

**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 14

July 2, 1989

## Paul's Testimony On The Castle Stairs

The chief captain rushed with his soldiers to rescue Paul from the angry mob. The soldiers picked Paul up and carried him on their shoulders to the castle stairs where he would be safe.

At the top of the stairs, Paul asked the chief captain, "May I speak to you?" When given permission, Paul told him, "I am a Jew of Tarsus. I beg you, please let me speak to the people."

Paul began by telling the people about himself. He said, "I am a Jew and although I was born in Tarsus, I was brought up right here in Jerusalem where I was taught by Gamaliel. I learned the law of God perfectly and was very careful to obey it and defend it. I even persecuted the believers whom I felt were not keeping the law, binding and imprisoning both men and women and even having some put to death. The high priest is a witness to this because he gave me permission to go to Damascus in order to arrest believers."

Paul told them how Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus and how he was instructed to call for a man named Ananias. He related to them the entire story of how the Jews turned against him when he began to preach about Jesus and how God had then sent him to preach to the Gentiles.

The people listened carefully until they heard him mention the Gentiles, then they would hear no more. They began shouting that such a man should be put to death. The mob was so furious they tore their clothes off and threw dirt in the air. Seeing the great turmoil, the chief captain commanded Paul to be brought into the castle. The soldiers were told not to harm Paul because he was a Roman.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"God is faithful, who will with the temptation also make a way to escape." (I Corinthians 10:13)





### The Yellow Kite

(A true story)

Little Timmy stood at his small bedroom window watching the older children fly kites on the hillside across the way. Though his clothes were hand-medowns nearly worn out, Timmy's little face was washed and his blond curls combed as neatly as possible.

Timmy turned with a sigh from his window as he heard his mama come into the room.

"Mama, I still want a kite," Timmy said, "a yellow one with a long, long string."

Now Mama sighed. "Timmy, if I've told you once I've told you a thousand times, you are too small to fly a kite. Besides, I have no money for a kite like you are wanting. Please, honey," Mama pleaded, "try to forget about the kite."

Timmy did not ask again about a kite, but he didn't forget about it. That night as Mama tucked Timmy into bed, he talked about the yellow kite again.

"Mama, do you know what I did?" said Timmy. "I just prayed to God and asked Him for a yellow kite with a long, long string on it. Maybe God will have enough money to buy me a kite and I don't think He will think I'm too little for one."

"Oh, Timmy," said Mama, "let's just leave it in God's hands that way. But if God thinks you are too little for a kite, don't be too disappointed, honey. Just trust in God's wisdom, also."

With these words, Mama kissed Timmy good night and Timmy was soon sound asleep.

The next morning, Mama went to the kitchen to scramble three eggs for their breakfast. When she looked out the kitchen window, she saw the end of a white string dangling outside the window. Something prompted her to go outside and see where that string had come from.

Up, up, up went the string. Caught on the top of the house at the end of the string was—guess what? a big yellow kite! Mama gasped in surprise, then she ran into the house to get Timmy, who was still sleeping. "Look, Timmy, look!" Mama told Timmy as she carried him outside. Timmy blinked his eyes and looked up where Mama pointed.

"It's my yellow kite!" he shouted. "God sent my yellow kite! Oh, Mama, I

just knew He would!"

Timmy wanted the yellow kite right away, but they had to wait until Daddy came and climbed up on the roof to get it down. They asked the older children flying kites on the hillside if the kite belonged to any of them. No one said it was theirs so Timmy kept the kite for his very own.

Daddy took him up to the hillside and helped Timmy fly his yellow kite. It flew so high on its long string that Timmy was afraid it wouldn't come back. But it did and Timmy kept it many years to remind him that God answered his prayer for a yellow kite when he was a little boy.

-Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- . Who rushed with his soldiers to rescue Paul?
- Who picked Paul up and carried him?
- 3. At the top of the stairs, what did Paul ask to do?
- 4. Where was Paul born?
- 5. Who taught Paul in Jerusalem?
- 6. Where did the high priest give Paul permission to go?
- 7. Who appeared to him on the road?
- 8. What did the angry mob do?
- 9. Where did the chief captain command Paul to be taken?



(Answers: 1. The chief captain. 2. The soldiers. 3. To speak to the people. 4. At Tarsus. 5. Gamaliel. 6. To Damascus. 7. Jesus. 8. They tore off their clothes and threw dirt in the air. 9. Into the castle.)



Lesson Text: Acts 21:37-40; 22:1-29.

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**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 15

July 9, 1989

# Paul's Defense Before The Jewish Council

After being rescued from the fury of the mob, Paul spent the night as a prisoner in the castle. The next morning, Paul stood before the chief captain, the chief priests and all their council to hear their accusations.

When he was given permission to speak, Paul told the council, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." This made Ananias, the chief priest, so angry he commanded the soldiers to strike him on the mouth.

"God will smite you, you hypocrite. Do you pretend to judge me after the law and yet command me to be smitten contrary to the law?" Paul asked.

"Will you revile God's high priest?" they asked Paul.

Paul apologized, "I didn't know, brethren, that he was the high priest for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people."

As Paul listened to the council, he learned that one part was Sadducees and the other was Pharisees. Paul then cried out, "I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I am being accused today because I believe in the hope of the resurrection."

When the people heard this, they began disputing among themselves and immediately the council was divided between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees shouted, "We find no evil in this man. If a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let's not fight against God."

The dispute between the Pharisees and the Sadducees became so great the chief captain was afraid Paul would be torn in pieces. Again the soldiers had to rescue Paul and carry him into the castle.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





s man." (Acts 23:9)

# Pray For Our Judges

Let's talk a little more about the council of men whom Apostle Paul talked before in our lesson. Do you remember someone else who stood before a council or gathering of men? Yes, it was Jesus.

Jesus stood before a high priest who slapped Jesus' face and talked bad to Jesus. Yet Jesus never spoke but kind words of truth to the angry council of men. Those wicked men were jealous of Jesus because they saw all the people listen to Jesus instead of them. They did not like the wonderful healings that Jesus did. Remember how they said "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" and they wanted Jesus to die the cruel death on the cross?

Now in this lesson, Paul is facing an angry council of men just like Jesus did. Paul knew these jealous men wanted to kill him just as they had killed Jesus. Paul did not want to be sassy to the high priest but he wanted to be polite. He knew that was the way Jesus had been.

Paul must have prayed to God for wisdom in talking to these 71 wicked men gathered in the Gazith Hall of the temple, because God surely did give wisdom to Paul. God told Paul to just let these 71 men know that Jesus was in heaven and that he hoped to be in heaven someday with Jesus. Some of these men agreed with Paul, and some did not. They started such a terrible fight among themselves that soldiers had to rescue Paul so he wouldn't be hurt! God did not let Apostle Paul be killed by this jealous council of Jewish men, but God protected Paul one more time.

In our country, The United States of America, we have a court hearing where a judge in a black robe sits at a special desk and listens to people from prison. The judge is to know our country's laws and he tells what is to be done with the people. Judges are supposed to be fair, but if they aren't, we are still to be polite to them.

Never talk sassy to a judge or a policeman. As Apostle Paul said, God's Holy Word teaches us to respect those who

rule over us. We should show them respect even if they are not kind to us. We must remember that God is up high over all judges who rule in our country today. Someday each earthly judge will stand before God and God will decide what will be done with them. God is a fair judge and He is the highest judge of all.

Right now, today, we must pray for the judges in our country, The United States of America. Pray that they will let God talk to their hearts so they will make fair, good decisions. We are to respect these judges and it is easier to do when you know they believe in God and will listen to Him.

-Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- 1. Where did Paul spend the night?
- 2. Why was he there?
- 3. Who did the chief captain command to appear before him?
- 4. What did Paul tell the council?
- 5. Who became angry when he said this?
- 6. What did the chief priest command the soldiers to do to Paul?
- 7. Who said, "We find no fault in this man"?
- 8. Why did the soldiers have to rescue Paul?
- Where did the soldiers carry Paul?

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(Answers: 1. In the castle. 2. He was a prisoner. 3. The chief priests and their council. 4. "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." 5. Ananias, the high priest. 6. To smite him on the mouth. 7. The Phariaees. 9. The chief captain was afraid he would be torn to pieces. 9. Into the castle.)



Lesson Text: Acts 22:30; 23:1-11.

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**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 16

July 16, 1989

## A Plan To Murder Paul

After again being rescued by the soldiers, Paul spent the second night in the castle as a prisoner. That night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul. Just as you have testified of me in Jerusalem, you must also bear witness of me at Rome."

Now the next day certain of the Jews came together and promised each other that they wouldn't eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty Jews made this promise. Knowing the chief priests and elders would be pleased with what they wanted to do, they hurried to tell them of their plan. They told them, "We want you to help us by asking the chief captain to bring Paul down to you tomorrow as though you wanted to question him further. We will be waiting and when the soldiers bring him from the castle we will capture Paul and kill him."

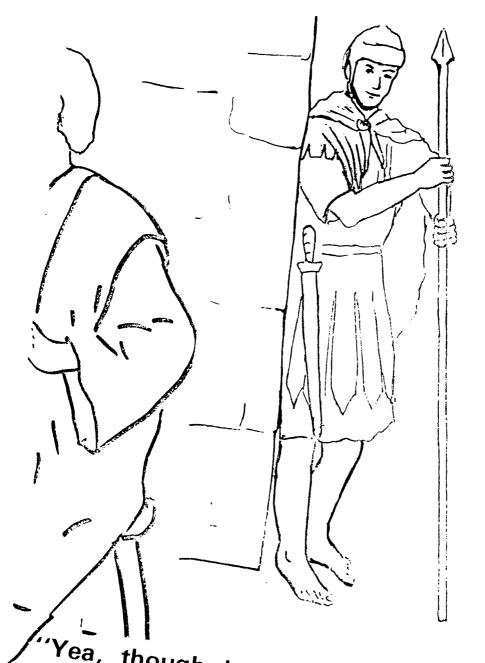
But, Paul's sister's son heard of their plan. Quickly he went to the castle and told Paul what he had learned. Paul knew something must be done to stop the Jew's plan so he called one of the captains and told him, "Take this you man to the chief captain. He has something very important to tell him."

Leading the young man to a place where no one could hear what he had to say, the chief captain listened as he told him of the murder plot. After warning the young man to tell no one else, the chief captain immediately began preparing to help Paul escape.

By night Paul was taken to Caesarea on horseback protected by two hundred spearmen, two hundred soldiers and seventy horsemen. The next afternoon Paul was brought safely to the Roman governor, Felix.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





I''Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil."

(Psalm 23:4)

# 本本本本本本本本本本本本本本 God's Provision

Into the castle Paul was brought And soundly kept in prison To wait what lot He vet knew not-Paul was trusting in God's provision.

