

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson June 9

BROADENING CHRISTIAN HORIZONS: THE ANTIOCH

Golden Text—"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." —Rom. 1:16

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

After God had, through Peter, opened the door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 15:7) it was through Paul that the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel was started through all the adjacent lands, thus, continuing a movement that was destined to spread to every nation under Heaven. Even in apostolic days this was, in measure, fulfilled (Col. 1:6, 23). Antioch in Syria was the place where the great Gentile missionary campaign began. In reading the Acts, it is important to notice that there are two cities of this name and both are prominent in early Christian testimony. The other one was Antioch in Pisidia, a province farther north (see Acts 13). It was in the Syrian Antioch a spontaneous work among those outside of the Jewish fold began, and thither Barnabas persuaded Saul (as he was still called) to go as his fellow laborer. The work was a marked evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit from its inception. Like every true divine awakening, the human factors paled into insignificance compared with the manifest power of the Spirit of God working in sovereign grace, preparing hearts for the truth, and so empowering the proclaimers of the Gospel that it led to definite repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21.)

Verse by Verse

Acts 11:19—"Preaching . . . to none but unto the Jews only." As the scattered disciples fled from the Jerusalem danger zone they carried the glad tidings everywhere, but proclaimed it only to the Jews of the dispersion, who were found in large numbers in the adjacent countries, notably in Phoenicia, the island of Cyprus, and in Syria, of which Antioch was the capital. It was not the mind of the Lord that the message should still be, as in the days of his flesh, confined to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 15:24), for he had definitely given commandment to carry it to every creature (Mark 16:15). It was their lack of vision and of faith that led them to preach, at first to Jews only.

Verse 20—"When they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians." Ordinarily, we are to distinguish between Greeks and Grecians in the record of the Acts. The term "Greek" (Hellenes) refers to Gentiles, Greek by origin or nationality. The word "Grecians" is used as a translation for a different word, and means Hellenists, that is Jews who were born among the Gentiles and more or less influenced by their manner of life and philosophies. Here the best manuscripts give Hellenes. These broader-minded Jewish believers of Cyprus and Cyrene ventured to carry the Gospel directly to the Gentiles in the city of Antioch.

Verse 21—"A great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." When the Lord's command was obeyed, and the results were far greater than man could have foreseen. It was as though the hearts of these needy idolaters were as prepared soil into which the seed of the Word fell and brought forth much fruit. A manifest work of the Spirit had begun, and went on for some time.

Verse 22—"The church . . . in Jerusalem . . . sent forth Barnabas." When the news of the Antioch movement reached the "mother church" at Jerusalem, there was an immediate response. At a meeting called to consider this new turn of affairs, it was decided to send one whom they all trusted, the former Levite, Barnabas, to the Syrian capital that he might obtain firsthand information as to what was transpiring there.

Verse 23—"When he . . . had seen the grace of God, (he) was glad." Barnabas rejoiced when he found the reports of the salvation of the Gentiles confirmed. He at once threw himself into the work by taking part in the ministry of the Word and exhorting these young believers "that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord," thus living up to his name, which means son of exhortation, or consolation.

Verse 24—"A good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith." Such is the description of Barnabas. He was one who so walked with God that his testimony counted, for the Spirit of God wrought through him and, we are told, "much people was added unto the Lord." They were not merely added to the local church, but they were joined to the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17). This is a proof that the body of Christ was already formed by the Spirit's baptism before the truth of it was committed to parchment in the writings of St. Paul (1 Cor. 12:12, 13).

Verse 25 — Barnabas departed . . . to seek Saul. Who had introduced Saul to the Jerusalem church (Acts 9:27) felt instinctively that this was just the suited one to carry on the great work of witnessing to the Gentiles. Doubtless, Saul had told him of the commission he had received at the time of his conversion (Acts 26:16-18), so Barnabas went to Tarsus and persuaded Saul to return with him to Antioch.

Verse 26 — "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." The number of believers in Christ so increased that they attracted the attention of the populace, who gave them the name that has belonged to his followers ever since, Christians. This was no doubt divinely ordered.

Verse 27—Prophets came from Jerusalem unto Antioch. There was definite intercommunion between the Jewish Church in Palestine and this Gentile church in Syria.

Verse 28—"Agabus . . . signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth." Specially gifted by the Spirit of God, this man predicted a great famine soon to take place, which would specially affect the believers who were in Judea.

Verse 29—"Determined to send relief." The young Christians recognized this as an opportunity to manifest their unity with these older groups of believers by contributing to the alleviation of their temporal necessities.

Verse 30—"Sent it . . . by the hands of Barnabas and Saul." Entrusting their gifts of love to these two servants of Christ, they bade them carry the expression of their fellowship to the elders in Jerusalem

There is wide disagreement as to what the present world conflict will be called. Possibly, it will be known as "the long war."



A showgirl at the Windmill theatre, London, England, is Judy McCrear. So long as the theatre is open she continues to do her stage work. But she also serves as an air raid warden in Paddington and retains her glamour, even in uniform, even in a steel helmet. The photo proves that England's women like to have lipstick and powder to fix up between raids.

Ontario County Loan Objective is \$2,200,000

Two of the committees which will handle the forthcoming Victory Loan Campaign for Ontario county, have completed their personnel, George W. McLaughlin, County Chairman of the 1941 Victory Loan executive has announced.

