

Improved
Uniform
International
SUNDAY SCHOOL
LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D.D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
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Lesson for June 24

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THE NEW CHURCH IN THE PAGAN WORLD

LESSON TEXT—I Timothy 6:11-16; I Peter 4:12-16.
GOLDEN TEXT—Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.—Matthew 6:33.

The church is world-wide in its ministry. Its first experiences of both advance and attack were in Jerusalem, but in due time the Lord pressed its members out into the Gentile world to preach the gospel.

These believers had to meet the challenge of a pagan world, rich, powerful, and steeped in age-old philosophies which ran counter to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

The story of how the church met that situation and came through victorious is one of the most thrilling and important sections of world history. We catch but a few glimpses of that time in the writings of Paul and Peter which make up our lesson today, but even those are full of instruction and inspiration. The church appears here as it went on:

I. Fighting the Good Fight of Faith (I Tim. 6:11-16).

In the letter to Timothy, the Holy Spirit used Paul to instruct the early church regarding its life in the midst of an unbelieving world. In the verses immediately preceding our lesson we find a solemn warning against the wrong attitude of heart toward worldly possessions. "Godliness with contentment" is declared to be great gain.

But there is more to Christianity than inward grace, for that must show itself in daily fighting "the good fight of faith." That is done in three ways:

1. By godly living (v. 11). Believers are to flee those things which hinder spiritual progress, and give themselves to the cultivation of graces of a true Christian life.

Space does not permit discussion of these fine virtues of the faithful follower of Christ, but note how tremendously effective they could be (yes, and are today) against paganism. It is so true that the best argument for Christianity is a Christian, but he must be a real one.

2. In holy warfare (v. 12). Living for Christ is not accomplished by sitting in a spiritual rocking chair while the enemy is on the attack. No indeed. There is a good fight to be waged, both personally and as a body of believers.

The Son of God goes forth to war! against evil in our day. "Who follows in His train?" Thank God, there are those who are on the battle line for God, but they need reinforcements. Who will volunteer today?

3. With blessed expectation (vv. 13-16). The soldier is ready to bear the "blood, sweat, and tears" of deadly conflict because he looks for victory. The soldier of Christ has a sure hope, for he follows Jesus Christ, already victorious over death, and one day soon to appear again as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In view of that expectation, the Christian is to live a consistent, clean and irreproachable life. And why not? If we look for the glorious and blessed and only Potentate, should we not be ready?

II. Meeting the Fiery Trial of Persecution (I Pet. 4:12-16).

As Peter comforted the sorely tried believers in the early church, he urged them to meet their persecutions:

1. Without confusion (v. 12). We should expect trials in this world; yes, severe, fiery trials. Such things are common to all mankind, and the Christian should not expect to escape.

To them such trials are real tests of their faith, an opportunity to show to the unbelieving world that God is able to deliver those who put their trust in Him!

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial!"

2. With exceeding joy (vv. 13-15). The believer is not to be ashamed of the trouble he bears for Christ's sake. A glory rests upon the one who is privileged to be a "partner of Christ's suffering" (v. 14) as he stands with Him who was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3).

Note that the believer is not to do anything which would justify others in making him suffer. It is a disgrace, a shame, which injures the cause of Christ, when a believer has to suffer because he has broken the law, or because he is "a busy body (R. V. 'meddler') in other men's matters."

3. For the glory of God (v. 16). The entire life of the believer should be lived for God's glory. If, then, he is called to pass through trials or to be persecuted for his faith, that too, is something to be so borne as to glorify God.

The follower of Christ does not hang his head in shame as the difficulties of life come upon him. He trusts God, and by his grace and grace in the midst of difficult circumstances, declares to all the world that God is able to deliver, you will have to buy one for yours.

COME TO CHURCH

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson. The New Church in the Pagan World, I Timothy 6, 11-16; 1 Peter 4:12-16 for Sunday, June 24.

greatest mistake man can make is to miss immortality. If Christ is not made first in one's life there is no chance for Him to work in the soul the processes of eternal life.

V. 12. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you." Ordinary trials come to all but the hardest trials come to those who follow Christ most closely. The results of trials patiently born will prove the genuineness of our Christianity. Tested character is of great price in sight of God.

V. 13. "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding great joy." As there is a human tie by a mutual suffering with others, so there is a divine tie by suffering for Christlikeness. To be identified with Christ is cause for the greatest joy.

V. 14. "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye for the spirit of the glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." As the Holy Spirit rested upon Jesus, so he rests upon those who are persecuted for Christ's sake. When we come to endure persecutions really for Jesus' sake, suffer it in the right spirit, and know that while our enemies are blaspheming we are glorifying him, we will truly rejoice.

V. 15. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters." Let none of you be guilty of anything described in this verse and suffer punishment while claiming salvation. Let it be known that gossiping is a sin.

