Sunday School Lesson

September 2. Lesson X.—Paul in Thessalonica.—Acts 17: 1-12. Golden Text—The entrance of thy words giveth light.—Psalm 119: 130.

ANALYSIS

I. A NEW CHURCH COMMUNITY, 1-4.
II. THE INEVITABLE ATTACKS, 5-9.
III. OFF TO BEREA, 10-12.

INTRODUCTION—The church at Thessalonica is one of great interest, since it is quite likely that Christian literature began with the letters which Paul wrote to this community of suffering believers. This was about the middle of the first century, at a time when Paul had come to Corinth, and was so distressed about the affairs of the little band which he had left behind, that he dispatched Timothy with a letter, in which he tells them of his great love for them, of his anxiety; and of his hope that they will remain steadfast. It was out of such circumstances as these that the earliest of the letters of the New Testament arose.

I. A NEW CHURCH COMMUNITY, 1-4.

V. 1. After traveling for thirty-three miles along the great Roman road, called the Via Egnatia, Paul arrives at Amphipolis, where he probably rested overnight, leaving next morning for Apollonia, another journey of thirty miles. After another thirty-seven miles he comes to Thessalonica, where he makes a longer stay. It would seem as if this distance represented the average for a day's journey, no small feat in the exercise of walking. From the remark that there was a synagogue of the Jews at Thessalonic we may conclude that Paul passed through the other cities, because there were none of his own people there to form the beginning of a church. Thessalonica was named after the daughter of Philip of Macedon and was a seaport of considerable importance. The present name is Saloniki, and it had some prominence in the Great War.

V. 2. Paul follows his usual practice, and his preaching makes so profound an impression that they ask him to return the following Sabbath. His sermon was an exposition on different passages of the Old Testament Scriptures. Further light is thrown on this if we read 1 Thess. 1:5-8; 2:7.

V. 3. The main purpose of his sermon was to show how Christ is revealed to them in the Old Testament. The most difficult fact in this Christian message was the cross, and many were the attacks made on these Christians for having a Saviour who had suffered such shame and indignity. Accordingly, Paul brings out proof passages to show that the prophets had told beforehand of the suffering which the Messiah must suffer.

V. 4. A small number of the Jews joined the new sect, but there was a great response from the Gentiles, while some of the women, likely some of the wives of some of the leaders of the city, were deeply impressed and recognized the higher teaching of Paul and Silas.

II. THE INEVITABLE ATTACKS, 5-9.

V. 5. The Jewish leaders, being unable to find any just cause for arresting Paul and Silas determine to appeal to the lower classes of the city. They go out into the market places where there were crowds of loungers and persuade them, possibly with money, to start a riot by assaulting the house of Jason, in search for the new preachers.

V. 6. The charge brought against them is that they are disturbers of the peace. This is evidence that Paul must have made a considerable impression on the town. The Jews had doubtless heard of the new sect from their friends at Jerusalem and Philippi.

V. 7. See Light from the East. Paul's Jewish enemies pointed out that Paul was preaching about the coming of a new kingdom or rule, suggesting that this new king would be a rival to Caesar.

V. 9. The magistrates were evidently reasonable men, and saw that there was no real couse of offence. Accordingly they take, as we would say, bail of Jason, making him give pledges for the good conduct of himself and his guests.

III. OFF TO BEREA, 10-12.

V. 10. The Christians are anxious to secure Paul and Silas from arrest, and they secretly send them off by night, probably against the wishes of Paul, who desired to remain and share their dangers. The persecution which broke out after his departure caused him great anxiety, and made him very eager to return, as we see from 1 Thess. 2:18.

V. 11. Berea lay south of Thessalonica, and is now a town of 20,000. We are told that the inhabitants were more noble, which likely means more generous and open-minded, and many of them were converted and devoted themselves to the careful study of the scriptures.

V. 12. Again we have an account of the different classes who joined the church in Berea, which was evidently very representative. However, the inevitable persecution broke out, and the preachers have to look for new fields of missionary activity. This leads to their departure from Macedonia and their entrance into the land of Greece, of which Paul must have heard, and which no doubt he longed to see.

