



Discussion Questions on the Sunday School Lesson, Prayers of Confession, for Sunday, July 24.

1. To what kind of prayers for forgiveness does the Lord listen?
2. What does the lack of the sense of sin reveal in one?
3. How may one know that his sins are forgiven?
4. Why is a new heart essential in addition to forgiveness?
5. How does God deal with a troubled conscience?

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Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.—Job.

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Fear is the most disintegrating enemy of human personality. — A Psychologist.

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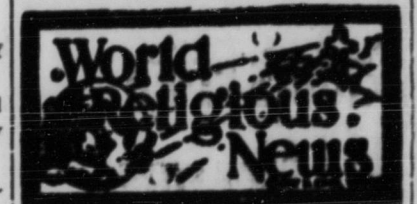


The Church Invites You

The Christian family needs to develop by the use of programs for working together, reading together, eating together, listening together, playing together and worshipping together.

"Sunday is a day," says Dr. Sneed, "when we turn from the quest for material security and seek those unsearchable riches wherein our true spiritual wealth is found. We 'rest' from our toll that we may share 'growth' in those things which make personal-ity whole. In that rest and growth our souls are restored. The ship service is designed for that purpose. Why not accept the invitation and COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY?" — Rev. D. Carl Taylor

dence upon him. God wants us to learn something through it. Dr. C. S. Lewis says, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our consciences, but shouts in our pains; it is his megaphone to rouse a dead world."



Prime Minister Nehru of India has promised to visit America for three weeks in early October this year. The President invited him to make such a journey several months ago.

Out of a population of 160,000,000 in Africa, there are 800 different languages. This is one of the reasons why the missionaries there have a difficult task.

The Southwest Ohio synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at its recent conference became the 15th of the 34 synods in the church to approve the proposed merger of the denomination with the Congregational Christian Churches. The vote was 110 to 3.

The government of India announced recently that scientists in India will carry on research in atomic energy, but that they will make no study whatever of atomic bombs. Their sole research will be for peaceful pursuits. The government of India should give advice to the governments of other countries in this connection.

Kindness is the least costly of all gifts and the most appreciated. An empty brain and a tattling tongue are likely to be bosom companions.

The matter of one's choices is a determinant of success.

Book Review

How Religion Helps, by Albert W. Palmer, the MacMillan Co., is a book for convalescents, and the many persons who, for the time being, must learn to get along without good health. Dr. Palmer, out of his own experiences, states simply how religion can help one to live eagerly and courageously in spite of handicaps.

Do You Know

1. Who was Uriah?
2. Who was Nathan?
3. Who was David's son who succeeded to the throne?
4. What is the outstanding prayer of pardon in the Psalms?
5. Finish this sentence, "Create in me a clean heart, O God..."

Do You Know Answered

1. The husband of Bathsheba.
2. A Hebrew prophet in the reign of David.
3. Solomon.
4. The 51st Psalm.
5. "...and renew a right spirit within me."

2:30 p. m. Payne, Ohio camp meet Morning Worship, 10:30 a. m. Message: "One Thing." Juniors, 6:45 p. m. Mrs. George Anspaugh, supervisor.

Youth Service, 6:45 p. m. Evelyn Hicks, president. Adult Study Group, 6:45 p. m. George Anspaugh, president. Evangelistic Service, 7:30 p. m. Message: "Cost of the Journey." Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Prayer and Praise Service.

Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Choir practice.

Decatur Missionary Church Tenth and Dayton Streets H. J. Welty, Minister

9:00 to 11:00 Unified Services of Sunday School and Morning Worship.

Duet, Mr. and Mrs. VonGuten. Message, Rev. S. J. Grabill of Fort Wayne.

Rev. Grabill is Sunday School superintendent of the Missionary Church Association.

7:00 Children's Gospel Hour. Mrs. Grabill will be speaking to the children.

7:00 MYF. Mr. and Mrs. Garth Wiederkehr in charge.

7:30 Evening service. Hymn sing, message by Rev. Grabill.

Wednesday, July 27 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study, with Mr. Ralph Myers as leader.

The minister and people of this church welcome all strangers and visitors to visit this friendly church.

Zion Lutheran Church West Monroe and Eleventh Streets Edgar P. Schmidt, pastor

(Where Beauty of Sanctuary and Service Invite to Worship).

8 A. M. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this early service. Members desiring to commune are held to register previously with the pastor.