He was praying, maybe singing When in came his nephew to see him. "Bad news I bring About something

You must know!" his nephew told him.

"There's forty men who want to kill you, And they are bound with this curse: No eating they'll do

Nor drinking too Until they know you are dead first."

Bu' Paul was sure this couldn't happen— An angel from God had promised!

These forty men Would find again

God provides for those who are honest!

Paul sent his nephew to the captain Who had become the friend of Paul. So this young man Told of the plan

That might have brought the end of Paul. The captain said, "Keep this secret;

Don't tell that you have told me. There is time yet For me to get

My prisoner, Paul, to safety."

Then two centurions he did call Who did prepare five hundred men Who did take Paul Outside the wall Away from those forty wicked men.

They should have known better than Try to stop the gospel story. God had His hand

Upon this man

And from Paul's life God received glory.

Take heed and learn from this lesson That God provides for those who let Him.

Make your decision Trust God's provision

And you will have no regret then. -Connie Sorrell

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### All Settled

Robert's older brother had been brightly saved and was very happy in the Lord. Now Robert was concerned; in fact, he was greatly troubled.

Early Sunday morning he came to his mother's room saying, "Oh, Mother, I can't stand it. I can't stand it any

longer.'

"What is the matter, Robert," she asked. Then he told her how he could not sleep at nights for fear the Lord would come.

His mother, who was a widow, and a Christian, had a quiet talk with her boy. She told him the Lord Jesus loved him; had died to put away all His sins, and all he had to do now was to ask Jesus to come into his heart and be his Saviour. The result was that Robert confessed the Lord in a very simple way: then he said. "'O what a Saviour. that He died for me!" " Needless to say, his mother's joy was beyond telling.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

### **米米米米米米米米米米米米米** Questions:

- Who stood by Paul in the night? 1.
- What did the angel tell Paul? 2.
- 3. What did certain of the Jews promise each other?
- How many made this promise? 4.
- 5. Who did they tell their plan to?
- Who else heard of their plan? 6.
- 7. Who helped Paul escape? 8. Where was Paul taken?
- Who was the Roman governor Paul was brought to?

#### \*\*\*\*\*

tain. 8. To Caesarea. 9. Felix.) 6. Paul's sister's son. 7. The chief cap-5. To the chief priests and elders. until they had killed Paul. 4. Forty. of good cheer." 3. Not to eat or drink (Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. He said, "Be



Lesson Text: Acts 22:12-24.

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**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 17

July 23, 1989

# Paul's Testimony Before Felix

Five days after Paul arrived in Caesarea, the high priest, the Jewish leaders and a man named Tertullus who was a very good speaker, all hurried to Caesarea to accuse Paul before Felix.

At the trial, Tertullus first rose to speak. He began by telling Felix, "We enjoy great quietness because of your leadership and you have done many good deeds for our nation. We are thankful you are our leader.

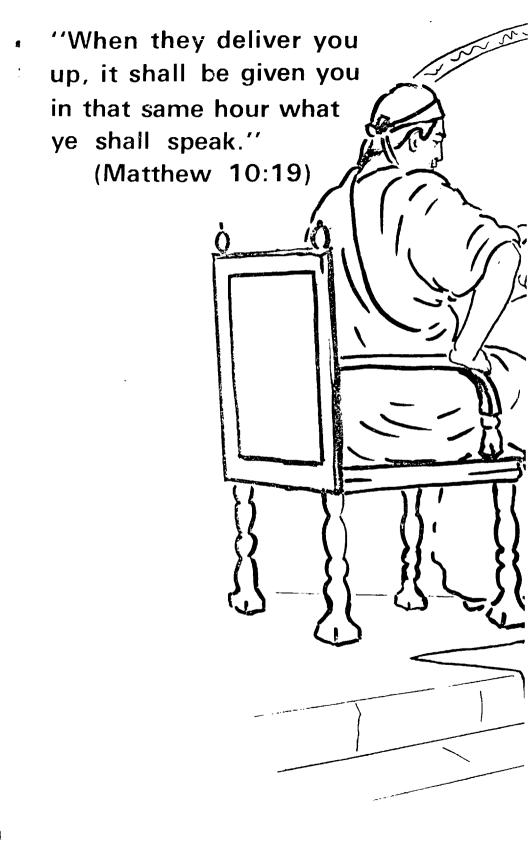
Felix was not fooled by his praise because he knew the Jews hated the Romans who ruled over them.

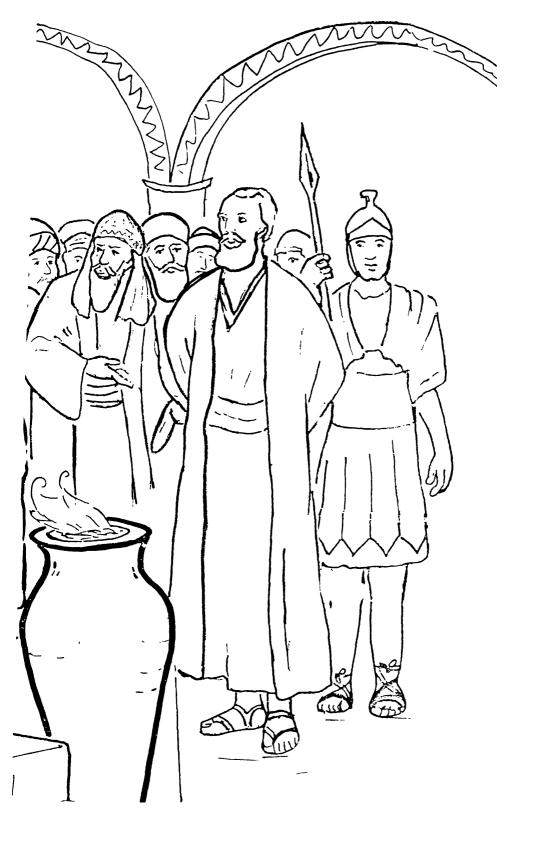
As Tertullus next spoke of Paul, his voice was angry as he accused, "We have found this man to be a great troublemaker among the Jews. He attempted to defile our temple and while we were going about to try him, the chief captain took him out of our hands. Now we have come before you so you can know why we accuse him." All the Jews agreed with what Tertullus said.

Next, Felix motioned to Paul that it was his turn to speak. Paul said, "I cheerfully answer for myself before you because you have judged this nation for many years. Just twelve days ago I went up to worship God at Jerusalem. The Jews did not find me stirring up the people in the synagogues nor in the city. They cannot prove these things they accuse me of. They condemn the way I worship God, but I always am careful to keep my heart free from wrong toward God and toward men."

Felix realized that the Jews could not find any real fault in Paul, but he did not release him. Instead, he told the council, "When the chief captain comes, I will ask him more about this matter." Paul was kept a prisoner and the Jews returned to Jerusalem.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





# Pray Right Away!

Carla and Stacy were playing dolls and house on Carla's front porch.

"Let's take our dolls for a walk," said

Carla.

"Okay," said Stacy. "Let's pretend we are going to the store."

Suddenly the girls heard screaming tires and then a loud crash of metal.

"There's been an accident at the corner of the street!" cried Carla.

"Let's go see what happened!" said Stacy. Both girls jumped up and took off running until they saw two cars crashed together. "They may need our help," said Stacy. "I hope no one is

badly hurt!"

"Me too!" agreed Carla. "Oh, look," she said as they came closer," someone is pinned under the steering wheel of the car! "It's Mrs. Wallace who just came home from the hospital!"

"Let's help her!" Stacy cried.

Other people were already coming to help in the accident as both drivers were hurt. One neighbor had already called the police and ambulance. Carla and Stacy ran up to Mrs. Wallace's broken car window.

"Mrs. Wallace," called Carla, "we'll pray for you right now! God can help

you!"

"Her face is so white and it is bleeding from cuts," said Stacy. "Is she still

alive?"

"Oh, dear Lord," Carla began to pray, "help Mrs. Wallace. You see she has been in a car accident and she is hurt. She won't even open her eyes. Please help her, dear Lord, that she won't die but that she will soon be well again. Please help the other driver also, dear Lord, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

"Now, girls, get back," said a police officer. "We must get this lady out quickly. Here, bring a stretcher over here," he called to a medical technician.

A kind neighbor lady put her arms around Carla and Stacy and drew them away from the accident.

"I am sure Mrs. Wallace will soon be okay," Carla told this neighbor lady.

"How is that?" she asked.

Carla and Stacy replied together, "We prayed for her!"

"Oh," she said, "that was kind of you girls! Yes, indeed, it was!"

At the hospital, they found that Mrs. Wallace wasn't hurt nearly as bad as they first thought she was. She had heard the girls pray as she laid hurt over the steering wheel of her car. Some days later, she came looking for the girls who were again playing dolls on Carla's front porch.

"I want you girls to know how much your sweet prayer meant to me," said Mrs. Wallace to the girls. "I know the Lord heard your prayers and healed me quicker than the doctor expected!"

"Oh, we are so glad you are better!" said Carla and Stacy. "We always pray for someone who is sick or hurt. Children of God are supposed to!"

"Indeed, you are children of God!" agreed Mrs. Wallace. —Connie Sorrell



### Questions:

- How many days was Paul in Caesarea before his accusers came?
- Who came with the high priest and Jewish leaders?
- 3. Why did they bring him?
- 4. How did Tertullus begin his speech?
- 5. Was Felix fooled by what Tertullus said?
- 6. Who did the Jews hate?
- 7. What did Tertullus say Paul was?
- 8. How many days had it been since Paul went to worship at Jerusalem?
- Did Felix release Paul?



prisoner.)

(Answers: I. Five. 2. Tertullus. 3. Because he was a very good speaker. 4. By flattering Felix. 5. No. 6. The Romans who ruled over them. 7. A troublemaker. 8. Twelve. 9. No, he kept him as a



Lesson Text: Acts 24:1-23.

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**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 18

July 30, 1989

## Paul Appeals To Caesar

After two years, Paul was still a prisoner in Caesarea. A new governor was appointed to replace Felix whose name was Festus. Felix could have released Paul before he left, but he kept Paul bound because he wanted to please the Jews.

Three days after becoming governor, Festus went up to Jerusalem to get better acquainted with the Jewish leaders and their customs.

When the high priest and the Jewish leaders learned the new governor had arrived, they came to him to accuse Paul. They hoped he would send for Paul to come to Jerusalem so they could lay wait for him and kill him.

However, Festus stayed in Jerusalem ten days and then returned to Caesarea. The next day he commanded Paul to come and stand before his accusers.

Again the Jews accused Paul of many serious charges, but they could not prove any of them. Paul answered his accusers by saying, "I have never done wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

To please the Jews, Festus asked Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and be judged before me there?"

