

## Creamed Comments On S.S. Lesson

Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson, social justice and the gospel, Matthew 5:17-20, 46-48; 23:23-26, for Sunday, July 13.

In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus summarized his teachings and gospel. In this lesson, we deal with righteousness versus hypocrisy, with pretense versus practice of the gospel. It shows that Christianity is more than external obedience to laws, in that one's attitudes and motives are of primary concern.

Vs. 17, 18. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For everily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Christ came, not to annul the divine will expressed in the law and the prophets, but to bring out the full divine purpose contained in them. Jesus had great respect for the law and the Old Testament and quoted from them frequently. He gave to the law wider horizons and greater depth. He added the Lord's Supper to the old Passover; beyond the old law of sacrifice, He lifted His cross. The jot was the smallest letter in the Greek alphabet, the tittle a projecting point on some of the letters—the expression being similar to our crossing our t's and dotting our i's.

Vs. 19, 20. "Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called

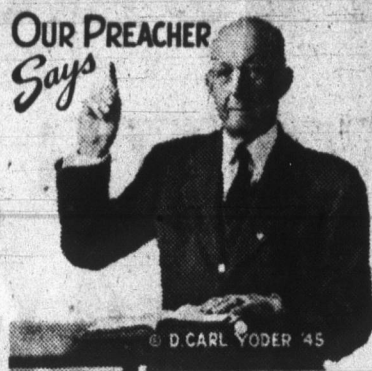
the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. . . . For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Christ is addressing his disciples as future teachers. He urges them to in no way relax the emphasis on the importance of keeping the commandments, but in addition, they were to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, whose religion was formal and legalistic, but involved no change of heart. Theirs was a negative religion and external; Jesus made religion internal and positive.

Vs. 46-48. "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? . . . And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? . . . Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." It is easy for anyone to love their friends by whom they are loved in return, but the Christian way is to love their friends by whom they are loved in return, but the Christian way is to love those who disagree with them, who are even inimical to them. The publicans, or tax collectors, were the most hated people, since they symbolized greed and extortion, and, even they, greeted people courteously. The love Jesus commended was an eager yearning to help others, even hated publicans. The ideal for which we are to work is to attain the kind of goodness that God has, even though we cannot hope to attain the degree of His goodness. This includes a universal love for everyone, friend and enemy alike.

Vs. 23-26. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. . . . Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. . . . Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." The scribes and Pharisees were careful to tithe even a tenth of their food seasonings, but neglected moral issues of major importance. While Jesus in no way minimized the importance of tithing, he bore the scribes and Pharisees for losing their milk to get out any gnat that might be in it. Both the gnat—a tiny insect—and the camel were unclean meat to a Jew, and Jesus uses a proverbial expression to denote the inconsistency of avoiding a minor defilement but being unconcerned about serious moral pollution. Outer ceremonial cleanliness can never compensate for inner wickedness which is demonstrated in extortion and greed.

### Book Review

Nation Under God, edited by Frances Brentano, The Channel Press, is a religious-patriotic anthology including 100 exciting episodes by leading writers, depicting how deep faith has shaped this country's destiny since the Mayflower touched our shores. The book is a stirring spiritual history of America, which will provide pleasure, inspiration and information.



Clerical says: Jesus came to brush out the mere symbols of religion and exalt the real meanings of religion which are eternal. Jesus came, not to destroy the law, but to show us by example how to keep the law in spirit and in truth. By following Him, law and duty cease to be a grim task that we must perform; righteousness make duties and observance of laws a pleasure. The contrast between the man-centered approach and the God-centered approach to social justice is the difference between an emphasis on externals and the inner spirit. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Lesson Prayer: Dear Father, we thank Thee that Thou sent Thy Son into the world that we might know the way to Christian perfection by trying to follow in His footsteps. May we realize that true religion begins in the heart and is free from selfishness, enabling us to love all men, whether friend or foe. Grant that we may ever remember that social justice results from the practice of true Christian faith. Amen.

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

7th and Marshall Streets

C. E. Lykins, pastor

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. This begins a two months drive to gain 20% each Sunday above the corresponding Sunday a year ago.

