

C R E A M E D COMMENTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON, GOD'S CALL TO FAITHFULNESS, Malachi 2:17 to 3:1-4, 16-18, for Sunday, September 27th.

The time of the lesson is between 430 and 420 B.C. Malachi was the last of the prophets and he spoke to a people who were discouraged because they were so few in number, and because they had returned to Jerusalem and found it completely in ruins. The priests were lazy and corrupt, and indifference and idleness prevailed. Malachi tells the people a half-hearted religion is worse than none at all, and calls for devotion, loyalty, and a religion of deeds, not words.

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# COME TO CHURCH



V.17. "Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them: Where is the God of judgment?" The temple had been completed but the Hebrews had not had the blessings which they thought would follow this achievement. So they started murmuring against God, were careless about the kind of sacrifices they offered, and even challenged the justice of God, since the righteous were supposed to prosper, and not the wicked. Actually, the people had not been truly faithful to God and so did not merit his blessings.

V.1. "Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, asith the Lord of hosts." The messenger whom the Lord would send was to prepare the people and the temple for the coming of Christ. Malachi indicated the present situation with its seeming injustices was not the end. A new era was to be established and God would be proven a God of justice which would please them.

Vs.24. "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's sope: . . . And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. . . . Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years."

When the Lord meets out judgment, the prophet says few would stand the test. Purification, like the refiner's fire, separates the base metal from the true. All actual purification after Christ came depended upon the people's fulfilling certain spiritual conditions. The messenger's mission was to cleanse and purify the priesthood so they would offer sacrifices acceptable unto God instead of the degeneracy that existed among the priests of that day. In the day of Moses, worship was essentially spiritual and called for love toward God and among fellowmen. Noah's offerings had pleased God. The figure "fuller's sope" refers to the daily cleansing all souls need. The "refiner's fire" burns out the dross of the soul.

V.16. "Then they that feared the Lord spoke often to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Those who feared the Lord communed with one another in brotherly fellowship and thought upon God. Therefore, they were remembered and their loyalty was not unheeded or forgotten by God.

V.17. "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man sparing his own son that serveth him." The fact that God is a God of justice is emphasized here in that He will distinguish between the righteous and the wicked and only the righteous will enjoy God's favor. A God of love and justice protects and cares for His loyal children.

V.18. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." God's judgment of the righteous is dependent on their complete loyalty that is expressed in sincere service, worship and care for His loyal children.

RELIGION WITHOUT REVELATION, by Julian Huxley. The New American Library, reinterprets traditional dogma in the light of a generation of unprecedented scientific discovery. The author, a distinguished biologist and philosopher, analyzes a wide range of human experience, stressing the scientific method as the key to man's future religious development.

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Sunday Masses  
6:00 a.m.  
7:15 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. (High mass)  
11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses  
School days: 6 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Non-school days: 6 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH  
Ninth and Madison Streets  
J. O. Penrod, Minister

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; to call upon the Most High." Come with us to Trinity Church tomorrow to give thanks to God and to fellowship with His people.

The Church School will begin at 9 a.m. and it will be under the leadership of Russell Plumley.

The Morning Worship Service will be held at 10 a.m. The pastor message will be "What God Has Done For Me." Miss Kay Wynn will preside at the organ and the choir will sing the anthem.

Members of the youth department will attend the Decatur Group YF Rally which will be held at the Geneva Church. We shall meet at the church at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The Junior-Hi counselors will have a planning meeting on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Boys and Girls Fellowship will meet Sunday at 7 p.m.

Evening Worship will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. We shall study "The Years of Apprenticeship" from 4 to 8 years of age.

10:40 a.m.—Sunday School. There is a class prepared for your age group.

7:30 p.m.—Evening service. We have enjoyed another year of increase in this service.

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.—Prayer service.

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
12th and Washington Sts.  
Wm. Dunsee, Guest Minister

We enter into His presence to worship, to praise, to pray and Commune this and every first day of the week.

Worship service begins at 9:30. Wm. Dunsee will be bringing us a trial sermon. He comes well recommended. We strongly urge each member to be present and hear this man of God.

10:30 a.m.—Bible School. Lee Moser, Supt. Children bring your parents. Parents bring your children. The whole family has a special opportunity for added knowledge.

7:30 p.m.—Evening Service.

Monday evening—Area men's fellowship meeting at Warren.

Tuesday evening—Area Women's meeting at Bluffton.

Wednesday evening 7:30—Prayer meeting. Lee Moser, leader.

Book Review

RELIGION WITHOUT REVELATION, by Julian Huxley. The New American Library, reinterprets traditional dogma in the light of a generation of unprecedented scientific discovery. The author, a distinguished biologist and philosopher, analyzes a wide range of human experience, stressing the scientific method as the key to man's future religious development.

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ZION EVANGELICAL AND  
REFORMED  
(United Church of Christ)

Third and Jackson  
William C. Feller, Pastor  
Church School at 9:00 a.m.  
Laurens Meyer, assistant superintendent, will be in charge. There are classes for all ages. Now that the vacation season is over, let every boy and girl and adult be in his or her place every Sunday.

Divine Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by the pastor: "God's Search For Man." Special music will be presented by Mrs. William Feller, who will sing, "How Great Thou Art" by Hine. Every member and friend of the church is invited to attend. Visitors are always welcome. The greeting committee for September is composed of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schaefer and Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Ashbaucher. The Mission Band, for boys and girls from the first through the fourth grades, will meet during the sermon portion of the service.

The annual Men's Congress will meet in Salem E. and R. church, Magley, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with dinner at noon. Men will leave our church at 10 o'clock to attend the service.

Ruth and Naomi Circle on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at the church.

Church membership class for those who wish to unite with our church next Sunday, will meet in the church parlor on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Ft. Wayne regional Synod meeting will be held in St. John's E. and R. church, Vera Cruz, Ind., on Thursday from 9:30-4:00 p.m.

Senior choir rehearsal on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Catechetical classes on Saturday morning, seniors at 9, juniors at 10.

Sunday school parade on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Participants are to meet at First and Adams streets at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 27, Rally Day. Come and worship with us.

Ft. Wayne regional Synod meeting will be held in St. John's E. and R. church, Vera Cruz, Ind., on Thursday from 9:30-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening 7:45 p.m. Bible study and prayer meeting.

Saturday Evening 7:30 p.m. The hour of prayer for the praying people.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Sermon by the pastor: "Steps To Your Healing."

Evening Service 7:45 p.m. Sermon by the pastor: "Marks Of A Christian."

Wednesday Evening 7:45 p.m. Bible study and prayer meeting.

Saturday Evening 7:30 p.m. The hour of prayer for the praying people.

You always have an invitation to attend the church where people from all denominations can meet to worship God. You will enjoy the spiritual blessing and the encouragement you will receive from the services.

BETHANY EVANGELICAL  
UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH  
Benj. G. Thomas, Minister

Two classes made their climbing goals last Sunday: The Gideons Mrs. John Myers, teacher, and the Men's Class taught by Mr. Martin Zimmerman. All of us need to put forth more effort if we are going to reach the goal set before us this Sunday—350 present. BUT WE CAN!

We are back from our vacations. Let us be in Sunday School at 9 a.m. and in Divine Worship at 10.

The pastor's message is entitled: "The Impossible Reality." You are invited to hear God's word read and explained and then to go out to practice it.

The Extended Session of the Sunday School will begin tomorrow. This offers the boys and girls of the whole family, and start the week off like it should be started. There is a class for you, and you will enjoy being in your class.

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