

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Lesson for January 3

THE SON OF GOD BECOMES MAN

LESSON TEXT—John 1:18.
GOLDEN TEXT—And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. John 1:14.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus' Home.
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Boyhood of Jesus.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—God Coming to Us in Jesus.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Fact and Purpose of the Incarnation.

Night - Prowling Aristocrat Awed By Great Commoner

Timid Official's Interview With Carpenter—Teacher --- Getting Down To Bed Rock In Religion---The Greatest Single Sentence In All Human Speech.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

The opening of a new year always brings with it a sense of solemn responsibility for one's life and service, and at the same time a thrilling expectancy. No better way can be found to begin this year of our Lord, 1937, than in the study of God's Word, not only by ourselves, but in the fellowship of others in the church and Sunday school.

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The series of lessons outlined for the year gives us the eagerly apprehended opportunity of studying during the first three months the Gospel of John. Space does not permit of a suitable introduction to that study here, but we trust that no one will fail to read John 20:31, which states the purpose of the apostle in writing.

Three great and fundamental questions are answered in chapter 1:1-18, namely, (1) Was Jesus Christ God or man? (2) Does it matter how we regard him and relate our lives to him? (3) Is there suitable evidence upon which we may rest our faith in him?

I. Jesus Christ Is God (John 1:1-5).

"In the beginning" of Genesis 1:1, Jesus Christ already "was" not only with God, but he "was God." He is the living "Word," the complete and final revelation of God. He is infinite, eternal, divine, both the Creator and Redeemer. He is both the Life and the Light of men. That Light shines in the darkness but the darkness does not comprehend it.

II. Men Are Either Believers or Unbelievers (vv. 6-13).

There are only two classes of people who will read these lines—the saved and the unsaved. What a salient thought! To which class do I belong?

The Lord of Glory, the Creator of all things, came to his own world and it "knew him not" (v. 10). How tragic is that fact, but how much deeper is the stab of the next verse, "the world is the stab of the next verse, 'dead in trespasses and sin'" (Eph. 2:1).

The Light still shines in the world, and it is still all too true that men love "darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil" (John 3:19). Such men are lost, "dead in trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2:1).

But, thank God, there are those who "receive him" (v. 12), and to them he gives the power or authority, to be the sons of God. This change is expressly declared to be

a. Not by reason of family, or heredity, "not of blood";

b. Not by natural instinct or development, not "of the will of the flesh"; and

c. Not by human volition or will power, "not of the will of man, but of God."

These are important matters and some one may well ask, "What evidence is there for these things?"

Faith is not a venture into the dark. We have the strongest of all foundations in the sure Word of God.

The evidences of Christianity are many, thoroughly full, and satisfying to any honest inquirer. We refer to but one.

III. Our Faith Rests on the Testimony of Eye Witnesses (vv. 14-18).

John the Baptist and John the Apostle both beheld the "glory as of the only begotten of the Father" in the One who as the "Word was made flesh and dwelt among them."

The law was "given by Moses" (v. 17), that is, God sent the law through a human messenger. "But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." No messenger, no matter how great or worthy, would do to bring the gospel of the grace of God. His only begotten Son brought it; it came by him.

Locking Upward

It is a good thing to believe, it is a good thing to admire. By continually looking upwards, our minds will themselves grow upwards; as a man, by indulging in habits of scorn and contempt for others, is sure to descend to the level of those he despises. It is better in some respects to be admired by those with whom you live, than to be loved by them. And this is not on account of any gratification of vanity, but because admiration is so much more tolerant than love.—Sir Arthur Helps.

Worship and Prayers

It is for the sake of man, not of God, that worship and prayers are required; that man may be made better—that he may be confirmed in a proper sense of his dependent state, and acquire those pious and virtuous dispositions in which his highest improvement consists.

Come To Church Sunday

us alludes to what has gone before as "earthly things," with heavenly things" not yet disclosed. We cannot even imagine the vastness of the mysteries of the spiritual life which await revelation in that realm where we are to "know fully." Also we see in this little Jerusalem room the uplifted foreshadowing of the cross.

Not to a great audience, but to one man a timid soul who put his social position above truth itself. Jesus revealed the sublimities of real religion and of the new birth. Nicodemus heard hot from the lips of the Son of God the greatest sentence ever formulated into human speech: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have eternal life."

