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"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

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WHY GO TO CHURCH?

Dear to my heart are thy tabernacles My heart longeth, yea! even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.—Psalm 84.

The writer of this Psalm was shedding no new year vices and making no new year resolutions. He loved the Church of God and found a joy in its worship.

The year 1924 had many discussions of the Church. It carried a symposium on why men go to church and why they do not; why they are members and why they are religious muggumps. The sum total of the discussion was no great contribution to the world's wisdom. But the debate was worth the energy expended in going through it. It is always in order to ask why men do not hold membership in the churches, why they are good members or poor, or why they are not members at all. The church has had its way much in public affairs; but it must make and hold its place.

Everybody knows why David went to church. He tells the world and it knew before he told it. But it is not easy to account for the attendance of so many others. Some of us go because it is a duty, very many of us have that urge alone. And we pride ourselves on doing a disagreeable duty. Church-going is the price that we pay for our salvation and considering the amount of salvation that we believe in, lots of us get cheated.

Others of us regard it a weekly penance which we endure for the sake of absolution. If we are a little more intelligent we see in the church a valuable institution and we go to sustain it. But we are sorry when service hour comes and happy when it is over, just as we are sore when taxing time for the government comes round or payments on our church pledges are due.

There are others amongst us who find the church pleasant socially. The church is beautiful and appeals to our sense of the aesthetic. The pews are comfortable; the dim religious light is agreeable to our eyes dazzled by the glare outside; the quiet is a relief to our aching heads and racking nerves; the music is soothing, the society congenial. It is a good gathering place for friends before and after service. Before rural life was destroyed by paved roads and Fords, the church was a fine place for discussion of crops and politics and the Lord's Day the best social occasion of the week.

Many of the intelligentsia go to the church for intellectual enjoyment. In New York there is Dr. Cadman's church, Dr. Jefferson's church, Harry Emerson Fosdick's church, or in the old days it was Henry Ward Beecher's, Lyman Abbott's, Spurgeon's or Talmage's church. Rounders make up much of these congregations, people who do not wish to be bored by the preliminaries of the average Protestant or by the "reading of the minutes" in the Episcopal church. They care nothing for the service and if they can get good free seats and the preacher is a good entertainer, they enjoy the preaching hour, provided it is only half an hour. Make it snappy in their religion.

To the duty-goer, the club-goer, the lecture-goer, vaudeville-goer, the Eighty-fourth Psalm means nothing. They are spiritual wrecks who may be worth the salvage, but they are hard to save.

The author of this Psalm went to church for very different reasons. He went there to find God. He believed that God was everywhere but somehow found Him very present in the church. Singer David looked into the church for the God of hope when the singer was discouraged; for the God of all comfort when in sorrow; for the God of forgiveness when sin overwhelmed; for the God of peace when life was most tumultuous. And the poet church-goer missed Him when the courts of the Lord were far away. He did not go to see the beauty of the edifice, to hear artists sing, to admire pul-

pit eloquence. He went because the courts of the Lord were cheering to him, because his heart found joy in the tabernacles of the Lord.

Oh, yes, you say, is not God everywhere? Is not all ground holy ground, are not all mountains God's, are there places more holy than others? That isn't the question to ask. Is there not everything in association, is there any such place as home, does any city water supply compare with the old spring and the gourd of your youth? Almost any house will shelter you as well as your own, any hotel will furnish better living quarters, but the hotel dweller knows nothing of the home joys. And an ecclesiastical rounder who knows no church, but moves from church to church, has lost and can not acquire again the love for the tabernacles and courts of the Lord.

But more than association is sympathy. The church is made sacred by men and women who worship in it. The church is a reservoir of spiritual life. Fellowship more than association makes the church. It may be a Roman Catholic cathedral with its High Mass; an Episcopal church with its cathedral service, a Friend's meeting house with only its solemn silence; a Salvation Army hall with its drum, its fife and its Moody and Sankey jazz. You will find in those places hundreds who are really worshippers. You find yourself going with them though their symbols mean nothing to you.

The church is a good place. In it will be found those who most earnestly are seeking the conscious presence of God. And those who are bent on such a search are not driven there by sense of duty, attracted by congenial society, by beauty of architecture, or eloquence of the preacher. And he who finds God in the church will sing with David this song of Zion in a home land.—The Greensboro News.

AND MARTHA SAYS

Women are increasingly interested in world affairs, and their desires and efforts center especially on World Peace. That is natural. Men don't care enough, and children don't know enough, about the cost and the value of human life. Women want World Peace, and they will be a great factor in its achievement. But it will not be won in a day—perhaps not in a generation. We must pray and hope and work for this great blessing.

Meanwhile, there is a bit of peace work that every woman can begin today, and from which she can get immediate results. She can get the peace of God in her own heart and soul, and she can radiate it like sunshine over the lives of her loved ones. She can stop worrying over foolish vanities, trifles, non-essentials. She can stop trying to keep up with the Joneses. She can stop harassing her husband and nagging her children.

