



SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42:1-7; 72:1-4.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14.

What Is Justice?

Lesson for September 4, 1949

EVERYBODY is in favor of justice but not everybody knows what justice is. Justice is more fundamental than democracy. If we believe that democracy is the best form of government, it is only because we believe that justice can be better secured in this way than in any other.

Justice is as old as God. Since for at least 3,000 years historians, politicians, philosophers and theologians have been wrangling over the meaning of justice, you won't learn the last word about it merely by studying one Sunday school lesson. But this is the place to remind ourselves that justice as an ideal, Dr. Foreman and democracy as a means of reaching that ideal, were not born yesterday.

Labor Day will recall the great services rendered to democracy by the organized workers of the world, for example, in the push they have given to free and universal education. But democracy is older than July 4, 1776, is older than the Magna Carta, is older than the Roman empire, in which one of many motives was "Let justice be done even if the sky caves in!" Justice and democracy go back to the ancient Hebrews, the people who wrote the Old Testament. It was written in their laws, preached by their prophets, sung in their Psalms. But of course they did not invent it. They proclaimed it; but justice is older than the human race. The whole Bible and not only the Old Testament teaches that justice is rooted in the nature of God himself. No unjust person can be called godly.

Songs of Justice
OUR Psalms for this week give us some valuable light on what justice is. Some people think that if everybody were rich, that would be justice. Psalm 49 shows how foolish that notion is. It says in almost so many words, "You can't take it with you."

Riches do not spell happiness. Making everybody rich might mean making many people miserable. Money by itself does not cure the ills of life. It may make them worse or even create new ones. Many a family in the "upper brackets" has troubles that would vanish if they had less money.

Psalms 72 and 82 give us more positive suggestions. Psalm 72 sees it as the king's main duty to judge the people with righteousness and justice. The king was the government, in those days; he was the executive and the legislative and the judicial branch of government all rolled into one. In modern terms, the business of government is something more than furnishing police to look up and punish wrongs after they have been done.

The welfare of the people is the concern of government. When public officials take any other view of their job, they are off the beam. In a democracy, the government is the people, that is to say, ourselves. If things are bad we are to blame for it; if they are going to be any better, we shall have to work for it. Every appeal to a king, in the Old Testament, when translated into terms of a democratic country, means an appeal to the people.

The Little People
JUSTICE always has to be concerned with the little people. It was true in the simple little world of the ancient Hebrews. It is just as true in our global complex world, that the strong will always exploit the weak if there is not a hand to stop them.

God is always for the "poor," the "children of the needy," and he is always against the "oppressor." In ancient Israel the oppressor was usually the big land-owner who treated his slaves with cruelty or underpaid his workers. Nowadays the oppressor is any exploiter, any man or group of men who will use power to squeeze out or crush down the little man.

But justice is positive, not negative, prevention and not cure only. Concern for social justice includes taking care of people laid low by an epidemic or made homeless by fires; but it goes far beyond this. It will mean working for conditions such that no one will be forced to live in unsanitary slums.

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RURAL CHURCHES

Monroe Methodist
W. L. Hall, minister
9:30, Morning worship.
10:30, Sunday school.
7:30, The evening service.
Wednesday: 7:30, mid-week service.
8:15, choir practice.
October 9 to 16, evangelistic meetings with Dr. Charles H. Smith as evangelist.

Linn Grove Christian
Homer Studabaker, minister
Sunday school 9:30.
Morning worship 10:30. Special music Bible day.
Young people meeting Monday evening 7:30. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Thomas.
Go to the church of your choice.

St. Paul and Winchester
U. B. Circuit
Dale Osborn, pastor
Winchester
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
Praying 10:30 a.m.
Prayer meeting, Wednesday 8 p.m.

St. Paul
Sunday school 9:15 a.m.
Christian Endeavor 7 p.m.
Praying 7:30 p.m.
Prayer meeting, Wednesday 8 p.m.

Rivarre Circuit
U. B. Church
L. A. Middaugh, pastor
Mt. Zion
9:30 a.m. Sunday school.
10:30 a.m. Praying service.
7:30 p.m. Christian Endeavor.
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Pleasant Grove
9:30 a.m. Sunday school.
10:30 a.m. Class meeting.