Worship service, 10:30 a.m., with the pastor speaking.

Young peoples' meeting, 7 p.m. Evangelistic service, 7:30 p.m. Sermon by the pastor.

District missionary convention and assembly begins Monday evening at the district center near Marion, Indiana. Sessions will continue through Friday of next week. The prayer meeting on Wednesday will be led by Dale Hawkins.

A welcome to all in the services of this church.

It is always easy to covet another man's success without ever envying his labors.



ROCKEFELLER'S WILLING—Reading a prepared statement at a news conference in his offices at Rockefeller plaza in New York, Nelson A. Rockefeller says, "I would welcome the opportunity to run for governor of New York state should the Republican party choose me."

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### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Merced Avenue at Five Points

Harold J. Bond, pastor

9:30 a.m., the Unified Service offers opportunity for families to attend worship together and at the same time boys and girls through the primary departments are dismissed to Sunday school classes at an appropriate time. Abbreviated class sessions for all other departments will follow the mediation by the pastor, "Fishing in Vain."

Events of the Week

7:30 p.m., Monday, the Session will meet.

Wednesday, the Ruth and Naomi circles will have a picnic at the home of Mrs. George Bair, 703 Mercer. Members are asked to bring White Elephant gifts.

Thursday, the Mary and Martha circles will have their annual picnic.

July 13th — There will be a congregational meeting following the morning worship service.

Take a vacation—But not from God.

Church school at Trinity church will be at 9 a.m. Clifford Hoverman will be superintendent.

The pastor's class will meet at 9 a.m. in the pastor's study. All who desire to learn more about Trinity Church are invited to attend. The class will meet four consecutive Sundays.

The morning worship service will be at 10 a.m. The organist will be Mrs. Harold Hitchcock. She will play "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing" by Lorenz; "Rest" by Abt. Rev. J. O. Penrod will sing a vocal solo entitled, "A Song of Redemption" by Protheroe. The message will be given by Rev. Penrod. The title of the message is "The Reasonableness of Our Religion." This will be the first in a series of sermons from the book of Isaiah.

Boy Scout Troop No. 65 will attend Camp Big Island at Rome City during the week. They shall leave from the church at 12:30 p.m. They will be accompanied by Harold Hitchcock, scout master.

The Youth Fellowship will meet Sunday evening at 6 o'clock for a period of recreation. The evening is being planned by the Recreation & Leisure Time Commission. The leader will be Onalee Barkley. The title of the lesson will be "Who Stole the Bells?"

The Boys and Girls fellowship will meet at 6:30 p.m. There are classes for all boys and girls.

Evening worship will be held Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Special music will be given by Cheryl Bollenbacher. The message will be given by Rev. Penrod. His message will be taken from the parables of Jesus. It will be entitled "Fruitful Branches."

The Church Council of Administration will meet Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m. Reports from organizations and officers will be heard.

The W.S.W.S. meeting will be held Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Mid-week worship—Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. There will be groups for all ages.

Work and Win class meeting will be held Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Note the change in time from the regular meeting time.

An ice cream social will be held Saturday, July 12 on the church lawn from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The social will be sponsored by the Youth Fellowship which will use the proceeds for the expense of the youth assembly. All are welcome.

Church Calendar

Monday, 7:30 p.m., Salamonie Association Rally for Baptist Men at the Liberty Center Baptist church. Cars will leave Decatur at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., midweek hour of prayer and Bible study.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Women's Missionary Society will meet at the church. Love Gift boxes are to be turned in at this meeting.

7:30 p.m., Girl's Guild will meet at the church.

The services are open to the public. Those who are not attending another church are invited to visit us. You will receive a warm Christian welcome.

BETHANY

Evangelical United Brethren

Benj. G. Thomas, minister

Take God with you on your vacation and holidays. When you are entertaining, keep God in your entertainment. Bring your friends with you to worship in the house of the Lord.

Sunday school, 9 a.m. Clarence E. Smith, superintendent.

Divine worship, 10 a.m. Miss Eleanor Miller at the organ. The pastor will speak on a "A Christian's Reach."

