

TWO MINUTES

WITH THE BIBLE
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FULNESS OF JOY

About 3,000 years ago David wrote in Psalm 16:11: "In Thy presence is fulness of joy." He was right, for there is no greater joy than fellowship with God. Yet David could not know the fulness of joy now spoken of in Paul's epistles, for he did not know Christ, who later came into the world as God, manifested in the flesh to die for our sins. He did not know that Christ would make full satisfaction for sin and be raised from the dead to confirm our justification. Nor did he know that believers would be given Christ's resurrection life and a position and "all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ" (Eph. 2:4-6; 1:3).

man. This fellowship is to be enjoyed by faith, but it is based on fact, the fact that Christ indeed died our death and rose again from the dead that we might partake of His life and enjoy a position at God's right hand in Christ. This is why the Apostle Paul urges believers of this dispensation of grace to "seek those things which are above; where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." (Col. 3:1).

Peter and John both came to know much of this fellowship through communion with Paul, who was sent to Jerusalem "by revelation" to make known to the leaders there, "that gospel which I preach unto the nations" (See Gal. 2:2-9; II Pet. 3:15-18). This is why John writes in I John 1:3-4: "Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL."

The N. C. Death Penalty Law

This newspaper, raises its voice this week and cries out against the death sentence imposed on the 17-year-old Negro girl of Rocky Mount by the Edgecombe County Superior Court last October. We cry out against the action of the court because we are as diametrically opposed to the taking of human life by legal means as we are by illegal means. To make a long story short, we ask in all humility what man is there on this earth so rid of sin or evil that he feels himself qualified or fit to take the life of another human being, even as an instrument of the law, however horrible the crime his victim may have committed?

Oh yes, Jesus settled the question of the death sentence or the taking of life by legal means, once and for all, when he was on this earth 2,000 years ago, and was confronted by a group of scribes and Pharisees who brought with them a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. The penalty demanded that she should be stoned to death.

"But what sayest thou?" asked the scribes and the Pharisees. "But Jesus stooped down with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him he lifted up himself and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down and wrote on the

ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest, even unto the least: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

So in the face of the laws of this state, which demand death in the gas chamber, for a person convicted of first degree murder, we cry out aloud, he that is without sin let him commit the uncivilized act of administering death to the 17-year-old girl of Rocky Mount. We would have our readers understand here and now, however, that we are as diametrically opposed to the taking of human life, outside the law, as we are to such within the law. We would suggest, therefore, in the place of the vile and uncivilized taking of life by law that life imprisonment become the penalty for any and all crimes demanding a sentence of death in this and all other states of this nation.

So, as revolting as the crime is, for which the young girl has been convicted in Edgecombe County, if it serves to arouse the citizens of this state to the realization that the death penalty, as now administered in North Carolina, is for Negroes and poor whites only, it will, in the end, serve a good purpose—a purpose strong enough to influence the present session of the legislature of this state to abolish forever the sentence of death in North Carolina.

The Integrity of President Nixon

Drew Pearson's Merry Go Round let the "cat out of the bag" last Tuesday, when it told of President's Nixon's behind the scenes moves during the Republican National Convention last year with South Carolina's Senator Strom Thurmond. As we warned in a previous editorial in this newspaper, immediately following the G. O. P. convention, there was great danger of Nixon becoming a puppet president with Thurmond pulling the strings from behind the scenes.

It will be recalled that it was Strom Thurmond who had the honor of escorting Nixon to the podium to make his acceptance speech after his nomination. It now appears, according to Drew Pearson, that an unholy alliance had been formed between Nixon and Thurmond with the former promising, if elected, to "let local districts set the guidelines for school desegregation." This, it appears, was the price Nixon agreed to pay for Thurmond's promise of delivering the white southern vote to him in the national election.

Said Drew Pearson in his Merry Go Round column of Tuesday, February 25, referring to the deal: "Throughout the presidential campaign, Thurmond repeated the promise up and down the South. Wait until Nixon reaches the White House, he promised his southern satrapy. The order will be restored."

Thus it now appears that unless Nixon is less than a man of his word that Negroes of the South are in for hard sledding during the present presidential administration, so far as the integration of schools is concerned. It may be that Nixon, in keeping with his present trip abroad, will make a similar trip through the southern states where he will meet and greet white leaders of the South as their new found "Moses."

If he keeps the promises, it is reported he made to Thurmond, the people of this country may discover, ere it is too late, that they have a puppet president in the White House with Thurmond pulling or manipulating the strings from behind the scenes of his post in the U.S. Senate.

Airline Crashes

The recent series of airline crashes, most of them occurring in very bad weather, should remind travelers mother nature is still an important consideration in air travel.

While it is true that marvelous electronic devices have been perfected and that all modern airliners have equipment aboard which makes them theoretically almost foolproof, the truth is that there is still an element of human error to be considered in all flying and very bad weather greatly increases this danger.

