

Come To Church Sunday

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Lesson for January 3 THE SON OF GOD BECOMES MAN

LESSON TEXT—John 1:1-18.
GOLDEN TEXT—And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, John 1:14.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus' Home.
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Boyhood of Jesus.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—God Coming to Us in Jesus.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Fact and Purpose of the Incarnation.

The opening of a new year always brings with it a sense of solemn responsibility for one's life and service, and at the same time a thrilling expectancy. No better way can be found to begin this year of our Lord, 1937, than in the study of God's Word, not only by ourselves, but in the fellowship of others in the church and Sunday school.

The series of lessons outlined for the year gives us the eagerly anticipated opportunity of studying during the first three months the Gospel of John. Space does not permit of a suitable introduction to that study here, but we trust that no one will fail to read John 20:31, which states the purpose of the apostle in writing.

Three great and fundamental questions are answered in chapter 1:1-18, namely, (1) Was Jesus Christ God or man? (2) Does it matter how we regard him and relate our lives to him? (3) Is there suitable evidence upon which we may rest our faith in him?

I. Jesus Christ Is God (John 1:1-5).

"In the beginning" of Genesis 1:1, Jesus Christ already "was" not only "with God," but he "was God." He is the living "Word," the complete and final revelation of God. He is infinite, eternal, divine, both the Creator and Redeemer. He is both the Life and the Light of men. That Light shines in the darkness but the darkness does not comprehend it.

II. Men Are Either Believers or Unbelievers (vv. 6-13).

There are only two classes of people who will read these lines—the saved and the unsaved. What a solemn thought! To which class do I belong?

The Lord of Glory, the Creator of all things, came to his own world and it "knew him not" (v. 10). How tragic is that fact, but how much deeper is the stab of the next verse, his own people "received him not."

The Light still shines in the world, and it is still all too true that men love "darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil" (John 3:19). Such men are lost, "dead in trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2:1).

But, thank God, there are those who "receive him" (v. 12), and to them he gives the power or authority, to be the sons of God. This change is expressly declared to be a. Not by reason of family, or heredity, "not of blood"; b. Not by natural instinct or development, not "of the will of the flesh"; and c. Not by human volition or will power, not "of the will of man, but of God."

These are important matters and some one may well ask, "What evidence is there for these things?" Faith is not a venture into the dark. We have the strongest of all foundations in the sure Word of God. The evidences of Christianity are many, thoroughly full, and satisfying to any honest inquirer. We refer to but one.

III. Our Faith Rests on the Testimony of Eye Witnesses (vv. 14-18).

John the Baptist and John the Apostle both beheld the "glory as of the only begotten of the Father" in the One who at the "Word was made flesh and dwelt among" them. The law was "given by Moses" (v. 17), that is, God sent the law through a human messenger. "But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." No messenger, no matter how great or worthy, would do to bring the gospel of the grace of God. His only begotten Son brought it; it came by him.

Looking Upward

It is a good thing to believe, it is a good thing to admire. By continually looking upwards, our minds will themselves grow upwards; as a man, by indulging in habits of scorn and contempt for others, is sure to descend to the level of those he despises. It is better in some respects to be admired by those with whom you live, than to be loved by them. And this is not on account of any gratification of vanity, but because admiration is so much more tolerant than love.—Sir Arthur Helps.

Worship and Prayers

It is for the sake of man, not of God, that worship and prayers are required; that man may be made better—that he may be confirmed in a proper sense of his dependent state, and acquire those pious and virtuous dispositions in which his highest improvement consists.

Night - Prowling Aristocrat Awed By Great Commoner

Timid Official's Interview With Carpenter—Teacher—Getting Down To Bed Rock In Religion—The Greatest Single Sentence In All Human Speech.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

At night, the Orient commonly stays indoors. At I have roamed about Jerusalem after nightfall, or climbed the slopes of the Mount of Olives, I have found the streets and roads deserted. Yet one of the most important incidents in all the Bible is staged at night, the interview of Nicodemus, the timid and troubled aristocrat, with Jesus, the carpenter-commoner.

