

Improved
Uniform
International | SUNDAY
SCHOOL
LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
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Lesson for April 8

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THE BOOK AND THE FAITH

LESSON TEXT—Psalm 145:10-17.
GOLDEN TEXT—The word of the Lord endureth forever—1 Peter 1:25.

Christians are the people of one book—the Bible. They read and use other books, but the book is God's Word, and everything else must be in accord with its teaching.

In this blessed Book they find the only revelation of God's saving grace. Other attributes of God may be found in the book of nature. There we find that God is powerful, orderly, wise, etc., but nowhere in nature is it written that God can save a man from his sin. We find that only in the Bible, God's written Word as it reveals Jesus Christ the Saviour who is the Living Word.

I. The Eternal Glory of God's Kingdom (vv. 10-13).

The kingdom of God refers to His reign over all things and beings, but with special reference to those who are willingly subject to Him and eager to live for His glory.

Everything in God's creation is to be lifted up in praise of that kingdom. All His works shall praise Him. They reveal Him in part, but even that limited revelation is glorious. The man who cannot see God in nature is indeed a dull clod. The heavens declare His glory and the earth shows forth His handiwork (Ps. 19:1).

Greater and more precious in God's sight is the praise of His saints. Dumb adoration is acceptable only from a dumb creation. We, His saints, are to speak His praise, to "bless" Him (v. 10). We are to spread abroad among all men (v. 12) the news of God's greatness and goodness.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thus it at once takes its place as so superior to what men call kingdoms as hardly to be mentioned in the same breath. There is no limit to God's kingdom either in its extent or its duration.

How stupid then that some, yes many, foolish men and women set themselves up in rebellion against God. That is the height of all folly and leads only to disaster. How wise are those who yield their lives to His control that their little span of life may find rich meaning in the One who endures forever.

II. The Abundant Provision of God's Mercy (vv. 14-16).

We are all completely dependent on the mercies of God for everything that we need for life—physical, mental, and spiritual.

Consider the food for the body. God opens His bountiful hand and every living creature is provided with the food necessary for its sustenance. How this is accomplished is a mystery and a marvel to us, but God is able to do it.

Centuries ago men were fearful that the earth could not produce enough food to keep the increasing population of mankind alive, but God sees to that even when He has to do it in spite of man's waste and destruction.

However, life is not just material. There must be a satisfying of man's spiritual nature. He needs someone to save him from his own sinful weakness, to deliver him from his sorrow and affliction. Who can do this but God? And He does it (see v. 14).

How does He do it? Through the ministry of His Holy Word. Therein man finds salvation and satisfaction. The Bible is the light that shines upon his way. It is his comfort in sorrow and his strength in temptation. It exhorts and encourages, convicts and cures.

How endless and how overflowing is the mercy of our God. Let us "wait upon" Him, knowing that He is not only mindful of our need, but eager to do for us more than we can ask or think.

III. The Saving Power of God's Grace (vv. 17-19).

The Lord, who "is nigh unto all them that call upon him" (v. 18), is able to save because He is "righteous in all his ways and holy in all his works" (v. 17). Only a just and holy God can deal with sin, and yet only a merciful God would provide redemption; but in our God mercy and truth meet (Ps. 115: 1; Ps. 103). He is both "just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26).

He it is who is near to all that "call upon him in truth" (v. 18), and surely it is such a calling on the Lord which is in mind in Romans 10:13, where we read that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." He saves us by His grace when we call on Him in truth.

Notice that God's nearness, His salvation, and His fulfillment of the desires of man are for those who call on Him and who "fear Him" (v. 19). This is not a matter of magical use of a name, or an outward profession of faith. It must come from the heart, and when it does, God responds.

So we find God's word to be the source of our instruction concerning those things which can make us wise unto salvation (II Tim. 3:15). It is the Book of our faith!

