

The Cherokee Scout

Established July 1889
Published every Thursday at Murphy, Cherokee County, N. C.
WILLIAM V. AND EMILY P. COSTELLO
Publishers and Owners

WILLIAM V. COSTELLO Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Cherokee County: One Year, \$2.50; Six Months, \$1.50; Outside Cherokee County: One Year, \$3.00; Six Months, \$1.75

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Miss Hall Does Summer Work Here

Miss Billie Hall of Rich Square is in Murphy, Hayesville and surrounding areas this summer in church work under the Baptist Sunday School Board in Western North Carolina Association.

Miss Hall arrived in the county Saturday and went immediately to Hayesville where she will assist in Vacation Bible Schools at Truett Memorial and Mt. Pleasant churches. (Continued on page 5)

THE BIBLE SPE
International Union
Bible School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
Scripture: Acts 15:1-29; Galatians 1:1-2
Devotional Reading: Psalm 119:106-112

Free Christians

Lesson for June 14, 1953

WHEN Paul speaks of Christians as "dead to the law" or "free from the law" he is not thinking of what we call the law of the land. Paul was very careful to observe the laws of his own Roman Empire, as well as all local laws. Furthermore, when Paul speaks of Christians' freedom from law he does not mean that a Christian can afford to turn his back on the Ten Commandments, even though when he says "law" he is usually thinking about those Ten Commandments and all they involve. Let us see what is meant by saying Christians are dead to the law.

Law As A Curse
Paul speaks more than once of the "curse" of the law, as for example in Gal. 3:13—Christ "redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us." Now it may seem odd and even perverse to think of law as a curse, especially a good law. And particularly the law of God; how can that possibly be a curse? To understand this we have to think our way back into Old Testament times. There were certainly some people, like the unknown poet who wrote the 119th Psalm, who loved the Law and found joy in studying and keeping it. But for every such man there must have been numberless others who found the law just what Paul at one time in his life had found: a sort of standing threat on God's part. "Do this or else—; don't do that or else—; Don't we know people in our times who think of God as keeping a sort of record book full of black marks, — who think of God as keeping up with us just in order to take down everything bad we say or do or think? A person who is not very conscientious may think gaily, "I'll get by;" but a conscientious person who realizes what a high standard the law calls for, may live in terror lest God demand vengeance for every broken law, great or small. Now the Christian can breathe freely; he is free from such terrors because whatever curse there may be in the law, Christ has taken upon himself.

Law As A Condition
Then the Christian is free from the law as a condition of God's favor. "When shall I be good enough for God to love me?" is a question no one ought to ask. The Christian is one who has discovered that God's love does not wait for our obedience. A mother does not wait till her baby is old enough to understand her and obey her before she will love him. And even when he is old enough to understand, if he disobeys she may disapprove and punish him, but she will not stop loving him. If God had waited to love us till we were good enough to love, he would be waiting yet. It is God's gracious love that produces what goodness we have, not the other way around. Doing what God wants done is absolutely right and we should try our best every day to do just that.

But it is absurd to think that God's love is like a thermometer that goes up and down with the temperature of our obedience. We can't earn our way into God's favor. As we were noticing last week, the smile of God is not for sale.

Law As A Cage
Again, law for some people is a kind of cage. Inside its narrow pattern they carefully live. They do what they must, what the law compels; but beyond that they will not go. They are only as good as they have to be. Now the Christian is free from the law as a cage, just as he is free from it as a curse and as a condition. The Christian loves by faith, hope and love; and these take him clear beyond the limits of law.

A husband who does for his wife and family only what the law requires will be a poor husband. A citizen who will do no more for his country and community than just not to break any laws, is not the best type of citizen. A soldier who will not go beyond the line of duty will deserve no medals. A "Christian" who does no more than barely try to keep from breaking the Ten Commandments is never the high-level Christian. A Christian is free. He is law-abiding; but he does not live "under" law, he lives under Grace. It is a different atmosphere.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

REGAL CLUB FRIDAY

The Regal Club will meet Friday

at the home of Mrs. Beatie Dixon.

Hanging Dog Section Insulted By Magazine

A beautiful section of our county recently was the scene of violence in which a man was shot to death. Another man, accused of the death and found guilty by a jury, was sentenced to death in the gas chamber.

Such acts of violence happen—unfortunately, every day in other parts of the world. When it happens near to home, the neighbors are shocked for a while and wonder how it could have happened here.

We regret that our community has suffered such a black eye, but we don't object to outsiders discussing the incident—just as long as they stick to the facts.

A magazine with a national circulation saw the violent death of our late sheriff as the basis of a story. We in Cherokee County know that story has only a passing acquaintance with facts. Fiction is one thing, but writing a news story, in which the truth is not to be tampered with, is another. That magazine took the fact that a sheriff had been shot and turned loose bad publicity on Cherokee County and especially the Hanging Dog section.

Hanging Dog is not the back woods, mountain ridge, Snuffy Smith infested community the magazine would have its readers believe.

Hanging Dog is one of the most beautiful areas in this section. It boasts a good road, a new school and many modern homes.

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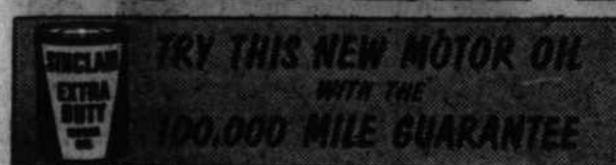
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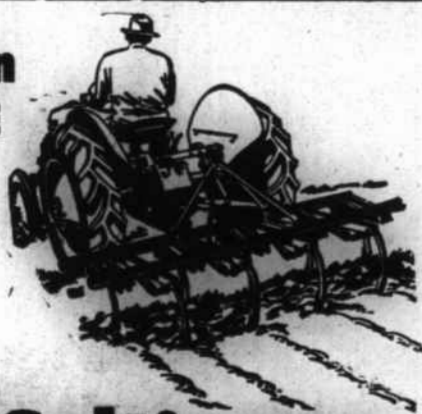


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