7:00 p.m. Christian Endeavor.
8:00 p.m. Praying service.
8:00 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Mt. Victory
9:30 a.m. Sunday school.
10:30 a.m. Class meeting.
7:30 p.m. Christian Endeavor.
8:00 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

St. Luke Reformed
Honduras
M. H. Meckstroth, minister
9 a.m. Worship service.
10 a.m. Sunday school.
7 p.m. Youth fellowship.

Mt. Tabor Methodist Circuit
Walter Johnson, pastor
Beulah Chapel
9:30 a.m. Morning worship.
10:45 a.m. Sunday school. Raymond Teeple, superintendent.

Pleasant Valley
10:45 a.m. Morning worship.
9:30 Sunday school. Donald Shady, superintendent.
And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins. I Cor. 15:17.

Union Chapel
Evangelical United Brethren
L. T. Norris, pastor
9:30 Sunday school, T. I. Drew, supt.

10:30 Worship service.
Evening Service
6:45 Junior C. E., Mrs. Carl Hurst.
6:45 Adult C. E., Nile Williamson, president.
6:45 Youth Fellowship, Janet Brown, president.
7:30 Worship service.
Wednesday Evening
7:30 Prayer meeting, Omer Merriam, leader.

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ON THE CORNER

Charles E. Wilson Marks 50 Years Of G. E. Service

Charles Edward Wilson, president of the General Electric company, yesterday completed 50 years of service with the organization which he joined in 1899 as an office boy.



Born Nov. 18, 1886 in New York's lower west side, he left school when 12 years of age to help support his widowed mother, rose steadily through the years to positions of increasing responsibility and in 1939 was elected G-E president. Except for his wartime government service, when he served as executive vice-chairman of the war production board with full authority over all war production, Mr. Wilson has spent his entire career in the G-E organization.

Among his many recent activities for the government was heading President Truman's civil rights committee, whose members studied and recommended new civil rights legislation to protect "all parts of our population." Starting as an office boy at the Sprague Electric company, New York City, one of the organizations which went to make up General Electric, Wilson moved from position to position, learning everything he could. At night school he learned cost accounting, general accounting, and enrolled in successive correspondence courses in engineering. The cost of his courses in electrical engineering he balanced by tutoring backward students in physics, mathematics, and other courses he had already completed.

He moved gradually up the ladder, becoming factory superintendent.

When 21 years old, he married Elizabeth Malsch. They have an adopted daughter, Margaret.

By 1923, Mr. Wilson had become managing engineer in charge of General Electric's wire and conduit business with headquarters at Bridgeport, Conn. and in 1930 had become manager of the merchandise department, in charge of engineering, manufacturing, and sales.

He was elected a vice president of the company later that year, and in 1937 was named executive vice president, a new position involving responsibilities for all company departments.

In 1939, he was elected president, and he took office on January 1, 1940, succeeding Gerard Swope. Thus he became the fourth president of the company he had joined 40 years earlier. The other presidents were Charles A. Coffin, Jr., and Swope.

For two and one-half years Wilson served as president. Then, in September, 1942, with the United States struggling to increase production of war material, Mr. Wilson resigned all private business connections and went to Washington at the request of President Roosevelt, to become vice chairman of the WPB. Mr. Swope came out of retirement to resume the duties of G-E president.

At the direction of President Roosevelt, Mr. Wilson became executive vice chairman of WPB in February, 1943, with full authority over all war production. As wartime boss of the huge U. S. production effort, Wilson achieved some spectacular successes. In particular the aircraft, shipbuilding and munitions programs boomed under his direction. He served in this capacity until August 24, 1944, when his resignation was finally accepted by President Roosevelt. Returning to his pre-war work, Wilson was again elected a director and president of General Electric on September 8, 1944.

Mr. Wilson is known to a majority of Decatur G-E employees. He visited the local plant in 1941, just prior to the erection of the new building at the corner of North Ninth street and Dayton avenue.

Grandstaff To Hear His Own Cantata Given Permission To Leave Prison

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 2—(UP)—Life-terminer Frank M. Grandstaff today had the governor's permission to get out of prison long enough to attend the Big Spring, Tex., centennial on Oct. 2 to hear for the first time the cantata he wrote in prison.

