

## THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Interesting Bible History for Present Day Readers

### The Rebirth of the Chief Sinner.

(By Andrew C. Zenos, in The Continent.)

Conversion of Paul, Acts 9:1-31. Golden Text, I Timothy 1:15: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

With the exception of Jesus, no single event in the history of mankind has been fraught with such momentous significance as the conversion of the apostle Paul. Its difference from other great and critical events lies not so much in its astonishing unexpectedness and the clear presence in it of the supernatural as in its bearings on the future development of the gospel of Jesus Christ into a world religion. Paul stands a singular illustration of the truth that when the hour strikes for a great change in the world God always has a man ready.

Verses 1,2—The story links itself with the martyrdom of Stephen. "But Saul, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord," and so on. This apparently abrupt introduction carries the reader back to the point from which the evangelistic efforts of Philip had started, namely the death of the other evangelist, Stephen.

Of Saul before he joined the murderers of Stephen we learn many important details from his own references to his past life; but so far as the account in Acts is concerned, it notes only his participation in the death of Stephen and his conversion as an immediate sequel. The gulf between the enemy and persecutor of God's cause on the one hand and the zealous supporter and promoter of it is deep, but it is also narrow enough to be bridged by one superhuman effort.

### What Was Effect of Stephen's Death.

Some have contended that the effect of the dying Stephen's behavior on Saul's mind was only to irritate him and confirm him in his hatred of Christians. Others have alleged that the conversion of Saul was the natural reaction of his better nature from the violent, extreme and cruel treatment of the martyr. There is an element of truth in both positions. He was outraged by the apparent blasphemy of the evangelist. His zeal for the faith of his fathers was goaded to a fury of hatred. But the heroic calmness and strength of the dying Christian could not but command his admiration. And what was there, after all, in Jesus as preached by Stephen that could be condemned upon purely moral standards of righteousness? Thoughts of this kind must have agitated his soul as he journeyed toward Damascus.

Verses 3-9—Saul probably went to Damascus by the direct route, known as "The Way of the Sea." The exact spot of the remarkable experience of Saul is fixed by tradition on a height twelve miles south of Damascus. At this point the party could catch the first glimpse of

the ancient city. It was a fit place for such an experience.

The accounts of that experience show some differences in minor details. Since, however, all of them must have had Paul as their ultimate source, and since all are reproduced by Luke, these differences must not be looked at as discrepancies, but rather as mutually conditionally introduced to bring into view successively aspects of the extraordinary event that needed to be emphasized.

The central fact in the experience was the vision of Jesus the risen Redeemer. Whether this vision was subjective or objective, it brought Saul into real intercourse with Jesus, whom he had believed to be an impostor lying in his grave. Moreover, the vision was confirmed by a voice whose tone of authority Saul was constrained to recognize at once. The shock to Paul's physical system was so great as to cause a temporary loss of sight. Thus he was led into Damascus a captive of Jesus Christ to await his new master's pleasure.

Verses 10-18—The visit of Ananias to Saul is illustrative of a principle in the workings of the divine Providence frequently brought into view in the Bible. After God has prepared men independently for work in his service he brings them into touch with one another through mysterious impulses and the operation of diverse motives. Ananias found it hard to believe that Saul would listen to him and be influenced by him, because he did not know what God had already done to prepare Saul's heart. So, many a Christian is unwilling to approach others with the message of salvation through Christ because he forgets the power of God to open the way for him and create a receptive heart.

### Saw Advantage of Studying the Gospel.

Verses 19-31—The promptness of Saul to work for Christ is striking. We know from other sources that he spent three years in Arabia readjusting his system of thought to his new faith. But that was later. To build up his theology, he needed time and opportunity to study and think. But to preach Christ, it was enough that he had come to know Christ in his own experience. But because he could preach Christ without further preparation, he did not decline to study and learn more of the depth and breadth and height of the gospel's meaning.