Paul answered, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat where I ought to be tried. You know very well that I have not wronged the Jews. Had I done anything worthy of death, I would be willing to die. I appeal to Caesar."

As a Roman citizen, Paul had a right to be judged by Caesar. Festus could only answer, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Ye shall be brought before gov (Matth ors and kings for my sake."
10:18)



### Order And Law

Can you children count to ten? Usually when there are ten people together, there has to be some form of order. At least one of them is the leader and the others help. Often even groups with less than ten people have a leader and helpers.

How many people are in your family? When children have a problem or need, usually they go to Mother first. If it is a great big problem or need, then Mother will take it to Daddy. Daddy will then pray to Jesus for help with the problem. Jesus intercedes or goes to God, His Father, who will answer the prayer and help with the problem or need. This is the way a happy saintly family works.

Often Mother will take the need to Jesus. Then Jesus takes it to God and God answers prayer. Also, you yourself can take any need or problem to Jesus in prayer. But let us see how a big problem will be handled in a saintly family.

Suppose big brother is sick with a fever and has a tummy ache. He will tell Mother, "I don't feel very well." Mother checks big brother's forehead and sure enough, it is hot.

"Let me call Daddy," she says.

Daddy comes into big brother's room. "Are you feeling sick, son?" he asks. "Let us have a word of prayer and ask Jesus to make you feel better."

When they get ready to pray, maybe they will call you and the rest of the family into the room to pray with them. The prayer is heard by Jesus who talks to God, the Father, about big brother's fever. God will then answer prayer and take away big brother's fever. After awhile big brother is up and playing again.

See how there is order in a family? God planned it to be this way. When a group of people live together, there has to be order and law. A community, a town, a county, a state, and a country all have order and laws by which to live. Can you think of some signs of order in the area where you live? Are there any stop signs close to your house?

In our lesson today, we see that Apostle Paul knew about the law and order kept in Jerusalem under the Roman rule. Paul used a special law to keep them from whipping his back with a whip of several thongs holding pieces of lead or bone. When Apostle Paul was a boy, he had studied and learned the laws of his country very well. He lived by the laws that he knew God was pleased with.

We are expected to obey the laws of our country which God is pleased with. As you grow older, learn all you can about the laws in your community, town, state, and country. This knowledge will help you as a grown-up.

-Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- How long had Paul been a prisoner in Caesarea?
- Who replaced Felix as the new governor?
- Why didn't Felix release Paul?
- 4. Where did Festus go three days after he became governor?
- 5. Why did the high priest and the Jewish leaders come to Festus?
- 6. What did they hope he would do?
- 7. Why did they want Paul to come to Jerusalem?
- 8. Who did Paul appeal to?
- Why did Paul have this right?



citizen.)

(Answers: 1. Two years. 2. Featus. 3. He wanted to please the Jews. 4. To Jerusalem. 5. To accuse Paul. 6. They hoped he would send for Paul to come to Jerusalem. 7. So they could lay wait and kill him. 8. Caesar. 9. He was a Roman him. 8. Caesar. 9. He was a Roman



Lesson Text: Acts 24:27; 25:1-12.

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**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 19

Aug. 6, 1989

### What Festus Thinks About Paul

Some days after Paul had appealed to Caesar, King Agrippa and his sister, Bernice, came to visit Festus who was the new governor.

After they had been in Caesarea many days, Festus told Agrippa about Paul. He said, "Felix left a man prisoner whom the chief priests and rulers of the Jews want to kill. I told them that the Romans do not condemn any man to death before he has a chance to defend himself against his accusers. I asked them to come to Caesarea where he would be tried. The very next day after they came, I sat on the judgment seat and commanded that Paul be brought to face his accusers. When I heard their case, I found they had no real charges against the man but wanted to kill him because of Jesus, whom they say is dead but Paul declares to be alive. Because the Jews insisted, I asked him if he would go up to Jerusalem to be tried there. He refused to do this but instead appealed to Caesar."

Hearing this, Agrippa was immediately interested in the case. He told Festus, "I would like to hear the man myself."

"Tomorrow," answered Festus, "you will hear him."

The next day Agrippa and Bernice, along with many important people, gathered to hear Paul's case. Festus commanded Paul to be brought before them.

Introducing Paul, Festus said, "This is the man whom all the Jews say is not fit to live any longer. I have found he has done nothing worthy of death. He has appealed to Caesar, but I have found nothing to accuse him of to Caesar. I have brought him before you, O King Agrippa, so you may hear him and find out why he is accused.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





### Believe The Truth

"Daddy, do you know some of our neighbors don't know about Jesus?" asked Terry. It was family worship time in the evening and Daddy had just read the story about Jesus rising from the dead.

"What neighbors?" asked Daddy.

"The new neighbors that moved into the house behind ours," replied Terry. "David and I were playing Christian and Faithful like in the story of *Pil-grim's Progress*. Those two neighbor boys wanted to play, but when we started telling them about the story, they didn't even know what a Christian was!"

"That's right," said David entering the talk. "They said their mother never took them to church and they didn't know where their daddy lives and they said Christians were super—super—something. What was that word they said?" David asked Terry, but Daddy knew what the word was.

"Did he say, 'superstitious'?" asked Daddy.

"That's it!" both boys agreed. "What does 'superstitious' mean?" asked Terry.

Daddy sat back in his chair and cradled the Bible story book in his big hands. "Well, boys," he said, "that word really applies to witches, and such like wicked people. It is for someone who is fearful of daily happenings that may bring good or bad luck. I am sorry our neighbors are so ignorant of the truth in God's Word. Ignorant means not wise about something."

"They certainly are ignorant about Jesus," agreed Terry. "They probably never heard the wonderful story we had tonight about Jesus rising from the dead and ascending into heaven. How can we let these neighbor boys know it really is true, Daddy?"

"First of all," replied Daddy, "we must study the Bible and understand what it says. It is important to be saved and let God's Holy Spirit give you understanding of the Scriptures. You must then practice what the Bible tells you to live, and soon confused, wicked neighbors will see how you are different. You will be honest, kind, loving, and have

other fruits of goodness that ignorant people just won't have. Your good example will sting their wicked hearts. God may then give you a chance to tell them that you live by the Bible, believe in it, and Jesus is alive in heaven talking to your heart through His Holy Spirit. Each day Jesus tells you how to live good and happy and that is the reason why you know He is still alive today."

Terry and David were listening very carefully to their father's instructions.

"We also know the Bible is true because honest men wrote what God told them, right, Daddy?" asked David.

"Yes," answered Daddy. "Peter, James, John, Paul—those men and others went throughout the world telling rich kings and poor slaves alike about Jesus and how He arose from the dead. The disciples and many others saw Jesus ascend into the clouds and He is coming again in the clouds. Then you will be glad you believed in Jesus. We will pray for those who are ignorant of this truth."

—Connie Sorrell

#### Questions:

- Who came to visit Festus?
- 2. Who was the prisoner Festus told Agrippa about?
- 3. Who wanted to kill Paul?
- 4. Why did they want to kill him?
- 5. Why did Festus ask Paul to go to Jerusalem?
- 6. What did Paul do when he was asked to go to Jerusalem?
- To whom did he appeal?
- 8. What did Agrippa tell Festus?
- Why did Festus bring Paul before Agrippa?

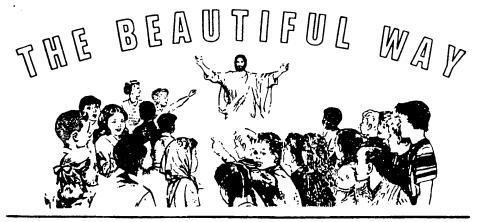


(Answers: I. King Agrippa and his sister, Bernice. 2. Paul. 3. The chief priests and rulers of the Jews. 4. Because of Jesus. 5. The Jews insisted. 6. He refused. 7. To Caesar. 8. "I would like to hear the man myself." 9. So he could find out why he was accused.)



Lesson Text: Acts 25:13-27.

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Vol. 40, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 13, 1989

# Paul Testifies To King Agrippa

As Paul stood before King Agrippa, Bernice, Festus and the other important people who had gathered, King Agrippa told him, "You may speak for yourself and tell your own story."

Paul stretched out his hand as he began to speak. He said, "I am happy, King Agrippa, that I may speak for myself and explain to you why I am accused of the Jews. I know that you are an expert concerning the customs and manners of the Jews.

"All the Jews know what kind of life I lived among them in Jerusalem since I was young. If they would be honest they could tell you that I lived as a Pharisee, the most strict sect of our religion. Now I stand and am judged because I believe God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

"I once persecuted those who believed in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jerusalem I had many of the saints put in prison and when some were put to death, I witnessed against them. I was so mad against them, I even followed them to other cities to persecute them.

"I was on my way to Damascus with permission from the chief priests to arrest any saints I found when I had a vision from God. It was noon, O king, when I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun shining around me. When I fell to the ground I heard a voice speaking to me and saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

"I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"The voice answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Get up. I have appeared to you for a purpose. You will be a minister and a witness to the Gentiles to turn them to God.'

-Sis. Nelda Sorrell





have appeared unto thee to make
ee a minister and a witness."
(Acts 26:16)

## Two Beginnings

"Pay attention, class, and listen to me," said Sis. Peterson to her Sunday school class. "Who created the sun, moon, stars, and the earth that we live on?"

All five hands went up in the air. "Very good," said Sis. Peterson. "Say it together."

"God!" they all answered.

"Now tell me who made people."

Again all five hands went up. "Let's say it together," said Sis. Peterson.

"God!" they all answered again.

"He made everything that we see, didn't He? You children are smart! Some grown-ups don't even know what you know!"

"How come?" asked Dick. "Can't they

read the Bible?"

"Yes, they can read it alright," said. Sis. Peterson, "but they don't want to believe or do what it says. Many specialled 'smart' men or scientists wastered out where the earth began. They study old, old bones and prints in rocks. They look into old, old caves and study the seas; and finally they say. 'We believe the earth just grew into being,' but they never have decided where the things that form the earth come from. Until those scientists really read the Bible and believe in the Bible, they will always be confused about how the earth was made.

"Since you children already know who made the earth and people, then I declare you smarter than those scientists," said Sis. Peterson.

Everyone giggled at such a thought. "Never forget that God made the earth, the sun, moon, and everything we see. How God made everything is told in the first part of the Old Testament of the Bible. Now let me see if you children know how the New Testament of the Bible begins. Who was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger?

Up popped five hands again!

"Let's say it together."

"Jesus!" the children exclaimed.

"Yes, very good!" said Sis. Peterson.
"Jesus was the Son of God. He came to

save every person from their sins. Jesus died that we might be saved from wicked sin. What was Jesus crucified on?"

All the children knew. "The cross!"

they said together.

