

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

Sunday School Lesson for May 23, 1909
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Acts 15:1-35. Memory verses 23, 28.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"We believe that through the grace of the Lord we shall be saved, even as they."—Acts 15:11.

TIME.—About 50 A. D., as is commonly agreed, though various scholars place it earlier.

PLACE.—Antioch in Syria, and Jerusalem.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.

V. 1. "Certain men," perhaps those sent by James (Gal. 2:12) "came down from Judea." The Bezan text says that these visitors were Pharisees, members of the strictest sect of the Jews. Perhaps they came to investigate rumors of laxity in the church; at any rate, they "taught the brethren" (the verb is in the imperfect, implying continued action,—they kept teaching), "and said, Except ye be circumcised . . . ye cannot be saved." "A very different doctrine from St. Paul's 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31)."—Rackham.

The Importance of the Question.—The Christian church, during its first 20 years, had spread over Palestine, Phoenicia, Damascus, Antioch, Cyprus and South Galatia in Asia Minor. It was rapidly growing, especially among the Gentiles. The difference that had arisen set off against each other the two great centers of growth, Jerusalem and Antioch. It threatened to divide the Christian churches into two contending and irreconcilable factions. If that happened, it would probably be the deathblow to the young religion, the destruction of the hopes of the world through Christ. Could any matter be more momentous?

V. 2. "They ('the brethren,' v. 1) determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them (including Titus, Gal. 2:1, afterward Paul's companion, a Greek, a man of much ability, who would serve as a specimen of the Gentile converts), should go up to Jerusalem (200 miles away) about this question." Paul went "by revelation" (Gal. 2:2), which is entirely consistent with the statement that the church sent him.

After much debate, that everyone might express his views, as is proper in a democratic assembly such as all Christian gatherings should be, Peter spoke up. His nearness to Christ and his strong character combined to make him a leader. Moreover, in this case he had had personal experience which placed him on Paul's side—the divine revelation bidding him go to the Gentile Cornelius, and the outpouring of the Spirit upon that convert and his household. It was precisely such witness to the right of the Gentiles to enter the church without circumcision as Paul himself described from his missionary experience. Peter insisted upon it with characteristic vigor, closing with the pointed question, "Why . . . put a yoke upon the neck of the Gentile disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"—the yoke being the minute oppressive rites of Judaism, with the Pharisaic additions, imposed as a condition of salvation. There is only one condition of salvation, said Peter in conclusion.—"the grace (the free gift, unbought by any deed of ours) of the Lord Jesus Christ." As Peter sat down, Paul must have clapped his hands!

The decision embodied in a letter: (1) To clarify and unify judgment in the preparation of it; (2) to guard against slips of memory on the part of the envoys; (3) to prevent misunderstandings; (4) to preserve for future occasions the results of the conference. Capt. Cutler's advice, "When found, make a note on," applies to all weighty matters.

The reasons for the restrictions: 1. The "pollutions of idols" (v. 20), explained as "meats offered to idols" (v. 29), came to be a sore trouble in the church, and liberty to eat such meat (the meat commonly sold had nearly all formed part of sacrifices) was at a later time claimed for Christians very strenuously by Paul. But until the Gentile churches were confirmed in their new separation from idolatry, it was wise to require them to abstain from whatever might tempt them with memories of the licentious revels which heathenism celebrated in the name of religion.

2. "Fornication," however, was the great sin of idolatry, which "glorified sexual vice with the halo of a sacred sanction."—Schaff. Courtesans were the priestesses of the temples of Venus, and crowds of abandoned women gathered around most of these so-called holy shrines. To this day, sexual immorality is the terrible sin of idolatry, as the missionary annals of Africa, India, China, Japan and the South seas most abundantly show.

3. "Things strangled," meant "the flesh of such animals as were killed in snares, and whose blood was not poured forth."—Gloss. The Jews were forbidden to eat these, as coming under the larger restriction that follows:

4. "Blood" was forbidden the Jews as an article of diet (Inductive Study 7) because blood was a symbol of life, which was to be held sacred, and of sacrifice, which was to be revered. It was the holy token of the remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). Their most precious religious ideals urged the Jews to abstain from blood; but among the Gentiles it was, in various forms, a delicacy. To abstain from blood would be a little self-denial on the part of the Gentiles, while failure to do so would make it almost impossible for Jew and Gentile Christians to eat together.

