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COLISEUM, TORONTO

March 17th to 25th

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PLACES TONGUE ON FROSTY RAIL

Sheila, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schmidt of Walkerton, was one of those who had a most painful and unusual experience last week, on the coldest day of the winter. It appears the youngster, when coming out of Sacred Heart Church after mass, noticed the heavy coat-

ing of frost on the brass hand rail and innocently placed her lips and tongue to it. With thermometers registering some ten degrees below zero the girl immediately found herself frozen to the rail and unable to release herself. Her predicament was at once noticed and Sisters of the Convent who were summoned, applied lukewarm water which eventually released

HONEST PASSERSBY RESTORE WINDBLOWN \$1,450 IN CASH

Mrs. Marie Gay, a high school teacher's wife, was on her way to buy a new car.

She had the money right with her, in a cigar box, all \$1,450 of it. But just as she neared the automobile agency, a capricious wind lifted the top of the box. As she stood horrified, the wind whipped the money out of the box. Some of the money scattered in the gutters, nearly burying itself in dirty snow. Hundred dollar bills blew up the street.

Truck drivers, motorists and passersby started chasing the bills. After her 20-odd helpers got through, the money was counted. It was all there—all \$1,450 of it.

Mrs. Gay thanked everybody, went on to the auto dealer's, and then willingly blew the money.

Mrs. A. G. Kelsey of Erickson, B.C., won the 1949 world's wheat championship at Chicago's International Hay and Grain show, 29th Canadian to win the honors in its 33 years of competition.

In 1949 the production of steel ingots in Canada reached a new record high of 8,464 tons per day.

her after being held prisoner for some ten minutes. The experience was a painful one for Sheila as she lost some skin from her lips and tongue, and for the remainder of her life she will no doubt avoid touching in like manner frosty metal of any kind. As a result of the incident the girl was obliged to remain out of school for two days.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for March 19

Golden Text—I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.—2 Tim. 1:12

Approach to the Lesson

The faith that sustained the early church and which has been the basis of all effective testimony throughout the Christian centuries is the certainty that God Himself has been revealed in Christ and that the Holy Scriptures are His infallible Word. Paul's own declaration epitomizes this. He said, "I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2 Cor. 4:13).

The word "faith" is used in two distinctly different ways in the New Testament. Primarily, it means confidence in that which God has revealed in His Word. It is also used to designate the content of the revelation; as, for instance, where we are exhorted to contend earnestly for "the faith... once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). It is concerning this that our Lord Himself spoke when He asked the question: "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find the faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8, R.V. margin.) We are warned "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith" (1 Tim. 4:1), turning aside to false teaching, Satanically inspired. Where this faith is rejected, there is no ground for consistent Christian teaching,

for if doubt be cast upon the reliability of the sacred Scriptures, the church would have nothing to present to lost men that could give them assurance of divine forgiveness when they trusted in Christ. Subjectively, faith is resting upon God's Word. We are justified by faith; that is, by believing the record that God has given of His Son. Day by day we live by faith when we rest our souls upon the promises of God. We are told in Hebrews 11:1, that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The Revised Version is a little clearer: "Faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." Knowing God, as revealed in His Word, the man of faith dares to risk everything for eternity upon what God has said. Thus he has absolute assurance of the certainty of things which his eyes have not seen, but which he knows must be true, because spoken by Him who cannot lie (Heb. 6:18).

The Historical Setting
According to the best authorities it was in A.D. 62 that Paul appeared before King Agrippa at the suggestion of Festus, governor of Caesarea, in order that he might answer for himself concerning the charge of sedition which his adversaries had brought against him. Boldly he declared how the Lord Jesus had revealed Himself to him, and the grounds of his faith and testimony. The Epistle to the Romans is the clearest and fullest unfolding of the Gospel to be found in the Scriptures, and was written by Paul from Corinth in A.D. 60.

Verse by Verse
Acts 26:19—"I was not dis-

obedient unto the heavenly vision." The reference is to that which is narrated in the preceding verses, where Paul tells the story of the appearance of the risen Christ to him when he was hastening down the Damascus road, intent on arresting and prosecuting any Jews whom he might find in that city who had confessed the name of Jesus as their Saviour. The Lord commissioned him at that time to carry the Gospel to the world. This charge he had obeyed consistently ever since.

Verse 20—"Shewed... that they should repent and turn to God, and do works... meet for repentance." This was the content of his preaching. He called upon men to change their attitude toward God and self and sin, and to believe the Gospel message, whereby alone they might be saved. True conversion would be manifested by changed behavior, for while men are justified by faith alone, that faith results in newness of life.

Verse 21—"For these causes the Jews... went about to kill me." Had Paul confined his testimony to the Jews, he might have escaped their persecution. It was the fact that he made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, in regard to their sinfulness and God's offer of salvation by grace, that enraged them (Rom. 3:22, 23; 10:12, 13).

Verse 22—"None other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come." While God gave to him a much fuller revelation of divine truth than was known in Old Testament times, he preached nothing that was contrary to that which had formerly been revealed.

Verse 23—"That Christ should suffer... should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people (the Jews), and the Gentiles." This was in full accord with what the prophets of old had foretold, and therefore should not have offended the Jews if they believed their own Scriptures.

Rom. 5:1—"Justified by faith... peace with God." To be justified is to be cleared of every charge. It is the sentence of the court in favor of the prisoner, thus setting him free from all anxiety. This is true of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, who made peace by the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20). This peace is ours when we believe the Gospel.

Verse 2—"Access by faith into this grace wherein we stand." The believer is saved by grace in the beginning, and stands by grace to the end.

Verse 3—"Tribulation worketh patience." Every trial the Christian is called to meet is designed by God for his blessing and to teach the great lesson of patience.

