

STRANGE MESSAGES

God had special messages to send to two men. He wished to tell Cornelius to send for Peter who would teach him more about serving God. He also had a message for Peter showing him he must go with Cornelius.

Cornelius was a Gentile who loved God and taught his family to do the same, but he knew very little about God's laws. One afternoon while he was praying, an angel came to him in a vision and said, "Cornelius."

When Cornelius saw the angel he was very much afraid but answered, "What is it, Lord?"

The angel said, "God has heard your prayers. You must send to Joppa for a man named Simon Peter who is staying at Simon the tanner's house. He will tell you what you must do."

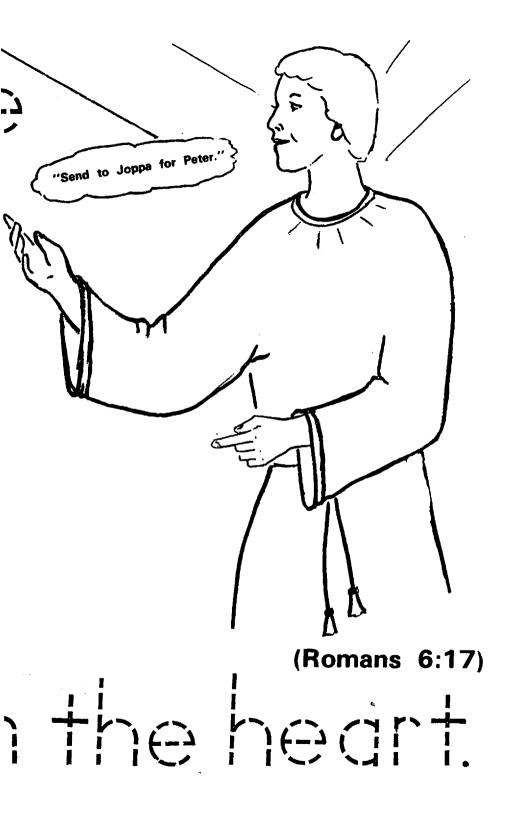
Cornelius was glad to obey. As soon as the angel had gone, he sent some of his servants to do as God had commanded.

As these men approached the house where Peter was staying, Peter was on top of the house. He had gone there to pray but had become very hungry. While he waited for a meal to be prepared, he fell into a deep sleep and saw a vision in which God commanded him to kill and eat animals which he had been taught should not be eaten. He was shown the same vision three times.

Through the vision, God was able to tell Peter that what God had made clean, Peter was not to call unclean. He further told him, "Three men are looking for you. Don't be afraid to go with them because I have sent them."

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Sis. Faith Stewart

Without a mother, forsaken by her father and rejected by her boyfriend, Faith Stewart turned to the Saviour of her soul and Healer of her body for counsel and guidance in her life.

Sis. Faith Stewart worked for the Lord in Colorado for four years. The Lord then directed her to California where she raised up a work both in Los Angeles and in Long Beach. It was there in California that the Spirit of God burdened Sis. Faith to work in a foreign missionary field. For some months Sis. Faith was happy with the thought of helping to carry the gospel message of Christ and His power to save the souls of men from sin to people who were without that knowledge.

When Sis. Faith told others about her call to work in the foreign field, they did not encourage her. They said, "You are too young and not strong enough for the work," yet Sis. Faith knew God wanted her to work for Him in some other country besides America.

Feeling sad that no one thought her burden was of the Lord. Sis. Faith took a long walk out by the ocean shore where she could pray more earnestly to God. As she sat alone by the water's edge, she cried out from the depth of her soul that God would tell her exactly where she was to go. As she talked to God in earnest prayer, suddenly, out over the water and right in front of her. came a vision of many, many little brown faces-faces that looked sad with sorrow and suffering, and from beneath each little face were two little arms stretched out to Sis. Faith. In this vision, she knew that these children from another country were pleading for her to come.

It touched Sis. Faith's heart and she cried out to God, "Oh, God, where are these little ones?" Then, just above the little faces, in clear blazing letters appeared these words: "India's helpless little ones are calfing you." Now Sis. Faith was peaceful in her heart and quietly happy because God had told her in this vision where she was to go and work. She arose from the ocean side and Lesson Text: Acts 10:1-16.

went back to her bedroom, peaceful, but burdened for the little ones in India.

It took nine long years before Sis. Faith was able to go to India and begin working for God there. Some people tried to stop her and things happened that slowed her down, but she was sure the Lord would send her to India because He had told her so in the vision.

Sis. Faith Stewart did go to India and she worked there fifteen years, saving first little girls and then little boys from mean, cruel ways of life.

Sis. Faith built a home for the little children whom God had shown her in that vision. Sis. Faith trusted God for healing, salvation, and for daily food and clothes for all these children. She taught all the children in her home to do the same. These children were thankful for their "Mama" and they loved her dearly.

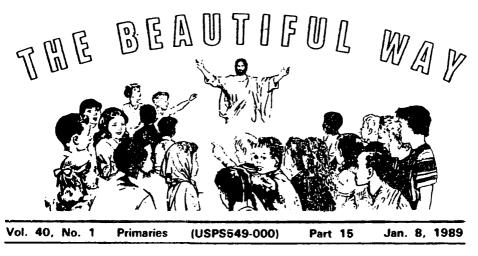
Today we can read about how the Lord blessed Sis. Faith Stewart in a book called Highways and Hedges.

-Connie Sorrell

Questions:

- What did God wish to send to two 1. men?
- 2. Who were these two men?
- Who was Peter? 3.
- Who was Cornelius? 4.
- Who brought the message to Cor-5. nelius?
- 6. What was Cornelius doing when this messenger came?
- 7. Where was Peter when he saw a vision?
- How many times did Peter see the 8. same vision?
- What did God tell Peter to do? 9. ****

Comelius' house.) ot nem ent drive og of .e. semit serdf. 8 6. He was praying. 7. On the housetop. loved and served Him. 5. An angel. little about God, but in his heart he Christ. 4. A Gentile who knew very Cornelius. 3. An apostle or disciple of (Answers: 1. Messages. 2. Peter and



UNDERSTANDING PETER'S MESSAGE

Last Sunday we learned how God had sent special messages to Peter and Cornelius so they would know what He wanted them to do. Today we will learn a little more about the strange way God made Peter understand what He wanted him to do.

In the vision which Peter saw on the housetop, a great big sheet was let down from heaven. In it were all kinds of animals, birds, snakes and lizards. From the time he was a young child, Peter had been taught to eat only certain animals; others were considered "unclean" and should not be eaten by a Jew.

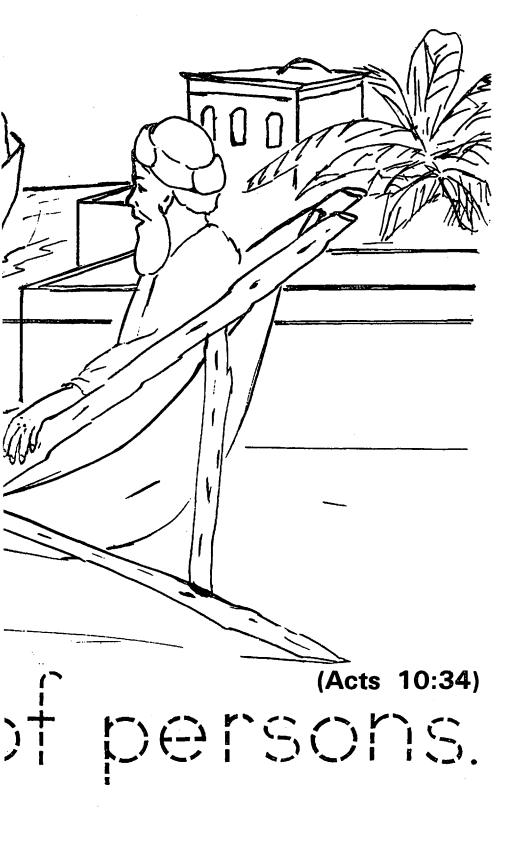
As the sheet was let down from heaven, a voice spoke to Peter saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter answered, "Not so, Lord. I've never eaten anything that was unclean."

The voice from heaven told Peter, "What God has made clean, do not call unclean."

The sheet was lifted back to heaven and lowered the second and third time just as at the first, but still Peter refused to eat anything unclean. When he awoke, Peter couldn't help wondering what the strange vision could mean. While he wondered, God told him, "Three men are looking for you. Get down and go with them because I have sent them."

Early the next morning, Peter, with some other believing Jews, went with Cornelius' servants. They were on their way to visit in a Gentile home. This was strictly forbidden by the Jewish law, but through the vision God had convinced Peter that he should teach everyone about Jesus.





Clean Boots Trample **Over Bad Words**

Tommy had a heavy question on his mind as he watched his daddy clean and polish his boots.

"Daddy," he said, "why do some people say God's and Jesus' names when they aren't even praying? The neighbor boys do that all the time and everytime I hear them, it makes my heart hurt inside."

"Yes, I know what you mean," sighed Daddy. "I hear men on my job do that also. It is very sad to hear someone curse and use filthy language. It makes God sad as the third commandment He gave was, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Those that disobey God's commandments will surely be punished."

Tommy nodded his head in quiet agreement. "I surely don't want God to punish me for that," he said. "God ought to just kill wicked people like that."

"Oh, Tommy, stop just a minute and think," Daddy said as he carefully buffed one of the boots. Think how patient and kind God is to you and me. The Bible tells us that God lets the sun shine on the just and the unjust. God isn't willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. God deals with even very wicked men and tries to save their souls. God doesn't kill them and send them to hell. They choose to go there. Hell is a terrible place where there is burning forever and ever and ever. God knows this and He wants everyone to come to Him and be saved from hell. God deals with wicked men, but if they don't pray to Him and honor Him, then God has to leave them and they will die in their wicked ways."

Tommy sighed at what Daddy said. "God is more patient than I am, because I get tired of their bad words."

"Yes, son," agreed Daddy, "I don't like to hear it either. We can avoid those type of people as much as possible. Don't play much with boys that curse, but do say 'Hi' and be friendly. Don't | Lesson Text: Acts 10:34.

ever go places with them. Find Mother or me or some good adult to visit with and usually those boys will leave, or else they will have to leave when they sav bad words. Don't ever let their bad habits rub off on you and cause you to think or say a naughty word.'

"I don't want to ever be like them!" Tommy said. "What do you do at work when men say bad words, Daddy?"

Daddy closed the polish can before he answered Tommy. "Well, son," he said, "in my mind I rebuke the bad words and then I try to think of something good like a song, a verse or a saintly person, then I go on about my work and imagine every step I take that I am trampling a bad word under my boots. I want to live clean from their wicked ways, but I must leave their souls in the hands of God."

Tommy was silent as he watched his daddy slip on his clean shiny boots, then Tommy hugged his daddy. "When I grow up, I want to wear boots like you wear," he told his daddy.

-Connie Sorrell

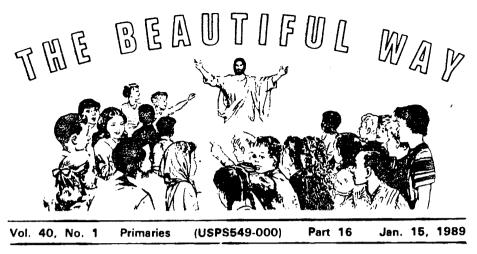
Questions:

- What did Peter see let down from 1. heaven?
- 2. What did Peter see inside of this?
- What did the voice tell Peter to do? 3.
- Why wouldn't Peter obey? 4.
- What did the voice answer to Peter? 5.
- 6. How many times did Peter see this same vision?
- Did he finally kill and eat one of 7. the animals?
- How many men were looking for 8. Peter?
- What was Peter to do when he met 9. the men?

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9. To go with them.) Three times. 7. No. 8. Three '9 made clean do not call unclean." anything "unclean." 5. "What God has изтвэ тэчэп рай рав wat в авч 3. To get up; to kill and to eat. 4. He animals, birds, and creeping things. (Answers: I. A sheet. 2. All kinds of





PETER'S VISIT TO THE GENTILES

Peter and the men who were with him traveled two days to reach Cornelius' home in Caesarea. Cornelius was watching for them. Knowing Peter would have a message for them from God, Cornelius had called in all his family and close friends so they, too, could hear the good news.

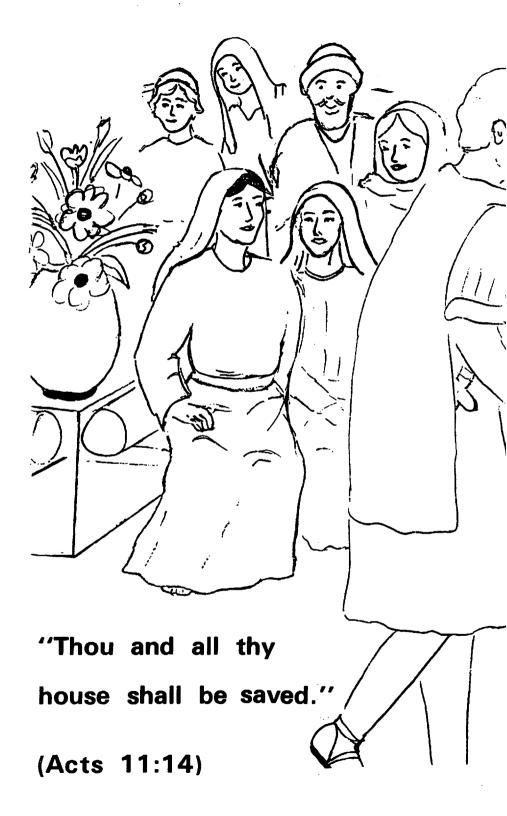
As Peter was coming in, Cornelius fell down at his feet to worship him, but Peter lifted him up and said, "Stand up. I am a man like you are." As they talked together, Cornelius led Peter into the room where his friends and relatives waited.

Peter told the waiting people, "You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to keep company or be entertained by people of a different nation, but God has shown me through a vision that I should not call any man common or unclean. After receiving the message from the vision, I knew God intended that I should come to you. Why have you sent for me?"

Cornelius then said, "I was instructed to call for you by an angel who appeared to me while I was praying. You have done right by coming. Now we are all here before God waiting to hear whatever He has given you to tell us."

Peter began his message by stating, "I see that God is no respecter of persons but accepts anyone who fears him and will do what is right, no matter what nation they are of."

"Jesus died to save men, women, boys and girls from their sins." As he preached, the Jewish brethren were surprised to see the Holy Ghost poured out upon these people, just as He had been given to the Jews.







Pray For The Unsaved

"Mama, it is really sad about JayCee's mama," said Jody as she walked into the kitchen where Mother was making supper.

"What about JayCee's mama?" asked Mother.

"Well, her mama doesn't live for Jesus," replied Jody. She isn't nice to JayCee's daddy because he wants her to live for Jesus, but she says Jesus won't make her do and dress differently. It makes JayCee very sad because she doesn't know who to obey when she dresses—her mother or her daddy. JayCee says she doesn't see why dressing has to be such a problem!"