"That is right again!" said Sis. Peterson. "Now you know a blessed secret that thousands of unhappy people need to know."

"Oh, can we tell those unhappy people this secret?" asked Grace with a

quiet voice.

"Yes, they need to know," said Sis. Peterson. "We need to tell people that Jesus lived, died on a cross, and arose again from the dead. Jesus did all that so we may be happy like man and woman were in the Garden of Eden at the very beginning of time. If we stay faithful to the Lord, someday we will be in heaven with God and Jesus."

"Oh, we would like that!" agreed the

class.

"When can we start telling this secret?" asked Dick.

"Right now!" said Sis. Peterson.

-Connie Sorrell

#### Questions:

- 1. Who told Paul he could speak for himself?
- 2. What was the most strict sect of the Jews?
- Why was Paul being judged?
- 4. Did Paul always believe in Jesus?
- 5. What did he do to many of the saints in Jerusalem?
- 6. To what other city was Paul going to persecute the saints?
- 7. At noon, what did Paul see?
- 8. Who spoke to Paul?
- 9. What did he tell him he would do?



to God.)

(Answers: I. King Agripps. 2. The Pharisees. 3. Because he believed God had raised Jesus from the dead. 4. No. 5. He had them put in prison. 6. To Damascus. 7. A light brighter than the sun. 8. Jesus. 9. He would he a minister sun. 8. Jesus. 9. He would he a minister and witness to the Gentiles to turn them



Lesson Text: Acts 26:1-18.

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Vol. 40, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 20, 1989

# Agrippa Almost Becomes a Christian

Paul continued to testify to Agrippa about how he changed from a strict Pharisee who persecuted the saints to a believer in Jesus. He related how he had preached about Jesus first in Damascus, where he was converted, and later in Jerusalem and throughout Judea. When the Jews refused to believe the gospel, he preached to the Gentiles just as he was instructed in his vision.

Paul told Agrippa, "Because I told the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God who would forgive them, the Jews caught me in the temple and went about to kill me, but by God's help I continue, even until today, to witness to everyone, both small and great."

As Paul spoke, Festus called out loudly, "Paul, you are beside yourself. Too much learning has made you crazy!"

Paul answered calmly, "I am not crazy, most noble Festus, but I speak the truth sincerely. The king knows about these things and that is why I speak freely to him."

Then turning to Agrippa, Paul said, "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe them."

Agrippa told Paul, "You almost persuade me to be a Christian!"

Paul answered, "I wish before God that not only you but also all who hear me today were not just almost but were altogether a Christian as I am."

With this, the king got up, with Bernice, the governor, and the others who sat with them. Leaving the judgment hall, they went aside to discuss Paul's case among themselves. They said, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or of bonds."

-Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Ilmost thou persuadest me to be a



### Altar Calls

It was Friday night and Bobby was in church with his parents. He had been to church every night for a whole week during the revival. Now Bobby was getting rather tired.

"Sit still, Bobby," Mama would whis-

per.

Bobby sighed then glanced up at his daddy who gave him a stern look, so Bobby looked away and gave another sigh.

(Have you ever been like that in church? I certainly hope not!)

When Bobby gets tired, he sometimes gets silly. You know, he will giggle more than he should if something funny happens. Now Bobby did listen to the message while he retied each of his shoes a couple of times. He then rolled up a piece of paper into a paper "telescope" so he could see the preacher better, he explained to his frowning mother.

Finally, when it was time to stand up and sing, Bobby did look at the open songbook his mother handed him and he did try to sing. That was very good

of Bobby!

Then Bobby happened to look over a bench or two and he saw John's little brother asleep on the bench, with his mouth wide open. About that time, a moth fluttered by and landed on John's little brother's nose. The little boy reached up to scratch his nose and the moth went right into his mouth! He sat up, spitting, with the funniest look on his face!

Bobby forgot where he was, and he began to laugh. John saw him laughing, then saw his little brother spitting out the moth and John began to laugh. Now Bobby's father saw him laughing and he sternly tapped Bobby on the shoulder. John's father stopped him also, but every time the two boys looked at each other, they would giggle, right in church!

(I hope you have never seen two boys

this naughty in church.)

Soon Bobby's father took him out one door and John's father took him out another door. What do you think happened next?

Anyway, this is what Bobby's father told him.

"Son, we were having altar call. That is a very serious time and you should never laugh or clown around at all! That is the time when God's Holy Spirit talks to the heart of each one there in the chapel. Did you not feel the heavy conviction in the air? First, you check over your life and heart and ask God if there is anything there that is wrong. If there is, you go to the altar and Jesus will help you with whatever need you have. If you don't feel bad, pray for someone else that they will do what is right at that time. Be quiet and sober during the altar call. Never, never laugh, even if something funny does happen. What if you cause someone to look and laugh and forget what God may be showing them? What if someone was almost persuaded to get saved, but you made them laugh and forget to pray?"

This thought made Bobby more careful during altar calls. He never wanted to hinder someone from getting saved.

—Connie Sorrell

#### Questions:

- 1. What was Paul before he became a Christian?
- While he was still a Pharisee, what did he do to the saints?
- When the Jews refused to believe the gospel, who did Paul preach to?
   What did Festus think about Paul?
- 5. Why did Paul speak freely to Agrippa?
- 6. What did Agrippa tell Paul?
- 7. What was Paul's wish?
- 8. Why did the king and governor leave the judgment hall?
- What did they decide?

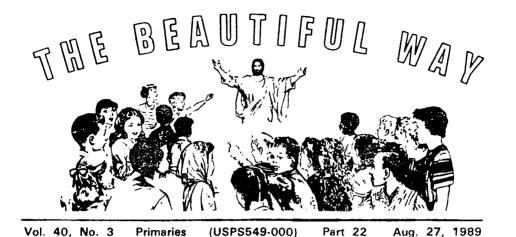
#### \*\*\*\*\*

(Answers: 1. A strict Pharisee. 2. He persecuted them. 3. To the Gentiles. 4. He thought he was crazy. 5. Because he already knew about these things. 6. "You almost persuade me to he a Christian." 7. That all who heard him were Christians too. 8. To discuss Paul's case. 9. That Paul had done nothing onthy of death or of bonds.)



Lesson Text: Acts 26:19-32.

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# Sailing For Rome

The time came for Paul to sail to Rome where he could be tried before Caesar. Paul and other prisoners were delivered to the care of a Roman captain named Julius who put them on a ship sailing to Italy. Never again would Paul see his homeland.

The next day after leaving Caesarea, the ship stopped at Sidon. Paul had already won the trust and respect of Julius who allowed him to go ashore to visit his friends and refresh himself.

Since this ship sailed no further than to Myra, Julius found another ship which was sailing to Italy. He had the soldiers and their prisoners board this ship. Soon they were again sailing toward Rome.

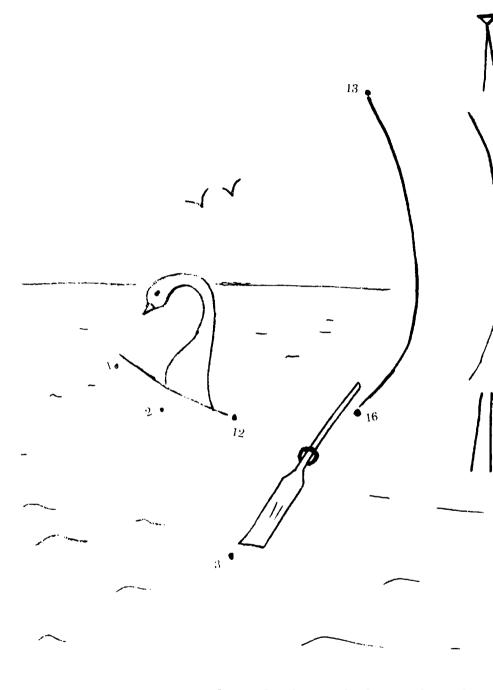
However, the winds were strong and blew from the wrong direction making sailing very slow. In many days they made very little progress. Finally they reached a place called The Fair Havens where they gladly went ashore.

When they prepared to leave this harbor, Paul warned them, "Sirs, I see that this trip will be dangerous and we will suffer hurt and much damage if we go on. We will be in danger of not only losing the ship but our lives also."

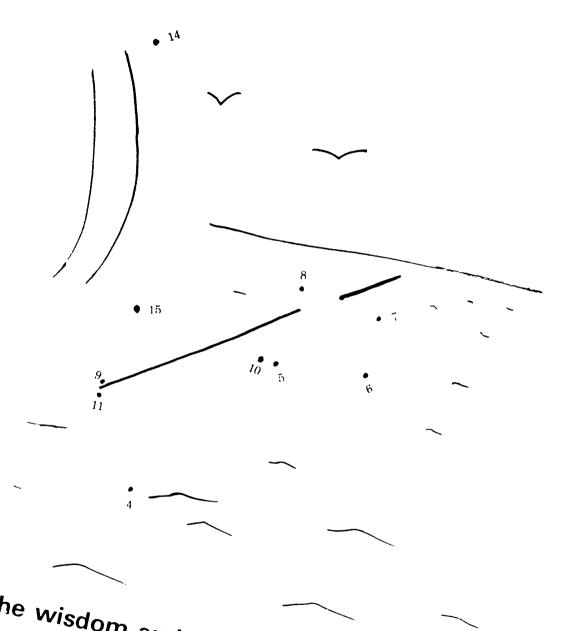
Julius realized that winter was coming on and that sailing was already dangerous, but he was anxious to get back to Rome. Since the owner of the ship was willing to sail on, and The Fair Havens was not a comfortable place to spend the winter, Julius disregarded Paul's warning and the ship glided out of the safety of the harbor into the open sea.

They had not gone far before they got into a terrible storm. How they wished they were back in the harbor, but it was too late now.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



"O the depth of the riches both (Roma)



the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

### The Bad Scare!

"Mama, I want to play with Ricky," said Bob. "May I walk over to his house?"

"Not right now, Bob," said Mother. "I don't want you to walk alone, and I am too busy to walk with you. Wait until I am finished with what I am doing. Do not walk that far to Ricky's without Mama watching you go."

"Ah, Mama," complained Bob, "you

take so long!"

Bob waited for awhile, but soon he was tired of waiting. "I'm not a baby. I can walk over there by myself. I'm going to go before Mama sees me leave," Bob said to himself. Then he slipped out the door and started down the street. He had just come to the second corner when a man drove up in a blue car. "Want a ride?" he asked Bob.

Right away Bob remembered what his mother always told him, "Never ride with strangers!" Bob didn't have a chance to say no. He was too scared, especially when the man started to get out of the car. Bob turned around and started to run away. He was so scared, he began to scream while he ran. He just knew that man would grab him any moment and take him away from his mama and daddy forever!