One easily imagines the scene. Hurrying furtively through the dark streets of Jerusalem, an armed servant following behind, was this richly-clad member of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of the Jews. As an occasional night-prowler was met, he covered his face with his cloak, that his well-known features might not be recognized. Like most men of great wealth and high position, Nicodemus was concerned chiefly with his reputation. He was afraid that to be seen with this radical Rabbi from the North would compromise him.

The Open Door
Skulking along unlighted back streets, this frightened figure came to the humble lodgings of Jesus. He found the door unlatched, with no functionary to bar his way or question his errand. It was, and is, easy for anybody to find Jesus, without formality. You and I, my reader, might not have welcomed Nicodemus. Our natural first reaction would be, "The man who is afraid to speak to me in the broad light of day cannot come to me secretly, under the cloak of night."

But Jesus received him, not because Nicodemus was Nicodemus, but because Jesus was Jesus.

"Who goes a step toward God, through doubtings dim, God goes a mile, through blazing light, to him."

Perhaps John was sitting in the shadows listening to the conversation that ensued, the most momentous ever heard by man. He did not tell the story, possibly out of consideration for the timid aristocrat, until the latter was dead. He alone mentions Nicodemus' feeble and quickly silenced plea for Jesus before the Sanhedrin; and his belated gift of rich spices to the dead body of the Saviour whom he did not had the manhood to accept and follow, after the convincing interview of that memorable night. Pity the poor scholar-aristocrat, who had lacked courage to be true to the highest truth he knew. What a difference it would have made to him to count among his friends this ruler of the Jews!

A Momentous Interview

But to return to the interview.
*The Sunday School Lesson for January 10 is: "Jesus and Nicodemus."—John 3: 1-17.

itself: the polished courtier opened it with polit phrases of flattery, which he himself could not really have believed, else he would not have come dodging up dark alleys like a criminal. Blantly, the Commoner disregarded the fine speech, and with disconcerting directness, plunged straight into the heart of the subject, with the truth of the new birth.

Belonging to the Sanhedrin did not make Nicodemus a child of God; nor did his proud Jewish lineage; nor his emulace as an ecclesiastical lawyer. He would have to be "born anew"—given a fresh beginning in his soul, by the power of the Spirit.

At once the ecclesiastical lawyer the devotees of dialectics, started to quibble. Almost as soon as their interview began, the role of teacher was taken by Jesus, and that of pupil (a rather dull one) accepted by the distinguished theologian. Throughout the centuries Jesus has been acclaimed as the world's supreme Teacher. He uttered basic truth: "Except one be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Religion is spiritual, or it is nothing. A new nature, a new life-purpose, a new allegiance—these alone provide membership in that kingdom which is the only hope of a tottering world. Everybody possessing even an embryonic brain knows that spiritual things are first. Most of the material concerns of life are merely so much baggage. What he experiences in his own soul is the real concern of man.

The Mystery Of The Wind

When his bewildered visitor blurted out, "How can these things be?" Jesus cited the familiar phenomenon of the wind, perhaps blowing outside the house at the moment. It is wholesome for all Nicodemus-minded persons to step aside from their intellectual pride for a moment to consider the familiar things that we do not understand. What is the vital spark of life itself? The surgeons, with all of their probing, cannot even locate the seat of life. What is the thought, and how do its processes work, and with what sections of the brain or body? We do not know. What is electricity, the commonest tool of modern civilization? Science is silent.

Passing strange, isn't it? that human beings, whose daily walk of life is down a grinning road of sphinxes, yet insist upon knowing all about God, before they will accept Him. This mystery of religion which is life from God and with God, a veritable new birth, is the great reality. And it alone bridges the passage into hereafter.

For those who love to ponder profundities there is a strange passage in this interview, wherein Jesus

alludes to what has gone before as "earthly things," with heavenly things" not yet disclosed. We cannot even imagine the vastness of the mysteries of the spiritual life which await revelation in that realm where we are to "know fully." Also we see in this little Jerusalem room the uplifted foreshadowing of the cross.

Not to a great audience, but to one man a timid soul who put his social position above truth itself, Jesus revealed the sublimities of real religion and of the new birth. Nicodemus heard hot from the lips of the Son of God the greatest sentence ever formulated into human speech: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have eternal life."