"Bless her heart," said Mother kindly. "I hope you can be a help for the good, Jody, when you talk to JayCee. She needs a good friend like you to encourage her in dressing modestly. Do you remember how we explained to you about dressing decent?"

"Yes," replied Jody. "You said when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they put fig leaves on themselves because they were ashamed. Then when God talked to them and saw them, He put animal furs on them which were better covering. God always wants us to cover ourselves in clean clothes, that way, we don't embarass ourself or others looking at us."

"You remember very well!" exclaimed Mother as she stopped a moment to kiss Jody's forehead. "We can go a little deeper than that, too, Jody. If the heart isn't right with God, then that person will try to please self. That means that person will be selfish and proud of self. They will dress and do in such a way to make people look at them and admire them. The Bible tells us that God doesn't like a proud haughty look. He wants us to dress and to please Him and to do for others without being selfish."

"JayCee's mama is a little bit selfish because she wants her way when she dresses," agreed Jody. "It just worries JayCee."

"We will pray for JayCee's mama," said Mother. "Jesus can change her

heart. He loves JayCee's mama even though she doesn't do right. Jesus loves her soul, but He doesn't like what she is doing. Jody, be polite to JayCee's mama and let her know that you like her. I will try to visit her sometime soon. If we show her kindness and pray for her soul, the Lord Jesus can give JayCee a happy home where they will all be one in Jesus."

"Oh, let's really pray hard," said Jody earnestly, "because I just know Jesus can save JayCee's mama."

While you do what is right, always show kindness to those who don't know Jesus, and never give up praying for their souls to be saved.



********************** Ouestions:

- 1. How long did it take Peter and the other men to reach Cornelius' house?
- 2. Who was watching for them?
- 3. What did Cornelius do when he met Peter?
- 4. What did Peter do to Cornelius?
- 5. What did Peter tell Cornelius?
- 6. Who else was waiting for Peter at Cornelius' house?
- 7. Who is no respecter of persons?
- 8. Who died to save people from their sins?
- 9. Who was poured out on the people as they heard Peter preach?

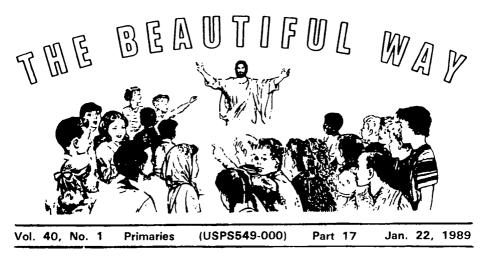
(Answers: 1. Two days. 2. Cornelius. 3. He fell down to worship him. 4. He lifted him up. 5. He told him, "Stand up. I am a man like yourself." 6. Cornelius' family and friends. 7. God. 8. Jesus. 9. The Holy Ghost.)

Lesson Text: Acts 10:34-48.

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⁻Connie Sorrell



THE APOSTLES ACCEPT THE GENTILES

News quickly reached Jerusalem that Peter and the other brethren had gone into the home of a Gentile to preach the gospel. Some thought Peter had been wrong in disobeying the law in this way.

When Peter came to Jerusalem, he told the brethren there how God had shown him in a vision that he was not to call anything unclean that God had made clean. He told them that as he was wondering what the vision meant, he was told by the Spirit of God that three men were waiting to ask him to come to Caesarea. He also explained how God had plainly let him know that he was to go with them.

Peter explained how Cornelius had a visit from an angel who told him to call for Peter and had told him right where Peter was. After telling them how Cornelius' family and friends were also gathered to hear the gospe!, he told how God had visited them by pouring out the Holy Ghost on them.

When the brethren heard Peter's story, they, too, understood that God was no respecter of persons. They were glad that salvation was for people of every nation. Now as the believing Jews traveled among the Gentiles, they were glad to share the good news of Jesus with them and many were saved.

As the number of believing Gentiles increased, the brethren at Jerusalem saw they needed someone to teach them more about Jesus. They chose Barnabas for this work. He then asked Saul to be his helper. As they taught the Gentiles, many people were brought to the Lord.



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"Go ye into all the world and preach 1





jospel." (Mark 16:15)

A Christian By Name **Or Works?**

"Grandma, are vou a Christian?" Jami asked her grandmother as she came into the living room where Grandmother was crocheting an afghan.

"Why, yes, Jami, I am a Christian." replied Grandma, "and why do you ask me that?"

"We talked about being a Christian in Sunday school," replied Jami. "People who believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him are called Christians. The followers of Christ were called Christians first in Antioch."

Grandma looked up from her crocheting to smile at Jami. "You certainly learned your lesson well," she said. "Christian has been a very important name ever since the first Christians at Antioch. Many men and women have died because they were called Christians. Ten of the disciples were killed because they followed Christ and were called Christians. Then, through the dark middle ages, a lot of people called themselves Christians, but in their hearts they really did not follow Christ. God was displeased and ashamed of them."

"Did He punish them?" Jami asked her grandmother.

"Yes, and God dealt with men who wanted to know Christ and really be Christians. Through these men. God led other men to Christ and soon there were more and more Christians who really were Christ-like. Jami, do you know why the first pilgrims came to America?"

"Because they were Christians!" exclaimed Jami.

Grandma nodded. "They were Christians who really wanted to follow Christ and not just call themselves Christians. A true, honest Christian will obey, trust, and worship Jesus Christ. A pure Christian has asked for the blood of Jesus to wash away their sins and then they do all they know to do to be like Jesus Christ and follow Him. This is what a Christian should always do and be, but some people in our world today

call themselves Christians but do not live like Christians."

"Then how do you know which ones are Christians, and which ones just call themselves Christians?" questioned Jami.

"Jesus said we will know them by their fruit or by what they do, answered Grandma. "If someone says, 'I am a Christian,' but are selfish and greedy over money, then you know they aren't following Christ very well, because Jesus didn't love money and keep a lot of it; Jesus shared what little He had and He gave to every man freely. Jesus never told lies nor fussed with other people nor told dirty jokes. People who do these things and call themselves Christian, are just called that, but really are not following Christ like a Christian does."

"Well, I want to be an honest-to-good-

ness Christian!" said Jami. "Yes, good for you!" agreed Grandma and she kissed Jami's forehead.

-Connie Sorrell



Questions:

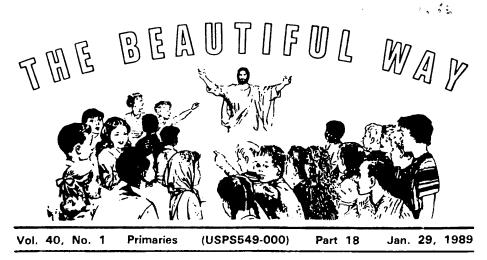
- What did God show Peter in the 1. vision?
- 2. How many men were waiting for Peter?
- 3. Where did they want him to go?
- Who is salvation for? 4.
- 5. Who was chosen to teach the Gentiles?
- Who did Barnabas ask to be his 6. helper?

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of every nation. 5. Barnabas. 6. Saul). clean. 2. Three. 3. To Caesarea. 4. People (Answers: I. That he was not to call

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Lesson Text: Acts 11:1-35.



PETER ESCAPES FROM PRISON

King Herod wanted the chief priests and Jewish rulers to be his friends. When he found out how much they hated those who believed in Jesus, he had Peter put in prison.

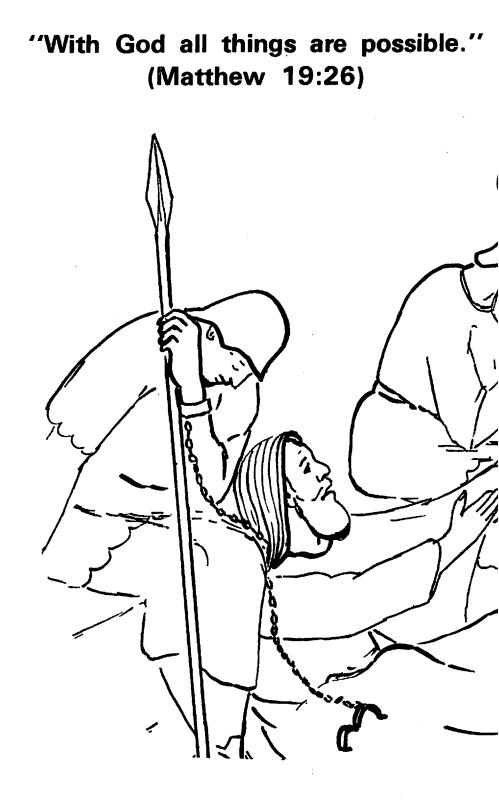
The Church felt they could not lose Peter. One night they met at Mary's house to pray all night for Peter, because King Herod planned to have him killed the next day.

That night Peter slept soundly between the two soldiers he was chained to. Suddenly an angel came to Peter and a bright light shined in the prison cell. Hitting Peter on the side to awaken him the angel said, "Get up quickly." As Peter got up, the chains fell off!

Next the angel told Peter, "Put on your sandals and get dressed." Peter again did as the angel said. "Wrap your coat around you and follow me," the angel told him.

Peter followed the angel. He wasn't sure if he was awake or just dreaming. How could this be true? They walked right past the guards. When they came to the big iron gate of the city, it swung open by itself. As they started up a city street, the angel disappeared.

Peter finally knew for sure that he was free from prison! Peter hurried to Mary's house where the Church was still praying. When he knocked at the gate, Rhoda asked, "Who is it?" Hearing Peter's voice, she was too excited to open the gate but instead ran to tell the others that Peter stood at the gate. Peter kept knocking until the door was finally opened. God had delivered Peter from jail in answer to prayer!





Miracles Yesterday And Today

Now you children know the stories about Daniel in the Lion's Den and about the three Hebrew children. Shadrach. Meshach, and Abednego, who would not bow to an idol and when thrown into a burning furnace, did not burn. These were all miracles God did to let men know He is the only God. Today, we still praise and worship God for how He helped Daniel and these three men to be strong and stand for God only. These stories are in the Old Testament of our Bible

In the New Testament of our Bibles we read about more miracles God did for those who trusted and obeyed Him and followed after His Son. Jesus Christ. God did a mighty miracle when He sent an angel to rescue Peter out of that prison. Just think, those chains fell off of Peter and he got up and walked out of that prison like he would walk out of his bedroom at night. God ordered this miracle to happen because He did not want Herod to kill Peter. Then, the sad part was that, the sixteen guards were put to death because Herod was so mad Peter got away. God was not pleased with Herod and so He allowed worms to grow inside Herod and they ate on Herod until he died from them. That was an awful death! God took care of those who trusted in Him and He sent punishment to those who fought against Him.

It is just the same today. In 1955, in the far away country of China. mean communists took control of the Chinese people and began to beat, steal from, and murder Christians and good people. A young mother named Nora Lam was chosen by the communists for cruel questionings and beatings. They sat her on a chair, asked her questions about her family and about missionaries, and they beat her. Finally they asked her. "Are you a Christian?" She was so tired from all their meanness that she didn't speak for awhile and they began to shout it at her. Finally she had the strength to say, "Yes, I am a

Christian" She knew that meant her death "Take her out and kill her!" came the order from the officer in command.

Nora Lam's eves were bruised, her nose and mouth bleeding, and her back ached from them hitting her over and over, yet she felt peaceful. She would soon leave this misery and he with Jesus in heaven. They tied her hands with a cord and put a dirty rag over her eves. They led her to a field where eight uniformed soldiers stood with rifles in their hands.

She heard the bolts of the guns click as bullets slid into their chambers. The officer said. "One, two, three, FIRE!" and then a bright light blinded the riflemen, causing them to miss Nora Lam. The communists were angry because they had not killed Nora Lam. but they were then afraid to kill her because the bright light of God had scared them so!

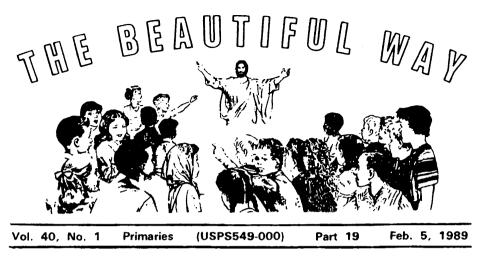
God did this miracle in our day and He is still doing miracles right now today. I know of miracles God has done for me. Do you remember some He has done for you? -Connie Sorrell

Questions:

- 1. Who had Peter put in prison?
- 2.
- Why was Peter put in prison? What did the Church do for Peter? 3.
- Who was Peter chained to? 4.
- 5. Who visited Peter in prison?
- What happened when Peter got up? 6.
- How did they open the heavy gate 7. to the city?
- Where did Peter go when he realized 8. he had escaped?
- Who answered when Peter knocked 9. at the gate?

Mary's house. 9. Khoda.) hands. 7. It swung open by itself. 8. To 5. An angel. 6. The chains fell off his 3. They prayed for him. 4. Two soldiers. and Jewish rulers to be his triends. King Herod wanted the chief priests (Answers:]. King Herod. 2. Because

Lesson Text: Acts 12:1.19.



GOD DESTROYS THOSE WHO TAKE HIS GLORY

Last Sunday our lesson told us how an angel sent from God helped Peter escape from prison. King Herod did all he could to make sure it was impossible for Peter to get away, but locked doors and gates and sixteen men on guard could not keep Peter in jail when God ordered him to be free!

Can you imagine how surprised the soldiers were the next morning to find Peter had simply disappeared? The soldiers couldn't figure out what had become of Peter.

King Herod was very angry that his prisoner had escaped. Instead of admitting that God had done it, he had the soldiers put to death who were guarding Peter. He blamed the soldiers for letting Peter get away.

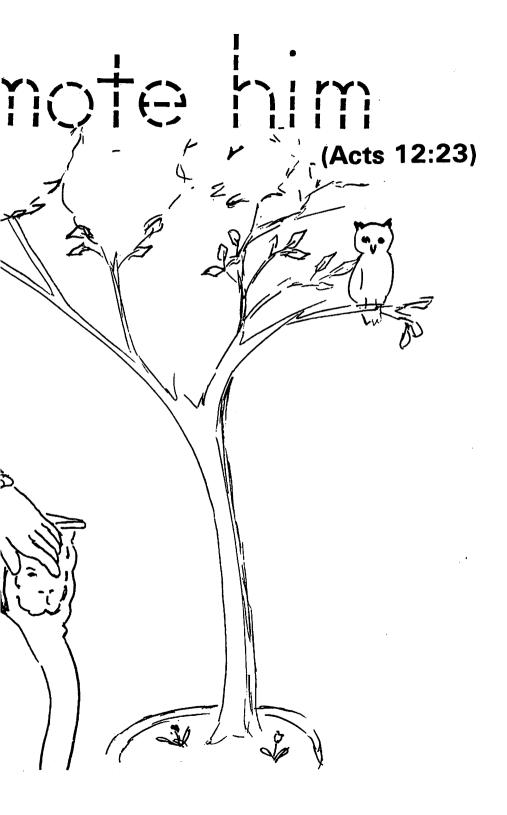
Not long after this, King Herod appeared before the people to make a speech to them. He was dressed in rich royal apparel and sat upon a throne. As he spoke, the people began to shout, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man."