The preaching of the new convert was met by violent opposition on one side and by natural suspicion on the other. The Jews of Damascus were enraged, and conspired to destroy him. And the Christians of Jerusalem shunned him as a possible dissembler. To overcome the difficulties raised, he must needs depend upon the assistance of his new friends. It was these that saved him at Damascus by helping him to escape by night. And it was Barnabas, another sympathizer, who introduced him to the apostles at Jerusalem. It would be difficult to overestimate the helpfulness of those who understand one and sympathize with his aims and purposes.

lems involved, unnecessarily aroused the antagonism of the milk producer, and in this way have hampered the cause of clean milk. Dairy inspectors should be familiar with farm problems, so that they can meet the farmers on their own ground and help them with their economic problems, as well as with the improvement of sanitary conditions. The Department employees endeavor to aid the state and municipal dairy inspectors in adopting a uniform system of inspection, whereby the greatest good can be accomplished with the minimum outlay on the part of the farmer. Inspectors are taught to pay particular attention to the health and cleanliness of the cattle, the use of a covered milk pail to exclude dirt, the prompt and efficient cooling of milk, and the proper sterilization of all utensils with which milk comes in contact. At the plant of the city distributor inspectors are again shown a uniform method of inspection and are urged to pay particular attention to the building, the proper sterilization of all apparatus, the physical condition of employees, the promptness with which milk is handled, its protection from contamination, and proper methods of pasteurization.

The authority for the enforcement of regulations and the control of municipal milk supplies is vested in the local health officers. The Department has no regulatory jurisdiction over the milk sold in a city except in the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States, and where such milk, by reason of its being introduced into the channels of interstate or foreign commerce, comes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Food and Drugs Act. Under the present practice when a milk producer or dealer ships dirty milk in interstate commerce, if it appears to be his first offense, unintentional and not aggravated, and the facts do not seem to demand immediate prosecution, the Federal food inspectors usually warn him that, unless he improves its quality, action may be taken against him under the Food and Drugs Act. The dairy specialists then visit his establishment and suggest simple but effective ways for improving the quality of the product. The food inspectors later make another examination of the milk, and if it continues to fall below Federal requirements, the product may be seized and prosecution entered against the shipper. This intervention by the Federal food authorities, however, is rarely necessary, as in most cases the milkman is very glad to improve his product; in case he does not improve it the local health officers proceed under the state law against him. In a number of cases, however, it was found by the Federal authorities that when the city health officer excluded undesirable milk the farmer or dealer tried to dispose of it in small communities which either had no milk inspectors or health officers or else had not efficient means for preventing the sale of such milk to their citizens. In such cases the Federal law often is invoked to control the undesirable product, provided always that it has been introduced into the channels of interstate or foreign commerce or is otherwise subject to the Federal jurisdiction.

### GROWING RED CLOVER.

How to Overcome Some of the Difficulties in Securing and Maintaining a Good Stand.

The area in red clover is less today than it has been and very much less than it should be. In the New England states, for example, the acreage decreased 20% in the decade between 1899 and 1909. In Ohio, one of the important clover states in 1911, it was little more than half of what it had been in 1897. The area in clover seed in Michigan in 1897 was more than double the area in 1914. During this same period the seed harvest in Illinois fell from 193,509 bushels to 42,409. In short, all the figures available from these and other states point in one direction—to a serious decrease in the area devoted to red clover.

### Loss from Crop Failure.

The cause of this decline in clover growing is to be found in the increasing difficulty experienced in getting a stand, and in the less satisfactory growth of the crop when a stand is secured. There is no way of estimating the loss suffered annually by farmers because they fail to get a catch of clover. They lose not only the money spent for seed, but also the anticipated benefit to the land from the growth of the clover, as well as the hay crop for the year following the sowing. In Iowa Prof. Hughes calculated from more than a thousand reports that the farmers of that state suffered a total loss of one and three-quarters millions of dollars in the years 1910 and 1913 because of failure of the clover seeding. In this case the failures were due to unprecedented droughts, a type of risk which is unavoidable. It is the part of wisdom to decrease such risk as much as possible, and the only way to do that is to make the conditions as nearly perfect for the clover as they can be made. A strong plant may successfully survive many adverse weather conditions where a weak one will succumb.

While there are cases of clover failure that can not at present be explained, it can be said that the important principles of plant growth are directly applicable to the clover plant.

To get a catch, the soil, temperature

and moisture conditions must be right; and to keep a stand, the plants must be maintained in good health. The degree of damage which untoward weather conditions will do depends largely on how healthy and vigorous the clover plant is. The conditions most favorable to the growth of the clover plant must, therefore, be studied and regulated so far as economy and circumstances will permit. Clover delights in a relatively cool, moist climate and in a fertile, loamy soil, containing plenty of vegetable matter, lime, and phosphorus. Of course these ideal conditions can not be fully realized in practice. One of the chief uses of clover is to improve the soil by putting into it vegetable matter, and farmers have a right to expect clover to grow at least reasonably well on soils whose fertility they wish to maintain or increase.