Gov. Gordon Browning agreed yesterday to let Grandstaff attend. Big Spring citizens promised they would "see that he gets back."

The 47-year-old convict named his work, composed without a musical instrument for help, after the Texas town he used to visit as a piano salesman.

Mr. Grandstaff, better known here as Francis Instead of Frank, is a former Adams county resident and attended Decatur high school in 1918-1920. He has written several stories which have been published.

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lished and also has authored several musical productions. He has recently written some of his friends in Adams county stating that he had written the cantata for the Big Springs, Texas centennial and he expressed a hope that he would get to attend. Several Decatur people wrote the governor of Tennessee recently asking that he act favorably on the petition for a temporary term under a Tennessee law makes more than a second of forgery punishable by term.

When he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment by a railroad and was charged with the endorsement on three checks. Each was a separate check.

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VA Cracking Down On Training School

Hit Fly-By-Night Schools For G. I.'s

Washington, Sept. 2—(UP)—The veterans administration cracked down today on all training schools established just to attract the ex-G. I. trade.

It said in a policy statement that "schools must now be in operation on their own for at least a year before they accept veteran enrollees at government expense" under the G. I. bill of rights.

This means, VA said, "that unless the one-year minimum is met, veterans beginning training in such schools may not receive subsistence allowances."

VA's statement skirted all allegations that its order was directed against fly-by-night schools which have come into existence recently in the hopes of getting the government's dollar for veterans' training. But one veterans' source summed it up this way:

"Since the G. I. bill became law, training schools have mushroomed. Many are legitimate training schools; some are rackets set up for the purpose of enticing the unemployed veteran into learning and living at government expense."

This source said a recent survey disclosed that about 1,400 new training schools had opened up during the fiscal year ended last June 30.

VA's policy is based on congressional restrictions written into VA's fiscal 1950 appropriation.

Auto Is Slightly Damaged By Fire

Firemen were called Thursday shortly after 7 p.m., to quench a fire started in an automobile belonging to Cecil Melch, 1027 Line street. Little damage was reported by firemen, who put out the blaze shortly after their arrival.

Republican Chairman On Radio September 21

Washington, Sept. 2—(UP)—The Republican national committee announced today that GOP chairman Guy G. Gabrielson will deliver a nationwide radio address on Sept. 21 from his native town of Sioux Rapids, Ia.

The speech will be carried over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System. It will be Gabrielson's first appearance on a national network since his recent election as GOP chairman.

Barsov's Diary To State Department

Diary Of Russian Deserter Studied

Washington, Sept. 2—(UP)—The pencil-scribbled diary of Anatol Barsov, the "repentant" Russian deserter, has fallen into the hands of the state department, it was learned today.

Officials are at work on a translation in an effort to see whether the diary will shed further light on the mysterious case of the Red officer who deserted to the United States, and then voluntarily went back home to face the music.

Examination of the diary marks the first time that government agents have inspected any of the possessions which Barsov left in his Washington hotel room when he was arrested Aug. 17. He was held secretly at Ellis Island for five days, then flown to Austria and finally handed over to the Russians on Wednesday.

Barsov left the diary, another notebook, a few clothes, a Russian novel, and his shaving kit at the Alturas hotel.

The diary was turned over to the state department by Edward F. Jones, assistant chief of the Time and Life magazine bureau here. Jones said his bureau had borrowed the diary from the Alturas manager Wednesday to translate it.

He relinquished it after the manager, Mrs. Ethel K. Allison, told him she had been served with a court order requiring her to give the diary to the state department.

Later it developed that the court order had been taken out, not by the state department, but by the owners of the hotel. Apparently for their own protection, they legally impounded Barsov's belongings, and directed the manager to surrender them to no one but the state department. The department knew nothing of the order.

"As far as we are concerned, the diary came to us voluntarily," one department official said. Persons who have scanned the diary said it deals mainly with Barsov's early impressions of America, with whisky drinking and with the condition of his heart.

Meteor Crater, just west of Winslow, Ariz., is big enough to provide playing space for 20 football games at one time, while 2,000,000 could watch from the sides. The crater was caused by a comet which crashed into the earth.

Trade in a Good Town—Decatur