V. 16. "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." One's marvelous endurance when suffering for Christ's sake brings glory to God. The great men in Germany today are those who suffered for their Christian faith; their messages will be heard as one others.

V. 17. "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen; to whom be honor and power everlasting." Because God and Jesus are immortal, they whom the Lord redeems by his blood shall also be immortal. The

Home Education

The Secret of Success

We once wrote Dr. S. Parks Cadman to give us in a word the secret of his success and he came back with this answer: "The great secret of success is hard work." He spoke from a résumé experience; when he was eleven years old, he began working in a coal mine and continued in this underground work for ten years that he might support his younger brothers and sisters. He yearned to go to school to get an education. Some would have thought; his case hopeless.

He planned to use his spare seconds in reading by the dim light of his torch while his coal cart was unloaded so that during those ten years he read one thousand books. When he came out of the mines, he passed college examinations with honors and won a scholarship to Richmond College, London.

He carried out his idea of well-planned hard work all through his life; here is the picture of a day's work; he rose at 7 a. m. dictated 20 to 30 letters, wrote 1500 words for his newspaper column, prepared a sermon or worked on a book, made five or six pastoral calls, attended two or three meetings, made a talk or two, dashed home, read a book completely through and then called it a day, retiring at 2 o'clock. Surely the secret of success is hard work.

—D. Carl Yoder.

Getting Even

Mr. Perkins and Mr. Jones, two neighbors, were always quarreling, each one trying to outdo the other in things offensive. So one day Mr. Perkins said to Mrs. Jones, "If you don't stop making me angry, I'll buy my wife a new hat, and then you will have to buy one for yours."

The Y. M. C. A. is sponsoring a committee on friendly relations among foreign students. This committee plans to work with mission boards as a clearing house for information on schools keeping in constant touch with individual foreign students. The committee will unite with the Student Volunteer Movement in attempting to recruit over.

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CHURCHES

First United Brethren Church

R. R. Wilson, Minister
Sunday School 9:15, Curtis Hill,
superintendent.

Morning worship 10:30; sermon,
"A Pair of Parables; The Tares and
the Drag-Net."

Christian Endeavor 6:30.

Evening worship 7:30; sermon,
"Seed and the Leaven."

"A Pair of Parables; The Mustard
Seed."

The young people go to Mustard
Wawasee on Monday.

Prayer meeting Wednesday ev-
ening at 7:00.

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Baptist Church

Carey Moser, Pastor
9:30 a.m., Sunday school. C. E.
Bell, Supt.

10:15 a.m., Morning worship.

Special music by our choir. Ser-
mon by Rev. Albert Swenson.

The junior church meets at this
hour also. Bring all the children

for this hour.

7:30 p.m., Evening service. In-
spiring song service and message
by Rev. Albert Swenson.

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, the mid-
week hour of prayer and praise.

Also the monthly business meeting
of the church.

Everyone welcome to all the ser-
vices of this house of Prayer.

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Nuttman Ave. U. B. Church

C. N. VanGundy, Pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
Cradle roll day.

Morning message, 10:30 a.m.

Evening services will be dis-
tributed so as to attend convention

at camp ground, Rockford, Ohio.

Prayer meeting Wednesday even-
ing, 8:00.

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Ronald Cochran, Minister
Bible School, 9:30. Dorphus
Drum, Supt.

A Bible school with a profitable
class for every age.

Morning Worship, 10:30. Com-
munion and preaching service. Ser-
mon subject, "Loyalty to the
Propagation of the Gospel."

Our seven weeks' Loyalty cam-
paign begins July 1 with "Every
Member Present" Sunday. We
hope to greatly increase the at-
tendance of every service during
this campaign. Our Loyalty cam-
paign will also open our evening
services. Sunday evening, July 1,
the young people of the church will
present a musical pageant, "The
Ninety and Nine."

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First Evangelical Church

F. H. Willard, Minister
No Sunday school session this
Sunday.

Morning worship 10:10 a.m. in
the basement of the church.

No evening services Sunday and
until September.

Midweek service Wednesday ev-
ening, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal Sunday
afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal Wednes-
day at 8:00 p.m.

Children's Day program will be
given on Sunday afternoon, July 8.

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Zion Evangelical and Reformed

William C. Feller, Pastor
Church School at 9:00 a.m. Lu-
ther Clase, superintendent. Come
and bring the family for this Bible
study hour. There is a class for
everyone.

Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon: "Marks of the Lord Je-
sus."

Persons without a church
home in the city are cordially in-
vited to worship with us.

Bethany Circle will meet on
Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the
home of Mrs. Wesley Lehman.

The Friendship Circle will meet
on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the
home of Mrs. Milton Hoffman.

The Philaletheian Circle will meet
on Wednesday at 8:00 p