### Lime a Necessity.

It is, however, a mistake to suppose that clover will grow on any soil however much run down. There are certain things that clover demands, and the most important are a good supply of lime and phosphates. There are, it is true, conditions under which clover thrives on acid soils. These conditions are not yet fully understood, but they appear to be related to cool summers and plenty of moisture, which can not be expected in most of the clover belt.

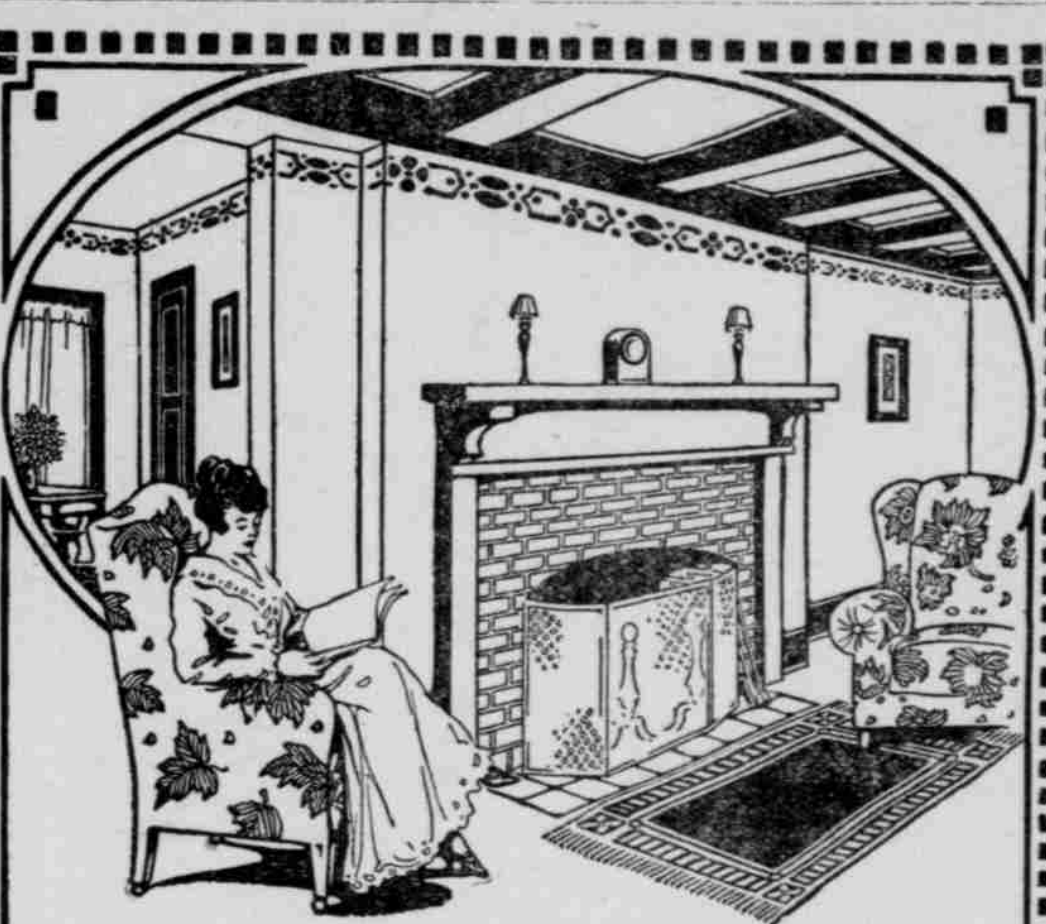
It is not always easy to tell when a soil has enough lime. There are several methods for testing the "lime requirement" of soils; but for practical purposes, this may be roughly determined by the kind of plants growing on the land. If trouble has been experienced with red clover, but if a fair growth of timothy and of alsike clover can be gotten, the land probably needs some lime, say 1,000 pounds of ground limestone per acre; if timothy and alsike clover are crowded out by redtop or if such weeds as sorrel are abundant the land needs plenty of lime, at least a ton of ground limestone to the acre, and probably more. While the functions of lime both in the soil and in the plant are not thoroughly understood, we can confidently say that the clover plant is healthier when there is plenty of lime than when the soil is sour, and being healthier the young plants will withstand a dry spell better, and the old plants will come through the winter better than plants growing on sour soil. To sow red clover seed on so-called acid soils is usually to waste time and money.