CALF'S HEAD WITH POTATOES

Dish That is Looked Upon as a Delicacy by Our English Cousins Across the Water.

Required: Half a calf's head, one carrot, one onion, one stick of celery, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one gill of vinegar, six large potatoes, pepper, salt, white of egg, and a little butter.

Wash and clean the head thoroughly, and remove the brain. Set the meat in a stew-pan, and cover with cold water, with the carrot, onion, celery and the flour worked into a smooth paste with vinegar and a little water. Bring this to the boil, skim well, and simmer for two hours. Boil the tongue and brain separately. When done place the head on a large dish, garnish it with slices of tongue and a powdering of brown crumbs. Pour brown gravy round, and serve the chopped brain in a little nicely seasoned white sauce. Bake the potatoes, and when done make a small hole at the top of each and scoop out the whole of the inside. Mash it in a sauce pan over the fire with a little butter, milk, the white of an egg, pepper and salt. Fill the skins with the mixture, put in the oven to make hot, and serve in a folded napkin.—London Tit-Bits.

The Home.

One or two tablespoonfuls of ammonia in a pail of water will clean windows better than anything else.

A few drops of ammonia in a cupful of warm water, applied carefully, will remove spots from paintings and chromos.

Parmesan cheese sprinkled thickly over stewed tomatoes that are later browned in a baking dish gives them an added zest.

One of the first rules to be observed in the proper treatment of silk dresses or silk materials is that silk must never be folded.

Baked apples with cream are served in many households for a breakfast fruit. They may be baked the day before and heated for morning use.

When making apple pie the flavor is much improved and the apples will keep a good color if a few drops of lemon juice are squeezed over the apples just before the paste is put on.

It is claimed that woody house plants that grow a bark can be strengthened and made to flourish like the proverbial bay tree if given iron water soaked from rusted iron and poured into the soil.

Veal Fricandeau.
Three pounds of veal, half a pound of fat bacon, two onions, two carrots, a small bunch of herbs, one stick of celery, stock.

Take about three pounds of cushion of veal, pare off the skin, and trim the joint into an oval shape. Lard this thickly with strips of bacon. Put it into a stewpan on a bed of carrots, onions, and celery, and a bunch of herbs. Add enough stock to nearly cover the veal, then put over a piece of buttered paper and stew very gently for an hour and a half, basting it constantly over the paper. When cooked place the veal on a baking-tin in a hot oven; flour it thickly and let it brown. Strain the stock, free it from grease, and boil it down to half glaze. Serve the veal with the sauce round and a garnish of tomatoes.

To Clean Light Carpets.
Light carpets can be cleaned with a mixture of coarse salt and light cornmeal. Put the mixture on plentifully and scrub in the usual manner with a clean, dry scrubbing brush. Afterward sweep the carpet clean and use the carpet sweeper to collect the dust. Magnesia will clean soiled spots on rugs or carpets, and often a badly blemished mark can be removed if washed with the suds from naphtha soap and then rubbed dry with a clean cloth. Naphtha soap is excellent for cleaning colored rugs, if the soap is not too liberally used. It does not fade tints, but tends to brighten them.

Orange Cake.
Two-thirds cup of sugar, tablespoon butter creamed. Add 1 egg, ½ cup of milk, 1 cup of flour, with 2 teaspoons baking powder sifted together, and beat all thoroughly. Bake in two round tins. For filling, take a heaping cup of confectioners' sugar and wet with about a tablespoon of boiling water. Beat, and flavor with the grated rind of orange. Spread on the cakes, and peel the orange and cut in thin slices and lay over both layers, then put the two together.

Creme Sevillie.
Dissolve half an ounce of isinglass into a breakfast cupful of white wine. Then work some sugar on the rind of a lemon and squeeze the juice into the wine. Let the mixture stand until nearly set, then add a pint of stiffly whipped cream, and add three tablespoonfuls of orange marmalade. Mix well and mould.

