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WHEN THE CHURCH CROSSED THE TROPIC

Saul and Barnabas Made Great Decision in Asia Minor

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

The Rubicon of the Christian Church was crossed by Saul and Barnabas in what is now troubled Asia Minor. They settled forever the question of whether Christianity was for the Jews or for the whole world. That story is the Sunday school lesson for to-day. Like all the present series, it has its setting in the land to which the newspapers are calling our attention afresh, troubled, distracted, blood-stained Turkey. In the region where the two first Christian missionaries were the center of religious life, the center of the world.

The bounds of the lesson are marked by two Antiochs. There were sixteen of these cities in the old Alexandrian empire, named for his father Antiochus by Seleucus Nikator, who had the remarkable record of having founded thirty-seven cities, which he named after himself or his relatives. The greatest of these was Antioch in Syria, the city where the disciples were first called Christian. It was from this place that Saul and Barnabas set out.

Can Godliness Be Inherited? The more we know about old Antioch, the more wonderful it becomes that this city should be the center of Christian propaganda, and after the fall of Jerusalem, the center of the Christian Church. Let me quote from an authority a picture of old Antioch, which will give a cause in those early centuries of our modern cities who are fond of saying that vice is winning new victories in our times.

"In Antioch the Beautiful" there was to be found everything which Italian writers, Greek, Latin, and Oriental luxury could produce. The ancient writers, however, are unanimous in policy as to the moral character of the city. It was the seat of the most and most depraved of the four Cosmopolitan in disposition, the cities of the world, and in the most viciousness, superstition, quackery, indolence, every vice and base passion, were displayed by the citizens. Their skill in coining scurrilous verses was notorious, their sordid, fickle, turbulent, insolent ways rendered the name of Antioch a by-word for all that was wicked. Their brilliance and splendor, however, were counterbalanced by an incurable levity and shameless disregard for the first principles of morality. The infamous grove of Daphne, five miles out of the city, filled with shrines, to Apollo, Venus, Isis, etc., and crowded with theaters, gambling saloons, and dancing places, where soldiers detected there were punished and dismissed from the army. The city was the center of the most depraved of the four Cosmopolitan in disposition, the cities of the world, and in the most viciousness, superstition, quackery, indolence, every vice and base passion, were displayed by the citizens. Their skill in coining scurrilous verses was notorious, their sordid, fickle, turbulent, insolent ways rendered the name of Antioch a by-word for all that was wicked. Their brilliance and splendor, however, were counterbalanced by an incurable levity and shameless disregard for the first principles of morality. The infamous grove of Daphne, five miles out of the city, filled with shrines, to Apollo, Venus, Isis, etc., and crowded with theaters, gambling saloons, and dancing places, where soldiers detected there were punished and dismissed from the army.

A SPECIAL SATURDAY SALE OF Children's Shoes

You'd be astonished if you knew how many children this store shoes; and they all get good shoes, too; still the prices are very reasonable. Here below we list a few of the big values special for Saturday:

Girls' Mary Jane and Two Step Slippers
An offer that saves you \$6c to \$1 on each pair. Pretty styles, extra strong, good wearing makes in patent and dull. Includes shoes, pumps, oxfords and sandals. Sizes to 3, special at \$1.18

Boys' Calfskin Shoes
Good variety sturdy calfskin tops and solid soles. Button or lace. Sizes to 13½; \$1.50 98c value at \$1.25

Boys' Scouting Shoes
Here they are, boys! Comfortable lasts of good wearing tops and elk soles. Sizes to 6½; \$1.75 values at \$1.25

Children's Shoes
The room lasts in soft donkey kid and patent. Sizes to 6½. A regular 75c value, special at \$59c



Girls' Dress Shoes
Strongly made long wearing good fitting shoes in patent and dull leathers and white canvas. Regular \$3 value, \$1.50. Sizes to 2.

Girls' & Child's White Canvas Shoes
98c
Pretty new spring styles, excellent wearing canvas. Several styles. All sizes to 2. Actual \$1.50 values.

Boys' Shoes
An excellent wearing dress shoe, solid soles and uppers. Button or blucher. All sizes to 6½. Actual \$2.50 values. \$1.50

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See Other Ad for Special Values for Women

Anybody who spent a Sunday in a hotel knows the problem of Sunday as it confronts the traveler. A few there are who, like Saul and Barnabas, are like Jesus before them, go to bed on the Sabbath and wake up on Monday. They had not outgrown the synagogue. It was not adequate, and they sought a better and better gospel than to be found in these heathen cities, and they stood by it.

A popular pastime of to-day is to first praise the church—and how many faults she has! Yet after all has been said, the church is the best and best agency for the service of man. I question the judgment of the man who is so "big" to go to the church, and especially of the Christian who thinks that the church is not holy enough to satisfy his pious soul. He had tried all the churches of the city and had even started one of his own. He knew that he had separated from them all and was conducting his own religious exercises in his home. It perhaps would not be charitable to quote what the members of the churches said about him, but I myself found that despite his overpowering piety he was a little sharper in business than I had expected even a cranky Christian to be, and it cost me a considerable sum to learn that a man may be entirely too pious to go to church, and yet too religious to practice sharp deals on unsuspecting customers on week days.