The addition of phosphates has also been found to be very beneficial, but here again there is no way to tell how much is needed without trying. If clover has not done well on a farm, the need of lime or phosphorus, or perhaps both, is indicated, and the farmer would do well to buy a bag or two of ground bone or of superphosphate and a ton of fine ground limestone and apply separately or in combination to a part of the field. The growth of the clover during the following season will tell the story of the needs of his soil. The bone meal and phosphate may be applied at the rate of 200 or 300 pounds per acre. Of course, if there is time and opportunity it will be well worth while to try different rates of application so as to find what rate will give best returns at smallest expense. On sandy soils potash may also be needed. For the healthy growth of the clover plant then, lime, phosphorus, and potash must be present; the presence of nitrogen is of minor importance, though, of course, the young plants will do better if nitrates are available. If clover has not been on the land for many years it will be wise to scatter dirt from a clover field or to inoculate the seed with the nitrogen germ. When this is present the clover plant can draw on the nitrogen of the air.

### Value of Humus.

The mechanical condition of the soil must be good. A soil that becomes hard, excluding the air from the roots, will not grow good clover. Lime will help loosen up such a soil, but decaying vegetable matter or humus is the greatest need of such land. This can be furnished in stable manure or by turning under other crops that are not as sensitive as is clover. A soil without humus will dry more readily than one with plenty of vegetable matter, and in a dry season this fact may be all important to the young plants. Most of our partly run-down soils have lost much of the organic matter they had originally. The growing of wheat and corn uses up the soil humus at a rapid rate, and so the time comes when a severe drought destroys the plants on a soil that does not hold the moisture to the extent that it formerly did. Then the plants die, and the farmer blames the dry weather. While it is true that a severe dry spell may kill all vegetation, even when the soil is in good condition, it is just as true that clover plants can endure drier times and hotter weather on soil that has lime and humus, and that consequently produces stronger plants and holds what moisture there is, better than on a soil worn out by overcropping.

Good seed should, of course, be used. Even though seed is high in price this year, poor seed is relatively higher than good seed and should never be used. Clover seed is small, and only those seeds can be expected to make plants that are dropped within a half inch or an inch below the surface. This is for the average loam or clay loam soil. In sandy soil a little deeper planting will do no harm. Seeds dropped on the surface will sprout, if there is moisture, but



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the small plant is subjected to all the chances of hot days and cold nights and to the drying winds that so often come in spring, and they may be killed before they can get their roots down far enough for safety.

### INDIANA INVENTORS.

The following patents were just issued to Indiana clients reported by D. Swift & Co., patent lawyers, Washington, D. C., who will furnish copies of any patent for ten cents apiece to our readers.

Chas. D. Bennett, Scipio, fence post (sold); Michael Burnes, Evansville, inductance regular for alternating current circuits (sold); Mortimer Bye, Frankfort, syringe (sold); Nelson W. Cady, Logansport, splint; M. S. Chapman, Elkhart, pastry; William L. Franks, Evansville, motor cultivator; J. J. Gaynor, Elwood, bottle labeling machine (sold); William W. Heylman, South Bend, bearing device (sold); Bernard C. Holthaus, Schnellville, hoisting rope catching cart; Jno. A. Jackson, Chestertown, car truck construction (sold); B. H. Lett, Evansville, gasoline turbine; Jas. B. Ludlum, Marion, telephone bracket (sold); Chas. McBride, Indianapolis, rail tie; W. P.

McGreen, Logansport, spring seat attachment; E. M. Millhouse, Peru, burial vault (sold).

Estimates of the value of stable manure on the farm indicate that in eastern Pennsylvania the manure produced by one adult horse or cow nets the farmer on an average \$15.80 per year, while in southern Michigan the manure of one such animal nets the farmer \$8.22.

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### NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors, heirs and legatees of Frank Fowler, deceased, to appear in the Union Circuit Court, held at Liberty, Indiana, on the 17th day of April, 1916, and show cause, if any, why the Final Settlement Accounts with the estate of said decedent should not be approved; and said heirs are notified to then and there make proof of heirship, and receive their distributive shares. [SEAL] WITNESS, the Clerk of said Court, this 21st day of March, 1916. THOS. J. TEMPLETON, Clerk of Union Circuit Court. 4124 Pigman & Roberts, Attys.

## Department of Agriculture

Weekly News Letter from Washington, D. C., in the Interest of Better Farming

### BETTER MILK SUPPLIES.

Federal Dairy Specialists Co-operating With City Health Officers to Improve Conditions.