When Cornelius fell down at Peter's feet to worship him, Peter had quickly lifted him up. He told him, "Get up. I'm a man just like you." But King Herod wanted men to worship him, so he let the people praise him as if he were a god.

God was so displeased with the king that He sent an angel who smote him because he didn't give the glory to God. Not long afterward, King Herod died a miserable death.

God says, "My glory will I not give to another." We must always believe that only God is almighty and give only Him the praise for what He does.





"Look at my He-Man!" exclaimed Jared. "He is master of the universe! See his muscles! Look how st-r-o-n-g he is! He-Man can do anything!"

Jared was flying his He-Man figure through the air as he came over to Jason's porch where Jason was playing cars. Jason looked up from carefully made roads where he was busy driving his hot wheels.

"Your muscle man is too big to ride in or on one of my cars," replied Jason. "We don't need him!"

"Aw. He Man doesn't ride in a car he rides the battle cat. He carries a sword, too, He-Man is really cool!" Jared said as he sat down on the porch to watch Jason.

Jason glanced up again at Jared's He-Man before he straightened another house he had just made out of rocks and sticks. "He-Man needs to wear more clothes and I would rather drive a fast Corvette any day than to ride on a dumb cat! Why don't you put that He-Man up and play cars with me. It's a lot more fun."

"Okay, Jason. I guess I will." agreed Jared. "Only you ought to see He-Man on TV. He overcomes all the evil. . . .

"Jared." Jason said, interrupting his friend, "I don't want to hear about He-Man. He is wicked and a lot of boys want to replace him for God, and that is wrong! I don't want to play with him. There is only one master of the universe and that is God."

"God!" exclaimed Jared. "Who is that?"

"You mean you don't know who God is?" Jason was so startled by this that he sat up to look at Jared.

"Well," said Jared, "my dad says that word sometimes when he gets mad. Do you learn about God in church? We don't go to church because we are too poor."

"You don't have to be rich to go to church," said Jason kindly. "You don't have to pay any money at the Church of God unless the Lord tells you to. Would your dad let you come to church | Lesson Text: Acts 12:18-25; Isaiah 42:8.

with me? I'm sure my parents would take you with us if you will be good."

"Oh, I don't know," said Jared, looking down at his He-Man. "Would they tell me not to play with He-Man?"

"Jared, once you know about God. He-Man will look little and foolish to you. God really made the world, the heavens, and everything we see. You can't make a figure like God to worship. but you worship Him from your heart because. He is so big and mighty. He can see inside of everyone at the same time. God is really great and mighty. That He-Man is nothing by the side of God!"

"Well, I've never been to church before," said Jared slowly, "but maybe I ought to go and find out about God."

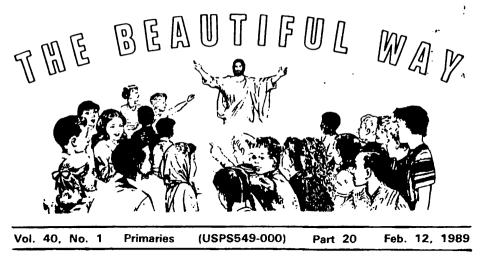
"Good!" shouted Jason. He was so happy to lead Jared to the real God of the universe that he started singing, "What a mighty God we serve! What a mighty God we serve! Reigning now above on His throne of love, What a mighty God we serve!



Questions:

- Who escaped from prison? 1.
- Who helped him escape? 2.
- 3. Who was angry because Peter had escaped?
- 4. Who got the blame for Peter getting awav?
- What happened to the soldiers who 5. were guarding Peter?
- 6. Why did King Herod appear before the people?
- 7. What did the people shout?
- Who smote King Herod? 8.
- Who should we worship? 9.

8. An angel. 9. God only.) the voice of a God, and not of man. to death. 6. To make a speech. 7. "It is Herod. 4. The soldiers. 5. They were put (Answers: I. Peter. 2. An angel. 3. King



ADVENTURES IN CYPRUS

Many, many more Gentiles believed on Jesus and were saved. There were others who taught them besides Barnabas and Saul. As these men were fasting and ministering to the Lord, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to do." They understood that God wanted to send Barnabas and Saul to other countries to preach the gospel.

Taking John Mark with them, Barnabas and Saul first sailed to the island of Cyprus. There they preached to the Jews, first in the city of Salamis and then in Paphos.

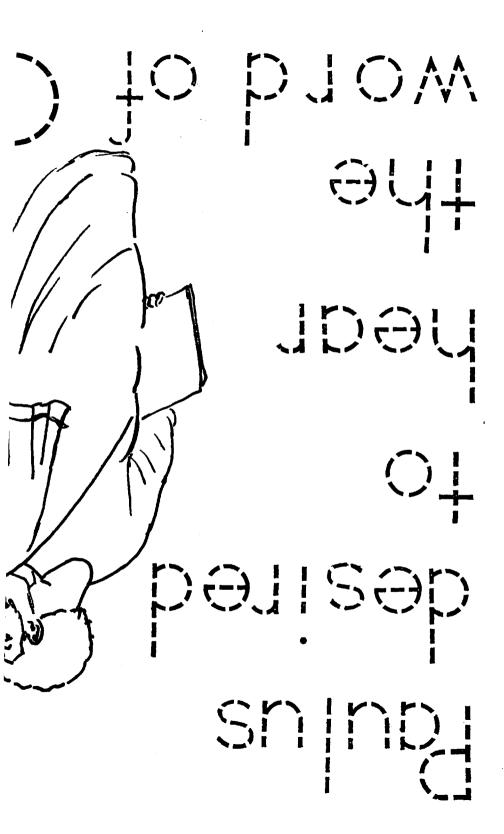
When they came to Paphos, Sergius Paulus, the Roman governor, sent for them. He, too, wanted to hear the gospel. As they preached to him, he listened carefully, eager to know about Jesus.

A magician named Elymas saw how intently Sergius Paulus listened. Seeing that he was about to accept salvation, Elymas tried to get the governor's attention on other things.

Saul (from this time called Paul) saw what Elymas was trying to do. Looking directly at the magician, Paul spoke as the Holy Ghost told him. He said, "You enemy of all righteousness, when will you stop trying to hinder the ways of the Lord? You will be blind for a time because the hand of the Lord is upon you."

Immediately the magician's eyesight was gone. He had to have someone lead him by the hand because he couldn't see where he was going.

When Sergius Paulus saw the power of God, he was much surprised. He believed in Jesus at once and was saved.





Rest From The Quest

Today, you should be thankful that you are in Sunday school and that you are learning the truth from God's Holy Word. Very few children have this golden chance that you have today.

I want to tell you a true story about a young girl named Elissa who did not have a golden chance to hear about Jesus and His saving grace until she was much, much older. Her mother dealt with evil spirits. It often scared Elissa, but her mother "enjoyed" this wicked way of life because she had learned it from her family. Poor Elissa did not have a good family. Every night, Elissa would lock her bedroom door because she was afraid of her own mother when her mother listened to evil spirits.

Elissa was trained in the "New Age Movement" which told her many lies about Jesus Christ. She believed in "Human power to take care of all problems" and she was not taught to pray to Jesus. Elissa married a man who also was in the New Age Movement. He was mean to her and drank liquor. Elissa was afraid he would kill her, and she did not know to pray and ask Jesus Christ to help her in her life.

Dear children, you know how to pray and ask Jesus to guide you, do you not? If you have any problems in life, always pray to Jesus and He can help you if you will listen and let Him. Do not try to answer your own problems—Jesus wants to help you! It is wonderful to have Jesus as our friend and helper in life!

Elissa did not have this helper in her life and she was finally so afraid, so lonely, and so unhappy that she decided to take her own life. She was waiting for the right time to end her life when the Lord led her to read the Bible. Elissa began to read the Bible. She read how Jesus had died on the cross for her sins. Truly, she knew she was a sinner! She was sick of sinful ways!

Elissa began to cry deep sobs from within her soul. "My Lord! My Lord! I am so sorry! Please forgive me!" she cried out to Jesus. And Jesus did for- Lesson Text: Acts 12:25, 13:1-12.

give Elissa! She read and read her Bible because she was so hungry for God's Word. From now on she wanted to walk with Jesus Christ and talk with His Holy Spirit. She did not want to listen to evil spirits any more!

The Lord protected Elissa and led her out from bad people to good friends. Today she talks to children and young people and tells them to follow Jesus and His Holy Spirit. Elissa is so much happier now and she doesn't live in fear, because she has Jesus Christ with her to keep her from evil as long as she lets Jesus talk to her heart.

Let us pray for Elissa that she will know all the truths that you are being taught. Pray for the thousands of other children who live like she did, hurt and afraid, and always be happy to learn more of God's Word in Sunday school. -Connie Sorrell



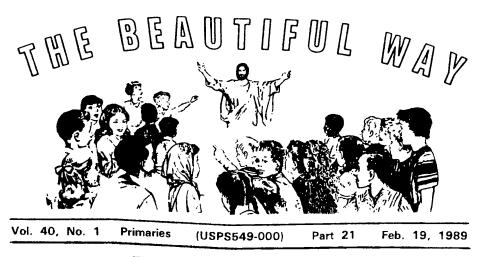
Questions:

- Who spoke to the prophets and teach-1. ers as they fasted and ministered to the Lord?
- 2. Who did God want to work for Him?
- 3. Who did they take with them?
- To what island did they sail? 4.
- Who was Sergius Paulus? 5.
- 6. Give the name of the magician.
- 7. Which man wanted to hear the gospel, Sergius Paulus or the magician?
- 8. What happened to the magician?
- Who was saved? 9.

9. Sergius Paulus.)

7. Sergius Paulus. 8. He was made blind. A Roman governor. 6. Elymas. bas and Saul. 3. John Mark. 4. Cyprus. Answers: I. The Holy Chost. 2. Barna-. .





TROUBLE AT ANTIOCH

When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Antioch, they went to the Jewish synagogue to worship on the Sabbath. When the rulers of the synagogue asked if they had anything to say to the people, Paul gladly stood up and told them about Jesus.

On the next Sabbath, the whole city came together to hear the missionaries tell about Jesus. When the Jewish leaders saw the great crowd flocking to hear the Word of the Lord, they were filled with envy and began to speak against the gospel.

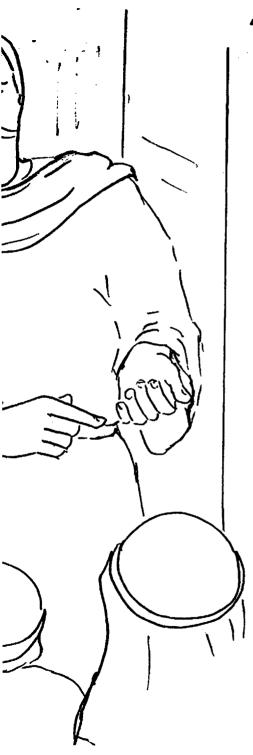
Paul and Barnabas saw what the rulers were trying to do. Boldly they told them, "It was necessary that the Word of God first be preached to you, but you refuse to hear. We will preach to the Gentiles who are eager to hear the message because God has commanded us to take the gospel to them."

When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad. Many of them believed in Jesus and were saved. They in turn took the gospel to others so that the Word of the Lord was spread throughout all the region.

However, the Jews were angry. They did not want the gospel nor did they want it preached to the Gentiles. They began to persecute the missionaries, stirring up the chief men and women of the city against them. Finally Paul and Barnabas were asked to leave because of the jealous Jews.

Although Paul and Barnabas had to leave because of the bitter hatred of their enemies, they were not discouraged. They were filled with joy because they knew they were doing the work God sent them to do.





'This gospel shall

be preached in

all the world."

(Matthew 24:14)

Jesus Is Proclaimed In Africa

Dando was an African witch doctor who lived in the deep, dark jungles of Africa. He did not want white missionaries to come into his village and teach his friends about Jesus, because then they wouldn't believe in his magic and pay him for his work. Dando did not know about the true God who created all men and women.

One day Bwana Green and two young brothers, Juma and Ochelle, came to the Luo village where Dando lived. Dando quickly sent a message to Juma and Ochelle that they must take the Luo oath or escape the Luo village before they were killed.

Juma and Ochelle were Christians who believed the blood of Jesus Christ washed away all their sins. They were not afraid of Dando's spells because they knew Jesus was greater and could stop all Dando's so-called magic. Juma and Ochelle refused to take the oath against missionaries and their God.

This made Dando very, very mad. He tried to cast a spell of magic on them but it didn't work, so he threatened to throw them into the river where crocodiles were ever ready to eat men with their huge, pointed teeth and jaws.

Because Chief Mugo liked the missionary and his words about Jesus Christ, Dando secretly burned Chief Mugo's hut with fire. He then lied and told the angry chief that Juma and Ochelle did it. This made the chief and villagers very angry at Juma and Ochelle. They dragged them out of their hut, tied their hands, and marched them down to the river.

"Is it fair to throw us in without a trial?" Juma asked the people.

The chief agreed and said they would give them a quick trial. He had fine flour brought to him in a bowl. If Juma and Ochelle could eat a big mouthful of flour and swallow it, then they would not be guilty and not go to the crocodiles, But if they could not eat the flour, then they were guilty. These African people thought a person who did not tell the Lesson Text: Acts 13:13-52.

truth would not have enough water in their mouth to swallow the flour. Jesus helped Juma and Ochelle to swallow the flour right away. This made Dando very mad again!

They then had a spear throwing contest to see if Juma could throw the best. If he won the contest, then they would all let him and the missionary tell them about Jesus Christ. Again, Jesus helped Juma and he threw his spear the best!

"Now let's have Dando do the flour test to see if he burned Chief Mugo's hut," said Juma.

Dando did not pass the test but choked on the flour. The Luo men wanted to throw Dando to the crocodiles, but Juma said, "No, let me tell you all about Jesus.

The missionary, Bwana Green talked to the people about Jesus Christ and many accepted Him and changed their life for Jesus.

Even today, no one can stop the power of Jesus Christ.

-Connie Sorrell

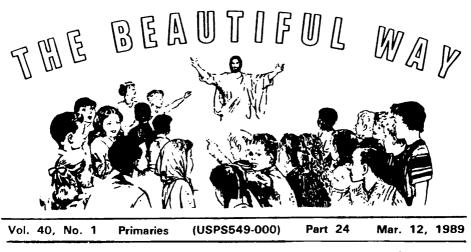


Questions:

- Where did Paul and Barnabas go on 1. the Sabbath?
- 2. Who stood up and told about Jesus?
- 3. How many came to hear the Word of the Lord on the next Sabbath?
- 4. Since the Jews didn't want the gospel, who were Paul and Barnabas going to preach to?
- Did the Jews like this news? 5.
- What did they do to the mission-6. aries?
- 7. Why did Paul and Barnabas leave?
- Why were Paul and Barnabas joyful? 8.