After that, the soul tormented aristocrat, who lacked courage to follow the highest truth he had learned, went out into the night—but the night about him was not half so black as the torment which raged in his own soul. God pity all who know the better and yet follow the worse.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS

There never was a right endeavor but it succeeded.—Emerson.

Courage is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.—James L. Allen.

If evils come not, then our fears are vain;
And if they do, fear but augments the pain.—More.

To contract ties of friendship with any one is to contract friendship with his virtue.—Confucius.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20:35.

God made the flowers to beautify the earth
And cheer man's careful mood;
And he is happiest who hath power
To gather wisdom from a flower,
And wake his heart in every hour
To pleasant gratitude.

—Wordsworth.

It is better to make a thousand mistakes, and to suffer a thousand reverses, than to run away from the battle.—Henry Van Dyke.

CHURCHES

Zion Reformed Church

Charles M. Prugh, Minister

Church School 9:15 A. M.

J. Fred Fruchte, Supt.

Morning Worship 10:30 A. M.

Sermon "The Father's Business"

St. Luke 2:49.

The Girls Choir will sing

Annual Congregational meeting

2 p. m.

Pastoral Report, Election of Officers,

Report of Church Organizations

Monday 7 p. m. Meeting of official board.

Tuesday 2:30 p. m. Women's Missionary Society.

Wednesday 7 p. m. Mid-week study hour.

First U. B. Church

H. W. Franklin, pastor

Christian Education tri-annual

rally at this church Thursday evening,

January 7, 7:45 o'clock. Fifteen

churches of the Fort Wayne group

with nine pastors participate in

this tri-annual rally. Adult,

young people and children make up

the group. Guest speaker is Rev. P. L. Mast of Nappanee, Indiana.

Brotherhood pig roast banquet in

the basement of the church Friday

evening, January 8, 6:30 o'clock.

Howard Wisehaupt will deliver his

lecture on "Fit and Misfits." We

are making arrangements to take

care of 150 men at the banquet

tables. Glen Hill is chairman of

the committee.

Leadership training school commences

Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock

and will last six weeks, meeting

Monday night of each week. Four

courses are offered. The New Testament; Its contents

and value, taught by Rev. George Lozier,

"Christian Worship," led by Rev. E. S. Morford. "Guidance

in Christian Home Making," led by the pastor of this church and

"Education for Missions and World Friendship," led by Mrs. A. D. Unversaw. Rev. H. R. Carson is dean

of school.

Regular monthly meeting of the official board will be Sunday night

after church.

Sunday School, 9:15 a. m. Glen Hill, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon by Rev. C. J. Miner.

Christian Endeavor, 6 p. m. Evening worship, 7 p. m. Sermon by the pastor.

Bible study at the parsonage Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening, 7 o'clock.

Orchestra practice Wednesday

evening, 6 o'clock.

Choir practice Friday evening, 6:30 o'clock.

Presbyterian

George O. Walton, Minister

9:30 Sunday School, Mr. W. R. McCoy superintendent.

10:30 Morning worship. Sermon "The New Year." At the morning

service Mr. Paul Sauer and Miss Helen Haubold will sing a duet

"Fair Lord Jesus". This first Sunday of the New Year is an

opportune time to think more seriously of spiritual things, it is a

good time to commence the church going habit. If you do not start now

the chances are you will be careless with your church during the

remainder of the year. Don't carry on your religion by proxy make it

a force in your own experience this coming year.

6:00 Young Peoples Service. Rev. Walton will resume the study of

the life of St. Paul.

The Women's Missionary Society will meet next Thursday afternoon

at the home of Mrs. Chas. Langston with Mrs. J. L. Kocher as

hostess. The topic for discussion is "Persia, Syria and Mesopotamia".

The devotions will be in charge of Mrs. G. O. Walton. Mrs. Earl B. Adams is the leader of the program.

Next Sunday the ministers of Decatur will exchange pulpits. We ask

your support for our own guest speaker.

The Communion of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday

January 17.

Eighth St. U. B. Church

Luke Martin, pastor.