Almond-Celery Sandwich.
A delicious sandwich filling is made from one part chopped almonds and two parts shredded or grated celery, with a dust of salt. Moisten the mixture with mayonnaise and spread between thin crustless slices of brown bread.

To Clean Light Carpets.
Try block magnesia, rubbing it thoroughly in the carpet and then sweeping. This is a good way to clean bath rugs that are not washable, as they do not have to be wet.

Coffee Mould.
Make just a plain cornstarch pudding with one-half cup of strong coffee added for flavoring.

NEW LIFE AND STRENGTH

Obtained Through Proper Action of the Kidneys.

Mrs. Josiah Straw, 526 N. Broadway, Canton, So. Dak., says: "I suffered for some time with rheumatic pains in my limbs and was weak and languid. The irregularity of the kidney secretions also caused much annoyance. After using Doan's Kidney Pills I did not have these troubles. They seemed to put new life and strength into my system and helped me in every way. My husband had an experience almost the same, and it is with pleasure that we both recommend Doan's Kidney Pills."



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ANOTHER TERROR.



Frightened Pup—Gee! I always heard that women were going into everything; but I never knew there were lady dog catchers!

SKIN TROUBLES CURED.

Two Little Girls Had Eczema Very Badly—In One Case Child's Hair Came Out and Left Bare Patches.

Cuticura Met with Great Success.

"I have two little girls who have been troubled very badly with eczema. One of them had it on her lower limbs. I did everything that I could hear of for her, but it did not give in until warm weather, when it seemingly subsided. The next winter when it became cold the eczema started again and also in her head where it would take the hair out and leave bare patches. At the same time her arms were sore the whole length of them. I took her to a physician, but the child grew worse all the time. Her sister's arms were also affected. I began using Cuticura Remedies, and by the time the second lot was used their skin was soft and smooth. Mrs. Charles Baker, Albion, Me., Sept. 21, '08." Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Does the World Think?
Man is evidently made for thought; this is his whole dignity and his whole merit; his whole duty is to think as he ought. Now the order of thought is to begin with self, and with its author and its end. Now of what thinks the world? Never of these things, but of dancing, playing the lute, singing, making verses, tilting at the ring, etc., of fighting, making ourselves kings, without thinking what it is to be a king or what to be a man.—Pascal.

Ask Your Druggist for Allen's Foot-Ease.
"I tried ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE recently, and have just bought another supply. It has cured my corns, and the hot, burning and itching sensation in my feet which was almost unbearable, and I would not be without it now.—Mrs. W. J. Walker, Camden, N. J." Sold by all Druggists, 25c.

A Diplomat.
Mother—Aren't you ever going to get over fighting, Willie?
Willie—Yes'm, when I'm licked.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.
For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Fly time and baseball are very properly contemporaneous.

Negative Virtues.

Beware of making your moral staple consist of the negative virtues. It is good to abstain, and teach others to abstain, from all that is sinful or hurtful. But making a business of it leads to emaciation of character unless one feeds largely also on the more nutritious diet of active sympathetic benevolence.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It is composed of the best tonic known, combined with the best blood purifier, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarrh. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Work Ahead for Josh.

"I'll be kind of glad when Josh gets home from school," said Farmer Corn-tassel. "I have an idea he can be right useful." "Are you going to put him to work?" "Maybe. I've exhausted all the language I know on that team of mules. But I haven't given up hope. I want to see whether Josh can startle 'em some with his college yell."—Washington Star.

The Grip of Spring.

During the last twenty years many of our citizens have been attacked in the spring months by grip. Some have had serious or slight attacks every year or two. All know it to be a dangerous disease. If Lane's Pleasant Tablets (which are sold at 25 cents a box by druggists and dealers) are taken when the first symptoms are felt, there is hardly a chance of the malady getting a foothold. If you cannot get them near home, send 25 cents to Dr. F. Woodward, Le Roy, N. Y. Sample free.

The Scrubwoman's Lunch.

"I used to let my scrubwoman get herself a little lunch," said the city flat dweller. "It's the nice thing to do, I know, and I like to do it, but I had to quit in self-defense. She took an hour to get her lunch and eat it and charged me extra for the time she put in."

