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### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS

LESSON: Acts 2:27-47; Eph. 4:1-6

by Rev. R. C. Todd

In last week's lesson we spoke of the Church as the Fellowship of Believers established through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christian experience is thus a corporate experience. The Christian Church stands in the succession of the Hebrew "congregation". In Galatians, Paul calls the Church "the Israel of God." But between the Hebrew "congregation" and the Christian Church there lies a great event, the work and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Church is based squarely upon the disciples' faith in the Resurrection. Jesus was alive for them. From the realization of His presence through the Holy Spirit, came a sense of power. "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit he has poured out this which you see and hear. (Acts 2:33) The Church is an elect group "called out" of a crooked world, to witness to Jesus Christ; called out for a saving mission. The conditions for entrance to the Church are in our text said to be repentance and baptism, a sincere sorrow for sins committed, and an earnest desire for God's pardon, along with a decisive commitment to the God of Grace in the living Saviour. Jesus the Messiah, was the Head of the Church, and the Church as a Messianic community was the nucleus of a converted and regenerated Israel.

The extent of the Church is suggested in Acts 2:39: "the promise is to you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The Church as the "Communion of Saints" reaches back into the past and forward into the future. And this Church exists in an eternal present. Our fathers, ourselves and our children, born and unborn, constitute the Communion of Saints. The Church also is as broad as the world. It includes "all that are afar off,"—believers in every continent,—believers in the East, the West, the North and the South. This we may call the "Catholicity" of the Church.

Note that in chap. 2, vs. 42, the words: "and they continued stand-



**OLD AND NEW**—The railway ticket of 100 years ago was very small compared with the modern sample which A. A. Gardner, left, general passenger traffic manager, Canadian National Railways, is shown presenting to Alex Leslie, president of the Kwanis Club of St. George at Montreal. The present-day ticket to cover a trip on the "Washingtonian" from Montreal to Florida is over a yard and a quarter long, while a facsimile of the metal token used in 1847 is scarcely larger than a fifty-cent piece.

fastly in the apostles' doctrine, and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers." The Church keeps to the Word of God declared by the first Apostles and abides in the fellowship of that Word. This we may call the "Apostolicity" of the Church.

In Chap. 2, vs. 40 Peter says to the inquiring people: "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." At one and the same time the members of the Christian Church must be saved from—and must save a corrupt society. They are called into fellowship for a saving mission; they are called to witness to a Saviour; they are called to be a saving minority in a world that badly needs saving. Take the declaration in the First Epistle of Peter: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." The Church's mission is to save the world by witnessing to the righteousness, the love, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church and her members are not called to witness to their "own" righteousness—they make a mistake if they think of themselves as righteous. They are called to witness to the righteous-

ness of Jesus Christ. Self-righteousness is at all times to be abhorred. Those who are in the Church are imperfect, fallen short of the glory of God. But the Church does stand as a symbol of righteousness and perfection in a wicked and corrupt generation. The Church bears witness to the Christ whose righteousness is Absolute, and to the God, whose rule is supreme. And the perfect Kingdom of which the Church speaks, judges the compromises, the expedients and the opportunisms of our world. This we may call the "Holiness of the Church."

Paul, however, calls upon the members of the Church to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called;" that is, that they be worthy witnesses of the perfect righteousness and love to which they are called in the Church to bear witness. (Eph. 4:1). The marks of a life worthy of this calling he outlines; (a) lowliness and meekness. Humility is the only attitude befitting "sinners" saved by the grace of God. (b) Patience. (c) Forbearing one another in love, which Weymouth translates, "bearing with one another lovingly." What a necessity this quality is wherever human beings come into social contact with one another! How necessary it is in a world of imperfection, tension, and varying degrees of intellectual, moral and spiritual awareness! (d) Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. If a believer possesses the first three qualities mentioned, there is every likelihood that he will possess this one. He will avoid offering petty criticisms, he will be humble, he will not hold grudges, he will forgive. He will do everything to maintain peaceful unity that his Christian conscience will allow him to do.

There is one Church and one Head of the Church. (Eph. 4:4) And the oneness of that Church is established by the one Head, Jesus Christ. Christians are bound together by a common fellowship with Jesus Christ, and not by uniformity of ideas and opinions. Christians are united because each draws close in comradeship to Christ. All stay within the fellowship so long as they remain in fellowship with Christ. This we may call the "Oneness" of the Church. That oneness is established by the Word of God, the living Christ who is the Head. The unity of the Church or its oneness is destroyed by departing from fellowship with Christ. Departure from fellowship with Christ creates schism and disunity within the Church. This oneness and unity is something to be manifested practically. And the Church of today must give practical expression to her essential oneness in Christ as she witnesses to Christ, if the world is to be saved. An attempt to express his oneness will be made in a practical way in August, 1948, when the World Council of Churches is inaugurated at Amsterdam. The Church then, may be called a fellowship of Christian believers, One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

### SHORT STORY

#### The Other Woman

By MARION BOUCHER

WHEN the alarm rang at seven in the grey morning, Henry reached out quickly and shut it off before it awakened Isabel. Quietly Henry got up and groped his way to the bathroom.