10:30 A. M. The Service will feature the sermon based on the Gospel, Matthew 5, 20-26, with the theme, "Jesus Demands Sincerity."

The pastor will be on vacation from July 27th until August 17th. In cases of emergency the members are asked to contact Mr. William Schnepf, chairman of the congregation; Mr. Gerhard Reinking, Elder; or Mr. Herman Krueckeberg, Deacon.



They can laugh you in, but not out.

When I was a little boy my mother used to speak to me so solemnly of the importance of trusting Jesus as my Saviour, and I would say, "Well, Mamma, I would like to do it, but the boys will all laugh at me!" "Harry," she would reply, "remember, they may laugh you into hell, but they can never laugh you out of it."



What attitude ought one take toward pain and suffering?

We ought never to look upon pain as a punishment from God, though sometimes the outworking of his laws which we have ignored will bring pain upon us. The Christian attitude is to look upon pain as a call of God to a deeper life of understanding, faith and dependence.

"A United Church for a Divided World."

Zion Evangelical and Reformed William C. Feller, pastor

Church School at 9:00 a. m. Wesley Lehman, superintendent. The adult classes will be taught by Edward Jaberger.

Worship Service at 10:00 a. m. Sermon by the pastor: "The Hand of Faith." Come and let us worship together in the House of the Lord. Visitors are always welcome.

Church of The Nazarene North Seventh & Marshall Sts. Ralph A. Carter, pastor

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. Leo Merriman, superintendent.

First Presbyterian Church Five Points, Decatur

A. C. E. Gillander, pastor

Church School, 9:30 a. m. superintendents, Lewis Smith and Dick Heller. Mrs. Teeple is back to teach her class.

Divine worship, 10:30 a. m. Mrs. Tyndall will sing. Sermon, "The Logic of Faith" in which the pastor



St. Mary's Church

Very Rev. Mgr. Seimetz, pastor 6 A. M. Low Mass

7:30 A. M. Low Mass 9:00 A. M. Children's Mass

10:15 A. M. Low Mass and Benediction.

Friday evening 7:30 prayer hour and Benediction.

Holy Communion Sundays First Sunday, St. Agnes Sodality

Second Sunday, Holy Name Society.

Third Sunday, St. Mary's Society. Fourth Sunday, Children of Mary.

HELLER

First Baptist Church Robert H. Hammond, pastor

The regular session of the Bible School is at 9:15. Class attendance is increasing in spite of the vacation season, and we trust that it will continue. There are classes for all age groups, and all are cordially welcome. Ralph Kenworthy, superintendent.

The morning service will feature special music by the male quartet, consisting of Mr. Dave Embler, Mr. George Myers, Mr. Bill Elchhorn, and Mr. Harold Strickler. Mrs. Embler is at the organ for all of our music. The message by the pastor will be on the subject of "The Christian Walk," based on Ephesians 5.

Sunday night at 7:30 the pastor will bring the message at the Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Church in the absence of Rev. Chambers.

Monday night at 7:30 is the official board meeting of the church at the parsonage.

Wednesday night at 7:30 is the Prayer, Praise and Bible Study Hour at the church, followed at 8:30 by the monthly business meeting.

First Methodist Gerald H. Jones, pastor

The Church at Study 9:30

The Youth Fellowship will have charge of the Assembly Period in the absence of Mr. Lowell Smith, the general superintendent.

The Church at Worship 10:20

The theme of the service will be in accord with the Scripture appointed for the day: "Except Ye Exceed." The Youth Choir will sing the anthem under the direction of Mrs. Walter Krick.

Wednesday

The service for prayer will be held at 7:30. The choir will rehearse at their stated times on that evening. Following the service of prayer, the Evangelism and Membership Committee will meet for a brief session.

Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Madison at Ninth

John E. Chamber, minister

9:15 a. m. Sunday School; Chalmer Barkley, superintendent.

10:30 a. m. Divine Worship. Mrs. Herald Hitchcock will preside at the organ and the choir, under the direction of Mr. Leelan Neuen, will sing the anthem. Reverend Mrs. Dwight McCurdy will give the sermon.

6:30 p. m. Jewels, Junior Christian Endeavor, and Youth Fellowship meetings.

7:30 p. m. The Evening Service of gospel music and special music by the Men's Bible Class. The Reverend Robert Hammond, pastor of the Baptist Church, will bring the evening message.

Wednesday 7:00 p. m. The Mid-week service.

