

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for October 6

Lesson subjects and Scripture texts selected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education; used by permission.

PAUL'S BACKGROUND AND EARLY LIFE

LESSON TEXT—Acts 21:39, 22:3, 27, 28; 26:4, 5. PRAYER—Philippians 3:5, 6.

MEMORY SELECTION—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth—Ecclesiastes 12:1.

God works through men. When we study his work we study the lives of men—all types of men—but all yielded to him, and used by him.

Paul stands out as one of the most influential characters in all history. His life and letters, which we are to study the next three months, have had a tremendous effect on the human race. Especially is this true of his position and influence in the Christian church.

Under God he was the one who carried the gospel to the Gentile world, and then began the great missionary program of the church, which goes on to this very day. His writings are the steady and extensive foundation of much of our study and teaching of Christian doctrine.

3. Birthplace (Acts 21:39).

The place of a man's birth has a definite influence on his personality and usefulness. Tarsus, where Paul was born, was one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world of that day. It was a Roman province, where men proudly held their citizenship in the great empire. Greek, the language of world culture, was spoken there.

Tarsus was a great educational and university center. It was in a rich and fertile area. It was at the head of navigation on the river Cydnus and on a great Roman highway. It was the capital of the province.

II. Education (Acts 22:3).

After his early training in the home and under rabbis in Tarsus, he went to Jerusalem to study in what was probably the best-equipped Hebrew college of that day, under one of the greatest teachers, Gamaliel.

Somewhere in his rearing he was taught a trade, for every Jewish boy learned to support himself with his own hands (see Acts 18:3).

He was instructed in the Word of God, and had a consuming zeal for religious things. Until he was converted, it counted against Christianity, but afterward it became a flaming fire to spread the truth in all the world.

His combined zeal and knowledge made him a man of truly broad mind and tolerant spirit (Acts 5:33-39).

III. Citizenship (Acts 22:27, 28).

The mighty power and prestige of Rome stood behind every Roman citizen. Paul used his citizenship for protection. It helped him in his service for the Lord. Its prestige was used for God's glory.

It is a good sign when a man is proud of his national background, and it speaks well for the nation to which he belongs. But Paul came (as every Christian does) to know and appreciate a higher citizenship.

IV. Religion (Acts 26:4, 5).

Though a free-born Roman citizen, Paul was a Jew, and loyal to the religion of his people. He was a member of the strictest sect, the Pharisees, in which his family had held membership for generations.

He lived consistently in the observance of the laws and customs of his religious faith, and none could point to any flaw in his doctrine or failure in his life.

When he became a follower of Christ, there was no ground on which anyone could dismiss his conversion and his witness as the outbreak of a new viewpoint on the part of a renegade Jew.

It is to a man's credit that he faithfully lives up to the beliefs of the religion he professes. The result of such sincerity will be conversion, if he, like Paul, meets Christ and honestly faces the question of loyalty to him.

V. Race (Phil. 3:5, 6).

Paul counted it to be an honor to be a Hebrew and gloried in the fact that he was born, trained and lived within that racial as well as religious circle.

No one need ever be ashamed of his race, although he may be ashamed of things which members of his race have done. But there are even more things of which to be proud, and a man may add to the standing of his race by living his own life in cleanness of character and nobility of purpose. It is never a commendable thing to be ashamed of the race of one's fathers.

We must remember, however, that all the things in which Paul gloried, he found to be but refuse when he compared them with Christ (see Phil. 3:7, 8).

Everything worthwhile in a man's life God can glorify and use. But none of them, no matter how precious they may seem to be, compares with fellowship with and service for the Lord.

RURAL CHURCHES

Antioch M.B.C.
3 miles west, 1/2 south of Decatur
Jake Hostettler, pastor

Sunday school, 9:30 a. m.
Morning worship, 10:30 a. m.
Evening service, 7:30 p. m.

Sunday is Missionary Sunday at our church. Charles Yoder, student at the Fort Wayne Bible Institute and missionary to West Africa, will be the special speaker. Mr. Yoder has spent most of his life in Africa. Pictures will be shown at the evening service. Plan to come.

Mt. Pleasant

Homer Studabaker, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a. m. Norval Fuhrman, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Special numbers.

Home-coming Rally Day. Men's chorus from Monroe Methodist church. Kenneth Shoemaker, speaker. Special numbers. Come meet your friends. A great day. M. Y. F. at Pleasant Valley 7:30 p. m.

Pleasant Mills youth will present a play.

Mt. Tabor Methodist Church

C. C. Conn, minister
Church school, Ed. Koos, Sup't.
Morning worship, 10:30.

This is world wide communion Sunday and every Christian should be in his place of worship this time of all times. There will be baptisms and members received into the church.

Willsire Circuit

U. B. Church

L. A. Middaugh, pastor
Willsire

9:30 a. m. Sunday school, Luther Funk, supt.

10:30 a. m. preaching service.

7:30 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting, Oatis Strickler, leader.

Christian Endeavor 7:00. We have separate groups for the young people and adults.

Evening worship 7:30.

Prayer service Wednesday 7:30.

Choir rehearsal following the Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

E. O. Kegerreis, pastor

E.O. Kegerreis, Pastor.

Sunday, October 6, 1940.

9:30—Morning Worship. Communion of The Lord's Supper is keeping with World-Wide Communion Sunday.

10:30—Church School Classes

6:30—Youth Fellowship. Leader, Eileen Gruber. Topic: "Looking Ahead."

7:30—Evening Service: Sermon: "Singing Saints."

Wed. 7:30—Mid-week Service.

Choir Following.

Thurs. 7:30—The Official Board will meet in the Church Annex for organization and business.

Week-end revival.

The week-end revival in the

Winchster

9:30 a. m. Sunday school, Merlin Essex, supt.

10:30 a. m. class meeting, Fred Zurcher, leader.

7:30 p. m. Thursday, prayer meeting.

Christian Endeavor 7:00. We have separate groups for the young people and adults.

Evening worship 7:30.

Prayer service Wednesday 7:30.

Choir rehearsal following the Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

United Brethren in Christ Rivarre Circuit

Paul A. Graham, pastor

Mt. Zion

Week-end revival.

The week-end revival in the

NIBLICK & CO.

makes it possible for you to

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS

Doris Dodson

WIN A YEAR'S

WARDROBE OF

JUNIOR ORIGINALS