It was the usual beginning of his day. But on this particular morning he felt a little restlessness. He thought of Isabel still lying asleep, her dark hair spread out on the pillow, her red mouth curved in a peaceful smile. When they were first married she used to get up and prepare breakfast for him. Now that the children were old enough to fend for themselves he had to make his own coffee and toast as best he could before hurrying down to the store.

He couldn't say just when it had happened but sometime during the 10 years of their married life, Isabel had changed from a devoted young bride to a spoiled wife who took her husband very much for granted. It was probably just as much his fault as hers. He was so mild and easy-going that it seemed natural for people to impose on him. Even at his own table, the children seemed to league with Isabel against him.

Look at Morley Campbell and his wife now! Morley was a salesman in the department store where Henry worked as a window dresser.

He had been married a good many years, but his wife always was fussing over him. Henry thought of Morley a little enviously and wondered if he dared ask him the secret of his marital bliss.

The opportunity presented itself that very day when they happened to be lunching together. A little finally, Henry broached the subject:

"Er . . . uh . . . I've noticed how your wife always makes a fuss over you. Morley, how do you do it—hold her interest. I mean?"

"Oh, I keep her guessing. You know, let her feel that you still find other women attractive. That's the way to treat 'em, Henry, old man."

AT SUPPER that night he started his campaign. Isabel was talking about a new way she wanted to have her hair done.

"I think that's the way—Linda wears her hair and it certainly looks smart," Henry commented.

Isabel looked up in surprise. "Linda? Who is she?"

"One of the girls at the store—very attractive. She always wears the smartest clothes."

"Really, Henry, I didn't know you were so observant." Isabel was a little piqued but she looked at her husband with new interest.

After that hardly a day went by that Henry did not mention Linda and his casual remarks were not lost on Isabel. Though she would not have admitted it, she was a little envious and more than a little curious. Never before had her husband appeared interested in another woman.

So she sat up and took notice of her meek husband as she hadn't done for years. She put herself out to be amusing and helpful. When he



Even at the table, the children seemed in league against him.

came home at night there was always a grand dinner, with his favorite dishes carefully prepared.

WHEN he had to work late one evening, he made it a point to get his wife to know that Linda had been there too. The next morning Isabel actually hopped out of bed when the alarm rang, got his breakfast ready and kissed him goodbye.

He was busy changing a display that afternoon when he looked up to see Isabel coming down the aisle.

Isabel chattered away for a while and finally asked, "By the way, is that girl, Linda, around? You've been talking so much about her lately that I'd like to meet my glamorous rival."

Henry flushed guiltily. "Matter of fact she isn't here today," he stammered. "She has a cold and couldn't come to work."

"Oh, that's too bad," Isabel sounded genuinely disappointed. "Will you be home early, Henry? I was able to get a steak for dinner."

Henry looked after her departing figure and breathed a sigh of relief. He had got out of that situation neatly. He congratulated himself, but he hoped Isabel wouldn't come and ask for Linda again.

It would never do, he thought, to let Isabel discover that Linda's "colds" were a very beautiful but very lifelike mannequin in the store window. Released by WNU Features.



## HANDS AT WORK...

### LEARNING ELECTRONICS

ONTARIO'S products are desired and purchased by people all over the world, and the capacity to produce such goods largely determines the economic welfare of every man, woman and child within her borders. Because the sale of every article produced in Ontario brings valuable dollars into this Province, we are all more assured of job security . . . and we and our children can have more of the better things in life. But to produce such goods in sufficient quantities, skilled labour is vital. That is why every single one of us should be glad that war veterans are constantly being trained to provide the skilled hands so needed by Ontario industry. They receive ON THE JOB training under expert instructors in our Ontario factories.

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Stanley Barlow, 21, and S. R. Inkster, 26, both of Toronto, and both former members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, are typical of the hundreds of veterans who have been trained in schools and ON-THE-JOB.

Here they check the measurements and performance characteristics of an electronic control device for control of motor speeds. This instrument was designed and constructed by these two veterans under supervision of an electronics expert.



### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the estate of Ruby Hazell Kondall, late of the Township of Esqueping, in the County of Haldimand, deceased, who died on or about the 26th day of December, 1947, are required to file particulars of the same with undersigned on or before the 26th day of February, 1948, after which date the estate will be distributed without regard to the claims of which no notice has been received.

DATED at Toronto this 20th day of January, 1948.

Kilmer, Rumball, Gordon, Beatty, and Dean  
10 Adelaide Street East,  
Toronto, Ontario  
Solicitors for the Executor,  
E. G. Percy Dean