Monday, five juniors will go to Camp Oaks at Oakwood Park, Syracuse. They are Pamela Koos, Nancy Brunner, Tom Johnson, David Snell and Simeon Hain. Ten others are going later this month. The camp will be July 7-12.

Wednesday, 7 p.m., prayer service led by Mr. John Myers.

Thursday, W.S.W.S. Unit No. 4 will have a picnic at 6:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Wm. Christen.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Nutman Ave.

Paul D. Parker, Minister

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Lawrence Michel will have charge of the school. Don't allow the summer months to beat you out of your needed spiritual blessings. Bring the family and worship with us. We have classes for all ages.

Morning worship service, 10:30 a.m. "Church Prosperity" will be the theme of the pastors message.

There will be no evening service Sunday or Wednesday because of our annual camp meeting which is being held at the United Brethren in Christ Camp Ground, Rockford, Ohio. The local church is urged to attend the camp.

You are welcome to attend these services.

Church of Christ

Cor. Washington & 12th

Carroll Myers, Minister

Lee Moser, Supt

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship and Communion. Sermon: "The Christian Soldier". Even though you might be on vacation, don't take a vacation from Christ and his church. Come worship with us. Bring your friends and relatives.

10:30 a.m. Bible School with Leon McClain, Assistant Supt. in charge. This is the first day of our big "Race Thru Space". You come and help us have a big blast off something unusual is planned. Be there. Don't forget BAF. Come see what that means.

NOTE: There will be no evening service this Saturday. This Sunday evening has been declared "Visitation" evening. This morning services will be held as usual.

Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Bible Study and prayer meeting at the church. Everyone is welcome. If your church does not have a Wednesday service, you are welcome to study with us. Come one, come all. Leader, Albert Fry.

Saturday The minister will return from a week on the faculty of the Christian assembly at Lake James.

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Note: Help us to win the nation wide contest in this "Race Thru Space". Please be present every Lord's day during July and August and bring all your friends. That will help us to win. Come for spiritual food and fellowship with Christ.

FIRST BAPTIST

221 South Fourth Street

Stuart H. Brightwell, pastor

9:15 a.m., Sunday school hour. Don Sliger, supt. You are invited to visit our graded school. We have a class for every age.

10:30 a.m., morning worship service. Communion service. Communion message by the pastor.

Mrs. Stuart Brightwell will sing a vocal solo. Mrs. Eugene Lehman is church organist.

7:30 p.m., evening gospel hour. The sermon will be given by the pastor.

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Dr. Jung, the noted psychologist, once said, "During the past thirty years, people from all the civilized countries of the earth have consulted me. Among all my patients over thirty five years old there has not been one whose problem, in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It is safe to say that every one of them fell ill because he had

lost that which the living religions of every age have given to their followers, and some of them have been really healed who did not regain their religious outlook." In order to gain and maintain a right perspective in these troublous times, the church offers a sanctuary where one can gain and renew his spiritual outlook. Why not accept the invitation and come to church next Sunday?

### CHURCH OF GOD

628 Cleveland Street

Huston Bever, Jr., pastor

8:30 a.m., "The Christian Brotherhood Hour," over WKJG. This program is being heard around the world. We invite you to begin your Sunday by listening to Dr. Dale Oldham, the quartet, and the Chorallers.

9:30 a.m., morning worship. We want to continue our fine record of attendance and you can help us by being faithful through the vacation months.

10:40 a.m., Sunday school. A class for every age. We know you will receive good from the well prepared lessons of our fine Sunday school teachers.

7:30 p.m., Sunday evening service. Bring your friends and join us in this service.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., prayer service.

FIRST CHRISTIAN

W. L. Burner, minister

Morning worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Glenn Borchers will be organist. The senior choir under the direction of Mrs. Gerald Strickler, will repeat a special number, "Blessed is the Nation," before dismissing for the summer. Rev. Burner will deliver the sermon entitled: "Whither America."

Sunday school will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Church Activities

Wednesday, an old church picnic will be held at Hanna-Nuttman park. Planned recreation for the children will begin at 4 p.m. The picnic supper will be at 6:30 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy yourself in fellowship and fun.

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