

Corner For Religious News

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Sunday School Lesson!

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Lesson for November 8

PAUL'S FAREWELL AT MILETUS

LESSON TEXT—Acts 20:18-38.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Acts 20:35.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul a Loving Friend.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul's Farewell at Miletus.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—An Example of Faithfulness.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Responsibilities of Church Members.

After the uproar at Ephesus, the Jews laid wait for Paul to destroy him. This plot obliged him to retrace his steps through Macedonia instead of taking a more rapid sea voyage. He tarried with the disciples at Troas, meeting with them around the table of the Lord, and speaking words of encouragement to them. In order to be at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, he did not go to Ephesus, but sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus. The picture of Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders is very touching one. His object in this address was to impress upon them their responsibilities. The analysis of his address has been so well made by Doctor Stifler that it is substantially reproduced here.

I. Paul Reviews His Three Years' Ministry at Ephesus (vv. 18-21).

1. The Spirit of His Ministry (v. 19).

(1) He was humble, "serving with all humility of mind."

(2) He was tender, working for them in tears.

(3) He was faithful in the face of trials which befall him because the Jews were lying in wait for him.

2. The Diligence of His Ministry (vv. 20-21).

(1) He made known everything which was of profit unto them. This every true minister or teacher will do.

(2) He taught both in public and in private. A minister's work is not done when his pulpit ministrations are over. The effectiveness of his public work is sometimes determined by his touch with the people in their homes.

(3) He neglected no class, whether Jews or Greeks. The Christian minister must be exceedingly careful here.

3. The Theme of His Ministry (v. 21).

This was—repentance and faith. Men and women need to repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Paul Presents the Present State of Things (vv. 22-27).

1. His Immediate Purpose (v. 22). This was to go to Jerusalem. The constraints of the Spirit moved him to go forward though he did not know the things that should befall him there.

2. The Shadows Lying Across His Path (v. 23).

Though bonds and afflictions awaited him, he went forward to his work with undaunted courage.

3. His Fixed Purpose (v. 24).

This was to complete his ministry, which was to testify the gospel of the grace of God which he had received from the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. A Sorrowful Prediction (v. 25).

Those among whom he had labored should see his face no more.

5. He Leaves No Doubt of Obligation Behind (v. 26-27).

He was pure from the blood of all men.

III. Paul Sets Forth the Ephesian Elders' Responsibility (vv. 28-35).

1. Motives to Duty (v. 25).

(1) They received their call and commission directly from the Holy Spirit.

(2) The flock for which they must care was purchased with the precious blood of Christ.

2. Perils Ahead (vv. 29-30).

(1) Grievous wolves would enter the flock and mercilessly devour them.

(2) False teachers would arise from among their number.

3. Incentives to Watch (v. 31).

Paul's own example. For three years he watched night and day with tears.

4. He Commands Them to God, and His Word (v. 32).

He knew that this Word was able to build them up.

5. He Was Unselfish in His Service (vv. 33-35).

(1) He did not covet any man's silver, gold or apparel.

(2) He labored with his own hands and taught.

IV. Paul's Prayer (vv. 36-38).

Having spoken these words he knelt and prayed with them all.

Patience

Patience is a beautiful trait, but it is not worn oftener by those who walk on life's sunny side in silver slippers. It is the product of days of adversity. "The trial of your faith worketh patience."—Evangelical Messenger.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

The Ten Commandments are closely related to the work of the church, especially such as "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," etc. John Ruskin, who wrote in sarcasm to his day, dared to re-write the commandments as follows:

"Thou shalt have gods of ease and comfort before me. Thou shalt worship thine own imagination as to houses and goods and business, and shalt bow down and serve them."

"Thou shalt remember the Sabbath day to make sure that all its hours are given to sloth and lounging and stuffing the body with rich foods, leaving the children of sorrow and ignorance to perish in their soddenness."

"Thou shalt kill any slay men, by doing as little as possible thyself and squeezing as much as possible out of others. Thou shalt look upon loveliness in womanhood to soil it with impurity. Thou shalt steal daily—the employer from the servant and the servant from his employer—and the devil take the hindmost."

"Thou shalt get thy livelihood by weaving a great web of falsehoods and sheathing thyself in lies. Thou shalt covet thy neighbor's house to possess it for thyself; thou shalt covet his office, his farm and everything he has. And to crown all these practical business laws, the Devil has added a new commandment—Thou shalt hate thy brother as thou hatest thyself."

Which of the two sets of commandments do you practice? Why not accept the one that is universally acknowledged as genuine? Your vote on these two will be cast by GOING TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY.

THE QUESTION BOX

(Send problems in question form; answers will appear in later issue)

1.—How make Book Week effective?

The following experiment was tried and proved a success in Plattsburgh, N. Y. Not having a Sunday School or Church library a list of two hundred books were printed on a folder and placed in the weekly bulletin. On the folder were the names of the books, placed under certain headings according to the subject matter, the prices of the books, and lines for the names of the people who would agree to buy the books, read them as soon as delivered, then give them to the Sunday school to start a library. Approximately one hundred people responded. The pastor says, "A hundred people reading these books is better than many pastoral calls he might have made in the interest of good literature."

2.—What lesson do you read in opening school when the graded and uniform lessons are used and all have to meet in the same room?

Select some general theme such as "Faith," "Loyalty," "Temperance" and build your opening program around the chosen theme, using hymns, Scripture reading, special features, etc., on the theme-chosen!

3.—Paul's Present State of Things (vv. 22-27).

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Sermonograms

Only love forgives.

Religion has no storage batteries.

Character is the poor man's capital.

Love never feels the weight of Christ's yoke.

You can't feed men religion with a silver spoon.

Weak characters go around difficulties. Strong ones through them.

If you feed your mind, it will keep on growing.

Be more willing to receive than to inflict an injury.

When Christ says, "Follow me," it is folly to say "No."

Go to church from duty until you go to church for delight.

An hour of well-doing is better than a month of repentance.

The steeple of some churches is the only thing which points to heaven.

A good sermon does little good unless you make good use of it.

A four-letter word that will solve the world's puzzles—love."

The temple of achievement cannot

be built of wasted minutes.

Gossip does not embellish conversation—it throws mud upon it.

Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy.

People pay for more attention to our example than they do to our good advice.

A smile and a good word has helped many a man over the stile of difficulty.

Prayer is as essential to the Christian life as air is to the physical life.

Sometimes the easiest way to cheer one's self is to go out and cheer some body else.

Loss of character is the most tragic misfortune that can befall a man.

Selfishness and injustice tangle life's threads in knots that are hard to undo.

Worship is the overflowing of a full heart; prayer is the craving of an empty heart.

God has a plan for your life, but you must co-operate with him in the program.

RELIGIOUS NEWS GATHERED

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

REVIEW

THE LUTHERAN CATHEDRAL IN REYKJAVIK

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