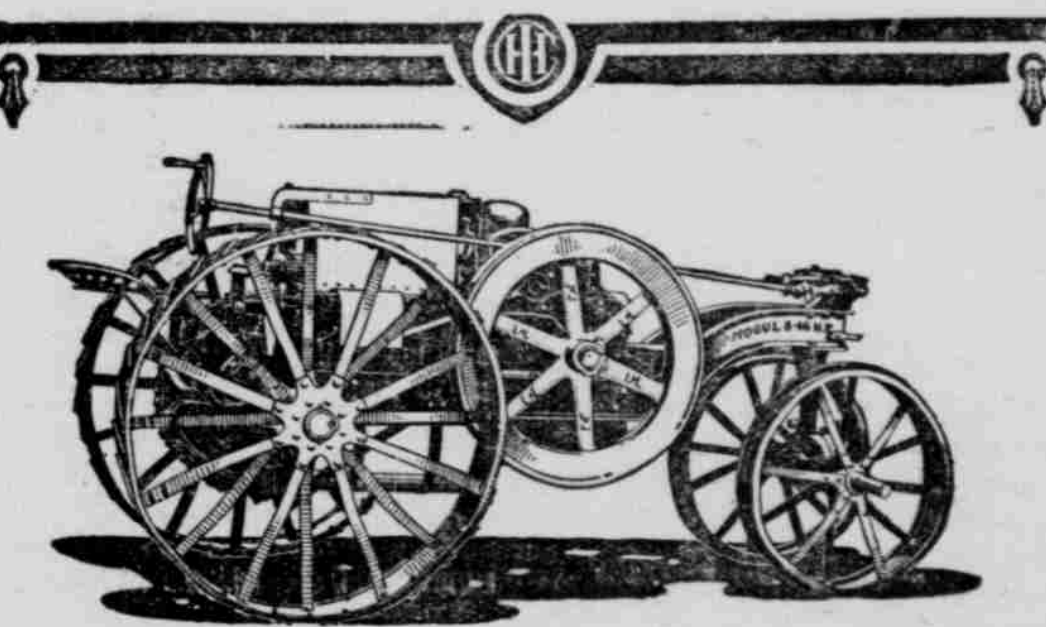
The Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are now co-operating with the health officers of a number of cities in an effort to improve the local milk supply. The Federal specialists, when invited by the local authorities, investigate milk conditions, make suggestions for proper supervision of market milk, and finally visit farmers whose milk is below grade and help them to improve the sanitary conditions of their dairies. As these officials realize that it costs more to produce thoroughly clean milk than a carelessly produced article, they frequently conduct educational campaigns in which consumers are shown that the production of clean milk entails additional expense on the farmer.

In a recent statement on the subject the dairy specialists said that one of the most vital suggestions that they can make to city health officers is that all milk that does not come from tuberculin-tested cattle should be pasteurized by the holding process. In this process the milk is heated to 145° F. and held at that temperature for thirty minutes. Such pasteurization, without producing appreciable change in the flavor of the milk, kills large numbers of the bacteria and, even more important than this, destroys the disease-producing bacteria,

such as those that cause typhoid fever, diphtheria, septic sore throat, or tuberculosis. Other important considerations in the production of clean milk are healthy herds, sanitary barns, and the proper sterilization and cleaning of all utensils. No one with an infectious disease or who has been exposed to contagion should be allowed to work in or around a dairy or milk-handling establishment. Another point which must not be overlooked is the cooling of the milk on the farm to a temperature which retards growth of bacteria; at no time in its handling or delivery should the milk be allowed to become warm. The experts say that it is not enough for a milkman to deliver a clean, cool product at the house. Milk allowed to stand on a porch in the sun or that is left in open bottles or kept in warm rooms quickly deteriorates until it becomes dangerous for children or even for adults.

The following statement outlines what are regarded by the dairy specialists as the essentials in dealing effectively with the sanitation of a city's milk supply:

"The Department of Agriculture, in working with State and municipal officials for the betterment of milk supplies, urges that ordinances relating to the dairy industry should be more concise, understandable, and uniform. Diversity of laws has led to considerable misunderstanding among dairymen and has been the cause of considerable conflict. Another thing that the department urges is that dairy inspectors be selected who are fitted for this particular line of work. Many cities have appointed inexperienced and unqualified men, who have, through a misunderstanding of the prob-



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