Main Business Problem Said to be Selling

Must Sell in Volume What Mass Methods Produce, Says Motor Official

Greater production means work; work means wages; wages mean consuming power. Thus is the cycle of biusiness prosperity outlined by Floyd A. Allen, of the General Motors Corportion, discussing "Trends and Policies in Modern Business," before members of the Rotary Club in Boston.

Advocating complete reversal of old methods in business and the unlearning of many old traditions and habits, as the leading factors in the modern revolutionizing of business, Mr. Allen stressed the urgent need of fair play and simple business.

"The old idea to reduce costs and expense of doing business by reducing wages seemed logical," said Mr. Allen, "but now it is the policy to increase wages and the queer thing about it is that it works, for all that it appears paradoxical and inconsistent.

"We believe it pays to promote the individual prosperity of our employees. In that way, we increase their consuming power, and while we cannot solve the problem of mass consumption for the whole country, it still has its effect in increased production.

"Volume must be increased in order to maintain a satisfactory net profit at the end of the year and this idea is back of the epidemic of mergers and combinations and chain store systems that is growing all over the country. So the problem facing business men to-day is largely one of selling and advertising and distribution of goods, because we seem to have whipped the problem of mass production in all lines, but we have not solved the problem of mass consumption. Our job now seems to be to scientifically dispose of these goods that we so scientifically manufacture.

"Five factors contributing to business success to-day are the employees, the agent in the field, the stockholder, the source of supply and the public. Fair play is the basis. We have to play fair with the public. The old proverb, 'Let the buyer beware,' is obsolete by to-day's code of ethics in business. I say, 'Let the seller beware,' whether he is selling a yard of goods across the counter, whether he is selling agricultural machinery, or real estate or automobiles, because he has more at stake than the buyer."

"Complete knowledge of the business is a fundamental essential to success," continued Mr. Allen, "knowing the facts of our business, the facts of engineering, the facts of production, the facts of sales and advertising and the facts of finance, and we cannot guess on any one of them, because it is not safe nowadays. We can take nothing for granted."

Men at the top of big business today, he pointed out, realize that leadership can be maintained only by the most extreme care, by the most watchful vigilance, by getting every point and having the best brains they can in the country to focus their attention on every single angle of every problem, so that they can see it in its entirety. "And so long as that kind of policies continues in big business," he concluded, "so long I think big business is safe."

Mistress—"Mary, did I hear you use the expression "you little brat!" just now?" Nurse—"Yes, madam, but Miss Nancy is so contrary to-day." Mistress—"Oh, that's all right, Mary, I thought you were talking to Fido!"

EVER POPULAR PRINCE

The Prnce of Wales at the opening of the Cadogan playing field at Tunbridge Wells.

Beauty for the Sports Girl

At one time the open-air sports girl could usually be singled out of a crowd by her weather-beaten complexion. Sunburnt often with the red, unbecoming sunburn, freckled, and with coarsened skin, she proclaimed to the world that she thought more of games than of beauty.

That is now a thing of the past.

Given reasonable care, it is possible to spend the greater part of the day playing games in the hottest sunshine and yet emerge in the evening, for theatre or dance, with a complexion that anybody might envy.

Value of Olive Oil

Very strong sunshine, if allowed to come into direct contact with the skin, has a very drying effect on it. It not only causes sunburn and freckles, but is often responsible for the little lines and wrinkles which form around the eyes and mouth so prematurely on the face of the open air sports girl.

A little olive oil, applied to the skin before that touch of vanishing cream, which most girls use, will act as a protection against these blemishes. Before applying the oil add a few drops of simple tincture of benzoin (ten drops to each ounce of the oil). The addition of the benzoin helps to whiten the skin and prevents any possibility of the oil giving it a yellowish tinge.

To Remove Freckles

Light-colored freckles, which have only recently appeared, can generally be removed by painting them with a mixture of equal parts of peroxide of hydrogen (10 vol.), strained lemon juice, rosewater, and glycerine. This should be applied, with a fine camel's hair brush, to each individual freckle and allowed to dry on.