Friday 7:30 p. m. Meeting of the nominating committee for the Congregational Meeting in the Church Study. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, July 31, at 9:30 a. m. All members are urged to be present.

First Presbyterian Church Five Points, Decatur

A. C. E. Gillander, pastor

Church School, 9:30 a. m. superintendents, Lewis Smith and Dick Heller. Mrs. Teeple is back to teach her class.

Divine worship, 10:30 a. m. Mrs. Tyndall will sing. Sermon, "The Logic of Faith" in which the pastor

according to thy loving kindness according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgression. "Be merciful to me a sinner" is the only prayer a sinner can offer effectively. Pardon of sins must ever be an act of pure mercy of God, founded on the fact that while we were yet sinners God loved us. By God's grace when sins are blotted out, the sinner is justified as if he had never sinned.

V.2. "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." In this verse God does more than merely pardon sin; he transforms the inner nature; the proclivities and inclinations toward evil are subdued or eliminated. Otherwise, there would be a limit to God's grace, leaving man in a bad way to go in the same old way.

V.7. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Hyssop alone could, by the Levitical law, cleanse from contact with a corpse or from the defilement of leprosy. David realizes that his sin is of a nature that requires the most extreme measures.

V.8. "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice." David asks for more than simply peace and rest; he wants the active, thrilling joy which those experience who feel themselves restored to God's favor.

V.9. "Hide thy face from my sins, and blot all mine iniquities." One who sins can never be the same in his own estimation and in the estimation of those who knew him. But it is not what others think or say about us when repented, but what God thinks and will remember against us no more that counts.

V.10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Here is reiterated the prayer for heart cleansing, changing the inner nature. This is such a vital experience that it is worth praying for repeatedly.

Vs. 11,12. "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Full salvation brings joy and an assurance of living acceptably before God.

V.13. "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted." We are saved to serve. One thoroughly converted wants that others have the same experience.

deep, pungent realization of the sinfulness of sin and of God's abhorrence of it. As long as a person regards sin as but a small matter, he will probably keep on sinning about as much as he desires. But such a person terribly deceives himself."

LESSON PRAYER:

Lesson prayer: How often we think of the past with its shortcomings and sin. We praise God that our record has been made acceptable to God by his pardoning grace whereby he has blotted out the past. We pray that there may continually take place within such transformation that will make the fountain of life clean and pure.

Wash your own windows and see how much cleaner your neighbors' look.

To have what we want is riches; to be able to do without is power. —First Mate Bob.

"Live with the wolves, and you'll learn to howl."



Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson, Prayers of Confession, Psalm 32:1-5; 51:7-13, for Sunday, July 24.

In our lesson today, the subject of sincere confession in an earnest prayer to God is presented.

V.1. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." David, an outstanding Bible character, was guilty of the vilest sin in his lust for another man's wife, of the betrayal of his place of authority, and the murder of the man whose wife he wanted. His sinfulness was revealed through Nathan who told him a story of the slaying by a rich man of a poor man's lamb ending with the words, "Thou art the man." His confession was so sincere that he could declare happiness to one whose transgression was forgiven.

V.2. "Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." The thoroughness of God's forgiveness is seen in that iniquity is not imputed and the smiting conscience is allayed. The word "iniquity" means perverseness or a moral distortion of the sinner, but derived means are wrong action, sin, crime, and even guilt contracted by sinning. Where there is overt sin there is also a wrong inner nature that prompts the sin.

V.3. "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long." David recounts his long effort in silencing his guilt of sin, and his conscience so smote him that he had a roaring sensation in thunder bolts of conviction.

V.4. "For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me; my moisture is turned into the drought of summer." He acknowledged his sin as being against God, and this troubled him so much that his vitality was ebbing away.

V.5. "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid." I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Here is a noble and sincere confession fundamental to God's pardon. God pays little attention to soft-pedaling of sin. God's grace and pardon depend upon profound confession of sin.

V.1. "Have mercy on me, O God,

Our Preacher Says

Too often is heard a remark like this one, "These church people are just like the rest of us — just as careless about their word, just as quick to spread scandal, just as indulgent in their appetites; in fact, they will do anything to keep up with the Joneses."

That picture must be changed or else the Church is doomed. A transformed life fully surrendered to Christ makes such a difference that the finger of scorn will be turned aside and a new conception of the work of God in the hearts of men will be recognized.

Claricus says: "A person who has a deep experience of sin, its consequences with God's pardon, is not going forth to repeat programs that are sinful. What is needed today in high places and low places is a

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