After that, the soul tormented aristocrat, who lacked courage to follow the highest truth he had learned, went out into the night—but the night about him was not

half so black as the torment which raged in his own soul. God pity all who know the better and yet follow the worse.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS

There never was a right endeavor but it succeeded.—Emerson.

Courage is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.—James L. Allen.

If evils come not, then our fears are vain; And if they do, fear but augments the pain.—More.

To contract ties of friendship with any one is to contract friendship with his virtue.—Confucius.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20:35.

God made the flowers to beautify the earth

And cheer man's careful mood; And he is happiest who hath power To gather wisdom from a flower, And wake his heart in every hour To pleasant gratitude.

—Wordsworth.

It is better to make a thousand mistakes, and to suffer a thousand reverses, than to run away from the battle.—Henry Van Dyke.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE WIND

When his bewildered visitor blurted out, "How can these things be?" Jesus cited the familiar phenomenon of the wind, perhaps blowing outside the house at the moment. It is wholesome for all Nicodemus-minded persons to step aside from their intellectual pride for a moment to consider the familiar things that we do not understand. What is the vital spark of life itself? The surgeons, with all of their probing, cannot even locate the seat of life. What is the thought, and how do its processes work, and what sections of the brain or body? We do not know. What is electricity, the commonest tool of modern civilization? Silence is silent.

Passing strange, isn't it? that human beings, whose daily walk of life is down a grinning row of sphinxes, yet insist upon knowing all about God, before they will accept Him. This mystery of religion which is life from God and with God, a veritable new birth, is the great reality. And it alone bridges the passage hereafter.

For those who love to ponder profundities there is a strange passage in this interview, wherein Jesus

evening, 6 o'clock.
Choir practice Friday evening, 6:30 o'clock.

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Presbyterian

George O. Walton, Minister

9:30 Sunday School, Mr. W. R. McCoy superintendent.

10:30 Morning worship. Sermon

"The New Year." At the morning

service Mr. Paul Sauer and Miss

Helen Haubold will sing a duet

"Fairest Lord Jesus". This first

Sunday of the New Year is an op-

portunity to think more seriously of spiritual things, it is a good time to commence the church going habit. If you do not start now the chances are you will be careless with your church during the remainder of the year. Don't carry on your religion by proxy make it a force in your own experience this coming year.

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half so black as the torment which raged in his own soul. God pity all who know the better and yet follow the worse.

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First Evangelical Church

George S. Lozier, Minister

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School, Instal-

lation of Officers.

10:10 a.m.—Worship Service—

Sermon theme: "Building in the

New Year."

16:15 p.m.—Intermediate and Sen-

ior Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p.m.—Evening Service—Ser-

mon theme: "My Choice for the

New Year."

7:00 p.m., Wednesday—Midweek

Prayer Service.

8:00 p.m., Wednesday—Choir

Rehearsal.

2:00 p.m., Thursday—Woman's

Missionary Society.

This church is cooperating in

the Leadership Training School

which begins its session on Monday

evening at 7:30 o'clock in the High

School Building.

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First Methodist Episcopal Church

Herman R. Carson, Minister

Church Notes

Welcome to our services of wor-

ship and praise! On this first Sun-

day of the New Year our resolu-

tions to live better and more helpful

lives will be strengthened by attendance

upon the means of grace afforded us

by the church.

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Eighth St. U. B. Church

Luke Martin, pastor

The pastor and family wish to

express our sincere thanks to the

people of the Eighth St. U. B.

church for the lovely blanket

which was presented to us on last

Sunday morning, as a Christmas

gift.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Ger-

ald Brodbeck, superintendent.

Sermon, 10:30 a.m. by pastor.

Bible study, 6:30 p.m. for adults,

by Rev. Martin.

Junior C. E., 6:30 p.m. Miss

Gladys Bell.

Regular evangelistic services at

7:30 p.m.

If you are not attending church

elsewhere, we heartily invite you

to come and worship with us.

There is increasing interest be-

ing shown in the Bible study.

Come and bring your Bible with

you and learn more about the word

of God.

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Nazarene Tabernacle

Paul Brandyberry, pastor

Church School 9:15 A.M.

J. Fred Fruchte, Supt.

Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.

Sermon "The Father's Business"

St. Luke 2:49.

The Girls Choir will sing

Annual Congregational meeting

2 p.m.

Pastoral Report, Election of Offi-

cers, Report of Church Organiza-

Mondays 7 p.m. Meeting of official

board.

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. Women's Mis-

sionary Society.

Wednesday 7 p.m. Mid-week

study hour.

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