COME TO CHURCH

Creamed Comments On The Sunday School Lesson

CHURCHES

Church of God

Glen E. Marshall, pastor

Creamed comments on the Sunday School lesson, "The Book and the Faith"—Proverbs 2:1-9. II Peter 1:21; Psalms 105:10-19 for Sunday, April 8.

We begin a series of studies on the topic, "The Unfolding Drama of the Bible History." The Bible is regarded as holding the supreme authority for our lives which is to be comprehended by faith in it as the revealed Word of God.

In the scripture selected in Proverbs we are taught that accessible wisdom in divine revelation is available to yearning faith in which man's part consists: first, a searching for wisdom; secondly, a recognition of the source of wisdom; thirdly a manifestation of the wisdom of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

The theme of the whole passage is "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, etc." The Bible is constantly pointing us to the higher values of the unseen world.

When God's true servants speak, they do so under the power of the conviction that the things of real worth are to be found in the spiritual order.

Our Lord's greatest message is about the kingdom of God since it is the rule of God. It is not just better living conditions; it is that attitude of submission toward the will of God which enjoins men everywhere to seek after and to cultivate.

v. 1. "My son, if thou wilt receive my Words, and lay up my commandments with thee." The first step is honestly to receive the Bible as a means of God speaking to us.

v. 2. "So as to incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding." The heart being the center of our intellect and motive power, true faith in the Word comes as a result of a right heart.

v. 3, 4. "Yea, if you eriest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as a hid treasure." Of all books to be read and studied the Bible takes precedence; daily Bible reading is a Christian's program. But Bible reading has little value unless Bible thoughts are expressed.

v. 5. "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." When man has carried out his part of the program God will carry out his part as stated in this verse and in the next three verses in giving true wisdom, good judgment, and his providential care.

v. 6. "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path." Verse 5 is here reinforced. Righteousness, judgment and equity, and a good path are the marks of a man of faith.

v. 7. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Here is a statement of Bible inspiration which Dr. Strong declares is a special divine influence upon the minds of the scripture writers.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. How many books in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament, and how many in the New Testament?

2. In what language was the Old Testament written? The New Testament?

3. How were the scriptures prepared before printing was invented?

4. When was the whole of the Old Testament first printed? When the New Testament?

5. What are the legitimate uses of the Bible?

Home Education

Creating Good Manners

All parents want good manners in their children. There is nothing that gives a mother more chagrin than to have her child misbehave away from home. The thoughtless mother will reprimand her child when it acts rudely in the presence of others, thus embarrassing it and making it eager to avoid future similar occasions. The child too, will naturally have less respect for the mother though this fact is not expressed.

The better way is to see to it that when the child is at home he behaves well, that words of approval are given to further develop good manners, that simple suggestions be made, never commanded. In addition the parents might well see to it that nothing is said or done by the adults, and the other children in the home that will set a bad example in the matter of good manners.

Parents who want a happy home with good manners must pay the price; but when their part is well done, they will be repaid many times, for the result will be that of making home the happiest place in the world.

Bethlehem Steel Co., biggest heavy ordnance maker, estimates that the battleships and cruisers of the U. S. fleet can fire big shells at a rate of six times as fast as Germany's ability to produce steel of similar tonnage.

in virtue of which their productions, apart from errors in transcription, and when rightly interpreted, together constitute an infallible rule of faith and practice.

vs. 10-13. "All thy works shall praise thee, O, Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

The theme of the whole passage is "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, etc." The Bible is constantly pointing us to the higher values of the unseen world.

When God's true servants speak, they do so under the power of the conviction that the things of real worth are to be found in the spiritual order.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all the services of this congregation.

"Where being a Christian makes you a member."

First Baptist Church

Carey R. Moser, pastor

9:30 a. m.—Sunday School. C. E. Bell, superintendent.

10:15 a. m.—Morning worship. At this service the Rainbow Girls of our city will be our guests. We welcome them heartily and trust the service may be most inspiring.