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Wm. A. Stearns* In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Thoughtless.

Husband—"You must marry again, dearest, when I am gone, and that will be very soon." Wife—"No, Edward. No one will marry an old woman like me. You ought to have died ten years ago for that."—Penny Pictorial.

Those who keep Hamlin's Wizard Oil in the house do not have to buy any other remedy for sore throat. No other remedy will cure the trouble so quickly or so surely. Remember this.

Two Ways.

"Does Mrs. Gabby disseminate circumjacent information?"
"No, she doesn't; she just gossips about the neighborhood."

Try Murine Eye Remedy
For Red, Weak, Watery Eyes. Compounded by Experienced Physicians. Conforms to the Pure Food and Drug Law. Murine Doesn't Smart. Soothes Eye Pain. Try Murine for Your Eyes.

The Appropriate Place.

"That ship carries a big cargo of eggs."
"Do they carry eggs in a ship or in the hatches?"

Free! A 10c package of Garfield Tea to anyone mailing us this notice, with name and address, and names and addresses of 10 friends not now using the Ideal Laxative. Garfield Tea Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is a point of wisdom to be at peace with men and at war with vices.—H. C. Chapman.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar. Made of extra quality tobacco. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

When the calf kicks, 'tis time to thrash the cow.

Answer This Question

When thousands of women say that they have been cured of their ailments by a certain remedy, does this not prove the merit of that remedy?

Thousands of women have written the story of their suffering, and have told how they were freed from it by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—for thirty years these reports have been published all over America.

Without great merit this medicine could never have gained the largest sale of any remedy for woman's ills—never could have become known and prized in nearly every country in the world.

Can any woman let prejudice stand between her and that which will restore her health? If you believe those who have tried it you know this medicine *does* cure.

Read this letter from a grateful woman, then make up your mind to give Mrs. Pinkham's medicine a chance to cure you.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—"I am a firm believer in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I was a great sufferer from organic female troubles for years, and almost despaired of ever being well again. I had bearing-down pains, backache, headache and pains in my abdomen, and tried Mrs. Pinkham's Compound as a last resort. The result was astonishing, and I have used it and advocated it ever since. It is a great boon to expectant mothers. I have often said that I should like to have its merits thrown on the sky with a search-light so that women would read and be convinced that there is a remedy for their sufferings. "My husband joins me in its praise. He has used it for kidney trouble and been entirely cured."—Mrs. E. A. Bishop, 1915 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

For 30 years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been the standard remedy for female ills. No sick woman does justice to herself who will not try this famous medicine. Made exclusively from roots and herbs, and has thousands of cures to its credit.

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health free of charge. Address Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass.



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NOTHING LIKE IT FOR THE TEETH Paxtine excels any dentifrice in cleansing, whitening and removing tartar from the teeth, besides destroying all germs of decay and disease which ordinary tooth preparations cannot do.

THE MOUTH Paxtine used as a mouth-wash disinfects the mouth and throat, purifies the breath, and kills the germs which collect in the mouth, causing sore throat, bad breath, bad grippe, and much sickness.

THE EYES When inflamed, tired, ache and burn, and are weary, Paxtine is instantly relieved and strengthened by Paxtine.

CATARRH Paxtine will destroy the germs that cause catarrh, heal the inflammation and stop the discharge. It is a new remedy for uterine catarrh.

Paxtine is a harmless yet powerful germicide, disinfectant and deodorizer. Used in bathing it destroys odors and leaves the body antiseptically clean. FOR SALE AT DRUG STORES, 50c. OR POSTPAID BY MAIL. LARGE SAMPLE FREE! THE PAXTON TOILET CO., BOSTON, MASS.

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"I have been using Cascarets for Insomnia, with which I have been afflicted for twenty years, and I can say that Cascarets have given me more relief than any other remedy I have ever tried. I shall certainly recommend them to my friends as being all that they are represented." Thos. Gillard, Elgin, Ill.

Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good. Do Good. Never Sicken, Weakens or Grips. 10c, 25c, 50c. Never sold in bulk. The genuine tablet stamped C. C. C. Guaranteed to cure or your money back.

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