



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE PERSONAL WITNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN

by Rev. R. C. Todd

LESSON: Acts 8:26 - 39

In a way, this week's lesson is a continuation of last week's. "The World Mission of the Church". In that lesson we noted that the Church of Christ is called to a saving mission throughout the world. She performs that mission in witnessing to Jesus Christ her Saviour and Lord. The Church, however, is composed of individual Christians, whose duty it is to give a personal witness. And it is with this personal witness that this week's lesson is concerned.

A little consideration will convince us of the importance of the personal witness. Whether it be the commending of a cause, the teaching of a lesson, the kindling of an idea, the selling of an article, the communication of an enthusiasm, when two or more individuals come together there is an interplay of personalities and spirits. One personality is influenced by another, though often the influence is not immediately apparent. Undoubtedly the man or the woman who is a genuine Christian, and who is truly "filled with the Holy Spirit," will bring a mighty Christian influence to bear upon the persons with whom he associates in the daily round and common task. His very personality witnesses to the Christ who is in him. It is every Christian's responsibility to disseminate the Spirit of God through the situation in which he lives. It is probably true that God reveals himself in nature. But His reconciling Word is revealed only in the personal witness of the Christian. Every Christian represents God's opportunity to reveal His saving grace.

One disciple wins another. In the expansion of Christianity yesterday this fact holds true. Philip explains a passage of Scripture to an Ethiopian returning from Jerusalem to his home land in such a manner as to bring God's saving Word to light in the man's understanding. In the expansion of Christianity today this fact holds true. The light of the gospel shines through a human medium and we

see and hear.

Some important matters concerning this personal witness are brought to light in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, which is the text for this lesson.

1. It is to be noted that the Holy Spirit plays a very important role. It is the Spirit who prompts Philip to approach the Ethiopian in the first place. Had he not been the possessor of the Spirit, Philip would probably never have spoken to him. It is the Holy Spirit using Philip as His medium who interprets the Scripture passage. The Ethiopian is ready, so that it testified to Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who prompts Philip to tell the story of how Jesus was the Son of God. He was crucified for human sin, and on the third day rose from the dead, that men might be reconciled to God. It is the Spirit who moves and prompts this personal witness of the Christian, and who interprets the Scriptures to the inquiring mind.

2. It is to be further noted that Philip possessed of the Holy Spirit, pressed the Ethiopian to make a decision and to commit himself to Christ. The Ethiopian is baptized following his profession of faith, and by that act received into the Christian Church as a professing Christian. (Acts 8:36-38). The object of the personal witness must be to gain disciples and to "add to the Church such as are saved."

3. Finally, it is to be observed that Philip did not argue with the Ethiopian about interpretation of the Scriptures. He simply interpreted. He simply told the historical facts about Jesus Christ and probably about his own experience of Christ. A witness does not argue a case; a witness does not give opinions—his own or anyone else's; he simply states the facts as he knows them. Arguments or the stating of opinions by a witness either in a law court or in the matter of the Christian witness does not constitute a testimony.

Christians must remember that in testifying to Jesus Christ, they are testifying to facts, not opinions, or fancies. They are not required to argue. The facts speak for themselves, and after that it is purely a matter of "he that believeth shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned."

It is when individuals are led to

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NASSAGAWEYA BUSY BEES MEETING

Fourteen members, one guest and five children attended the February meeting of the Busy Bees Women's Institute held at the home of Mrs. Oscar Locker. The president, Mrs. Alf Allen, was in the chair and the meeting opened with the Ode and prayer. A Valentine verse served for roll call. The financial statement given by Mrs. Stephen Cox showed a bit made from progressive ecche parties.

Mrs. Stan Robinson gave the Good Cheer report. An earlier motion that only members and their families receive fruit is to be adhered to. A \$5.00 donation was made to the W.I. Scholarship Fund and a dance was planned for the Save the Children Fund. Correspondence concerning the Hospital for Sick Children and the Housing Contest was laid aside until the next meeting.

Mrs. C. E. Davenport, district director, brought forth a discussion on whether the district should be divided or not. An enjoyable lunch served by the hostess ended a pleasant afternoon. Mrs. William Allison offered her home for the March meeting.

DE KALB WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Winners in the De Kalb Hybrid Corn contest for Halton County have been announced, and winners, with their yields, are as follows:

Stanley E. Jay, Campbellville	84.09
Fred Ruddell, Georgetown	78.40
M. J. Brown, Norval	71.55
John Ruddell, Georgetown	69.74
Eric McArthur, Campbellville	66.75
Frank Robertson, Milton	62.88
Lykle De Vries, Georgetown	58.40

FREEDOM isn't FREE!

Freedom, like anything worth having, carries a price tag. We can't enjoy it without accepting its responsibilities.

There's freedom of speech — and we have to accept the responsibility for what we say.

There's freedom to worship as we please — and the responsibility is ours to see that others aren't persecuted, either.

There are lots of freedoms, and they all have their responsibilities.

The freedom to use whiskey for instance.

That carries a three-fold responsibility: to ourselves, to our families and to our communities.

As the House of Seagram has so often said, it is to drink moderately or not at all!



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THE HOUSE OF SEAGRAM

Christ by the personal witness of the Christian, that reforms in economic and political life may be instituted, and finally sustained. Laws to ensure better homes, adequate work and opportunities for all, require character for their initiation and maintenance. Laws must be made, put in force, and obeyed by people with moral and spiritual conviction. A changed world is a derivative of changed men and women. The walls of the city go up as each one of us builds his part of the wall. Each of us helps and is helped in the building of that part by a witness to the God of all Grace in Jesus Christ which involves the commitment of our whole being. He who thus witnesses and wins others to Christ is accomplishing a work of vast significance in our contemporary life.

The quality of our collective life, as a community, as a nation, or as a community of nations, is determined by the quality of our individual lives. The collective life is made just a bit more selfish and brutal if I am selfish and brutal. One by one we make our impact upon life, helping to give it a quality. Your faithfulness and mine, your honesty and mine, your witness to Christ and mine, both by word and by deed, your interpretation of the Scriptures and mine — these are all threads woven into the garment of the world's life.

If you who read are a Christian, how are you witnessing to Christ in the various relationships of your life today, say as an employer, a state official, a consumer? How are you witnessing to Christ with regard to honesty and intelligence in the use of your franchise? And how are you witnessing to Christ with regard to the support of his church with your attendance, your talent, your time, and your wealth? If you are rightly ashamed of the quality of your Christian witness, pray God for His Holy Spirit. He will give Him to you.

STONE SCHOOL FARM FORUM ENTERTAINS

There was an enjoyable ecche at the Stone School this week in aid of the "Save the Children Fund" and members of the Farm Forum entertained at a ecche. There were ten tables and all contributed most generously to this good cause. The entertainment committee was in the capable hands of Mrs. A. C. Patterson and Miss Rowena Stull and the prizes were numerous. Mrs. George Somerville of Acton won the ladies' first prize, and Miss Redmond won the cut for consolation over Miss Wilma Stull, and Mrs. J. Ellerby had the highest number of lone hands. The first prize for the men was won by Mr. A. C. Patterson and Klaus Brunger got the consolation; the highest in the lone hands went to K. O. Lindsay who won out in a five-way cut. A generous lunch was served by the ladies of this friendly little community Forum.

Some of us pay no attention to sin until we start paying higher taxes.

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