('op

were doing the work God sent them to the jealous Jews. 8. They knew they them. 7. They were asked to leave by the Gentiles. 5. No. 6. They persecuted (Answers: I. To the synagogue of the Jews, 2. Paul. 3. A great crowd. 4. To



A QUESTION IS SETTLED

Paul and Barnabas had seen many Gentiles who were saved because they believed the gospel. Many times they had seen these believers receive the Holy Ghost, just as the Jews had.

However, certain men came from the church at Jerusalem and told the Antioch Christians, "You must obey every part of the law of Moses or you cannot be saved." This greatly disturbed the Church there because many were Gentile Christians who believed they were saved even though they did not obey every part of the law of Moses.

This was a serious question because the Church could be torn apart if they could not agree and settle the matter. It was decided that Paul and Barnabas should take some of the other teachers with them and talk this matter over with the apostles in Jerusalem.

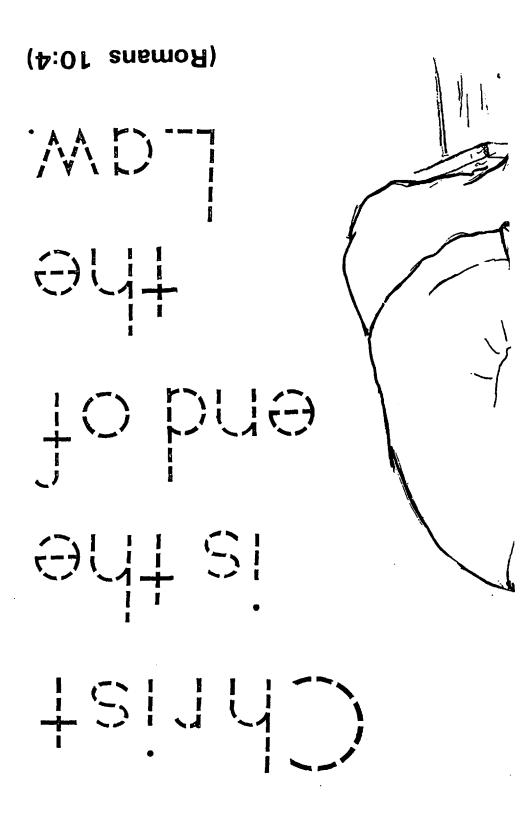
At Jerusalem, as the group from Antioch met with the apostles, there were many different opinions; it seemed they couldn't agree.

Peter then stood up and told again how God had commanded him through the vision to preach to Cornelius, the Gentile. He reminded them how God had sent the Holy Ghost on Cornelius and his friends, just as He did to Jewish believers.

Next, Paul and Barnabas told about the many wonders God had done among the Gentiles on their missionary trip.

After listening to these witnesses, James recommended, "Men and brethren, we should not expect the Gentile believers to do things the same way we do. Instead, they should be warned to keep away from idols and sin."





God's Counsel And Strength

During World War II, Romuald Spasowski was a 19-year-old Polish soldier fighting to keep the German Nazi army out of Poland. The unit of men he fought with had been attacked and scattered by the enemy. Hungry and tired, Romuald stumbled onto the edge of his family's land and came to his grandmother's little house which was hid among some trees.

Romuald's grandmother was so happy to see him! She kissed him and fed him a very good meal. The next day, Romuald asked his grandmother if she still had a wooden trunk with the family treasures in it. Yes! she did have it and soon they were looking through several precious treasures.

One worn black-covered book, his grandmother picked up very tenderly. "Romuald," she said, "this is the family prayer book. Would you like to have it?"

"No, Grandmother," said Romuald, "I am an atheist and don't believe there is a God."

His grandmother sighed sadly. "That is what you have been told," she said, "but I want you to take this prayer book. Maybe someday you will find it has counsel and strength your soul needs." So Romuald took the prayer book to please his grandmother.

Romuald went back to the war, but his army did not win.

He was sad because he saw much hunger and suffering in his country, but his life brightened when he married a good wife who was a Christian.

Romuald served as a government ambassador of Poland to the United States for many, many years. At first he believed in the communist ways which declare there is no God. Romuald then began to see the lies and wicked ways of the communists. God, our Creator, began to talk to his heart. He decided at last to read in his grandmother's prayer book. When his wife saw him reading it, she offered to let him read Lesson Text: Acts 15:1-31.

her New Testament that she had been secretly reading.

Romuald's mind opened to light at last! He saw that only God and His Word had the answer to life's problems. and that God's laws and ways were much, much better than any man's ideas and thoughts. Yes, now he knew God was real-only God had the counsel and strength his soul needed.

Romuald made an important decision. He left the Polish Communist party, and asked to live in the United States as a citizen. He wanted to live for God because God's counsel and ways are best.

When he decided to stay in the United States in 1981, Romuald Spasowski was the highest ranking diplomat (government official) to ever leave a communist country. On April 9, 1985, he decided to accept Jesus as his Saviour. He was then saved! His grandmother's prayer book had helped him to find God.

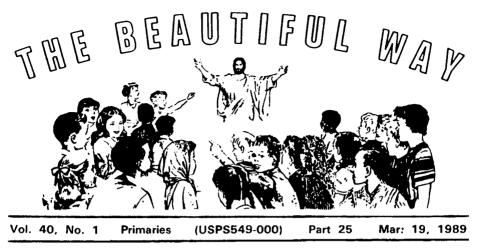
-Connie Sorrell

Questions:

- 1. Who, besides the Jews, had received the Holy Ghost?
- 2. What laws did the Gentiles not keep?
- 3. From what church did the men come who said the Gentiles must keep Moses' law?
- 4. Who was sent to talk the matter over with the apostles?
- Where were these apostles? 5.
- 6. Who told about a vision he had?
- In the vision, what did God com-7. mand him to do?
- 8. Who told of the wonders God did on their missionary trip?
- 9. Who recommended that the Gentiles be warned only to keep away from idols and sin?

6. Paul and Barnabas. 9. James.) 7. To preach to Cornelius, a Gentile. teachers. 5. In Jerusalem. 6. Peter. salem. 4. Paul, Barnabas, and other of Moses. 3. From the church at Jeru-(Answers: I. The Gentiles. 2. The laws

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FOLLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Paul felt it was time to go again to the places where they had preached on their first missionary trip. He wanted to encourage the believers. This time a man named Silas went with him.

When they arrived back at Lystra, where Paul had been stoned, they met Timothy, a young man who served God. Paul saw how much Timothy loved God and knew he could be of much help on their missionary trip. When it was time to leave Lystra, Paul invited Timothy to go, too. Timothy was glad to go.

As they traveled, they preached the gospel in many cities along the way, but there were some places that the Holy Spirit told them not to preach. Paul, Silas and Timothy were careful to obey what the Holy Spirit told them. They knew He understood men's hearts and could tell when the people were ready to receive the gospel.

One night while they were at Troas, Paul had a vision. In this vision Paul saw a man who begged him, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us."

As soon as Silas and Timothy heard about the dream, they were ready to make their way to Macedonia. They knew it was the Holy Spirit leading them. Taking a ship, they sailed to Philippi, a chief city of Macedonia.

Each Sabbath a group met by a river outside Philippi to pray. Paul and the others went there and taught the people about Jesus.

We, too, can let the Holy Spirit lead our lives. When we obey the Bible, we are following the Holy Spirit and doing God's will.



t down and spake unto the women." (Acts 16:13)



Timothy

The name "Timothy" means "honoring God." That was what Timothy wanted to do. He was just a young person, perhaps a teenager, when he heard Paul and Barnabas preaching in the marketplace. Timothy probably saw Paul speak to the crippled man who was healed by the power of God.

"Mother," Timothy may have said to Eunice, his mother, "I want to serve the God who can do such wonderful things for people! I'm going to learn more about your people, the Jews!"

Timothy may have heard the story about Abraham and how he was chosen by God to be the father of the faithful. God promised that a great King would be born in his family. Jesus Christ, that great King, and God's own Son, had been born. He grew up to be a Man who healed and instructed the people, then He was crucified for our sins. Now Jesus Christ sits on the right hand of God and because of Jesus, God will save the souls of people and God will heal their bodies.

When Timothy heard about Jesus Christ, he knew this was the Son of the only living God. Timothy's father was a Greek man and he probably had taught Timothy about the false Greek gods which were made of stone and artwork. Timothy knew those false Greek gods couldn't heal a man like the only living God could.

"I want to honor the true and only God," decided Timothy. "I want to be a Christian and be led by the Holy Spirit like Apostle Paul."

How pleased Timothy was when Apostle Paul came back to visit his home town of Lystra! He had been spending a lot of time reading God's Word to know how to best serve God. Because Timothy had studied and learned well, he was able to work for God. Timothy also wanted to help people know the one living God, so when Apostle Paul said, "Timothy, would you like to travel with me?". Timothy said, "Yes, I am ready to work for Jesus Christ and serve God, our Father." Traveling with Apostle Paul was very exciting for Timothy. He met many people and he wanted all of them to know about the only living God. Timothy was a young person, but he wanted to give all of his time to honor God. In return, God blessed Timothy and led him by His Holy Spirit.

When Timothy was an older man, God led him to be pastor of the congregation of saints in Ephesus. Apostle Paul wrote Timothy letters when Timothy wasn't with him. We still have two of those letters today and they are in the Bible. They are called I Timothy and II Timothy. Apostle Paul loved Timothy very much and called him "his own son in the faith." Timothy took Apostle Paul his cloak (jacket) and parchments (papers) when Apostle Paul was in prison, just before his death.

From a young boy, Timothy honored God and was led by His Holy Spirit. Today he is in heaven with Apostle Paul, Jesus Christ, and God. He has been greatly rewarded for serving God, and it can be this same way for you. —Connie Sorrell



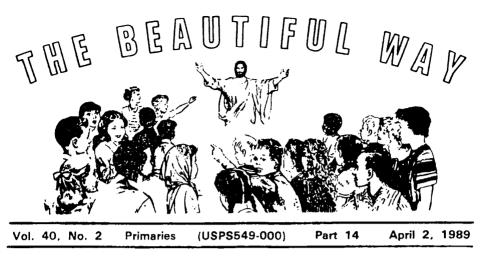
Questions:

- 1. Why did Paul want to go back to the places they had been on their first missionary trip?
- 2. Who went with him?
- 3. Where was Paul stoned?
- 4. Who did they meet in that city?
- 5. Who told them not to preach in some cities?
- 6. In the vision, what did the man beg Paul to do?
- 7. Where did the people at Philippi meet to pray?
- 8. How can we follow the Holy Spirit?

(Answers: I. To encourage the believers. 2. Silas. 3. At Lystra. 4. Timothy. 5. The Holy Spirit. 6. To "come over into Macedonia, and help us." 7. By a river. 8. By obeying the Bible.)

Lesson Text: Acts 15:40, 41; 16:1-15.

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AN EARTHQUAKE

There was a great uproar in Phillipi. A multitude rushed together, angrily shouting accusations against two men. Soon the magistrates tore off the men's clothes and commanded them to be beaten. After their backs were torn and bloodied by the whips, the men were dragged off to jail.

Who were these men and what terrible thing had they done? The two men were Paul and Silas. They were being tortured because through Jesus' power they had made the devil come out of a poor slave girl and she could no longer tell fortunes.

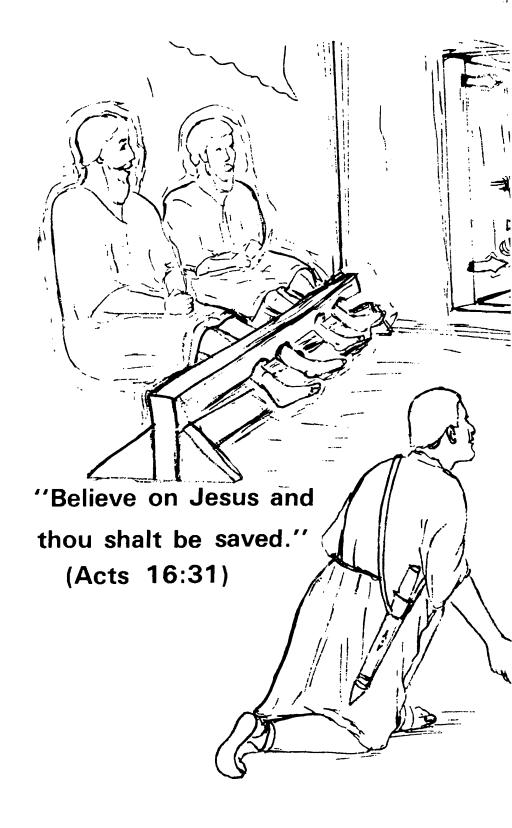
The jailer was given orders to make sure these prisoners did not escape. They must be very dangerous men! The jailer put Paul and Silas in the inner prison and then fastened their feet in stocks so they could not possibly get away.

At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. The other prisoners heard them singing.

God also heard. Suddenly a great earthquake shook the prison to its very foundation. Immediately all the doors were opened and every prisoner's bands were shaken loose!

The jailer had been sleeping but was awakened by the earthquake. When he saw all the prison doors open, he was sure that all his prisoners had escaped. When Paul saw the jailer pull out his sword to kill himself, he shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all still here."

The jailer realized these were men of God. Rushing into the prison, he fell down before them and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"



Who am I?

I was saved on the road to Damascus when a light struck me down.

Paul told me how to get saved after the earthquake shook the jail where I worked.

I am a farmer. I wrote to a man in jail and told him about Jesus.

I was saved in jail through Uncle Ray's letters.

I am a child that loves Jesus.

Someone whom I can help to get saved.

Paul Guy Uncle Ray jailer

Set Free

(A true story)

Jason McMillian was spending Easter vacation on his uncle Ray's farm in southern Missouri. He had just finished writing a letter to his father, mother, Melissa, his eight-year-old sister, and the two-year-old twins. Jen Jen, and Jim. He told the twins about the six beagle puppies born yesterday morning, and Melissa about jumping from the rafters of the barn down into the soft hay.

Uncle Ray had taken his letter down to the mailbox on state highway 65, and was coming back.

"Did I get a letter?" Jason asked as he ran to meet him.

"There's only one letter; it's from Guy."

"Is that the man in jail?"

"Yes, it is."

"Tell me about him!"

"Well, Jason, Guy grew up right here in this peaceful farming community. Most people think it is the perfect place for a boy to grow up strong, healthy, and good, but drugs are everywhere, and Guy became friends with some boys who wanted to see how it felt to take drugs.

"One night Guy and one of his friends were driving around after they had taken some drugs. Their minds were all fogged up with drugs so they couldn't think right. The devil put an idea in their minds to do a very mean thing, and because of the drugs, they thought it would be fun. The more they talked about it, the more exciting it seemed.

"Well, Jason, Guy and his friend did just what the devil had suggested. But the instant after they finished doing it, they felt terrible.

"Guy couldn't sleep a wink that night. Every minute of the dark night he thought about what he had done. The haunting thoughts made him sick. His mother couldn't understand why he was sick."