Verse 4—"Patience, experience... hope." There is orderly progression in the spiritual life suggested here, as we learn lessons in the school of experience.

Verse 5—"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." This is the supreme evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 6—"Christ died for the ungodly." This is the outstanding truth revealed in the Gospel. When we were utterly helpless and therefore unable to do one thing to save ourselves, Christ died in our stead that we might be redeemed to God.

Verse 7—"A righteous man" is one who observes punctiliously every just demand. Such men may be admired, but they do not, ordinarily, inspire love and devotion. "A good man" is one who is benevolent and considerate of others. For such a man "some would even dare to die."

Verse 8—"But God commendeth his love toward us," in that when we were neither good nor righteous, but lost sinners, He gave His Son to die in our place.

Heb. 12:1—"So great a cloud of witnesses." The reference is to the heroes of faith mentioned in Chapter 11, all of whom bear testimony to the value of confidence in God, resulting in obedience to His Word. As we run the Christian race we should be encouraged, by their example, to lay aside everything that would hinder our spiritual progress and so be delivered from the besetting sin of unbelief.

Verse 2—"Looking unto Jesus." He Himself should be the supreme object upon whom our heart's affections are centred. In the days of His humiliation He became our outstanding example as the Man of faith, who endured all the trials to which He was exposed, without complaint, as He looked forward to the joy of having His redeemed with Himself in the Father's house.

The Heart of the Lesson
All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith alone, apart from works of every kind, but faith brings us into communion with God through new birth, and is manifested by good works, "which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10). Confidence in God enables the believer to triumph over difficulties and persecutions of every kind, giving him the courage to press forward in spite of every obstacle as he seeks to make Christ known to others. This was the faith that inspired the early church and empowered it not only to stand against the attacks of Satan and his hosts, but to go forward victoriously, as it carried out the great commission given by the risen Lord.

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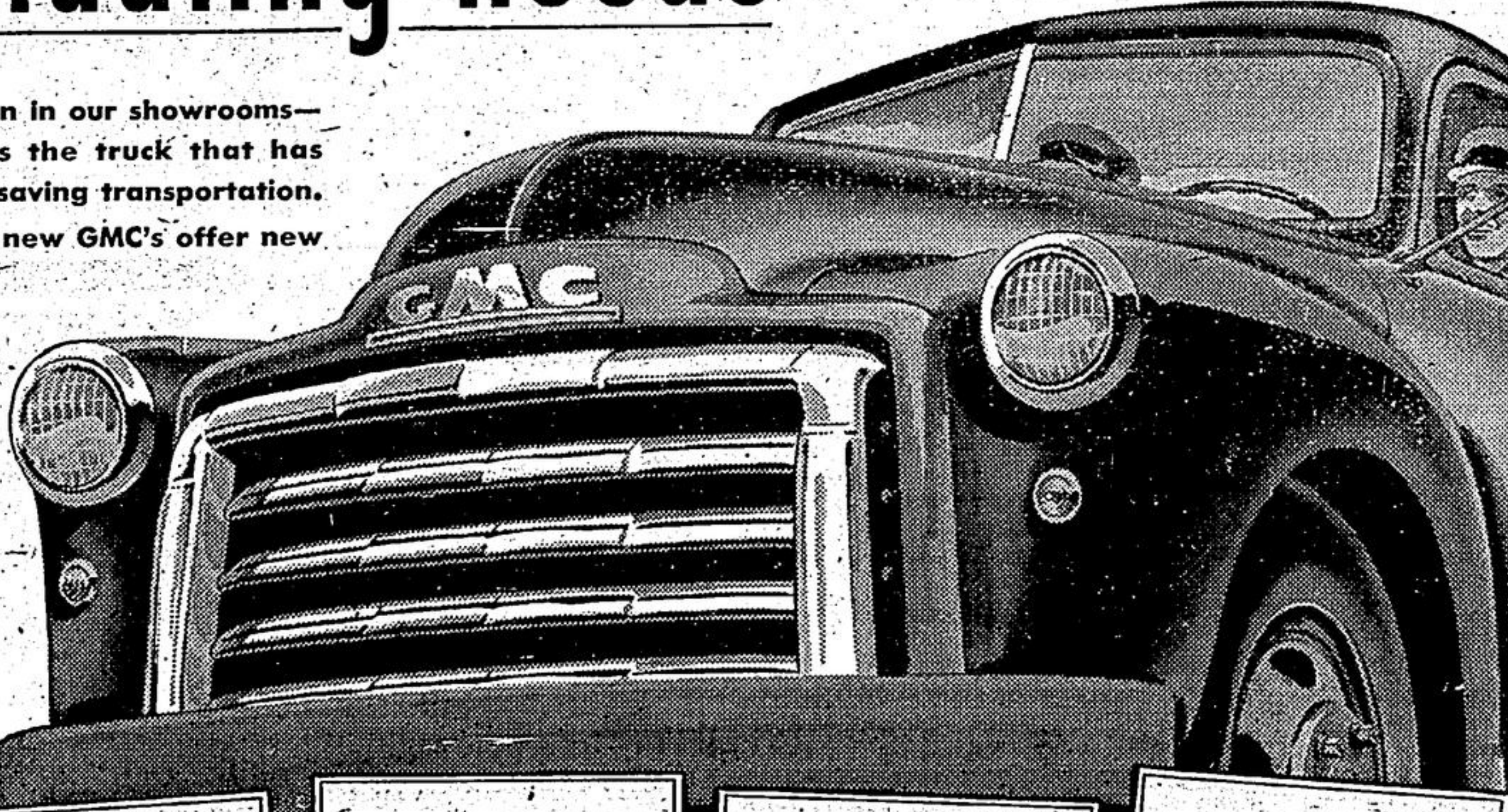
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