If you burn and freckle easily don't use hot water for washing the face. Lukewarm water is better, and after drying the skin dab with a mixture of equal parts of elderflower water and rosewater. Neither soap nor water should be applied when there is any sign of the red, painful type of sunburn. Warm milk and water or orangeflower water should be dabbed on after the skin has been cleaned with a good witch hazel cream.

Mauve is the most miserable color in the world.—Sir Charles Allom.

When You Travel

When going on a motor trip take a bunch of straws with you to drink comfortably at springs and brooks

A little vinegar will come in handy in case of rain. A cupful poured over the outside of the windshield from the top and letting it run to the bottom will insure the chauffeur clear vision even in a downpour.

Of course you will carry a flash light but these have been known to fail to ignite. For this emergency have a newspaper handy in the automobile pocket. Then just get some one to hold this in front of the turned on headlights while you hunt for the trouble or make needed repairs.

When you go camping or motoring dip the sulphur ends of matches into melted paraffin. This will not interfere with their lighting and they will burn even in the rain because the heated wax runs down and keeps them from going out.

The Forgiving British

Lieut.-Col. Newman Craig in the National Review (London): The large-minded and generous attitude of Great Britain towards ex-enemies, who, not so long since, would have ruthlessly dismembered the Empire, and who, in fact, came within an ace of doing so, would be difficult to parallel in the history of civilized nations. No one desires that the old hatreds, the rancor, and suspicion of the war-period and years immediately succeeding should be perpetuated. No one desires that bitter memories and evil experience should inspire or color our present foreign policy! But before being swept off their feet by picturesque accounts of the sad plight of former enemies, the British public should remember the claims of our former friends and allies.

The Westerner

In my hands is the pleasure
Of the helm wheel;
Of plow and hoe and harrow;
Of hammer, square and tape;
Of cant hook, ax and peavy;
Of saw and brush and pen;
But the greatest pleasure of all
Is the feel of reins,
Of guiding reins.

—Pierre J. Sandberg.

First Farmer: "I've got a freak on my farm—a two-legged calf." "Second Farmer: "I know. He called on my daughter last night."

The Seed in the City Street

That afternoon of August London was more arid than ever. I looked with despair for any sign of beauty, something that could take my mind away from dinginess. . . . The blue sky overhead made me miserable; I thought of the waves lapping the sunlit sands of the West Country that I knew so well. There the gray stock-doves flew from the bushes growing on the headland cliff sides, and the lark's song was ever in the air. . . . . True, there were pigeons, but their wings were tinged with soot, and they were alienated from the wild dove whose nest was among the blackthorns. Even the bark of the plane trees was unrefreshed, and guarded by iron cages. . . . Everything was ugly, the competition, the smoke, the grimy buildings.

And then I saw, floating across the shimmering roadway, a few downy seeds. They came from the direction of the Thames. They swung in the motion of the street-air, and the light glistened on their filaments. One drifted to the pavement at my feet, and released a curved brown seed. By its size I knew it to be that of the Yellow Goatsbeard, or John-go-to-bed-at-noon. Immediately the bus-rattle, the whir of cab-wheels, and the burnt-oil smell sank away. The seed bloomed in the palm of my hand, and I saw its flowers of pure yellow, and a white-throat was slipping through the nettles of the ditch. The city was old, but the brown seed was older. Men raised their buildings anew after the great fire, hundreds of years ago; the flower did not change. My mind reached back before the time of the Romans with their tiled baths and chariots; further still, when the first wild settlers made their hut circles by the marge of the wooded river. All the while the dandelion had been blooming so that the seed should be formed. No haste, no strife, no misery; growing in the sunlight. A lovely disk of gold, a summer day, a wandering bee, and the mother-beauty became the child-seed. . . .