An elderly neighbor lady heard Bob screaming and she came outside to see what was going on. Bob saw her and ran right into her arms, because she looked like his grandmother, though she wasn't.

In a minute, Bob turned around to see where that man was. He was checking his tire, acting like it may have gone flat, though it wasn't. Then he got in the blue car and drove off.

"Where do you live, little boy," asked the kind lady who had protected him

from that man.

"I will show you," said Bob, taking her by the hand. He wasn't going to walk home by himself this time!"

Bob's mother was already missing him. She was out on the porch looking for him when he came walking up with the kind neighbor lady. "Your little boy had a bad scare," said the lady. She told Bob's mother what she had seen. Mother hugged Bob tight though she was displeased at him for leaving without her knowing.

"Now do you know why Mother tells you to never walk alone without Mother or Daddy knowing where you are?" she

asked Bob.

Bob surely had learned!

After they went inside, Mother called the police and told them what had happened. She thought they should know a man like that was around the neighborhood.

—Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- 1. How was Paul to travel to Rome?
- 2. Who else was on the ship besides Paul?
  - 3. Who was Julius?
- 4. At Sidon, what did Julius allow Paul to do?
- 5. Why did they sail so slowly?
- 6. Where did they finally go ashore?
- 7. When they got ready to leave, what did Paul tell them?
- 8. What were some of the reasons Julius didn't stay at The Fair Havens?
- 9. What did they soon get in to?



(Answers: I. By ship. 2. Other prisoners. 3. The Roman captain who was in charge of the prisoners. 4. To go ashore and visit his friends. 5. The winds were strong and from the wrong direction. 6. At The Fair Havens. 7. He told them wanted to get back to Rome; the owner was willing to sail; The Fair Havens was not a comfortable place to spend was not a comfortable place to spend the winter. 9. A terrible storm.)



Lesson Text: Acts 27:1-12.

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### An Angel Speaks To Paul

In our last lesson, Paul and those with him in the ship going to Rome were caught in a terrible storm. The wind was so fierce, it was feared that the ship would soon break in pieces.

Now the captain, Julius, and the owner of the ship remembered Paul's warning. They should not have left the safety of the harbor, but there was no turning back now. They could not guide the ship but were driven about by the great wind.

Day after day, and night after night, the ship was tossed about by the huge waves. They decided to lighten the ship by throwing some of its cargo overboard. All they could do then was wait anxiously for the storm to pass.

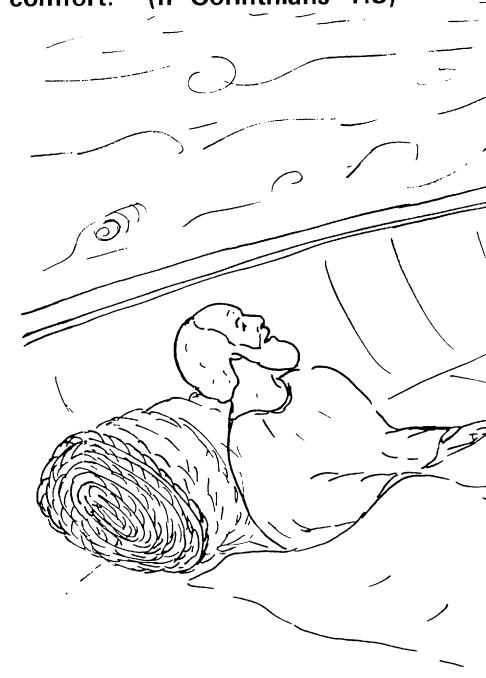
However, the terrible storm raged on. They could not see the sun by day nor the stars by night. Soon everyone on the ship lost all hope of being saved.

After they had all been without food for many days due to the great danger they were in, Paul called everyone to him and said, "Sirs, you should have listened to me. If we had not left The Fair Havens, we would not be in this great danger. Now I urge you to cheer up. No one will lose their life even though the ship will be a total loss. The angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, stood by me this night and told me, "Fear not, Paul, you will stand before Caesar. God will spare your life and the lives of all them that sail with you. So be of good cheer, sirs, for I believe God. It will be just as He told me!"

After two weeks the storm still raged on. Then one night the sailors discovered they were nearing land. They dropped anchor for fear of running aground or being dashed upon the rocks, and waited for the light of day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Blessed be God, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." (II Corinthians 1:3)





### Two Angel Pictures

There are two very beautiful angel pictures that I wonder if any of you boys and girls have seen. They are both very old, but still they give a new feeling of assurance everytime you look at them

One of the pictures is of a little boy and girl on a wooden bridge. The little girl in a red dress is knelt down on a bridge by her brother who is bent over the edge of the bridge, reaching as far as he can toward a cluster of golden flowers. The little girl is already holding some flowers in her arms and she seems to be encouraging her brother to get a few more for her

The children are not noticing the danger of the swift water below the bridge they are on. The water is flowing fast down clifts, big rocks, and sharp rocks. too. Yet this young barefoot boy is stretching out over this fast water and dangerous rocks.

In the background, painted in lightly with one hand reaching to the children is an angel with a soft gown and white wings. While the children do not realize the danger they are in, their guardian angel is watching out for them. Do you think the ange! will let the little boy fall in the rushing water below? How will she keep him from falling? We can only guess at the answers, but isn't this a beautiful picture of love and care from God's angel?

The other picture is similar to this one except it has only one little girl in a vellow dress walking upon a wooden bridge in the dark nighttime when a rainstorm is about to break loose. The little girl's hair is tossled, her dress somewhat dirty, (she had been playing) and her feet are bare. Her face is sweet and trusting, but just ahead of her feet, the old wooden bridge has a big, rugged hole ripped out of it. Two or three more steps and she could fall right down through that hole and hit the water and rocks below.

Behind the little girl, there stands an angel watching over her. Her gown and wings are also white and she has a kind look. Do you think she will let the little girl fall? How will she get this little child back to safety and then home? Again we can only guess, but it is a lovely thought to think on, knowing that God has guardian angels caring for His little ones

Jesus told us this is true in Matthew 18:10. It says, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for L. say unto you. That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

The Bible also tells us that God's angels will take care of those who trust in Him. Psalm 91:11 says, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Mind your Mother, Daddy, and God. Be careful to do what they tell you to do, and God's guardian angels will keep you from danger. -Connie Sorrell



- What happened to Paul and the others with him in the ship?
- Where were they going?
- Who remembered Paul's warning?
- Why did they throw cargo overboard?
- Who appeared before Paul one night?
- When Paul spoke to the people, what did he urge them to do?
- How many lives would be lost?
- How long had the storm raged?
- What did the sailors discover one night?

were nearing land.) up. 7. None. 8. Two weeks. 9. That they

ship. 5. The angel of God. 6. To cheer the owner of the ship, 4. To lighten the rible storm. 2. To Rome. 3. Julius and (Answers: I. They were caught in a ter-



Lesson Text: Acts 27:13-29.



Vol. 40, No. 3

**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 24

Sept. 10, 1989

#### Shipwrecked!

After the sailors of the ship Paul was on had thrown out anchors, everyone waited anxiously for morning to come. The sailors realized what great danger they were in. They could not possibly bring the ship to land without being dashed into pieces. They planned how they could escape and save their own lives. Pretending to be casting more anchors overboard, they carefully lowered a small boat into the sea.

However, Paul knew what they were doing. He told Julius, "If these sailors do not stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

Julius was now ready to listen to Paul's warnings. Immediately the soldiers cut the ropes that held the small boat and let it drift away.

About daybreak Paul told everyone on the ship, "This is the fourteenth day that you have been without food. I beg all of you to eat." After saying this, Paul took bread and gave thanks to God before the people, and they all took courage and ate.

When daybreak came they could see the land and a small creek into which they hoped to guide the ship. But the ship ran aground and stuck fast. As the sea continued to beat violently against it, the ship began to break up.

The soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners for fear some of them would escape. Julius did not want Paul killed, so he refused to let the soldiers harm any of the prisoners.

Julius ordered everyone who could swim to make for land while the others had to cling to pieces of the ship and float to shore. Of the two hundred and seventy-six people, not one drowned, just as Paul had said.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20)





## Ship and Lighthouse

"Mother, may I have a square piece of white cloth and some brown thread?" asked Greg as he stood by his mother who was at the sewing machine making a new dress.

"And what do you need white cloth and thread for?" Mother asked.

"Just look at the wooden ship I carved out of wood!" exclaimed Greg as he quickly ran to his workbench to bring it for Mother's inspection.

Mother looked at the boat carefully. "Well, it looks pretty nice," she said.
"What ship did you copy?"

"This is like the ship Apostle Paul sailed in when he went to Rome," replied Greg. "That ship had one sail fastened here in the middle of the ship and another small one at the stern of the ship. The book said it was about the size of a large, two-story house but without any roof, of course. Someday, Mother, I would like very much to sail on a real ship!"

"That would be nice," agreed Mother. Our ships today are much larger than those Apostle Paul sailed in. However. we still hear about shipwrecks. In stormy weather a ship may not see hidden rocks. Hard waves crash the ship against these rocks which beat holes into the bottom of it. The ship fills with water, and then it sinks under the waves."

"That's what happened to the ship Apostle Paul was on!" said Greg. Then Greg frowned. "Mother," he said, "how come there wasn't a lighthouse on the shore letting sailors on the ship know about the rocks? If there had been a lighthouse, maybe they would not have gone so close to the shore.'

"That's a very good thought!" said Mother. "The people on the island of Melita where Paul went were barbarous or very wicked people. Those people probably didn't know about lighthouses at all, but lighthouses have been used since ships went out to sea. They are a lot of help to sailors, warning them against dangerous rocks."

Greg was quiet for awhile as Mother looked in her rag bag to find white cloth for Greg's ship. He already had built the main pole to rig the sail on. With thread for a rope, Greg rigged up his sail and his ship did look nice.

After awhile, Mother saw Greg building a tall structure out of a cereal box. He covered it with white paper and put tin foil all around the top of it.

"This is my lighthouse," Greg told Mother, "I don't want my ship to crash on any rocks!"

"Who is like a lighthouse?" asked Mother.

"Jesus is!" exclaimed Greg. "And your soul is like the ship!"

"Very good" said Mother. "Always look to Jesus as a lighthouse to save your soul from dangerous sins."

–Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- Who planned to escape from the ship and save their own lives?
- What did they lower into the sea? Who knew what they were doing?
- How did they keep the sailors from escaping?
- How many days had the people been without food?
- Who begged the people to eat food?
- What happened when the sailors tried to guide the ship into a creek?
- Who did the soldiers want to kill? How many of the people made it
- safely to shore?