The pastor and family wish to

express our sincere thanks to the people of the Eighth St. U. B.

church for the lovely blanket which was presented to us on last

Sunday morning, as a Christmas gift.

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. Gerald Brodbeck, superintendent.

Sermon, 10:30 a. m. by pastor. Bible study, 6:30 p. m. for adults,

by Rev. Martin.

Junior C. E., 6:30 p. m. Miss Gladys Bell.

Regular evangelistic services at 7:30 p. m.

If you are not attending church elsewhere, we heartily invite you

to come and worship with us.

There is increasing interest being shown in the Bible study.

Come and bring your Bible with you and learn more about the word

of God.

Nazarene Tabernacle

Paul Brandyberry, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Sunday School. Harley Ward, superintendent.

10:30 a. m.—Morning worship. Theme, "A United People."

6:45 p. m.—Young People's service.

7:30 p. m.—Evening worship. Theme, "Taking an Inventory."

7:30 p. m. Wednesday—Prayer meeting.

Why not start the new year right by attending church Sunday?

Emerson, the poet-philosopher said, "The Sabbath is the core of civilization." The old year is in the past, and we reverse its memories, its triumphs, but let us take the advice of an old Scottish minister who said, "Hats off to the past, coats off to the future."

We welcome you to all of our services.

Christian Church

Kenneth Timmons, pastor

Bible School, 9:15 a. m. Communion, 10:30 a. m.

The annual fellowship meeting and business report has been postponed one week and will be held

January 10.

The Sunday School teachers and officers will meet Wednesday evening.

Church of God

Glen E. Marshall, pastor

Sunday School worship period opens at 9:30 a. m. with Manley Irwin, superintendent, in charge.

Classes convene at 9:50 for study and discussion. The average attendance during the last quarter of 1936 was larger than the same period of 1935. With everyone working hard for perfect attendance during the year 1937 a very substantial gain will be made over the 1936 average.

Morning worship period, 10:30 a. m. Message by the pastor.

Evening evangelistic service, 7:30 o'clock.

Mid-week prayer service, Wednesday evening, 7:30 o'clock.

Ladies Missionary meeting Thursday, 2 p. m., at home of Mrs. Glen Marshall, 904 Russell street.

First Baptist Church

Home J. Aspy, Minister

9:30 A. M. Bible School Mr. C. E. Bell, Superintendent. We are still in contest with the Montpelier Baptist Sunday School.

10:30 A. M. Junior Church, Mrs.

Frank Young, superintendent. 10:30 A. M. Morning Worship. 7:00 P. M. Evening service.

The regular mid-week service will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30. The course offered in Old Testament will be continued.

First Evangelical Church

George S. Lozier, Minister

9:15 a. m.—Sunday School. Installation of Officers.

10:10 a. m.—Worship Service—Sermon theme: "Building in the New Year."

6:15 p. m.—Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p. m.—Evening Service—Sermon theme: "My Choice for the New Year."

7:00 p. m., Wednesday—Midweek Prayer Service.

8:00 p. m., Wednesday — Choir Rehearsal.

2:00 p. m., Thursday—Woman's Missionary Society.

This church is cooperating in the Leadership Training School which begins its session on Monday

evening at 7:30 o'clock in the High School Building.

First Methodist Episcopal Church

Herman R. Carson, Minister

Church Notes

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! On this first Sunday of the New Year our resolutions

to live better and more helpful lives will be strengthened by attendance

upon the means of grace afforded us by the church.

The Nursery, Childrens church and Senior Worship Services all open at 9:20 A. M. and the Church

School session follows at 10:35 A. M. with general dismissal at 11:15 A. M.

The Senior Epworth League meets at 6:00 P. M. Wendell Smith will be the leader.

Evening services of prayer and praise are held at 7:00 P. M. The sermon subject will be "Bring Men To Christ."

Welcome to any and all of these services.

NEW WAR THREAT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Mexico but under the provisions of these licenses they may not be

re-shipped for military use. Heavy penalties are provided in cases of

violations of this requirement and it is under this clause in the neutrality

laws that the investigations have begun.

Six of the planes reported diverted from their avowed destination

for use in the Spanish civil war were sold by American Airlines

to the Compania De Transportes Aereos Del Pacifico,