I dropped the seed and went away, no longer stilled by the weary monotony of my useless work. Then I thought that I would like to keep it, and plant it in some known corner in order to watch its increasing joy as the plant grew in spring, and to take to myself some of its happiness. I searched on the pavement, but it was so small and commonplace I could not see it. A passerby asked if he might help me; had I lost anything and was it of any value—a gold ring, perhaps? I replied in my enthusiasm that it was of more value than a gold ring, hoping (as ever the dreamer has) that he would share my wonder of this seed in London. He was interested and puzzled, so I told him it was the seed of a sort of dandelion that I sought. He stared at me as though I had said that God was in the Strand, and had just spoken to me; and then he turned away with a smile.—Henry Williamson, in "The Lone Swallows."

The Parasite Zoo

London Daily Herald: During the past year the Imperial Bureau of Entomology had employed a grant from the Empire Marketing Fund to establish in a Buckinghamshire country house a central laboratory, which had come to be known as the "Parasite Zoo." Here were bred parasites that had proved their capacities to destroy certain types of insects, and here experiments were being planned for the testing of parasites of yet unproved capacity. Already among other shipments from this new station parasites of the blow-fly had been shipped to Australia, New Zealand and the Falkland Islands, and parasites of the earwig to Canada.

A Prayer

Give me, O God, a garden,
Small as it may be
That I may plant within its ground
A lilac tree.
Give me, O God, a garden,
Fashion it with care,
And sheltered by the lilac tree,
I'll find You there.

—Gordon Higham in the Detroit Free Press.

Honey, I'm not a quitter.—Texas Guinan.

Solomon's Stables Are Revealed by Chicago Diggers

Dr. Breasted Calls Discovery "of Greatest Historical Importance"

Chicago.—The famous stables of Solomon have been unearthed in Palestine, bearing out an indication given in the Old Testament that the great Hebrew monarch was a dealer in thoroughbreds. The announcement was cabled from Armageddon by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and made public here by Dr. James Henry Breasted, director. Dr. Breasted, an outstanding authority on Oriental history, pronounced the find "of the greatest historical importance."

The establishment covers over half an acre in the town site of Armageddon, reported Mr. P. L. O. Guy, field director for the Institute, who uncovered it. The stables of 3,000 years ago can be visualized from the ruins, according to his statement. The stalls were arranged in double rows. The hordes, about 12 to a row, stood facing each other with a passage between the rows of heads for the grooms. Mangers and hitching posts equipped the front of each stall. The original tie holes for halter straps remain.

The discovery will enable historians to reconstruct hazy pages of the past, according to Professor Breasted. "Few people are aware," he said, "that Solomon, true to the instincts of his race, was not only an Oriental sovereign, but likewise a successful merchant whose dealings extended into the neighboring kingdoms about Palestine. Not the least of his activities was his enterprise as a horse dealer.

"His marriage to the daughter of Pharaoh of Egypt gave him close connection with the Egyptian court and he therefore enjoyed inside opportunities for securing the finest Egyptian horses The ancient record of the Old Testament states, 'And the horses which Solomon had were brought out of Egypt: and the King's merchants received them in droves, each drove at a price.'"

The Megiddo expedition is in its third year. It is digging in a mound which contains several layers of cities dating from different centuries. Earlier excavations in upper layers revealed scattered buildings but now for the first time the archaeologists have come upon a stratum which reveals a well laid out town. It is hoped that remnants of one of Solomon's temples will be found. The expedition is working on a five-year program.

The Imperial Wireless Merger

Nation and Athenaeum (London): The British Empire is so scattered throughout the world that communications are of vital importance and the question is of first importance to the Government itself. Other telegraph organizations having their base of operations in America are coming into the foreground and striving for something else close to world monopoly. The organization of British Imperial communications ought to be such that there is not the slightest danger of their falling under alien control, or even of their being linked with alien organizations by means of which their freedom would be cramped. The whole problem calls for a long vision in finding a solution.

Unemployed and Empire

New York Herald-Tribune: (The British Industrial Transference Board declare in their report that 200,000 British unemployed must be moved to other countries if they are to live. Even if the government has to go quite far in financing its emigrants, the cost from the monetary standpoint alone would probably be less in the long run than to continue the dole. From the standpoint of morale it would benefit both the emigrants and those who stayed behind. One can only wish Great Britain well in the solution of this very thorny problem. She seems to be adjusting herself to the time and to the passing of the old order. One may well admire her adaptability and realism.