The important unit sales committee will be headed by Hayden MacDonald as chairman, with George Finley of Oshawa, secretary. The other members are J. P. Mangan, K.C., R. B. Faith, Cyril Schofield, L. Peacock, J. L. Beaton, E. W. Webber, Oshawa, H. G. Hutcheson of Port Perry, Ex-Warden J. M. Low of Uxbridge, Ex-Mayor Ed. Bowman of Whitby, County Warden J. A. MacDonald of Atherley, Mason Horner of Cannington and R. S. Ruddy.

The equally important Publicity Committee is headed by Dr. W. J. Langmaid, with three vice-chairmen: Claude B. Watt, A. R. Alloway, R. B. Faith and J. H. McDiarmid, W. G. Burns, E. D. Smith, Godfrey Humphreys, Rev. George Telford, Leo Oster, Dr. S. J. Phillips, Mrs. Evelyn Bateman of Oshawa, R. Gordon Grob of Whitby, R. S. Ruddy of the Pickering, Samuel Farmer of the Port Perry Star, J. M. Lowe of Uxbridge and J. E. Roberts of Cannington Gleaner. The secretary is Eric R. Henry of Oshawa.

Senator Pepper: "If we pursue a pussy-footing policy the foe will not fear us and our friends will not respect us."

NORTH YORK VICTORY LOAN COMMITTEE

List of Committees: The Victory Loan in North York is well organized with canvassers in every municipality, and an overall committee covering the whole territory. These committees are composed of:

Sales Committee: Aubrey Davis, (chairman), Newmarket, Ontario. R. H. Conner, Pefferlaw, Ontario. Major A. A. MacKenzie, Woodbridge, Ontario. William Sisman, Aurora, Ontario. Publicity Committee: Moffatt Cockburn, (chairman), Newmarket, Ontario. J. M. Walton, Aurora, Ontario. C. E. Lundy, Aurora, Ontario. A. V. Nolan, Stouffville, Ontario. A. C. West, Newmarket, Ontario. Andrew Hebb, Newmarket, Ontario. J. E. Smith, Richmond Hill, Ontario. M. Williams, Markham, Ontario. V. H. Sheppard, Sutton, Ontario.

Special Names Committee: Aubrey Davis, Newmarket, Ontario. R. H. Conner, Pefferlaw, Ontario. Major A. A. MacKenzie, Woodbridge, Ontario. William Sisman, Aurora, Ontario. Administration and Finance Com: H. L. Trapp, Toronto. H. J. Reid, Toronto. W. C. Bell, Newmarket. H. E. Lambert, Newmarket.

COURT of REVISION

Municipality of the VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE County of York Public notice is hereby given that a court of Revision of the Assessment roll, for the Village of Stouffville, will be held in the Municipal Hall, Stouffville, on

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1941 at 7 p.m. to hear and adjudicate upon all complaints against the assessment roll of the Village of Stouffville for the said year 1941. All parties interested are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. George Storey, Clerk of the said Village. Stouffville, May 5, 1941.

COURT of REVISION

TOWNSHIP OF WHITCHURCH County of York Public notice is hereby given that a court for the Revision of the Assessment roll, for the Township of Whitchurch, will be held in the Twp. Hall, Vandonf, on

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1941 at 2 p.m. (s.t.) to hear and adjudicate upon all complaints against the assessment roll of the Township of Whitchurch for said year 1941. All parties interested are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. John Crawford, Clerk of the said Township. Vandonf, May 10, 1941.

COURT of REVISION

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE County of Ontario. Public notice is hereby given that a court for the Revision of the Assessment roll, for the Township of Uxbridge, will be held in the Twp. Hall, Goodwood, on

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1941 at 2 p.m. to hear and adjudicate upon all complaints against the assessment roll of the Township of Uxbridge for said year 1941. All parties interested are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. H. Roach, Clerk of the said Twp. Goodwood, May 10, 1941.

ADVANCES RANK



Major W. E. Gillespie, Toronto, has been advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, it is announced in Ottawa. Col. Gillespie will command a regiment in the Canadian armored corps.

Here's the ACTION you've been wanting!



JOIN UP *without delay*

There's a place for YOU at the wheel of a roaring tank; behind a spitting Ack-Ack gun; astride an armoured motorcycle . . . and YOU are not the man to hang back. It's YOUR fight; the weapons are being forged; the way prepared. The call is to ACTION from the minute you step into uniform. You and your PALS are needed NOW. Canada and the Empire, your home, your loved ones, must be protected; get into the fight.

The Canadian Active Army requires men for Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Armoured Cars, Tanks, Infantry, Transport and Supply, Medical, Ordnance and other branches of the Service. The Army is prepared to teach many trades, and to train you to efficiently handle Canada's weapons of war.

Go to your nearest District Recruiting Office. Find out about these Units; how they work, what they do. See just where you'll fit in. See where any particular skill you possess can best be utilized. Then join up for ACTION.

Apply to Nearest District Recruiting Office or any Local Armoury

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE CANADA

You are needed NOW!

for **ACTIVE SERVICE**

RATES OF PAY IN THE RANKS

\$1.30 per Day with Board, Lodging, Clothing, Medical and Dental care provided. EXTRA: (1) Rates varying from 25¢ to 75¢ per day for skilled tradesmen while employed, (2) Dependent Allowances in Cash.