"Is that why he is in jail?" "Yes, it is." "How long will he have to stay?" "He will probably have to stay the rest of his life."

"Stay all his life locked up? I'd rather die than do that!"

"Sometimes Guy feels like he would rather die too, but since he has gotten saved, God has helped him to be able to accept his punishment. He is so thankful that God has forgiven him that he is willing to do whatever God wants him to do, even if that means spending many years locked up in jail."

"I'm never going to take drugs. I wouldn't want something like that happening to me," Jason exclaimed.

-Charlotte Huskey



Questions:

- 1. Where was there a great uproar?
- 2. What did the magistrates command to be done to the men?
- 3. Who were these men?
- 4. What had they done?
- 5. What orders were given to the jailer?
- 6. When did Paul and Silas pray and sing?
- 7. Who heard their singing?
- 8. How did God open the prison doors?
- 9. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas?

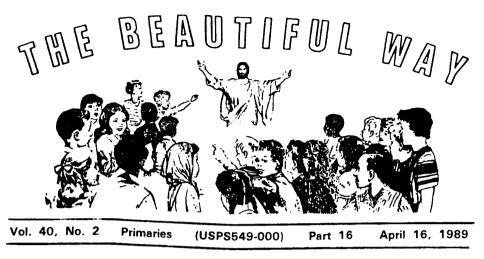
$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$

(Answers: I. At Philippi. 2. That they be beaten. 3. Paul and Silas. 4. Through Christ's power they made the devil come out of a slave girl. 5. He was to make sure Paul and Silas did not escape. 6. At midnight. 7. The other prisoners and also God. 8. By a great earthquake. 9. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?")

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Lesson Text: Acts 16:25-40.

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THE UNKNOWN GOD

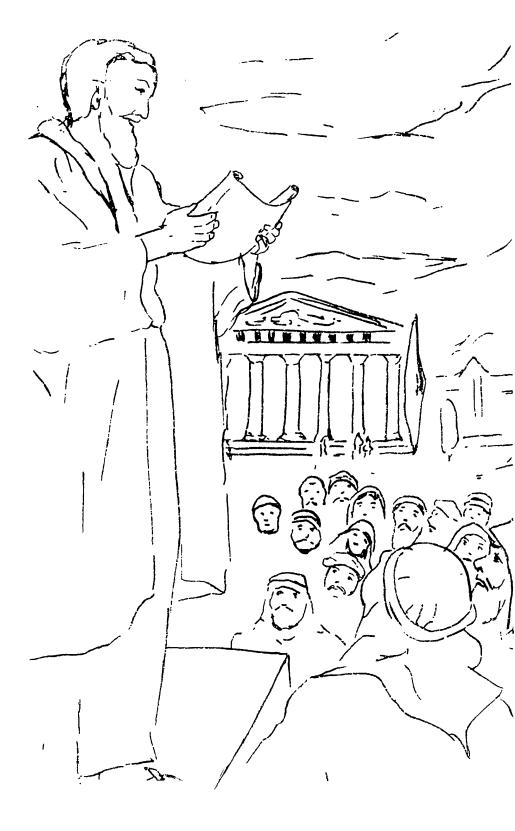
The evil men in Thessalonica soon heard that Paul and Silas were in Berea preaching the gospel. They followed the missionaries to make more trouble for them. Knowing that Paul's life was in great danger, the believers in Berea had him leave immediately.

Leaving Silas behind, Paul went on to Athens where he waited for Silas to join him. While Paul waited, he walked around the city. Everywhere he went, he saw idols. Among the many altars and images he saw one altar with the words, "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD," written on it.

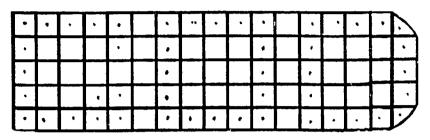
When Paul came to a Jewish synagogue, he went in and spoke to the people about the one true God. As he walked through the streets he would look for an opportunity to speak with sincere people about Jesus.

Paul's listeners had never heard about Jesus. They were impressed and curious. He seemed to be telling them about a strange new god and they were eager to hear more. Paul was taken to a place called Mars' hill and asked to tell more about this strange new doctrine.

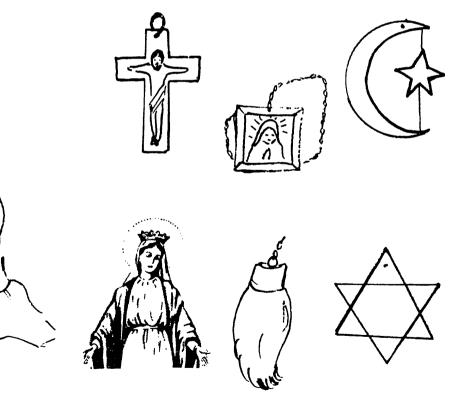
Gladly Paul told them about the one true God whom they knew only as THE UNKNOWN GOD. He explained to them that God had created the whole world and didn't live in temples that man had made because He is God of both heaven and earth. After telling them that God had created all mankind in His own image, he showed them that God could not be thought of as an image of gold, or silver, or stone. Paul urged them to repent of their idolatry and serve the one true God.



"We ought not to think that the Godhead is gold, silver, or stone." Acts 17:29



Color the dots and find the word.



These things do not bring protection.

Tony's God

"Why are you always wearing that chain around your neck?" Jason asked Tony as they walked, side by side, along San Fernando Boulevard, on their way home from school. Speeding cars swished passed them so close they could feel the breeze. Boys riding bicycles on the sidewalk to keep away from the rushing cars, forced them off when they wanted to get by.

"This is not just a chain," he corrected Jason, pulling it from under his sweat shirt. "See, it's the Virgin Mary. Virgin Mary loves people, and if you wear her picture, she will protect you." The hoys stopped so Jason could take a closer look. "Mama bought it for me so I wouldn't be afraid. Daddy has one hanging in the car, too."

"That picture is supposed to protect you? It's too little, besides, it can't see. God protects me. God can see and He is always watching over us. When I need help, I just whisper a prayer, and He's always right there!"

"But this Virgin Mary prays to God for us sinners. When I wear her she is praying for me all the time, so then J won't be afraid."

"That thing is just a piece of metal. Metal can't pray. What good can that thing do?"

"I don't know, but a lot of people wear things like this for good luck. There are a lot of different ones, but they all bring good luck. Some have Christ on the cross, others a fish, some are a moon or a star. Whatever the shape, it's worn because someone believes it can. . . ."

"Look!" Jason interrupted, "there is a beautiful monarch butterfly on the tree trunk," and he jumped off the sidewalk to try and catch it.

At that instant a bike swished by, banging Tony's arm and almost knocking him off balance.

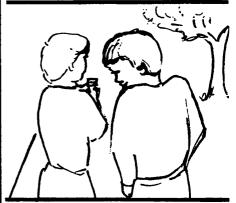
"Sorry about that," the boy on the bicycle called to Tony as he skidded to a stop about a half block on past the boys. "My brakes didn't grab." To Jason he said, "I'd have mashed you flat if you hadn't gotten off the sidewalk when you did."

"How did you know to get out of his way?" Tony asked Jason, after the other boy had gone.

"I didn't," Jason answered. "God was watching. He saw that bike couldn't stop, so He caused me to jump over there after that butterfly."

"Oh, that's just luck!" Tony said.

"No it isn't. I don't have on a good luck charm!" —Rosie Gellenbeck



Questions:

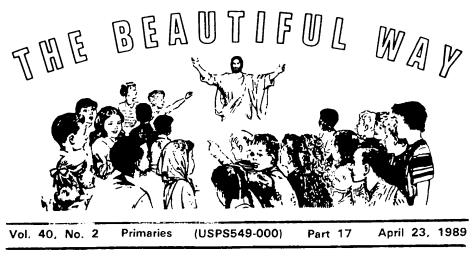
- 1. Who followed the missionaries to Berea?
- 2. Why did they come to Berea?
- 3. Whose life was in great danger?
- 4. Where did Paul go?
- 5. What did Paul see everywhere he went?
- 6. What did one altar have written on it?
- 7. Who had these people never heard about?
- 8. Where did they take Paul so he could tell them more?
- 9. What did Paul urge them to do?

(Answers: 1. The evil men from Thessalonica. 2. To make trouble for Paul and Silas. 3. Paul's. 4. To Athens. 5. Idols. 6. TO THF UNKNOWN GOD. 7. Jesus. 8. To Mars' hill. 9. To repent of their idolatry and serve the one true God.)

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Lesson Text: Acts 17:16-34.

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NEW FRIENDS AT CORINTH

From Athens Paul traveled to Corinth, a large city in Greece. There he met a man named Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Both Paul and Aquila were tentmakers, so Paul made his home with Aquila and Priscilla. During the week they worked together making tents, but on every Sabbath Paul preached in the synagogue.

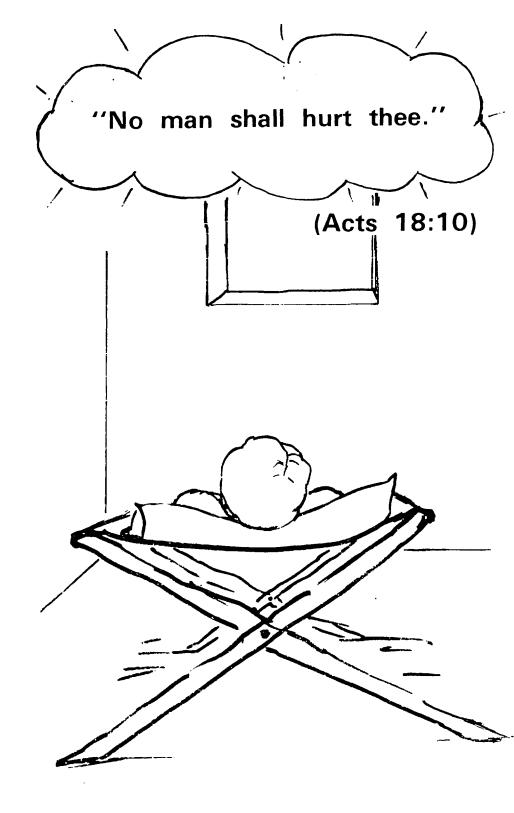
As Paul began to speak more boldly about Jesus, many of the Jews became angry, even blaspheming the gospel. Because the Jews refused to accept Jesus as their Saviour, Paul left them and preached to the Gentiles, who heard him gladly.

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a dream. He told him, "Don't be afraid, but preach boldly. I am with you, and nobody will hurt you. I have many people in this city who will believe if you will teach them the gospel." Paul obeyed the Lord and stayed in Corinth. Many did believe and were saved.

The unbelieving Jews were afraid to let Paul go on preaching because they thought that too many people were believing on Jesus. The Jewish leaders seized Paul and brought him before Gallio, the ruler of the city. They told Gallio, "This man causes people to break the law because of the way they worship God."

Before Paul could open his mouth to defend himself, Gallio said, "O you Jews, if it were a matter of right or wrong, I would listen to you. Since it is a question of your law, I will not be a judge in this case." Saying this, he drove them away. As God promised, Paul was not hurt by the Jews.

When Paul left Corinth to return to Jerusalem, his new friends, Priscilla and Aquila, went with him.





Mud Balls

"Find me page." Jen Jen said holding her songbook upside down. Melissa turned the book upright and quickly found page 43. While she was finding the page for Jen Jen, she was singing "What a mighty God we serve! What a mighty God we serve! Reigning now above on His throne of love, . . ." Jen Jen sang, "mietwee God, mietwee God, mietwee God."

"Sh-sh-don't sing so loud, you'll disturb. .." Melissa was saying when she heard a loud BANG! on the church window near her. Jen Jen dropped her book and jumped on Melissa's lap. Melissa huddled close to Mother. Suddenly she heard another BANG! on the side of the building, then another and another. From all around the church came BANG! BANG! BANG! as something hit the windows.

Mr. McMillian and some other men hurried out. Soon all was quiet and the people inside the church were singing again. After singing another song, they knelt down to pray. During prayer they heard men's loud voices shouting. "Hallelujah! Praise God! Amen!" Again some men went out and all was quiet.

When Bro. Solid was about halfway through preaching his sermon, the church doors flew open and mud balls came flying up the center aisle. One landed on the carpet in front of the altar and several fell in the center aisle breaking apart and sending mud all over the floor. Old Bro. Batchey was sitting on the back bench and one hit right on his bald head and splattered all over Sis. Batchey.

In an instant the big mean boys were running out of the church. At that same moment a policeman on his nightly duty was driving past. He saw the big boys come racing out of the church. Knowing something was wrong, he immediately flashed on his red light to signal the boys to stop. At the same instant he flashed on his spotlight so he could see them and know where they were going, then he phoned for help.

Police cars with screaming sirens came speeding to the church.

Bro. Solid had to dismiss service because of all the commotion. Melissa sure was glad, for she wanted to get home where she felt safe.

Only one of the big bad boys were caught, but that was enough. All the rest were so frightened they didn't try that again.

Several years later the boy who was caught was sorry for what he had done. Jesus forgave him and he became a good Christian. —Charlotte Huskey



Questions:

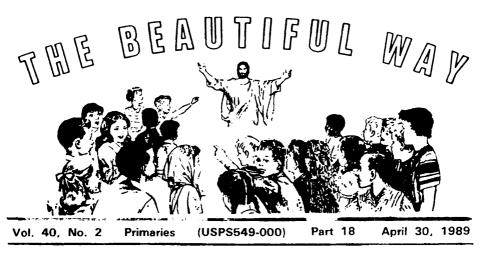
- 1. Who did Paul meet in Corinth?
- 2. During the week, what work did they do?
- 3. What did Paul do every Sabbath?
- 4. Who blasphemed the gospel?
- 5. Who heard Paul gladly?
- 6. How did the Lord speak to Paul?
- 7. Who was the ruler of the city?
- 8. Why wasn't Paul hurt by the angry Jews?
- 9. When Paul returned to Jerusalem, who went with him?

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$

(Answers: 1. Priscills and Aquila. 2. They made tents. 3. He preached in the synagogue. 4. The unbelieving Jews. 5. The Gentiles. 6. In a dream. 7. Gallio. 8. God promised that he would not be hurt. 9. Priscilla and Aquila.)

Lesson Text: Acts 18:1-15.

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PAUL'S NEW FRIENDS

As Paul made his way toward Jerusalem, Priscilla and Aquila went with him only as far as Ephesus.

Ephesus was a large city and in it was a great temple where the goddess, Diana, was worshiped. This temple was so beautiful it was called one of the seven wonders of the world. Heathen people from many parts of the world had sent money to help build this great temple.

Although most of the people of Ephesus worshiped the goddess Diana, the Jews who lived there had built a synagogue where they could worship the true God. Each Sabbath day they met in the synagogue to hear the Old Testament read to them.