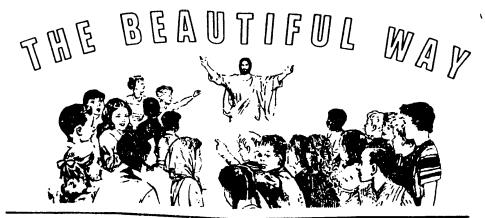


of them). by the sea. 8. The prisoners. 9. All 276

and stuck fast and was beaten to pieces 5. Fourteen, 6. Paul. 7. It ran aground ropes and let the boat float away. (Answere: I. The sailors. 2. A small boat. 3. Paul. 4. The soldiers cut the



Lesson Text: Acts 27:30-44.



Vol. 40, No. 3

**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 25

Sept. 17, 1989

### Miracles On Melita Island

From the shore the islanders watched anxiously as those who had escaped from the broken ship made toward shore. It was cold and wet because of the storm, so the natives built a large fire for those from the ship to warm by. They treated Paul and the others with much kindness. In talking with the natives, they learned that the name of this island was Melita.

To help keep the fire burning, Paul began gathering wood to add to it. He picked up a bundle of sticks and, as he laid them on the fire, a very poisonous snake bit his hand.

When the natives saw the snake hanging from Paul's hand they whispered among themselves, "No doubt this man is a murderer. He escaped from the sea, but the gods will not allow him to live."

The islanders watched Paul shake the snake off into the fire. They knew his arm would swell or he would drop dead any moment. After they had watched him carefully for a long time and saw nothing happen to him, they changed their minds and decided he must be a god.

The chief man of the island, Publius, invited Paul and his friends to stay with him. When Paul heard that Publius' father was sick, he went to him and, after prayer, laid his hands on him and healed him.

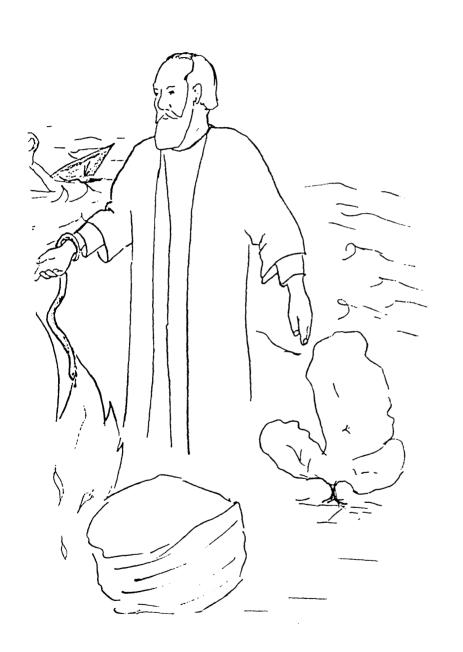
When the people heard of this healing, they brought their sick to Paul and they, too, were healed. Those who sailed with Paul, as well as the islanders, saw God's great power at work among them.

After three months Paul and the others were able to get a ship to take them on their way. When they left, the islanders gave them everything they would need for the trip. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"These signs shall follow them the



believe; They shall take up serpents them." (Mark 16:17, 18)



#### Snake! Snake!

It was beginning to get dark outside and the children had not yet fed their rabbits.

"We are almost out of rabbit pellets," said Lee as he dipped the serving can into the feed barrel.

"Want me to tell Daddy 'bout it right now?" asked little brother, Don.

"Not right now," replied Lee. "Here, you carry this can of pellets and, Kari, you carry this can and I will water them."

So the three children trooped over to the rabbit hutches and right away they noticed that all 8 rabbits were excited about something.

"Lee, look quick!" called Kari who was standing by a black and white mama rabbit. "There's a new garden hose in this pen!"

Don was already peeking in. "Which end does the water come from?" he asked Kari.

isked Kari.

"I-I-I dunno," stammered Kari.

Lee took one look at the "new garden hose" Kari pointed to, and Lee became as excited as the rabbits.

"Daddy! Daddy! Quick! Get a shovel!" he shouted. "There's a snake in the rabbit hutch!"

"A snake! A snake!" shouted Kari and Don, running to the house. They ran into Mother's arms who was coming out of the house. Lee was already taking Daddy to the rabbit hutch where a big brown and yellow snake was curled up by the water can.

Daddy knew just what to do. Carefully he opened the hutch door and quickly brought out the frightened mama rabbit. Daddy let Lee hold the tame rabbit while he chopped the snake's head off with a shovel.

Each holding one of Mother's hands, Kari and Don watched the dead snake still twist and wiggle on the ground.

"Looks like that bull snake ate all our baby rabbits," Daddy said after checking all the rabbits' nests.

"()h. that wicked, ugly snake!" said Kari. "I wish there weren't any snakes!" "Don't be so upset, honey." comforted

Mother. "Daddy killed this one."

"When I get to be a big strong man, I'm going to kill snakes too!" said Don.

"A few snakes can help a farmer get rid of mice and insects," said Daddy, "but this snake was entirely too big!"

"It could have eaten Don in one bite," teased Lee. "It is longer than he is tall."

"Snakes don't eat little boys, do they, Mama?" asked Don.

"No, honey," smiled Mother, "but you must be careful with snakes. Some can poison you if they bite you."

"Back in the Garden of Eden, God cursed the snakes," said Lee. "That means that man will have power over snakes, right, Dad?"

"Yes," said Daddy, "God gave man that power." —Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- 1. Who watched as those from the ship tried to get to shore?
- How did the natives show kindness to those who were shipwrecked?
- 3. What was the name of the island?
- 4. What did Paul do to help keep the fire burning?
- 5. What happened when he laid a bundle of sticks on the fire?
- 6. What did the natives first think that Paul was?
- 7. What did Paul do with the snake?
- 8. Who was the first person healed on the island?
- 9. How long did they stay on the island?



(Answers: 1. The islanders. 2. They built a large fire for them to warm by. 3. Melita. 4. He gathered wood to add to it. 5. A poisonous snake bit him. 6. A murderer. 7. He shook it off into the fire. 8. Publius' father. 9. Three months.)



Lesson Text: Acts 28:1-15.



Vol. 40, No. 3

**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 26

Sept. 24, 1989

## Preaching In Rome

As soon as it was safe to travel, Paul and the others boarded a ship named "Castor and Pollux" which had wintered at Melita. Paul was again on his way to Rome to appeal to Caesar.

When the boat docked at Puteoli, all the passengers went ashore. They could go no further by ship. They must walk the rest of the way to Rome.

Paul was allowed to spend a week with the Christians living in Puteoli, and when he reached Rome, the saints there greeted him with joy.

In Rome, Julius delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard. No doubt Julius spoke well of Paul to the captain and asked him to treat Paul well. So, instead of going to prison, Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house he had rented. However, still being a prisoner, he was always kept chained to a soldier.

When Paul had been in Rome only three days, he called the chief of the Jews together and explained to them why he was a prisoner. The Jews at Rome had heard nothing about the trouble at Jerusalem, but they had heard much about Jesus and His followers. They asked Paul to tell them about the Christians and what they believed.

Paul gladly preached to them about Jesus. Some believed the things Paul taught them, but others refused to accept fully the good news.

For two years Paul lived in his own rented house and preached to everyone who was willing to hear. No one kept him from telling about Jesus. Paul also wrote letters, some of which we can still read in our Bibles.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"For as thou hast testified of

thou bear witne

(Acts

ne in Jerusalem, so must also at Rome."

3:11)



### Heaven Is Big Enough

"Mama, how many people are there on this earth today?" asked Jimmy as he sat down by his mother who was mending a pair of his pants.

"I believe I hear there are five and a half billion people today," replied Mother. "Most of these people live in the old Eastern countries of China, Japan, India and other Oriental countries. Why did you ask, Jimmy?"

"Well, do you think heaven could hold that many people if all of them died and went to heaven?" Jimmy asked.

"Certainly!" responded Mother. "This earth is just a small ball in the universe. When you look up into the sky, you see the sun, maybe some clouds, and then at night you see stars and the moon. God is far above all of those things you see in the sky. God planned for man to worship Him and to live in heaven with Him someday. There is room for everyone!"

"How many people will be in heaven?" Jimmy wanted to know.

"We can't be for certain about that." Mother said. "But everyone has been invited to come. Only about 23% of the five and a half billion people believe in Jesus Christ. That is a small group of people. Then only a few of that small group really know the truth. Nevertheless, God has His Holy Spirit talk to the heart of every person at some time in their life. Because most people do not want God's Holy Spirit to show them their wicked sins, they tell God's voice to leave their heart. Like the Bible says, they want to live in wicked darkness rather than openly tell God they are sorry for their sins. They don't want to change and do right. It is very sad."

"They even hurt and kill missionaries that tell them about God, don't they?" Jimmy said. His eyes were big and serious as he looked into Mother's face.

"Yes." said Mother. "In some countries like China, Japan, and India, they believe in false gods and they bow down to idols of stone or wood. A person or a few persons make up rules that they want the people to live by. This makes them think they are being blessed be-

cause they have a god they can see and they have rules to live by. Then when missionaries come into their country to tell them the truth about God, they won't listen because they want to live by the rules that let them be sinful.

"The wicked people that won't listen and believe in Jesus don't go to heaven,

do they, Mama?"

"No, they can't go unless they let Jesus wash away their sins and live for Jesus here on earth. It is sad that so few people will obey the one true God, but God does what He can to deal with the hearts of people. He has room for everyone to come be with Him in heaven!"

"Someday I want to be a missionary—someone like Apostle Paul, and let those wicked people know about the real true

God!" exclaimed Jimmy.

Mother kissed Jimmy's cheek before she spoke. "I would like for you to be a missionary," she said. "I will pray for you because it is a big job but a good job."

—Connie Sorrell

#### Questions:

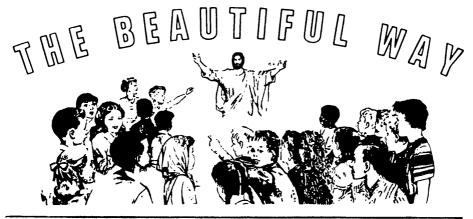
- 1. What was the name of the ship Paul boarded at Melita?
- 2. Where was Paul going?
- 3. Why did all the passengers get off the ship at Puteoi?
- 4. Who came to meet Paul and encourage him as he traveled?
- 5. Where did Paul live in Rome?
- 6. How could people tell Paul was still a prisoner?
- 7. Who did Paul call together when he had been in Rome three days?
- 8. How long did Paul live in Rome and preach there?
- 9. Where can we find some of the letters Paul wrote while he was in Rome?



(Answers: 1. Castor and Pollux. 2. To Rome to appeal to Caesar. 3. They had to walk the rest of the way. 4. Christians. 5. In his own rented house, 6. He was kept chained to a soldier. 7. The chief of the Jews. 8. Two years. 9. In our Bibles.)



Lesson Text: Acts 28:16-31.



