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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by Rev. R. C. Todd

THE WORLD MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

—LESSON: Rom. 10: 8-16; Eph. 3: 8-12

The Church, as we said last week, is the nucleus of a converted and regenerated Israel, called or elected to a saving mission in the world. She is what Paul calls in Eph. 2: 9, 10, "the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God . . . to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." The Church is the work of Christ; His Body. The Church is the Fruit of the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. It is one, holy and catholic, because its life is Christ Himself. It is the sphere of His indwelling and His Rule. The Church has no meaning apart from Christ and Christ Himself, apart from the Church, would be only an idea or ideal, not a Saviour. For the Church whose life is Christ, like her Saviour and Head, has a saving mission. "As the Father hath sent me, so send I You."

The Church's calling and election to be "an elect nation, a royal priesthood," like the election of Israel, does not make her the company of God's favourites. The Church is not called to be a "superior race," but she is called to fulfill God's purpose which is redemptive, called to witness to the saving grace of God in Christ. There is an infinite distance between those who are in Christ, and those who are not. The difference lies not at all in the moral superiority of the one to the other. It lies in the fact that some by the grace of God have received by faith the principle of the new life, that in spite of their sins, they belong to the order of redemption, they are actually being newly created by the Spirit of God. All boasting of superiority is excluded here. This is salvation by the "word of faith," not by works. This is the mystery of the divine calling and election. And it is a calling to "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus" (Rom. 8: 9) a calling to service and to suffering for the sake of Christ. It is a calling to the cause of Christ.

Salvation is for all who call upon the Lord in faith. Paul has pointed out in Rom. 10: 1 that he has a great longing that his own people may be saved. They make the mistake of seeking to establish their own righteousness, whereas one is saved not by keeping the law, but by faith. It is not by ascending into heaven or by descending into the depths that they are to appropriate Christ's benefits, but by receiving the word of faith which is near. And "who-ever believeth in him shall not be ashamed" (Rom. 10: 11). "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (vs. 13) Furthermore this salvation recognizes no racial or national boundaries: "there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord who is over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (vs. 12). The saving mission to which the Church is called is a mission to the whole world, to every race and nation under the sun.

Paul's argument in Rom. 10: 14-15 is sound. How are people to believe in a Saviour of whom they have never heard, and how are they to hear without a preacher? We need "preachers"; it is the office of the Church to furnish them.

The Church is the channel through which the saving word of faith has come to us, because the Church confessed. We would not have heard the gospel if there had been no church. We are all products of its saving mission. In maintaining its peace and welfare we are ensuring the proclamation of the gospel now and in the future. The Church's mission is to take the gospel into every nook and cranny of our own land and other lands. We want to see our world characterized by high moral standards and sound religion. We cannot expect this situation to exist if the Christian gospel is not proclaimed, and the world is not kept in touch with the Christian faith which is the nourisher of the virtues we de-

Insurance and Accounting Office Opened

Mr. Howard Graff and Mrs. Cecil Brown have opened a joint insurance and accounting office in town. The business will be operated from a location on Mill Street where Dr. Nixon had his office years ago, and which was later used as a refreshment booth by the late Norman Reid.

Mr. Graff has been a life insurance salesman for the North American Life Insurance Company for eight years and has qualified for the Production Club with that company each year. Last year he had the highest sales in the Ontario Branch. Two years ago he moved with his wife from Antion to Georgetown and they recently moved into their new home on the Pines on Charles Street. He is a native of North Bay. Until 1933, he carried on a general insurance business in Antion and is having his licence renewed to carry on a similar business here.

Mrs. Brown, a native of Kapuskasing, will conduct an accounting and auditing business and will serve as an income tax consultant. She has had several years experience at office work, being in charge of a set of books for the Evening Telegram when she worked in Toronto. Her husband is employed with the B. F. Murfin Sheet Metal Works and they have a small daughter, Judy.

The better world of our dreams must have its spiritual foundation in a profound belief in the unity and brotherhood of believers in Christ of every race and Nation.

All the world, then, is the Church's parish, and in its parish the Church must preach the gospel. For this work the Church calls upon every one of her members to confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus Christ. Every member is called to "walk worthy of his vocation." For this work the Church especially needs young men and women who, led by the Spirit of God, will give themselves to full time service in the Church, in their own land or overseas. Perhaps there is one who reads these words who hears the call to service. How can you determine whether it is a genuine call? Do you earnestly seek to know and do God's will? Are you desirous of telling the word to others? Do you feel that the world needs the Christian Gospel and that you have at least one talent for the work? If you can answer these questions in the affirmative, it may be that God is calling you to be a "minister" of the "Word."

One thing more. Since the Church is called to a mission by God, God's judgment is greater upon the Church than upon others. Israel refused the call of God. God's judgment upon Israel was more severe than upon any other nation. And whenever the Church has refused the call of God disaster has fallen upon her — the blotting out of Christianity under the sword of Islam, the great and tragic schism at the time of the Reformation, the disaster that overwhelmed the Church in Russia, are signs of the judgment of God upon the Church. Similarly, God's judgment is greater upon individuals who are called and elected to preach the Word, than upon those who are not called. Today, unless the Church is true to her calling to a world mission in far-away lands and in nearby cities, she is judged by God and found wanting.

Every member of the Church is called to this mission. For most members of the Church their part consists in "the personal witness of the Christian," here at home, which we consider next week. And in addition to this, their gifts of money to "missions." This "giving" is important, for "how shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Rom. 10: 15). There is judgment too upon those whose calling is to confess the Lord Jesus by giving to "missions."

Two pictures of the explosion damage at the Legion Hall have been drawing attention in the Herald window this week. The pictures were taken by a local photographer, Albert Simson.

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