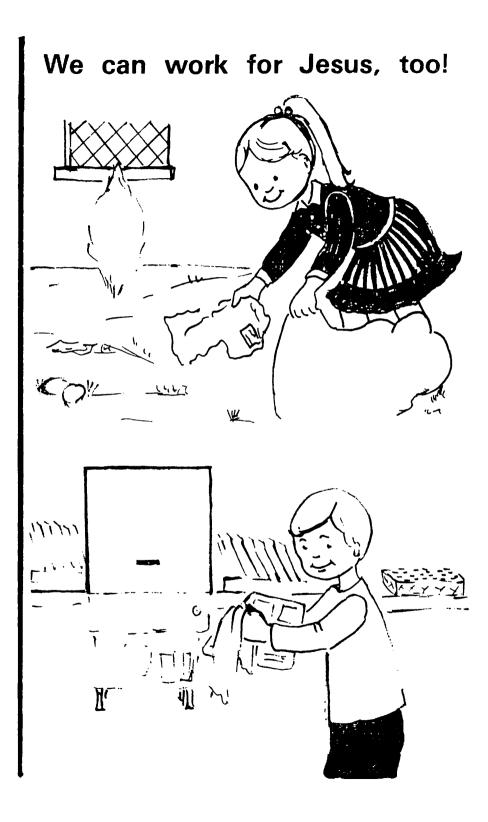
At the synagogue, Priscilla and Aquila heard a Jewish preacher, Apollos, speak to the people. He was a very good speaker and the people listened eagerly to everything he said. Although Apollos followed God with all his heart, he had never heard about Jesus!

Apollos knew only about John the Baptist. He believed that John was a true prophet of God so he taught the Jews the words of John. Apollos baptized those who believed his message, just as John had done, to show that they had repented of their sins.

Priscilla and Aquila, seeing how much Apollos loved God. invited him to their home. There they taught him about Jesus. How glad he was to hear about the coming of Christ. He believed at once.

Now Apollos began to preach the full gospel story. As he preached that Jesus was the Christ, he was so convincing that many others believed on Jesus and were saved.





Helping Jesus

"C'mon, Jason," called Melissa as she set her empty tray on the counter by the dishwasher in the dining hall filled with people. "Let's go outside and play tag."

Jason looked at the mountain of dirty trays, glasses, and silverware waiting to be washed and dried. Then he looked wishfully outside. He could see the children already gathering to play. Then quickly, before he lost courage, he said, "No, thanks, Melissa, I think I'll help dry dishes."

"What?" cried Melissa, "you do dishes? Let someone else do them. Do come on It'll be time for afternoon service by the time you get through with all those dishes!"

"Well, Melissa, Mother says that if we work for God we'll always get a blessing. This is something we can do for Jesus. You can go out and play, but I want to help in here," Jason replied firmly.

"I'm not going to go out unless you do, so if you're going to do dishes, I guess I will, too. But I sure wish you'd play just one game."

By this time Jason was standing beside the stack of clean white towels. He handed one to Melissa, and took one himself. Carefully Melissa and Jason dried the clean dishes as they came out of the dishwasher.

"This is more fun than I thought it would be," said Melissa, as she dried a sparkling tray. "And since we're doing it for Jesus, it's even more fun!"

"You know, drying dishes isn't the only way we can serve the Lord. We can do it by just picking up a candy wrapper on the ground, or helping an older person up the steps. There are lots of ways that everyone can help God," Jason added.

"I thought only big people could work for God."

"I used to think that, too. I thought that you had to be a missionary or a preacher to help the Lord, but Mother told me that the Lord can use everyone who is willing to do what needs to be done." "Hey," Melissa said, "we're almost finished. That wasn't a very hard job. Look, here comes Mother! She'll be proud on us, won't she?"

"Sure," Jason added, when he noticed the happy smile on Melissa's face.

"Hi there," Mother said, "I've been watching you two working so hard. I want to say that I appreciate it. By the way, if we leave right now, I think we'd have just enough time to get an ice cream cone in town before afternoon service." —Rene Sallee



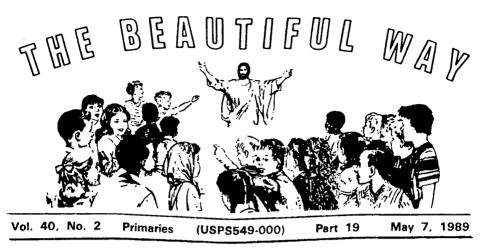
Questions:

- 1. How far did Priscilla and Aquila go with Paul?
- 2. What goddess was worshiped in Ephesus?
- 3. What was read to the Jews in the synagogue each Sabbath?
- 4. Who was the preacher that Priscilla and Aquila heard preach?
- 5. What prophet did Apollos preach about to the people?
- 6. What did Priscilla and Aquila do when they saw how much Apollos loved God?
- 7. Who did they tell Apollos about?
- 8. What did Apollos do when he heard about Jesus?
- 9. What did Apollos preach after he heard about Jesus?

(Answers: I. To Ephesus. 2. Diana. 3. The Old Testament. 4. Apollos. 5. John. 6. They invited him to their home. 7. Jesus. 8. He believed. 9. That Jesus was the Christ.)

Lesson Text: Acts 18:18-25; Romans 16:2-5; I Corinthians 16:19.

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BEGINNING THE THIRD MISSIONARY TRIP

After Paul had attended the Feast of the Passover at Jerusalem, he went on to Antioch. It was at this church that he had been one of the first pastors. After spending some time at Antioch, he left and traveled over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia visiting the disciples and encouraging them.

Not long after Apollos left Ephesus, Paul arrived at that city. He was glad to find so many there who believed on Jesus. He asked some of the believers, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

The believers answered him, "We did not even know that there was a Holy Spirit."

Wondering if they really understood the truth, Paul then asked, "Unto what then were you baptized?"

They replied, "Unto John's baptism."

Paul explained to the believers that John had told the people to believe on the one who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then, when Paul laid his hands on them, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. **7**1

For three months Paul taught in the synagogue, persuading the people to accept Jesus as their Saviour. But many refused to believe and said evil things about the gospel, trying to keep the people from listening to Paul.

Paul then left the synagogue and took the believers to a school nearby. He taught in this school everyday for two years. Both Jews and Greeks came to hear Paul teach, and many believed.



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"They were baptized in the name of Jesus." (Acts 19:5)

The Best Mother's Day

"Next Sunday is Mother's Day," Jason said to Melissa. "Do you have a gift for Mother?"

Melissa hung her head in shame. "You don't have any money do you? I told you not to spend it on that hot dog and Sprite at the auction last Saturday. We were coming right home for dinner."

"Daddy's giving me a dollar tomorrow, then I can buy her something."

"Can't buy much with a dollar, maybe a card is all."

Little Jim trying to help, said, "Some chocolate candy."

"Mother doesn't want chocolate candy," Jason assured them. "She's on a diet."

"Tell you what," Jason told Melissa, "I have four dollars and I'll be getting another tomorrow, too. We can put our money together and get something for Mother."

"But what shall we buy?"

Melissa was glad to have her brother's help, and quickly suggested a soft woolly sweater.

"Not a sweater. It's almost summer and it's too hot in summer for a sweater."

"Well, maybe a bouquet of red roses," Melissa suggested again.

"Wouldn't buy a very big bouquet, maybe two roses," Jason said disgustedly.

"Then how about a pretty set of dishes, Mother loves dishes."

"Oh, Melissa, you think \$6.00 is a lot of money, but it's not. It won't buy much. We just want to make Mother happy. What will make her happy?"

"I don't know," Melissa said trying to think real hard. "Mothers are strange. Last Sunday after Carol was baptized, Aunt Alice said to her, 'This is the best present you have ever given to me."

"What's so strange about that?" Jason asked. Then, acting very grown-up, he said, "All parents like to see their children being good."

"But Carol buys beautiful dresses, and everything nice for her mother."

"I know, but that doesn't make Mothers happy like being good does."

"Then maybe we just better be good as a gift for Mother, but you can't wrap..."



Questions:

- 1. What feast did Paul attend at Jerusalem?
- 2. Paul had been one of the first pastors in which Church?
- 3. Where did Paul find many who believed on Jesus?
- 4. Who had preached in Ephesus just before Paul arrived?
- 5. What did Paul ask the believers?
- 6. Who did John want the people to believe in?
- 7. What happened when Paul laid hands on the believers?
- 8. How long did Paul teach in the synagogue?
- 9. Where did he teach after leaving the synagogue?

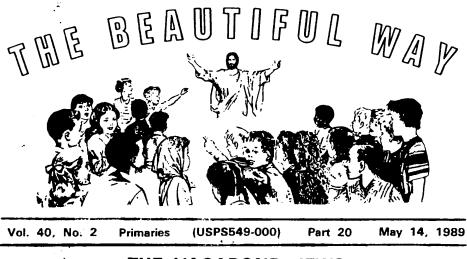
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school nearby.)

(Answers: I. The Feast of the Passover. 2. The church at Antioch. 3. In Ephesus. 4. Apollos. 5. "Have you received the Holy Spirit. since you believed?" 6. In Christ Jesus. 7. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. 8. Three months. 9. In a

Lesson Text: Acts 18:22, 23; 19:1-12.

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THE VAGABOND JEWS

While Paul taught in Ephesus, he worked many miracles in the name of Jesus. He healed many sick people. Some were too sick to be brought to Paul, so their friends brought handkerchiefs and aprons for Paul to touch. When these cloths were laid on the sick with prayer, the sicknesses left them and evil spirits were cast out.

As some of the vagabond Jews watched Paul heal the sick and cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus, they thought they could do the same thing.

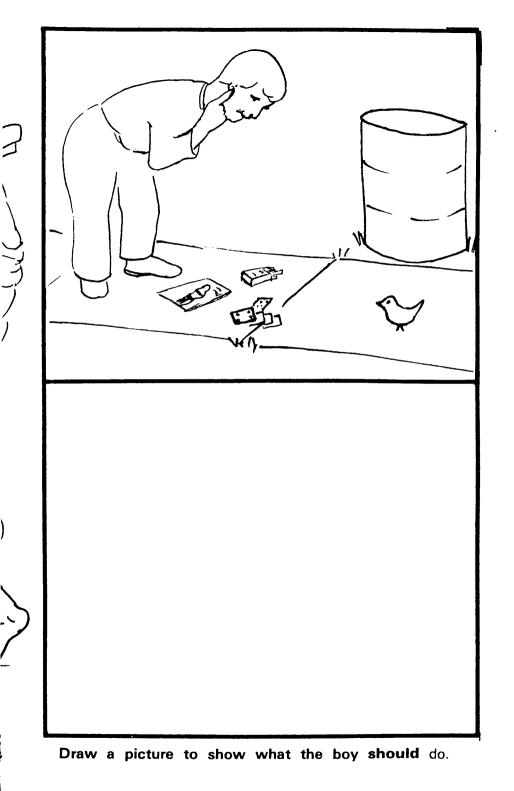
There were seven sons of a chief priest of the Jews who decided to try. Coming to a man who had an evil spirit they said, "We command you to come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches."

The evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" The evil spirit caused the man to jump on these men and beat them until they all ran out of the house naked, wounded, and terribly frightened.

When the people heard what had happened, they had even greater respect for the mighty power of Jesus. Many confessed their wrongs and turned away from their superstitions.

Some who had been practicing magic brought their books of magic to one place where they burned them in a large bonfire. The new Christians saw that magic did not please God. Because the books were full of magic instead of telling about the great power of God, they knew it would be wrong for anyone to have them, so it was best that they be burned. As they watched the expensive books go up in smoke, they knew they were pleasing God.





Burning Up The Evil *****

It was a beautiful sunny day. Jason and Tony were riding bikes. "Let's ride down the gully by the creek," Tony said.

"Let's go!" and away they sped. Down to the end of the block, across the railroad track and down the hill they raced.

"Watch it, Tony! There's some trash. You'll pop your tires!"

"What a mess! We can't even ride on the trail," Jason thundered.

"Let's get it out of the way," Tony said as he got off his bike and started dragging a box. Just then the box burst. "Look at all these lover magazines! My brother would love these, and Pedro, and Jim, and Tyron. I can sell them to the guys! We can make a lot of money! This one is all about the latest rock stars!"

"Let me see! Oh, Tony, I don't like that stuff. I don't think we should look at these. Nobody should."

"But I want to make some money. I need some money. Look at my old tennis shoes, or we could replace Mrs. Hubbard's window that was broken during the storm."

"That's a good idea," Jason said. "Mrs. Hubbard will freeze when it snows if that window is not fixed."

"Come on, Jason, let's go get the wagon! But we can't let my mama see them, she will burn them up. Can we hide them in that old tumbled down shed behind your house?"

"I don't want those bad books on my property. Besides, I don't think anybody should look at them."

"But what about helping Mrs. Hubbard? She will be cold, just because of you."

"But what if your mother finds out where your brothers got them. I think this is that bad stuff that Daddy says is hurting so many people. He says it ought to be burned, and I think so, too."

"I think you're right. These are bad, and my brother doesn't need them anyway. I just won't let him get them either. Let's get your daddy to burn them up!" —Rosie Gellenbeck



Questions:

- 1. Who healed many sick people in Ephesus?
- 2. If the people were too sick to be carried to Paul, what did their friends do?
- 3. Who was more powerful than the magicians?
- 4. Who thought they could do the same miracles as Paul?
- 5. Who tried to cast an evil spirit out of a man?
- 6. Why did the seven brothers run out of the house?
- 7. What did the people do when they heard what happened to the seven men?
- 8. What did the new Christians see that did not please God?
- 9. What did they do with their books on magic?

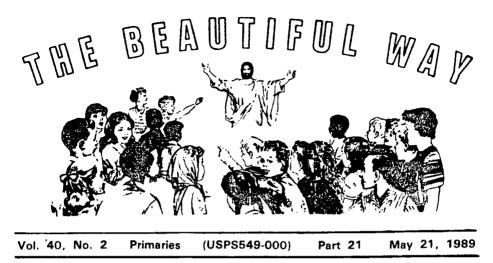


9. They burned them.)

(Answers: I. Paul. 2. They brought handkerchiefs and aprons for Paul to touch. 3. The God of heaven. 4. Some of the vagabond Jews. 5. Seven sons of a chief priest. 6. The evil spirit caused the man to jump on them and beat them. 7. Many confessed their wrongs. 8. Magic.

Lesson Text: Acts 19:13-20; Mark 6:7, 12, 13; Luke 10:17, 19, 20.

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THE GODDESS DIANA

Even after hearing the gospel and seeing the many miracles that Paul did through the power of God, many of the Ephesians still did not believe in Jesus. These people preferred to worship the goddess Diana.

Many silversmiths made their living selling small idols of Diana for her worshipers to set up in their homes.

One of the silversmiths named Demetrius saw that many people were no longer buying his silver images of Diana because they now believed on Jesus and knew that idol worship was wrong. He was afraid all the heathens would become Christians and then there would be no one to buy the images.

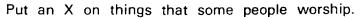
When Demetrius called all the silversmiths together and told them his fears, they became very angry and excited. They began to shout, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" As they went through the streets shouting these words, people began to follow. Soon the whole city was stirred up. For two hours the people shouted, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

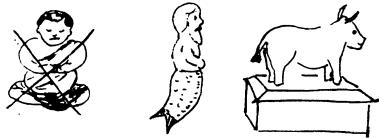
The angry mob had grabbed two of Paul's companions and dragged them into the theater. Paul wanted to go and rescue the two, but his friends would not let him. They feared that the people would tear Paul in pieces if they got their hands on him.