Vol. 40, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 22, 1985

## WHAT THE APOSTLES SAID ABOUT DOING GOOD WORKS

As the apostles walked with Jesus day after day, they saw Him do many, many good works. He healed the sick, the lame, the blind; raised the dead; delivered those who were possessed with devils; provided food for the multitude; calmed the storm; called the little children to Him and showed kindness to everyone He met. After Jesus had returned to His Father in heaven, the apostles continued doing good works, just as Jesus had. They taught others that to be a Christian they must "be rich in good works."

Years later; Peter was still teaching the same thing. He said that we should be so rich in good works that even when men speak against us, ". . .they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God. . . ." By the good works we do, others can see Jesus in us, and God will be glorified.

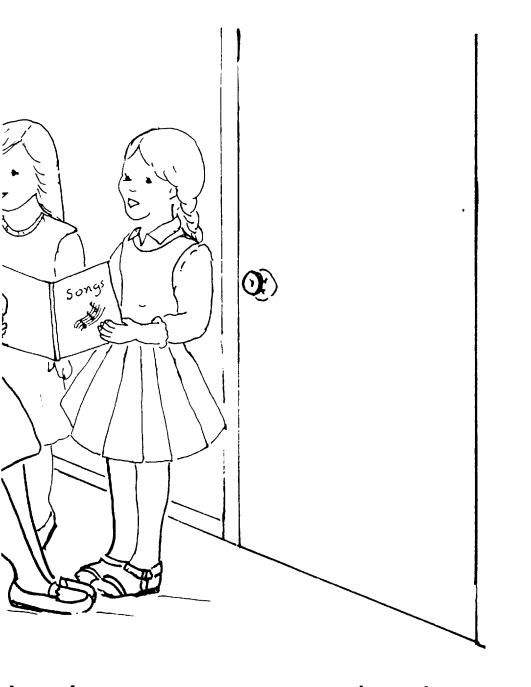
When we love Jesus and have Him living in our hearts, we just naturally want to be like Him. Do you know what the "royal law" is? Apostle James tells us it is: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself . . . ." When we love others as ourselves, it is easy to be kind, to pray for them, and do anything we can to help them and show our love for them; these are the good works we are to do.

We should start now to develop the habit of helping others; this begins by helping at home. Soon you will find many other places to be helpful and kind. Your good works can be an example for other children to follow. In this way you can let your light shine so God will be glorified and others will be led to Jesus.

-Sis. Nelda Sorrell



"Let your light so shine before me and glorify your Father which



that they may see your good works, in heaven." Matthew 5:16

# Sunshine Visits

"We are going to visit my greatgrandma in the nursing home this afternoon," Mary told Carla, the next door neighbor girl.

"Oh, how boring!" declared Carla.

"Do you have to go?"

Mary looked surprised. "Yes," she said, "I want to go. It makes me feel good all over when I see Greatgrandma's face get happy when I come into her room. She doesn't leave her bedroom very often and she hardly ever leaves that nursing home at all. Mama says that family and friends who visit are about Great-grandma's only sunshine in life."

"I used to have to visit my great-aunt who lived in a nursing home," said Carla, "and it was very boring. All there was to do was sit and listen to old people tell about how bad they felt and

what was going wrong."

"You should visit like we visit," said Mary cheerfully. "When we come into the room we say, "Hi" and kiss Greatgrandma. Then she smiles all happy, and we tell her about new puppies and kittens, or what we have been playing, or what the baby did. There are lots of things we tell her! But most of all, we read a Bible verse and sing a song about Jesus. Mama says that really cheers her up! We pray with Great-grandma too, so she will feel good and not hurt anywhere. Didn't you pray for your great-aunt, Carla, so she wouldn't feel bad?"

"Well, no," replied Carla. "I was just ready to leave whenever it was time to go. I guess we don't do our visiting the same, huh?"

Then Carla said in a sad voice, "My mama and daddy don't take me to church like your mama and daddy do, that's probably why our visits weren't fun."

"Why don't you come along with us this afternoon and visit Great-grandma too? You can come to church with me later if your mama and daddy let you."

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Lesson Tex

II Cor. 9:6-8.

"Let's go ask Mama right now," said Carla. "I think she will let me because she likes your mama."

Carla went with Mary to visit Greatgrandma that afternoon and she saw
that visiting older people could be happy.
She went to church with Mary, and
Jesus began to talk to her heart about
getting saved. As time passed, Carla
did get saved! She learned that visiting
older people was a good way to sing the
many happy songs she was learning in
church. Carla began to look forward to
visiting time because it made her feel
good inside to bring some cheery sunshine to those who couldn't leave the
nursing home. —Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- Who walked with Jesus day after day?
- 2. Name at least three of the good works Jesus did.
- 3. The apostles taught that Christians must be rich in what?
- 4. Who was still teaching the same thing years later?
- 5. How can others see Jesus in us?
- 6. Who will be glorified?
- 7. What is the "royal law"?
- 8. What habit should children develop?

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(Answers: I. The apostles. 2. He healed the sick, lame, and blind; raised the dead; delivered the devil-possessed; provided food for the multitude; calmed the storm; showed kindness to everyone. 3. Good works. 4. Peter. 5. By the good works we do. 6. God. 7. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." 8. The habit of helping others.)

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Lesson Texts: Titus 3:8; James 2:8-26; I Cor. 9:6-8.



Vol. 40, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Oct. 29, 1989

## WHAT APOSTLE JAMES SAID ABOUT THE TONGUE

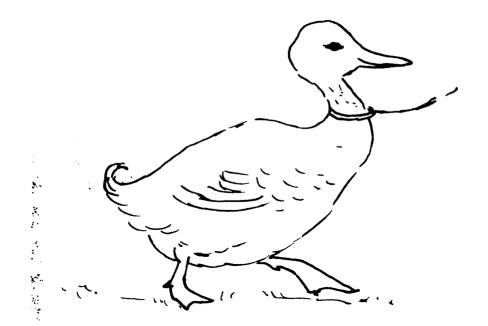
Do you know that you have a member in your body which, though very small, is very difficult to control? Apostle James says that every kind of beast, and of birds, and of snakes, and of things in the sea has been tamed by man; but this small member cannot be tamed by any man. What part of your body is he talking about? He is talking about your tongue!

Let's think about some of the animals that men have tamed. Lions, tigers, and the most savage beasts as well as horses, cows, camels and other animals have been tamed for man's own use or entertainment, even though they are much larger and stronger than he is. Man has found ways of capturing even the birds that can fly away so quickly and has found ways to make them obey him. Man has also tamed the great whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions which live underwater; it seems that man can tame anything! Yet James says you have a very small member in your body which no man can tame.

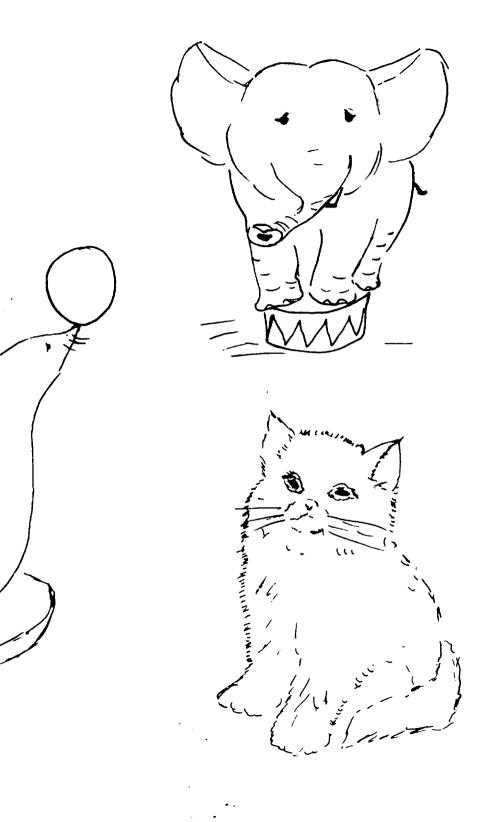
Apostle James is telling us, that of ourselves, we cannot control our own tongue; it takes the power of God. Our tongues, under God's control, can do much good. But if we let our tongues run wild, they will do great harm. James also said our tongue is like a fire. If fire is not kept within certain bounds it will destroy everything in its path. We must realize our great need of God's help in using our tongues only for good.

Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." If our heart is kept pure and sweet by Jesus, the words coming out of our heart will also be sweet and pure.

-Sis. Nelda Sorrell



"Every kind of beast hath been tamed of mankind:
But the tongue can no man tame." (James 3:7, 8)



### Keep Your Tongue Clean

When you put your tongue out, you can barely see the tip of it when you look down over your nose. Have you ever looked at your tongue in a mirror? If you ever get the chance, look at it in the mirror through a magnifying glass. which makes little things look a lot bigger. You will find little things like mushrooms growing on the top of your tongue to help make food taste good when you eat. These tiny "mushrooms" are called taste buds. Usually the taste buds on each side of your tongue tell you if food is salty, or sour like a pickle. The taste buds in the middle of your tongue tell you if food is bitter, and the ones right at the tip of your tongue point out what is sweet.

Not only is your tongue useful in eating good food, but it is needed when you talk. A new baby doesn't know how to talk, but as he grows older he learns to move his tongue and make sounds like, "Mama" and "Dada." Little babies will try to say anything bigger children and grown-ups say to them, so it is important to say only nice things to babies so they won't talk naughty.

When you come to church you are to keep your tongue quiet unless you are praising God, testifying, praying, or singing. Whispering to a friend is very, very bad to do in church. While you are talking you are not listening, and you must listen in church.

Sometimes a tongue will get you into trouble if you stick it out at someone. That is a terrible thing to do, so never, never be guilty of sticking your tongue out at someone.

Jesus said that every word you say is noticed by God and you will have to tell why you said each thing at the judgment, so do not be guilty of saying dirty words; they grieve God's heart.

One time during a school play, a little girl sat by her grandmother and she talked the entire time the people in the play were talking. It was at nighttime and most of the lights were out except

for a spotlight and a few around the stage, so the little girl felt like telling Grandmother all she knew about each child that was in the play. The main boy who did most of the acting was especially gossiped about by the little girl because he was a nearby neighbor of hers whom she sometimes fussed with.

Even though Grandmother told her to be quiet several times, still the little girl talked and gossiped until the lights came on at the end of the play. Sitting right in front of the little girl and her grandmother were the parents of the boy she had talked so bad about! They had heard every word that she had said about their boy and all the other children! This little girl was so embarrassed that she left crying with her face tucked into Grandmother's skirt.