Rev. Lloyd C. Clark of Fort Wayne will be our guest preacher. His subject, "God's Eternal Promise in the Rainbow." Very special music also at this service. Also remember our Junior church which meets at this hour in their own quarters. Parents do bring the children for this important hour. Mrs. Frank Young is superintendent of this Junior Department of our work.

10:30 a. m.—Our evening service is also of great interest this evening as Rev. Wm. Feller of our own city will be the guest preacher. He is one of our dear friends and we invite you to hear him. He is a great singer as well as a preacher. Let the men's choir rally for this hour. Spend just one hour in His House at the close of His Day.

Everyone welcome to meet God with us in His House.

First Presbyterian

At Five Points

9:00 a. m.—Bible School, Mrs. W. A. Lower, director.

9:30 a. m.—Sunday School hour. W. P. Schrock, superintendent.

10:30 a. m.—Morning service with Rev. Albert Swenson of Wren in charge.

You are cordially invited.

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Dr. Daniel A. Poling plans to make his 5th overseas' trip since 1942. This time, he plans call for visits to European battle fronts and cities. Dr. Poling will carry credentials as a war correspondent and letters from General Arnold, chief of chaplains.

Congregational Christians plan to spend \$4,639.150 for 102 new churches and \$1,258,455 for renovating 356 churches in the immediate postwar period, according to a survey by Rev. Stanley U. North, director of city work of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions.

The Christian Advocate acutely says: "There has been all too much disposition on the part of Easterners to solve the problem of color for the Pacific coast, and frequent instances of Northerners attempting to solve the race problem for Southerners . . . The most serious disturbances since Pearl Harbor, for instance, have been in the North. The problem of race and color is national, not sectional, and anyone who makes any contribution toward its solution anywhere, or who is helpful to social workers in the field everywhere."

The better way is to see to it that when the child is at home he behaves well, that words of approval are given to further develop good manners, that simple suggestions be made, never commanded. In addition the parents might well see to it that nothing is said or done by the adults, and the other children in the home that will set a bad example in the matter of good manners.

Parents who want a happy home with good manners must pay the price; but when their part is well done, they will be repaid many times, for the result will be that of making home the happiest place in the world.

Our personal problems, our dissatisfactions, our unhappinesses and out of the fact that we are not trying hard to be great enough, good enough, loyal enough. Little aims produce frustrations, and in time, frustrations are a sickness which will never be cured by second rate ideals. Faithfulness to God is the key to life right with God.

ANSWERS TO "DO YOU KNOW?"

1. 66, 39, 27.

2. Hebrew, Greek.

3. By means of parchments.

4. 1488 A. D., 1516 A. D.

5. To show men they are sinners; to show how to get right with God; to show men how to live right with God.

Democrat Want Ads Get Results

First United Brethren

R. R. Wilson, minister

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

Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Dr. O. O. Arnold, of Germantown, O., will be our guest speaker. Dr. Arnold is associate editor of the United Brethren Sunday School Literature.

Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m.

Evening worship, 7:30 p. m.

Prayer meeting and choir practice Wednesday evening, 7 and 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dunlap and

party, radio artists of Lima, O. (station WLOK) will present a program Thursday evening, April 12.

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Divine services, 10 a. m.

Lutheran hour, 11:30 a. m.

Church choir rehearsal, 1 p. m.

Voters' assembly, 2:30 p. m.

Church choir anthem for Sunday, "The Lord is Risen."

Concordia college choir concert Sunday, 7:30 p. m.

Refreshments after the concert in church hall.

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Worship service, 6:30 p. m.

Mid-week prayer and praise. Ladies Missionary Society in charge.

Sunday afternoon, 2:15 p. m.

Youth rally at Fort Wayne. E. E. Wolfram, Anderson, is the speaker.

Sunday evening, April 15, the young people will have charge of the evening service in the absence of the pastor.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all the services of this congregation.

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"Where being a Christian makes you a member."

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