There is also an element of danger in bad weather (not present in good

weather) concerning automatic equipment; in good weather should it fail the pilot can make needed corrections by visual contact. This is not possible in bad weather when visibility is extremely limited.

Flying is still safer than driving one's car, the statistics tell us, and the number of passengers hauled by the airlines continues to increase each year. But, also, the number of serious crashes occurring in bad weather months and periods is higher than in good weather year after year. It's truly incredible what bad weather modern airliners fly in, take off and land in, but mother nature still claims her toll.

All Should Know Black History



"HARVARD UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAM IN AMERICAN NEGRO STUDY. THIS IS AN EVENT THAT SHOULD PROVE TO HAVE FAR REACHING INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION."

WHITNEY YOUNG

-Marshall

(Continued from front page)

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; C. E. Delums, President, Brotherhood Sleeping Car Porters; Jack Greenberg, Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro Women; Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Bayard Rustin, Executive Director, A. Phillip Randolph Institute; Roy Wilkins, Executive Director, NAACP; Whitney Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League. Dr. Benjamin Mays, President, Emeritus, Morehouse College, will serve as Treasurer.

In announcing the 80th Birthday Committee and testimonial dinner, Rustin recounted Randolph's achievements as "the foremost Negro labor leader in our history. He has never wavered in his commitment to integration through peaceful change," Rustin stated, "and he has steadfastly fought against racism of any kind, against violence in any form, and against segregation for any reason."

The A. Phillip Randolph Institute was founded in 1964 to mobilize the nation's resources—white and black—in a concerted effort to bring equality and justice to all citizens. In working with those white forces which represent social progress—organized labor, religious groups, liberals and students—the Institute's objective is to forge a new and dynamic unity between whites and Negroes.

-Teachers

(Continued from front page) an increase of \$750 over the current year.

Alexandria's negotiated bachelor's degree maximum salary of \$11,958 represents an increase of \$1,563 over the current maximum.

Starting salary proposals of \$7,000 have previously been reported from professional negotiations in Fairfax and from the superintendent's office in Falls Church.

-Pearson

(Continued from front page)

eran of civil rights battles in the state's courtrooms since 1932, took aim at disruptive tactics on the college campus. "You can put it down in your book and don't forget it, the institu-

tions are going to be run by the trustees. You can protest, and maybe make some needed changes, but they are going to end up running the schools, and if you don't like it, you can get out."

Pearson said that the color of a lawyer's skin did not guarantee his concern. "There are many black lawyers who wouldn't give a damn about the poor—they are interested in money—and there are many more white lawyers who wouldn't give a damn about the poor, but there are other lawyers who do."

-Catholic

(Continued from front page)

personal salvation and spiritual needs "seriously out of tune with the post-Vatican II Church" and faulting the actionists on the ground that "the clerical role is primarily an expressive role related to human emotional needs, and not an adaptive role related to adjustment to or manipulation of the environment." Lamanna and Coakley caution against launching programs without adequate research, planning, and professional personnel. They also warn that lay Catholics in increasing numbers are becoming disenchanted with the involvement of the Church in political and social issues. They dismiss as "counter-productive" priests who "assume that being Christian means strongly condemning 'white racism' and making guilt-provoking accusations," while adding that "few clergymen have built up the 'capital' of respect and esteem that would enable them to effectively influence their flock on unpopular questions."

The Lamanna-Coakley study was published by the Notre Dame Press as part of a volume entitled Contemporary Catholicism in the United States, edited by Dr. J. Phillip Gleason, associate professor of history.

-Lewis

(Continued from front page)

keeper of finance of the local chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and treasurer of the Kittrell College Foundation. He is married to the former Miss Willa Woods of Wichita Falls, Texas.

MARCH 1—B. K. Bruce (1841-1898), senator from Mississippi, born.

--Official

(Continued from front page) with uniform library circulation rules and a joint catalog of the library's holdings.

WHO KNOWS?

- For what does the "M" in President Richard M. Nixon stand?
- To what verse of scripture was Nixon's Bible open when he was sworn in as President?
- What is Iowa's motto?
- Name the northernmost point of the United States.
- Whose portrait and what building are found on a hundred dollar bill?
- Name the capital of Michigan.
- What is the Roman numeral for 80?
- In Greek and Roman mythology, who was Pygmalion?
- Who was the first woman cabinet member?
- When was Hitler made Chancellor of Germany?

Answers To Who Knows

- Milhouse.
- Isaiah 2:4.
- Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.
- Point Barrow, Alaska.
- Franklin and Independence Hall.
- Lansing.
- LXXX.
- King of Cyprus; carved ivory statue of maiden which Aphrodite gave life as Galatea.
- Francis Perkins, Secretary of Labor, 1933.
- January 30, 1933, by Hindenburg.