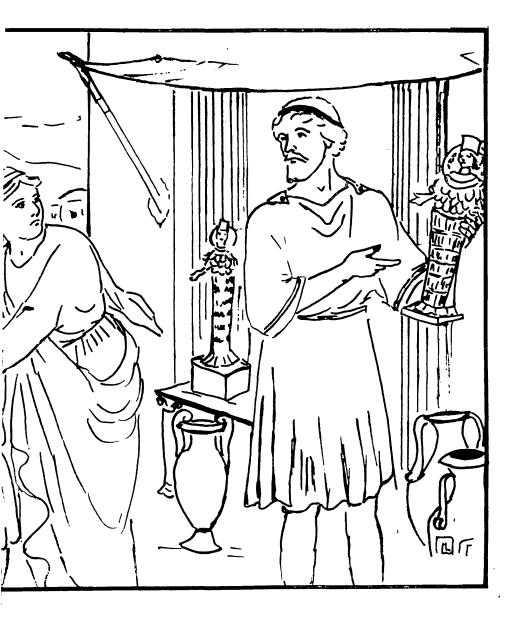
Finally the townclerk came and spoke to the people. He told them that they were in danger of being questioned for creating such an uproar and breaking the peace. After instructing the silversmiths to take their case to the court and settle it lawfully, he sent the people to their homes.

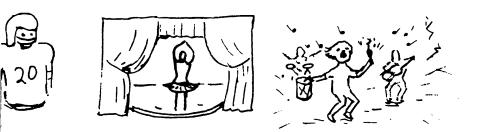
• 5 Jhou shalt have no other God...

(Exodus 20:3)









The Greatest Of All Gods

(A true story)

"Jason, Melissa, Jim and Jen Jen, come on. It is time for worship," Mrs. McMillian called from the back door.

When they were seated and listening, Daddy said, "Each evening we will read a chapter from this book Mother bought today. It's about Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India. I will read tonight about Arulai who wanted to know about the greatest of Gods.'

" 'Is there a greater god than Siva?" Arulai asked her father. 'I have prayed and prayed to her to make me better, but I'm just as mean as ever. Nobody likes to play with me because I'm so mean.'

" 'No god can make you good,' he told her. 'You have to do that yourself.'

" 'I can't. I've tried and tried.' Arulai thought that there must be a greater God, so she prayed to Brahma, to Vishnu, and other gods. None of these gods helped her to be better. Then she prayed to the god Siva to help her find a greater God that could help her.

"One day soon after that, she was at the well getting water when she heard a man say, 'There is a living God who can change anything. I was like a lion and He changed me into a lamb.' How happy she was to hear this!

"That night she prayed to the living God. She asked Him to help her learn about Him, because she hoped He was the God who could make her better. Often when she went for water, she would sneak around to hear the man talk about Jesus.

"When her parents found out what she was doing, they punished her and tried in every way to get her to stop. Finally they sent her away to live with her uncle so she would forget all about Jesus.

"The village nearby her uncle had a mission station. Arulai went often to it to learn about Jesus. Jesus, the living God, changed her from a mean girl to a good one, so she quit praying to Siva. When her father found out about it, he was angry because Arulai loved Jesus Lesson Text: Acts 19:23-41.

instead of Siva. He came to get her and take her home. She prayed and prayed that God would not let him take her.

"Arulai told her father, 'My God has promised that He will bring me back here again.'

"When he reached out to take Arulai, his arm became paralyzed. 'Oh, please read your book to me, and pray for me,' he cried. 'I know Jesus, the living God is the greatest of all gods, and I will never again try to stop you from believing on Him.' "

-Charlotte Huskey

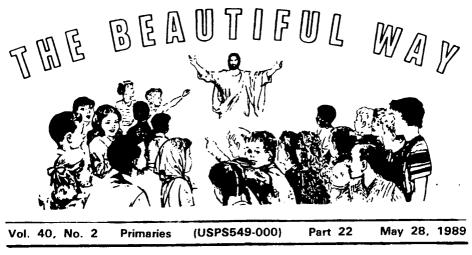


Questions:

- What goddess did many of the 1. Ephesians worship?
- How did the silversmiths make their 2. living?
- Who was Demetrius? 3.
- Why was Demetrius afraid that all 4. the heathens would become Christians?
- Who became angry and excited when 5. Demetrius told them his fears?
- What did they shout? 6.
- How long did the people continue to 7. shout?
- Why wouldn't Paul's friends let him 8. go to the theater?
- Who finally quieted the people? 9.

pieces. 9. The townclerk.) afraid the people would tear Paul in Ephesians." 7. Two hours. 8. They were body would buy his images. 5. The silver-smiths. 6. "Great is Diana of the idols of Diana. 3. A silversmith. 4. No-(Answers: I. Diana. 2. By selling amall

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THE LONG SERMON

After the uproar at Ephesus was over, Paul left there to visit the churches in Macedonia and Greece. While he was in Greece, Paul found out that the Jews planned to capture him when he took the ship to sail to Syria, so Paul went back by land the same way he had come in order to escape.

When Paul got to Macedonia, he took a ship from there and sailed to Troas. Paul stayed in Troas seven days before leaving again to go to Jerusalem.

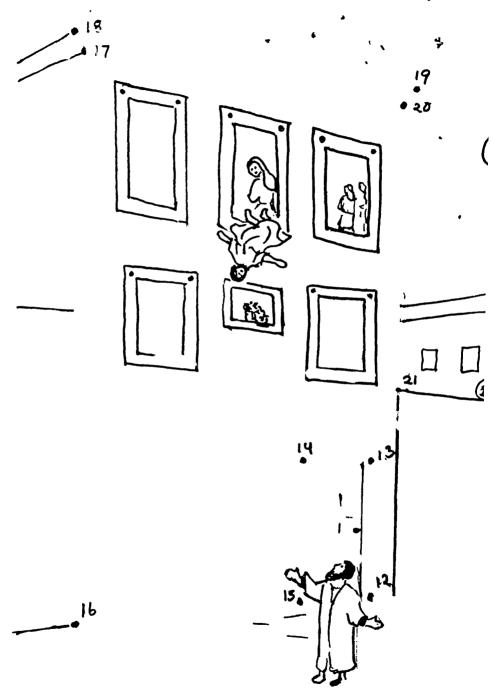
The night before he left, Paul met with the believers in a large room on the third floor. There they broke bread together in memory of the last supper Jesus had eaten with His disciples before He was crucified. Knowing that he would never see these people again, Paul had many things he wanted to tell them. As he preached, the time seemed to fly by. It was midnight and still Paul had many things to tell them.

A young man named Eutychus sat in an open window listening to Paul's message. As time passed, Eutychus got very sleepy. He should have realized how dangerous it would be to fall asleep in a third story window, but he continued to nod and soon fell fast asleep. In his sleep he slumped down and fell out of the window!

Rushing down the flights of stairs, friends picked up his lifeless body. Paul was not far behind. He threw his arms around Eutychus and assured his friends, "Don't worry, his life is still in him." They were greatly relieved to find Eutychus was indeed alive.

Returning to the large room upstairs, Paul went on with his sermon. He preached until daybreak and then left the city.

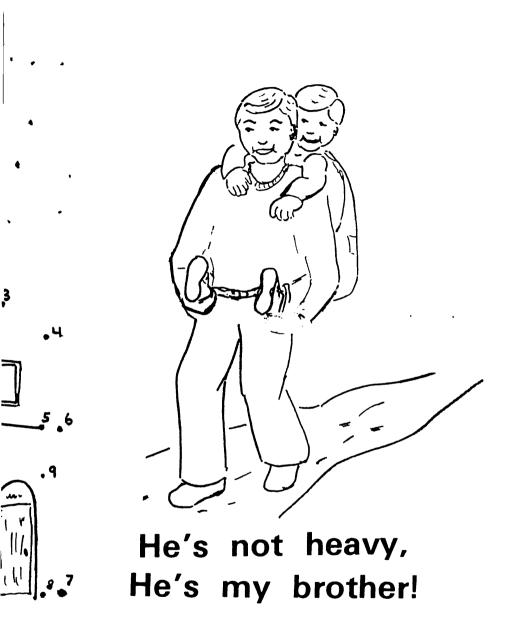




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"We know we have life, because we love the brethren." (I John 3:14)

It was Grandma McMillian's birthday and her children were taking her out to eat. Jason was anxious to go because he would see his favorite cousins, Tom Tiger and Henry McMillian.

At the table the three boys sat side by side. Tom was a little older than Henry and Jason and played on a little league football team. He told them about the time that he caught a pass from the other side and almost made a touchdown before anybody tackled him. He told them about the championship game they had played last Friday evening.

Jason loved to hear Tom tell about the interesting things that big boys do.

"Will you come and spend the night with me?" Jason asked.

Before Tom had a chance to answer, Henry said, "No, I want Tom to come home with me."

"But I asked first," Jason returned. "But I'm older than you," Henry said.

Henry whispered to Tom, "Don't go with him 'cause he doesn't have a T.V. You'll have to listen to a Bible story and won't get to watch 'Transformers' or 'Ghost Busters.' "

"Sh, sh, don't argue," Henry's mother scolded.

"But I want Tom to spend the night with me," he wailed, "and Jason says Tom's going with him."

"Tom will decide where he wants to go, if he gets permission to go with either of you," she said.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be arguing," Jason apologized.

Just then the waiter brought out the birthday cake, topped by many candles. "Look, how pretty!" the children exclaimed.

The waiter cut the cake while all the families sang "Happy Birthday".

First she cut Grandmother a big piece of cake. Then, starting at the youngest child, she cut and served each one a piece. Jason was three months younger than Henry, so he was served before Henry.

"That's no fair!" Henry wailed. "We are both nine."

After the dinner was over, Tom went home with Henry.

Jason walked to the car with tears in his eyes.

On the way home, Mother tried to comfort Jason by reading from the Bible John 15:19, which says, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." She remembered how Jesus was rejected by the people of the world, and knew that we would be also.

She knew Tom liked Jason equally as well as he did Henry, but had gone with Henry so he would not miss his favorite Saturday morning T.V. program.

Then Jen, Jen, his two year-old sister, said, "I'll let you sleep with my teddy bear, and my dollies too."

Jen Jen's twin brother hugged up real close to Jason and said, "It's alright. Jesus loves you, and we be brovers."

Questions:

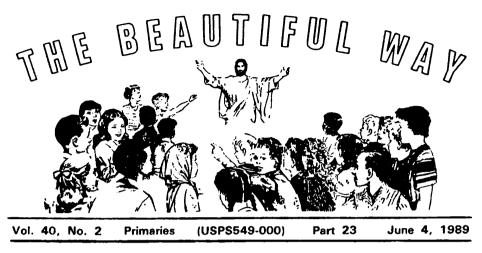
- 1. When Paul was in Greece, what did he find out?
- 2. How did he escape?
- 3. From Macedonia, Paul sailed to what city?
- 4. How long did he stay there?
- 5. Where did Paul meet with the believers?
- 6. Why did Paul have so many things to tell the people?
- 7. Who was sitting in an open window when he fell fast asleep?
- 8. What happened to him?
- 9. How long did Paul continue speaking?

$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$

(Answers: 1. That the Jews planned to capture him when he got on the ship. 2. He went back by land the same way. 5. In a large room on the third floor. 6. He knew he would never see them again. 7. Eutychus, 8. He fell out of the window, 9. Until daybreak.)

Lesson Text: Acts 20:1-15.

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PAUL'S FAREWELL TO EPHESUS

Paul again began his journey toward Jerusalem, traveling by ship and on foot. He greatly desired to reach Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost. To save time he sailed by Ephesus. But when he reached Miletus, a city about thirty miles south of Ephesus, he called for the elders of the Ephesian church to come and meet him.

Speaking to the elders, he told them, "You know how I have worked and lived among you. I have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have testified both to the Jews and to the Greeks. Now I must go to Jerusalem. I don't know what will happen to me. The Holy Ghost has witnessed to me that bonds and afflictions wait for me. This, however, does not make me afraid. I am willing to give up my life in order to finish with joy the work the Lord has given me to do. I know that I will never see you again, but I will pray for you. Take good care of the Church of God over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers."

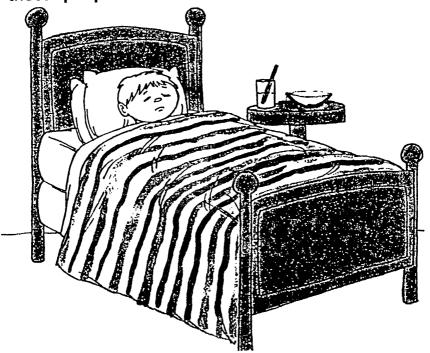
Paul also reminded the elders of the holy life he had lived before them. For three years he had faithfully warned them and instructed them how to live pleasing to God. He had made and repaired tents to provide for himself and to help those who were with him. He knew he had done all he could to help them become established Christians.

When Paul had finished speaking to them, he knelt down and prayed with them. The elders could not hide their great sorrow at the news that they would never see him again. Tears fell from their eyes as they accompanied him back to the ship.





Tell how you could give of yourself to help these people.



Grandma Hubbard *****

"If you would like to, you may take this loaf of whole wheat bread to Grandma Hubbard while it is still warm," Mother told Jason as she took bread from the oven.

"I'm too busy," Jason answered. "Ken is coming to play football in just fifteen minutes and you said I had to clean my room before I could play."

"Okay," Mother answered.

"Later that day, their neighbor, Mrs. Applegate, called and asked if Jason would please come and sit by her sleeping baby while she went to the store."

"I'm too busy. Rodney and I are working on my tree house, and after that I have homework to get done," Jason told his mother.

Mother took her mending over to Mrs. Applegate's and sat by the sleeping baby.

At 4:30 that evening Tony came by and wanted Jason to go with him to pull out the weeds that had grown up around Grandma Hubbard's house.

"I don't want to," Jason told him. "I'm fixing my kite. Daddy promised to help me fly it tomorrow."

"She said she would pay me if I would do it, and I need some money to buy my dad a gift for Father's day."

"Better go by yourself then, 'cause if I help I'll get half of the money."

Jason watched Tony walk slowly toward Mrs. Hubbard's house. He felt sorry that Tony never got an allowance but always had to work for the money he wanted.

While Jason was finishing his kite, he was thinking about how selfish he acted to Mother, Grandma Hubbard, and Tony. As he was putting the kite back in the shed, he saw Tony across the fence pulling the last weeds. "I guess I'm not being a very good Christian today," he said to his dog, Skip.

He went into the house. "I will take that bread to Mrs. Hubbard," he said.

"Melissa took it this morning while it was warm," Mother told him.

"Got anything else I could give her?" he asked.

"Yes, there is one thing," Mother answered. "Yourself."

