











Paul Makes Friends for Christ by Faithful Living, Continual Work

Editor's Note: The following discussion of this week's Sunday school lesson is printed here through courtesy of J. Fred Cooke, teacher of the Business Men's class of the Methodist church.

Acts, 18: 18-24; Acts, 19: 8-10-18-23; Acts 20: 17-37; Eph. 2, 19-22. Paul made friends for Christ by a adopting as his criteria the essence of Bible teaching, carrying his message to a province, disputing with those opposing the right, trusting to faithful men his work and spirit, serving the Lord in humility, serving the Lord with tears, teaching from house to house, exhorting to preach repentance, and encouraging his friends in the thought that we are a part of the plan or building of the Temple of God.

1. The thought of God in all His works and teaching was to win the love and friendship of mankind. He distinguished Abraham from other men by calling him the friend of God. His attitude to us is like the mother trying to court the love of her offended child, when the child had no right to be offended. He said, "All day long have I stretched out my hand unto a disobedient and gainsaying people." Isaiah represents man as pulling away the shoulder when his friend God has laid His hand upon them. John speaks of Him standing outside and knocking that He might come in and sup with His friend man. He is spoken of many times as being "The friend of sinners." No one would question that he loved sinners and wants their friendship. Then if He is courting sinners, that means that He is trying to woo all mankind: (for all have sinned). By his actions He must have said to the Father and to the Spirit, "I have a plan that will win this bride, the Church. For with a cross on His shoulder above the bleeding back and below the blood stained brow He attempts the way to calvary; though he sank beneath its weight, while between the lines we read, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus loved His friends so much that He rejoiced with them at the wedding feast and wept with them at the grave, and cries to the tired and weary, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." When He wished to reveal to the wicked woman He had forgiven His love at the tomb, we hear Him speak her name, "Mary!" Her heart must have responded like a magnet to steel when she inaudibly said, "There is no friend like Jesus to me." Surely the essence of God's revelation is to win the friendship of all mankind, even to the remote places of the earth.

2. Paul with some of the Spirit of the Master went with two friends Aquila and Priscilla to Ephesus, a city with three hundred and fifty thousand population. It is so situated that it is a fine place to establish headquarters to win the friendship of the province of Asia. Paul is not content to stay there, for he thinks to make himself more suitable to win friends if he go to Jerusalem and fulfill the vow which he made upon leaving Cenchrea in Achaea of Greece. Then he had some friends at Jerusalem and in Antioch whom he wanted to strengthen that they might win more friends for Christ. Then too, he was forbidden to go north and west into the regions of Galatia, Bithynia, and

himself whole heartedly into the work, that he might make friends for Christ, and without egotism, hold himself up to the church elders as an example.

5. He speaks of serving in humility. There is a tendency on the part of consecrated people to be proud; because they are like the Pharisee said of himself, "I thank God I am not like other men." For the reason of their distinction they are tempted to be exalted. But Paul would be an example in this regard because he had served the Lord in all humility of mind. He had not been heady and high minded. Not like the young smartie who was approached on the matter of becoming a Christian. But his chest protruded so far that you couldn't get in six feet of him. He strutted like a peacock. He did not know anything about that humble mind which Paul spoke of. As the two men who confessed to one another that they did not have the lowly spirit. For when they saw a rough fellow push a Salvation Army boy into the mud, one said to the other: "That boy's religion affects him better than does ours. For you and I would show a belligerent willingness instead of an humble temperament on such occasions."

6. Then too, Paul served the Lord with many tears because of the Jews who lay in wait for him. He spoke of how watchful he had been to warn them night and day and with tears, that they should not be drawn away by perverse things and by wolves entering into the flock. Paul called them grievous wolves. Yet some would tell us that tears are signs of weakness. Not so with Paul. Neither was it true of David, who said, "My tears have been my meat day and night while they continually say unto me, "Where is thy God?" Not so with Jeremiah, who was heard to say, "Oh, that my head were waters and mine eyes a fountain of tears." Not so with Jesus, who was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. The great George Stewart said, "The Holy Spirit is the author of tears. Yes, He did, "Jesus wept."

Did Christ o'er sinners weep? And can our tears be dry. Yes, tears for other's sins and ours Should burst from every eye. 7. Paul had time to visit from house to house. Dr. Peloubet said, we preachers should feel condemned because we do not visit as much as necessary. John Wesley was very busy, but he took time often to call upon families in their home. A bishop instructing young preachers said, "You will visit the people if you love them."

8. Then he exhorts the elders of the church at Ephesus to preach repentance and faith. There is no hope for the race unless they repent and then believe that God does forgive us of our sins. John preached it in the wilderness, Jesus taught it to the disciples, and they in turn took up the refrain and taught it to others. Peter proclaimed it on the day of Pentecost, and when Paul stood on Mars Hill, he said, "Now God commandeth all men every where to repent." He was talking then to heathen, but he did not forget that the church people need to be talked to some time, just as though they were sin-

South Elementary School Program

Table of school program including RHYTHM BAND, PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, PART I, PART II, PART III, OPERETTA, CHARACTERS, GUESTS, SYNOPSIS OF MUSIC, and RETURNS HOME.



TAKE THE DROOP OUT OF FOODS

Hot weather is hard on foods. Fresh vegetables quickly lose their appetizing appearance. Perishable foods spoil quickly. You lose money through wasted food.



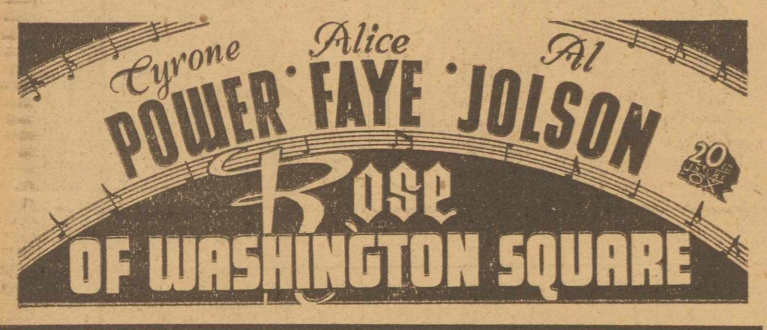
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Advertisement for RITZ featuring 'The Three Mesquiteers' and 'Riders of the Black Hills'.

That is the reason that Paul later advises Timothy to, "Do the work of an evangelist."... Macce full proof of their ministry. The writer heard a clergyman of much experience say, "If people are not converted upon his call to penitence, that he had better observe closely to see if there is not something wrong with his message. One none less than the late Woodrow Wilson to a class of ministerial students said, "I you can't lead us nearer God, you had better embark upon some other occupation."

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