The "Go-to-Church Movement," which has sprung out of the modern publicity propagandists, is big and wise and all good citizens should be squarely behind it. There is a place for every body in a church of his choice, and it is true service of God and a sign of citizenship to be found regularly in that place.

The First Missionary Sermon

When in the synagogue the strangers were invited to speak to the congregation, Paul stood up—he is here first called Paul, rather than Saul—and began on the common ground where they stood to tell the familiar story of God's dealings with the chosen people. From every part of the sermon, which was the first missionary discourse on record, was a good one. It was full of scripture. You cannot have a first-class and effective sermon if it does not abound in the living word of Holy Writ. Every minister must constantly watch himself lest his sermon contain too much of the daily newspaper and not enough of the Inspired Word. It was a sermon full of facts and not all exhortations. No address really has power that does not marshal definite information. The merely hortatory discourse is usually ephemeral. Beginning fair back in the Old Testament, the sermon steered a straight course to Calvary. Like every gospel message, it led straight to a presentation of the good news of the Messiah come, with a free offer of salvation to all men. So stirred were the hearers that they wanted Paul to preach again, and between whiles he was thronged with inquirers eager to hear more about this way. The popularity of the message provoked the jealousy of the Jews and the missionaries were driven from the synagogue, but not until Paul had announced the momentous decision, "We turn to the Gentiles." That marked the Rubicon of Christianity. The new wine of the living Gospel could not be contained in the old wine skins of the Jewish order. From that day to this the Gospel has been preached to every nation even as Paul and Barnabas preached it to the Jews.

Jack Dillon Signs Contract to Meet Heavyweight Moran

By Associated Press
New York, May 12.—Sam Marburger, manager of Jack Dillon, the Indianapolis light heavyweight has signed articles of agreement with an

BRETHREN CONFERENCE

Special to the Telegraph
Marietta, Pa., May 12.—On Monday the general conference of the Brethren in Christ of the United States of America and Canada, will convene in the Cross Roads Meeting House, near Marietta, and the sessions will last for several days. The meeting was to be held at Ontario, Can., but on account of the war troubles it was changed to Lancaster county.

TEACHING CHILDREN TO BE THRIFTY

By Frederic J. Haskin

[Continued From Editorial Page]

ous parts of the country, the Bureau of Education has lent support to the movement, and parent-teachers associations everywhere are discussing the subject of youthful economy. The school savings bank, a prominent feature of European education, introduced into this country in 1898, has gained in popularity and is now being adopted by many schools which heretofore hardly knew of its existence.

But the children are not only being taught to save money; they are being taught how to spend it. There is a difference between penny and thrift. The latter is a habit; the former an obsession, which is just as much to be avoided as extravagance in an aggravated form. In instructing the children, therefore, it should be made clear that the accumulation of money is not an object in itself, but the means to an end. If a boy wants a pair of skates, or a basketball, or a tennis racket, or a college education when he grows up, he is usually willing to make sacrifices, such as abstaining from candy and marbles, or to get the things he wants, but there is a habit, the little incentive to put money away in the bank—simply to put it there. There is nothing interesting or particularly worthy in the act itself unless it is a means to an end.

The greatest value of the savings account to the child lies in the fact that he has earned the money himself, and it therefore rightfully belongs to him and is his own. Whether he accumulates it by selling papers, or by the slow process of rewards for running errands and repairing a certain amount of parental supervision is, of course, necessary. Parents are often prone to overlook this sacred right of ownership and calmly annex their son's or daughter's savings account for shoes, or hair ribbons, or something like that. Two little Philadelphia boys, who by many heroic sacrifices of new baseball bats and caramels, had managed to save \$25 each in a school savings bank, were suddenly left fatherless and the money was taken by their mother to buy them clothing.

When the Crowd Stood Back

Those Antioch Christians had too much to do to keep all the members of the church in their midst. There is a lesson to be learned from the fact that the Antiochians had to move away and ought to be active in some other church. In fact, they held a solemn service to separate themselves from the church. That is a good old fashion that would bear reviving. Why should not a few of the other church officers, and the whole church stand together and behind every one of its representatives who go out to do larger service for the Kingdom. On many a discouraged day in their mission work, Saul and Barnabas thought with a glow of joy, and with a new accession of strength, of the company of prayer workers in Antioch, whose representatives they were.

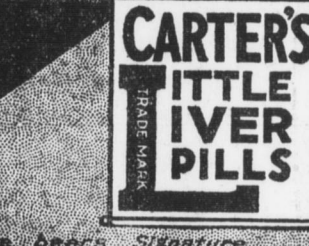
A Traveler's Tale

The wonderful incidents corroborated by the history accuracy of the Books of Acts should not be overlooked. This volume will stand the test of all other books. As a traveler, like a good reporter, and unlike many a traveler, Luke did not make his narrative by a series of interviews with the people he visited. His record is more than an itinerary, and yet it does enable the readers to follow the travels of the apostles in Syria down to Selucia, where they took ship for the island of Cyprus, where they worked among the Jews.

Leaving Cyprus, the two missionaries—who had up to this time been accompanied by John Mark, who there proved quitter—they landed on the coast of Asia Minor and went into the other city

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