MOON-WALKERS NAMED

Washington—The first Americans who may walk on the moon have been named. Neil A. Armstrong, civilian test pilot; Michael Collins, an Air Force lieutenant colonel; and Edwin A. Aldrin, an Air Force colonel. If Apollo 9 and 10 prove successful Apollo 11 is set for a moon landing about July 15.

WATSON ON POST OFFICE

Washington—Out-going Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson has suggested the combining of first class and airmail for the single price of a 7-cent stamp and to tear down those local post offices which look like "huge public monuments." He also suggested the postmaster general be a business man not a politician.

This Week In Negro History

Ninety-nine years ago (1870) on Tuesday of this week the first Negro U.S. senator took the oath of office. He was Hiram R. Revels from Mississippi.

Other events of historical interest to be recalled this week are as follows:

FEBRUARY 24—Bishop Daniel A. Payne (1811-1893), reformer and educator born.

FEBRUARY 26—Fifteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was proposed in Congress in 1869. This amendment was proposed to give suffrage rights to Negroes and former slaves.

FEBRUARY 27—Dominican Republic was established in 1844.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Courtesy—Louis J. Baptiste, Editor, Dept of Church School Literature AMEZ Church

—For March 2, 1969

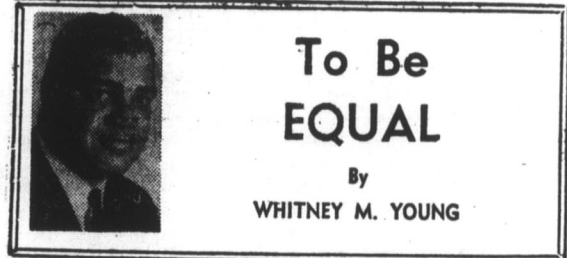
CAN THIS BE THE CHRIST?

Background Scripture: Mark 8:27 — 9:50

Scripture: Mark 8:27-37; Devotional Reading: John 16:25-33

And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? And they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets. And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answered and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. And he charged them that they should tell no man of him. And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be killed, and after three days rise again, and be taken up into heaven. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. And when he had called unto him, he said unto him, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and of the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? GOLDEN TEXT: Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS: February 24-March 2. Mark 8:27-30. T. The Sufferings to Come. Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32. W. To Be a Disciple. Mark 8:34—9:1. T. The Transfiguration. Mark 9:2-8. F. Powerless Disciples. Mark 9:14-29. S. The Question of Greatness. Mark 9:33-37. S. Be of Good Cheer. John 16:25-33. COMMENTS ON LESSON: I. A Good Confession: The career of Jesus was so wonderful that all ideas of explaining ordinary grounds had to be abandoned. In the popular mind the only personages corresponding to Jesus, save John the Baptist, were those of ancient Jewish history, the heroic ages of the theocracy. They all agreed that in Jesus was a revival or reappearance of the religious spirit of the best days of Israel. The opinions of the people were of critical importance to the disciples as they calmly reflected.



To Be EQUAL

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG

The Changing South

ONLY A FEW years ago, in the town of Sparta, Georgia, the only black people you'd see in the county courthouse were there to pay taxes. The large square in front of the courthouse had benches where men sat and talked—but black people dared sit only on a few benches reserved for "colored."

No Negro in his right mind would dare try to register at the hotel. Few dared to register to vote or to run for office. There were no black policemen. Just a typical Southern town with a rigid caste system that kept Negroes "in their place."

All that has changed. A few weeks ago I went to Sparta; registered at the hotel; was served by white waiters and bellhops. I crossed the town square, where whites and blacks were seated indiscriminately, continued past the Negro policemen and entered the courthouse. Inside, I met with the county commissioners, (two of the three are Negro) and with a predominately black audience of voters and citizens.

Don't let anyone tell you that the South hasn't changed.

A New South Is Rising

It may have a long way to go, and I am aware of many, too many, incidents of racism and brutality, and even starvation conditions in some places. But hard as old patterns die, die they must, and a new South is rising.

I'm hardly suggesting that Sparta, Hancock County, Georgia, is a paradise for the black man. It's not. The hard grip of economic deprivation and prejudice takes its toll. But great changes have already taken place, and they are the beginnings of still greater changes to come.

The new atmosphere in many parts of the South is due to the civil rights legislation of recent years. Too many people these days tend to belittle the accomplishments of the recent past that so many fought for and even died for. But the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and perhaps most especially, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, are primarily responsible for the hope of a new South.

Another factor in bringing change to the region is that small band of brave white Southerners who dared to challenge the racism of the political demagogues and plantation owners. Ralph McGill, one of the most outstanding of these men, died last month, but he left his mark on the South.

He Challenged The Klan

A newsmen for almost 40 years, he challenged the Klan, the bigots, and the haters. He befriended the Negro at a time when it was dangerous to do so. He was denounced and threatened, but, as he himself said, "I never struck my flag."

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