Early Peddlers

For a long time an active form of selling goods was peddling. Most of the peddlers, or chapmen, as they were often called, hailed from New England, Connecticut especially.

Their trade fell into various branches. There were the general peddlers, who hawked an assortment of useful "Yankee notions"—pins, needles, hooks and eyes, scissors, razors, combs, coat and vest buttons, spoons, small hardware, children's books, cotton goods, lace and perfume. Besides there were the specialized itinerant dealers—tin-peddlers, clock-peddlers, chair-peddlers, peddlers of spices, essences, dyes, woodenware, pottery, brooms, books and a host of other items; and even these specialists, as we shall see, often carried several lines of goods and did many other things beside selling their wares. Sometimes they vended very cumbersome articles— washing machines, spinning wheels, cabinet organs, and winnowing machines and corn shellers. Even wagon-makers hawked their product and they could be met driving through the country with a train of light carts or carriages; and in winter they had a string of sleighs lashed together. There were, in addition, the peddlers on the canals and rivers, and the wholesale itinerant merchants. A still further distinction can be made between local peddlers with a relatively small route and those who travelled great distances.

The dealer in small wares, essences and such, was called a "trunk-peddler," because he carried his goods in one or two small, oblong, tin trunks slung on his back by a webbing harness or a leather strap.

Although in Colonial times the peddler's stock was limited to a few items, by 1830 it had extended to all sorts of merchandise. Large wagons loaded with drygoods, hats, boots, shoes, clocks, firearms, hardware, and even furniture became a common sight on our country roads.

From house to house the peddler went, from town to town And quite a flutter he caused when he appeared on the village green and opened his pack. Women dropped their chores and men their work, and gathered about to hear gossip of the neighborhoods the peddler had recently left, and to see his wares.

A peripatetic merchant, he showed up wherever there was a chance for a sale. Not only did he visit the isolated country homes with his stock of goods, but he managed to be present on market days in town, at vendues or auction sales, on military training days, and at the spring and autumn country fairs.

May and November were the usual months for these fairs, and sometimes they lasted three days. To them farmers brought their horses and cattle for sale and sundry goods of household manufacture. There were sports and bouts of all kinds, accompanied by a noise of blaring trumpets and scratchy fiddles and screeching whistlers and of people having a good time.

Training of regimental muster-days, when the local militia paraded, were also exciting events to which peddlers and mountebanks flocked. In Colonial times they were called Train Band Days. For a week prior, the town would be renuded of boards and joists to make booths, and the shops of molassesto make gingerbread and candy. The country people brought in cider and apples and nuts and buns for sale. And everyone felt generous and proud of the militia and all were intent on enjoying themselves. It was the sort of occasion when they didn't mind spending a penny or two on the trinkets the peddlers offered.

The early peddler, if contemporary documents are to be believed, was a lanky and hawk-beaked youth; an adventurous, brave, mercenary fellow, who had a rare understanding of human nature and a ready tongue. . . . The fact of youth is important. The first peddlers had to be reckless, bright young fellows with abundant grit and virility, capable of taking care of themselves. They had to cope with the potentialities and dangers of land and solitary stretches of wilderness between towns—the trackless way.—Richardson Wright, in "Hawkers and Walkers in Early America."

The Deserts of Australia

W. K. H., in the London New Statesman: Australia has deserts—she has several very large, very dry, very unpleasant deserts. . . . Our fingers itch to tear from the geography books those sneering pages which . . . hint that asparagus does not flourish at Oodnadatta. We long to shout to the world that we can make asparagus flourish anywhere. But we dare not. We cannot do without our deserts. For thirty years they have been essential to the propaganda by which we have justified to the world the exclusive occupation by a few million people of a country as large as the United States.

British Settlers for the Dominions

London Spectator: The Dominions have a perfect right to choose the type of man they want. Still, there are the vast unoccupied spaces, and Great Britain in her distress is not asking anyone to harbor wastrels.

MUTT AND JEFF—Bud Fisher

Jeff Thought This Out All By Himself.

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