

**Latest North Carolina Crop Bulletin.**

During the past week weather conditions have continued very unfavorable for both farming operations and growth of most crops. Rain fell nearly every day, the total precipitation for the week ranging from 0.40 inch at Asheville and 1.60 at Wilmington to 3.16 at Raleigh. Land was too wet for any plowing to be done except on hill tops, and farmers are much behind with their work. A light frost, causing little damage, occurred in the Eastern counties on the morning of the 22nd. On the morning of the 24th a heavy frost occurred in the central and western portions of the State, and killing frost in some elevated localities, the thermometer falling to 30 degrees at Asheville; wheat and truck in the west portion were somewhat damaged, and fruit entirely killed in some places. Hail storms occurred locally during the first part of the week and caused slight damage in scattered localities.

Some cotton has been planted but the soil is too cold and wet for it to germinate. In the eastern and central portions the corn crop is partly planted, but young plants show a poor stand and some fields will need replanting. Tobacco transplanting has been completed at a very few points, the work being hindered by rain and lack of prepared land. Winter grain is doing well in some sections, but numerous complaints of rust, and a few of the hessian fly and chinch bugs, are received. Grass and clover, wherever reported, are doing well. In the eastern counties Irish potatoes present an excellent appearance, the fruit prospect is promising, and shipments of truck and strawberries continue.

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**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**NOTES ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR MAY 10.**

**The Plot Against Paul.**

(Acts 23:12-22.)

Golden Text: The Lord stood by him and said, Be of good cheer. Acts 23:11.

The day after his arrest Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin. Little chance, indeed, was there of a fair and impartial trial before this council, the members of which, for the most part, were bigoted and violent partisans of either the Pharisaic or the Sadducean sects. As soon as Paul declared himself a Pharisee, and specified the hope and resurrection of the dead as the question involved in the accusation against him, the council was in an uproar, and the chief captain, fearing that Paul would be torn in pieces, quickly commanded him to be brought back into the castle.

League of Evil.—Evil-minded men are not easily robbed of their prey, and the malice of the chief priests now found expression in a malignant plot to kill the Apostle Paul. The details of the conspiracy are given in the text of our lesson and it is not necessary to repeat them here. The personality of those in the plot is not disclosed, but the number of conspirators was large, numbering more than forty, we are told. Among these it seems probable were some members of the fanatic association called Sicarii, who played a prominent part in the last turbulent years of Jerusalem's history.

Failure of the Plot.—The very magnitude of the conspiracy probably caused it to fail. So many were privy to the diabolical plot to assassinate a helpless prisoner that in some way the information came to the ears of "Paul's sister's son," and through his prompt and prudent action, the plans of the conspirators were made known to the chief captain, who took the poorer measures to defeat the object at which they aimed.

From Jerusalem to Caesarea.—The capital of the province of Judea was Caesarea, and it was to this city that Paul was sent by the chief captain, who hurried his prisoner away from Jerusalem under cover of the night that he might escape any further attacks of the Jews. Due, doubtless, to the careful precautions of the Roman commander, no further efforts were made against the life of Paul, and he was soon lodged safely at Caesarea in the custody of Felix, the governor of the province.

The Development of the Divine Plans.—Paul's arrival at Caesarea marked the completion of the first stage of his journey to Rome. How marvelous are the workings of the divine Providence! Paul knew that persecution awaited him at Jerusalem, but little could he have foreseen the course of providential events which should lead to his transportation to the distant capital of the Roman Empire. Step by step he was being led onward toward Rome.

True has it ever been that God "works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform," and in the incidents of Paul's life which are now passing under our notice, we have a most striking illustration of the way in which God uses the wrath of man to accomplish the advancement of His Kingdom among men.

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