Never let your tongue do anything naughty! —Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- 1. What small member of your body is difficult to control?
- Who told us that man can tame animals but not his own tongue?
- Name a few of the animals man has tamed.
- 4. What does it take to control our tongues?
- 5. Under God's control, our tongues do much
- 6. What did James say our tongue is like?
- 7. What will fire do to everything in its path?
- 8. Who said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"?
- 9. What did He mean when He said this?

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(Answers: I. Your tongue. 2. Apostle James. 3. Answers will vary. 4. The power of God. 5. Good. 6. A fire. 7. Destroy it. 8. Jesus. 9. If our heart is pure and sweet, our words will be also.)



Lesson Texts: James 3:1-18.



Vol. 40, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 5, 1989

### WHAT THE APOSTLES SAID ABOUT FAITH

The apostles were careful to instruct their listeners how to please God fully. They wanted them to grow into strong Christians who could then teach others how to be saved. One of the first things that they taught them was that they must have faith. Without faith they could not please God.

Faith means to have an unquestioning belief in God.

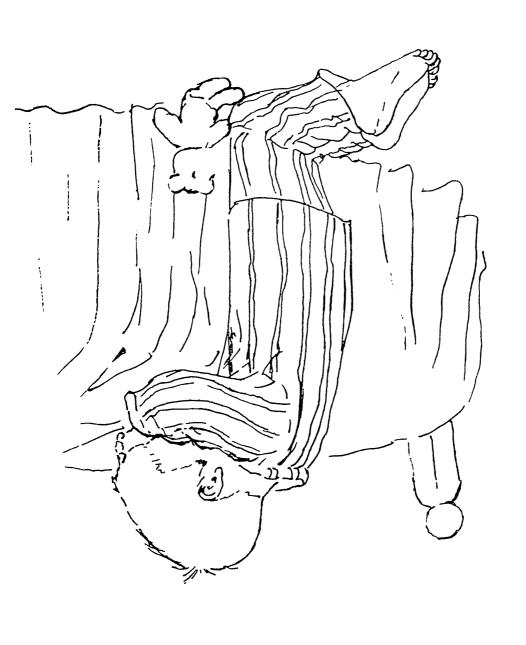
The Bible tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

It would hurt your parents if you did not believe them when they promised to do something for you. If you began to ask questions showing that you really didn't believe they were able to do it or really would, they would be very displeased.

We like for people to believe what we tell them. We know something is wrong if they don't have confidence in our word. You can't help someone who won't believe you are really willing and able to help them. We must believe God to receive His help and blessings.

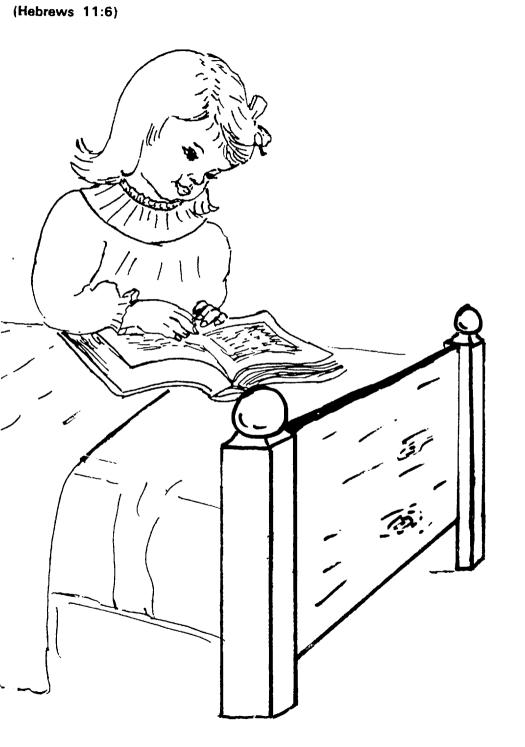
How do we get faith? Apostle Paul says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." By reading in our Bibles and going to church to hear our teacher and the preacher tell us more about God, we learn what great things God has done for others and find that He will do the same for all who obey Him. We get well acquainted with God and see His great love for us. We know that He can be trusted; that everything He says is true. Then, because we obey all His commands, we can believe all His promises.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



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### Keep In Tune

Grandpa was tuning his guitar, and David was carefully watching. David thought the pretty cherrywood sides of the guitar looked so shiny and clean after Grandpa polished it with a soft cloth. It was a Spanish guitar with six strings pulled tightly over the hollow base and down a narrow piece called the neck which held a screw that each of the six strings were wound around. Grandpa would pluck a string with his finger and then play a note on the piano. Then he would turn a little on the screw that held that string. He would pluck the string again and touch the same piano key again until he said they blended in tune.

Finally David asked a question that was puzzling him. "Grandpa," he said, "how do you know which way to turn the screw? Sometimes you turn it in and sometimes you turn it out."

Grandpa smiled. "In music, David, a note has to be exactly the note it is meant to be. If one note is too high, then it is not in tune with the other notes and it is too sharp. If the note is too low then it is flat. I have to turn the screw in if my guitar string is too sharp and I turn it out and tighten the string if it is too flat with the piano. That way when I play chords on my guitar while the piano is playing the same notes, we will make pretty music together."

David's eyes sparkled as he thought about the pretty music he loved to hear as the guitar and piano were played. Maybe this was the secret of why it sounded so pretty. Grandpa seemed to know what David was thinking.

"Only instruments tuned together can make pretty music," he said. "If someone else wants to play with us, they will need to tune their instrument with ours. If a note is out of tune, it will not sound good and hurt our ears."

sound good and hurt our ears."
"You know, Grandpa," David said
thoughtfully, "that reminds me of a song
we sing in Sunday school. It says:
'Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon, Whisper a
prayer in the evening, To keep your

heart in tune. God answers prayer in the morning, God answers prayer at noon, God answers prayer in the evening, He'll keep your heart in tune."

"That is a nice song, David," said Grandpa as he strummed on his guitar strings. "If we will pray to God throughout the day, then He will make pretty music out of our lives. That is the way to keep faith singing in our hearts. Let's name the strings of our heart: faith, hope, love, joy, peace, contentent. Let's keep these strings in tune with God's Holy Spirit. Now," added Grandpa, "sing to me your song again and I will try to play the guitar with your singing."

"Whisper a prayer in the morning, Whisper a prayer. . . ."

-Connie Sorrell

#### Questions:

- The apostles were careful to instruct their listeners how to do what?
- 2. Why did they want them to grow into strong Christians?
- 3. What was one of the first things they taught them?
- 4. Without \_\_\_\_\_ they could not please God.
- 5. What does faith mean?
- 6. What must we do to receive God's help and blessings?
- 7. How do we get faith?
- 8. We know that everything God says
  - Why can we believe all God's promises?

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(Answers: I. How to please God fully. 2. So they could teach others how to be saved. 3. That they must have faith. 4. Faith. 5. To believe God without questioning Him. 6. Believe Him. 7. By reading our Bibles and listening to our teacher and the preacher tell us about God. 8. True. 9. Because we obey all His God. 8. True. 9. Because we obey all His

Lesson Texts: Heb. 11:1-6; Rom. 10:17, 18; I Tim. 4:12.



Vol. 40, No. 4

**Primaries** 

(USPS549-000)

Part 25

Dec. 10, 1989

## WHAT DID THE APOSTLES SAY ABOUT JESUS' SECOND COMING?

We will soon be celebrating Jesus' birth. He came to earth as a little baby to show us how to be saved. When His work on earth was finished, He returned to be with His Father in heaven. Someday, when we least expect it, Jesus will come again.

We don't know just what it will be like when Jesus comes again. Paul described it like this, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Those who have believed on Jesus and lived by His commandments will go to live with Jesus forever. When He appears, our bodies will be changed. We will be given new bodies that will never die or grow old. We can enjoy being with Jesus for ever and ever.

However, those who refuse to accept Jesus as their Saviour will "be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." Unbelievers will also be given bodies that will never die. They will suffer the torment and pain of the lake of fire forever.

Remember, God loved you so much that He sent Jesus to save you from your sins. By giving your heart to Jesus now, you can have everlasting life and escape everlasting torment.

-Sis. Nelda Sorrell



"We shall be cau



t up to meet the
e air." (I Thessalonians 4:17)

## Looking and Waiting

"When will Daddy come home?" asked Scott as he and Mother drove up to their dark, empty house, Daddy had gone on a business trip and it seemed to Scott that he was staying a l-o-n-g time. Mother picked up her purse, opened the car door, and started walking to the house before she answered Scott.

"Daddy called last night and he said it may be a day or so before he can leave. He isn't sure how long it will take, but we must be brave and take care of the chores, house, and answer the telephone for him until he gets back home.

"Now, Scott," Mother continued as she opened the door with the house key and turned on a light, "I want you to hurry and bathe and dress for bed and then we can read a Bible story. We will read our Bible stories together until Daddy can be with us again."

Scott hurried to do as Mother said because he liked family Bible story hour. Soon Mother and Scott were settled snugly in the living room chair and Mother had the Bible story book opened on her lap.

Tonight we will read about how Jesus left the disciples looking up into the sky, watching the cloud that took Him away. They were feeling very sad and lonely when two angels dressed in white stood by them and told them not to feel sad because Jesus was coming back again someday! Oh, how they wanted to be with Jesus again! As time went on, Jesus called them one by one to come and live with Him in heaven. The disciples have all gone to be with Jesus, but He is still going to come again and take all of us who are faithfully waiting for Him.

"If we are obeying Jesus when He comes back to the earth again," said Mother to Scott, "then we will go to live with Him in heaven."

"When is Jesus coming back?" asked Scott.

"We don't know," answered Mother, "but we must be ready to go.

Suddenly Scott thought of something which made his face light up with ex-

citement. "It is kinda like how we have been waiting for Daddy!" he exclaimed. "We just can hardly wait for Daddy to come home from his business trip, and we are always looking and listening for him to walk in the door. Is that how we should look and listen for Jesus to come back?"

Mother smiled at Scott's excitement. "We must keep our souls looking and listening and clean from sin," agreed Mother. "We don't want to miss going with Jesus to heaven someday."

"Now, Scott," continued Mother, "let's get to bed and maybe Daddy will be home tomorrow!"

Sure enough, Scott's Daddy came home the next morning.

-Connie Sorrell



#### Questions:

- 1. Whose birth will we soon celebrate?
- 2. Why did Jesus come to earth?
- When His work was finished, where did He go?
- 4. Someday, when we least expect it, what will happen?
- 5. Who described Jesus' second coming?
- 6. Where will those who have believed go to live?
- 7. Who sent Jesus to save you?
- 8. How can you have everlasting life and escape everlasting torment?

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(Answers: I. Jesus' birth. S. To show us how to he saved. 3. Back to His Father in heaven. 4. Jesus will come again. 5. Paul. 6. In heaven with Jesus. 7. God. 8. By giving your heart to Jesus now.)



Lesson Texts: I Thess. 4:13-18.