"I can't give myself away."

"Taking time to do things for others is giving yourself. Just go over and listen to her talk. She will love it."

Jason thought he had to take something, so Mother gave him two big yellow apples.

As he left Grandma Hubbard's house, she said, "I thank you for the apples you brought. I like them. But what I like best is that you brought yourself."

"Now I know what Mother meant when she told me to give myself," Jason thought as he walked back home.

-Rosie Gellenbeck



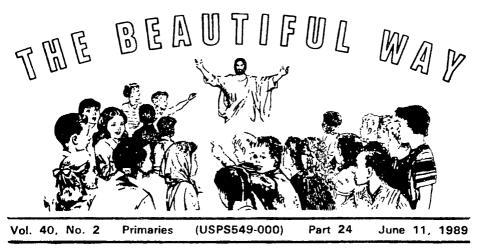
- 1. How did Paul travel on his way toward Jerusalem?
- 2. Paul wanted to reach Jerusalem by what day?
- 3. When he reached Miletus, who did he call to come and meet him?
- 4. Who had Paul testified to?
- 5. Who witnessed to Paul that bonds and afflictions waited for him?
- 6. How long had Paul taught them how to live pleasing to God?
- 7. How did Paul provide for himself?
- 8. After Paul finished speaking, what did he do?
- 9. Why were the elders so sad?

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$

(Anewers: 1. By ship and on foot. 2. The day of Pentecost. 3. The elders of the Ephesian church. 4. Both to the Jews and to the Greeks. 5. The Holy Ghost. 6. Three years. 7. By making and repeiring tents. 8. He kneeled down and pairing tents. 8. He kneeled down and pairing tents. 9. They knew they would never see Paul again.)

Lesson Text: Acts 20:17-38.

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AGABUS PROPHESIES

Paul and those traveling with him left Miletus by ship. They stopped at several seaports along the way, changing ships once before they landed at Tyre.

Finding disciples in Tyre, Paul and his companions spent seven days with them. Some of these disciples warned Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. When the ship was ready to sail, the men, women, and children walked to the seashore with Paul where they knelt in the sand and prayed, before he left.

The next and final landing was at Ptolemais. After a day's visit with the brethren there, Paul and his company traveled southward by land about thirty miles to Caesarea.

At Caesarea they stayed in Philip the evangelist's home. Philip had once lived in Jerusalem. He was one of the seven men chosen to take food to the poor people of Jerusalem; later he preached the gospel in Samaria. He was once led by the Spirit to meet the chariot in which the queen of Ethiopia's treasurer was riding. Philip told him about Jesus and he believed and was baptized as soon as they came to water. Philip had four daughters who had never married but spent their time working for God.

While Paul and his friends were at Philip's house, a prophet named Agabus came from Jerusalem. Coming up to Paul, he took his girdle (belt) and tied it around his own hands and feet. After doing this he said, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this girdle."

Philip and the other brethren were very troubled when they heard this and begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem.



"I am ready to die for Jesus." (Acts



13)

The Dumh Devil

(A true story)

"I don't want to go to the new school." Melissa cried. "I'm afraid and I don't have a friend either."

"I am sure you will find new friends soon." Mother said. "We'll pray that God will help you."

Melissa's grandmothers were visiting at her house that evening so they both praved for Melissa not to be afraid at school the next day. Mother, Melissa and her little sister. Jen Jen, also praved.

When Melissa opened her lunch at school the next day, she found a note. It said, "Dear Melissa, I love you. I am praving right now that you will have a good day. Love. Mother."

When Melissa's mother picked her up after school, Melissa said, "I liked the note you put in my lunch. I was feeling awfully nervous, but knowing that you were praying made me better."

That night during family worship. Mother said to Melissa, "I have a verse for you to learn. This verse will help you not to be afraid and it will be a memory verse for Sunday school. It is found in II Timothy 1:7." She read the verse. " 'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love. and of a sound mind.' "

"What a good verse!" Melissa exclaimed. "God doesn't want me to be afraid, and He wants me to have a sound mind. I sure don't have a sound mind when I am afraid.

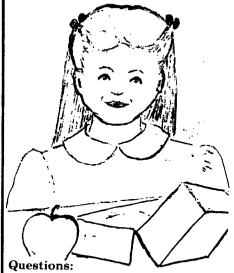
"That's just the old dumb devil making vou afraid." Jen Jen told her. "He's dumb so don't listen to him."

The next day Melissa found another note in her lunch. Melissa read the note. "I know you are having a better day than you did yesterday. Remember your verse and don't listen to the old dumb devil. I love you. Mother."

"I was a little bit afraid this morning," Melissa told her mother in the car as they were going home, "but after I read your note and remembered that God didn't want me to have fear, I realized I was again listening to the old Lesson Text: Acts 21:1-14.

dumb devil. I just quit listening to him. then my day was great!

-Charlotte Huskey

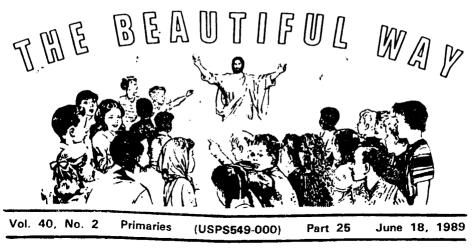


- How long did Paul stay in Tyre? 1.
- 2. What did the disciples warn Paul not to do?
- 3. Whose house did they visit in Caesarea?
- Where had Philip lived before com-4. ing to Caesarea?
- Who had he once met riding in a 5. chariot?
- Who was Agabus? 6.
- 7. What did Agabus do with Paul's girdle (belt)?
- Why did he do this? 8.
- 9 When Philip and the other brethren could not change Paul's mind about going to Jerusalem, what did they sav?

in Jerusalem. 9. "The will of the Lord how Paul would be bound by the Jews won hands and feet with it. 8. To show urer, 6. A prophet. 7. He tied his salem 5. The queen of Ethiopia's treas-Jerusalem. 3. Philip's house. 4. In Jeru-(Answers: 1. Seven days. 2. Not to go to

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PAUL'S ARREST

The next day after reaching Jerusalem, Paul met with the elders and told them what God had done through him among the Gentiles. The elders glorified God when they heard these things.

While they were met together, the elders told Paul, "You see, brother, that there are thousands of Jews who believe and yet keep the law of Moses. They have heard that you tell the Jews in other countries to pay no attention to the law of Moses. This rumor has caused a lot of trouble."

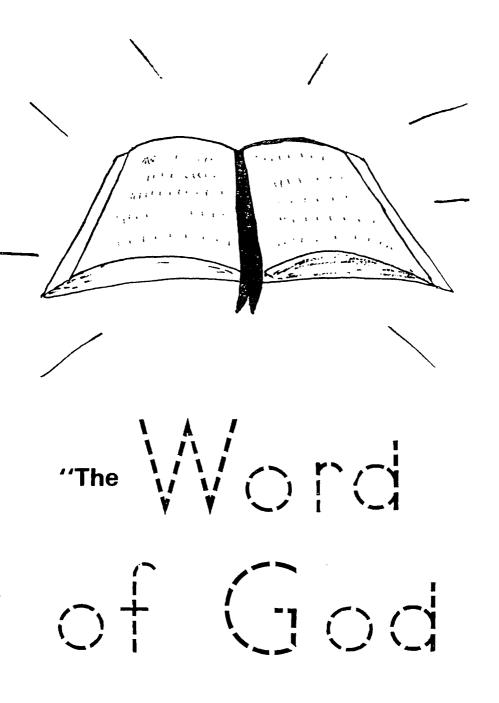
The elders thought of a plan so Paul could prove to the Jewish believers that he honored the law of Moses. Paul did as they thought best and went to the temple and performed the ceremony of cleansing according to the law of Moses.

Almost a week had passed when some unsaved Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple.

To stir up the people against Paul, these men began to shout, "Men of Israel, help!" This is the man who teaches men everywhere against the Jews and the law and the temple; he has even disgraced the temple by bringing Greeks in here."

The people were so angry they were ready to kill Paul. They dragged him from the temple and shut the doors. News reached the chief captain that all the city was in an uproar. Hurrying to the scene with his soldiers, he rescued Paul from the mob. Paul was bound with chains and carried out of reach of the mob by the soldiers. Paul was put in prison even though the Jews could not prove he had broken any law.





shall stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

God's Word Is True

In the back yard were three old, old apple trees. The children were not allowed to climb in the trees, not even to pick apples.

"I'm taking the twins and going to visit Grandma Hubbard. I'll be right back," Mother called to Melissa, who was playing under the old apple trees. "Stay right here and play for just a few minutes."

"Okay," Melissa called. She went inside and loaded her dolls, Liz, Joan, and Katelyn, into her doll stroller. She put Toby her teddy bear on top and went back into the fenced vard to play. Down the cobblestone walk she strolled. telling her dolls about the robin who sat on the fence, then about the calico cat that was asleep on the lid of the trash can. When the robin flew into one of the apple trees, Melissa watched it. Then she spotted some apples in the tree. "I thought all the apples were picked." she said to Katelyn whom she held in her arms, "but there is a big red one, and over there are three others. Wouldn't you like to have one?"

Katelyn never said a word, but Melissa decided that she really should get that big red apple.

"The ladder is here and I can get it without anyone knowing it, can't I?" she asked Katelyn. Melissa must have bumped Katelyn about that time, for she thought sure that Katelyn nodded her head yes.

Melissa climbed onto the ladder. Carefully she went up, up, up, until she was near the big red apple. She reached for the apple, but it was too far away. She turned loose of the ladder and stretched until she could reach it. It didn't come loose at first so she pulled a little harder.

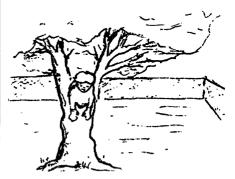
The apple came loose! Melissa flew backward and fell off the ladder. Down the branch she slipped, upside down, until she landed in the fork of the tree on her side.

Mother, who had gone next door to visit a sick neighbor, heard Melissa screaming and came running. Jen Jen and Jim came toddling along behind her.

What a strange place to find you," Mother said, as she lifted Melissa out of the tree. "You didn't learn your verse very well, did you?"

Then Melissa remembered her verse, "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23).

"God's Word is always true," Mother told Melissa. —Charlotte Huskey



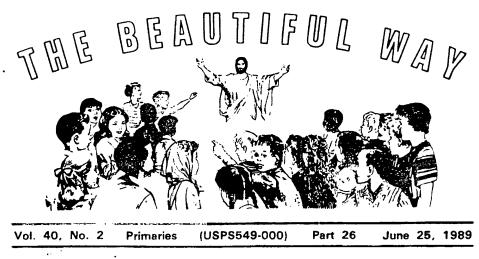
- 1. Who did Paul meet with at Jerusalem?
- 2. Whose law did the Jews feel should be kept?
- 3. Who saw Paul in the temple?
- 4. What did they do?
- 5. What did the people want to do with Paul?
- 6. What did they do before shutting the doors of the temple?
- 7. Who heard that all the city was in an uproar?
- 8. Who did he bring to rescue Paul?
- 9. Where did they put Paul?

.

(Answers: 1. The elders. 2. The law of Moses. 3. Some Jews from Asia. 4. They stirred up the people 5. They wanted to kill him. 6. They dragged Paul out of the temple. 7. The chief captain. 8. His soldiers. 9. In prison.) soldiers. 9. In prison.)

Lesson Text: Acts 21:17-38.

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LET'S REVIEW

In our last twelve lessons, we have learned about the many adventures of Paul as he preached the gospel.

In our first lesson God delivered Paul and Silas out of jail. They had been beaten, thrown into the inner prison, and had their feet fastened in stocks. But, while they prayed and sang praises at midnight, God shook them free with a great earthquake. Because they stood true to God, the jailer and his family were saved.

God used Jason and other friends to help Paul escape when envious Jews stirred up mobs to harm him in Thessalonica and Berea. Sailing on to Athens, he taught the people about the one retrue God whom they knew only as THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Leaving Athens, Paul preached in Corinth. There God told him in a dream that He would protect him so he would not be hurt. Here he met Priscilla and Aquila who then traveled with him as far as Ephesus. While Paul went on to Jerusalem, Priscilla and Aquila stayed in Ephesus where they heard Apollos preach, and later taught him about Jesus.

The new Christians in Ephesus, anxious to please God, burned their books on magic and quit worshiping the goddess, Diana.

As Paul preached a farewell message which lasted all night long, Eutychus fell from a third story window and was picked up dead, but God brought him back to life.

Paul was warned not to go to Jerusalem because he would be imprisoned. Paul knew this was God's will for him, so he refused to turn back. Just seven days after reaching Jerusalem, he was arrested.



"Go ye and teach all nations." (Matthew 28:19)











Preaching The Gospel

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," Mr. McMillian read from the Bible, during family worship. He closed the Bible and took off his glasses.

"Dad, does Jesus expect everyone to preach?" Jason asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"Yes, He does," Daddy answered.

"Then why don't you preach?" Melissa interrupted.

"That's impossible," Jason explained. "How can children preach?"

"Well, son, we can't all stand up in church and preach, but we preach by the things we do. Those who see us doing what Jesus would do, are learning about Jesus in this way. Preaching is teaching about Jesus.

"Like what?" Jason inquired.

Remember the time you persuaded Tony that you shouldn't keep those bad magazines? Tony got the message that the books were wrong and should be destroyed."

"And when I was afraid, Jen Jen told me not to listen to the old dumb devil who was telling me to be afraid. Jen Jen was preaching, too." Melissa said as she patted Jen Jen.

"I wonder what you were trying to preach when you picked the apple?" Jason asked.

"When a child disobeys, as Melissa did when she picked the apple, he is not preaching a good sermon, but when other children see him obeying, he is preaching a good sermon," Mama said.

"Jason, Grandma Hubbard showed you how to please Jesus better by helping you understand that taking time to do things for others is giving of yourself," Mother said. "I think I'm beginning to under-

"I think I'm beginning to understand." Jason said thoughtfully. "We all preach wherever we are. Even Grandma Hubbard was preaching although she is not able to go to church."

"Yes, more sermons are preached out of church than in church," Daddy said. There are many ways that each of us can preach to other people." "So preaching is just showing others to be good like Jesus, right Mother?" Melissa asked.

"That is right," Mother agreed. —Charlotte Huskey





- 1. What was Paul doing as he traveled from one place to another?
- 2. How did God deliver Paul and Silas out of jail?
- 3. Who got saved after the great earthquake?
- 4. Where did Paul find an altar to THE UNKNOWN GOD?
- 5. Who spoke to Paul in a dream?
- 6. Who did Paul meet in Corinth?
- 7. What goddess did the Ephesians worship?
- 8. Who fell from a third story window while Paul was preaching?
- 9. What happened to Paul just seven days after he reached Jerusalem?



(Answers: 1. Preaching the gospel. 2. By a great earthquake. 3. The jailer and his family. 4. At Athens. 5. God. 6. Priscilla and Aquila. 7. Diana. 8. Eutychus. 9. He was arrested.)

·••• Lesson Text: Acts 16-21.

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