marshy lakes which restore former breeding and resting places. . . By assisting the agencies whose efforts are directed towards conservation everyone of us can have a part in the preservation of Canada's water-fowl."

*An excerpt from "CONSERVATION and CANADA'S MIGRATORY WATER-FOWL" by J. E. Seville Jr., one in a series of pamphlets published by The Carling Conservation Club.

CARLING'S
 THE CARLING BREWERIES LIMITED

FOR ALL YOUR
 BAKING, INSIST ON

Robin Hood Flour

choice of 4 out of 5 women who win prizes for home baking