There is something wrong with a woman if her husband and children do not call out as soon as they open the front door, "Oh, M-o-t-h-e-r!"

Women long for beauty of face and voice. A serene and lovely spirit is better than a facial surgeon for that ugly line between the brows; and a loving heart is the greatest vocal teacher in the world.

We women are half of the human race. If we will make every unit of our half, a calming, healing, soothing influence, we will soon have men so lamb-like, that they cannot even think war, much less make it.

Let us make our personal peace treaty with the Great Power; let's scrap our words that wound and looks that slay; let's dismiss our standing army of complaints; let's pour so much love into humanity that there will be no room left for hate.—The Christian Statesman.

"MEMORABILIA."

Following is a part of a review of the leading events of the past year, abroad and at home, read by Bishop Edward Rondthaler, of the Southern Moravian Church, at the "watch night" service, December 31, in the Moravian church at Winston-Salem:

Introduction:

What good is there in listening to or reading a year's Memorabilia? Its greatest value is that it gives to a thoughtful mind a whole impression of world conditions both at home and abroad. We can therefore at the close of a year the better perceive what the evils are against which we must struggle and what the opportunities are for good which we can together follow. Thus in our own little individual part we can best serve our God and do our social duty in bringing in the completed kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is only a little place which each one of us can fill but if we do it faithfully our God will not forget it.

World Conditions.

We begin our survey of world conditions with the far east; with that gifted, proud, energetic and prolific country, the empire of Japan. We are sorry to have to state that Japan is in a very restless and angry state of mind and especially so against its friend, the United States. The trouble has arisen through the manner in which the immigration laws were passed by the last Congress. Japan did not object to limitation of its very small immigration into this country and even to the entire cessation of immigration of Japanese to the United States in the course of the next few years, but it is sore and resentful over the manner in which America has in its new law stamped the Japanese as an inferior race. It will take all the patient effort of the Christians in both lands to overcome the mischief which our Congress has thus done to the injury both of business and of Christian influence in that great country.

We look for a moment at China. To judge from newspaper reports China is in a state of great turmoil and of bloody war. The fact of the case seems to be that a few ambitious generals are exercising their armies against each other in widely scattered parts of the great empire, but underneath this apparent turmoil the Chinese appear to be living in patient industry as always.

We glance at India. It is a vast country of three hundred millions of people. The pacifist reformer, Gandhi, has exercised a strange influence over this country during the past few years, but the commotions are ceasing and the beneficent power of England in maintaining the peace of a country where religions are bitterly hostile to each other, still continues.

As we pass farther westward we strike at the great and restless current of Mohammedan thought and life. From China and India in the east all the way westward to where the Atlantic washes the shores of the African coast the Mohammedan religious ambition of two hundred and thirty millions of people, is now alert and excited over the apparent downfall of their political power in the world. Their caliph has fallen, their holy city of Mecca has become the prey of contending factions, their leading state which is Turkey is now limited to a little rural country in western Asia and its two great seaports, Constantinople and Smyrna, lie in decay and neglect. In Palestine they are making a stand against the Jewish invasion of their land, in Egypt the vast current of student thought at the great Mohammedan universities is lashing itself in vain against firm English rule. Everywhere the Mohammedans feel that outwardly speaking they are a beaten people. Under this sense of humiliation much violence and murder have taken place but at the same time there is great hope for a wider intro-

duction of Christianity amongst these children of Ishmael, for whom their father Abraham prayed, "O, that Ishmael might live before Thee." It is a great crisis for Christianity in its relations with a whole vast Mohammedan world.

The acceptance of what is called the "Dawes plan" for the financial regeneration of central Europe is already showing its good effects both in Germany and France. May God use it for the peace of two great nations that have fought each other for 2000 years.

We look with the highest sense of appreciation to England in its brave and honest struggle to pay its debts and to maintain itself with great exertion and sacrifice in view of its over-crowded population of forty millions of mostly laboring people within the narrow territory of an island no larger than the single state of North Carolina. God bless the country so closely kin to us in language, in literature, in religion, in the elements of a joint Anglo-Saxon manhood. It is upon the friendly relations of these two countries that under God the welfare of the world depends.

In the rest of the world, on all continents, things are going on without any particular change; so we dismiss our rapid view of world conditions and come to our own dear land.

The United States.

The chief event in the past year was the election of a President. Again the stability of a country built upon democratic principles has been vindicated, in a land which as Abraham Lincoln said is "Of the people, by the people, for the people." This great election was wrought in perfect peace. So far as we know not a single life was lost amid the excitements of voting by nearly thirty millions of people and when the result was proclaimed everybody acquiesced in it at once with good will and peace, even the aspirants for office.

God has again been very good to America in the harvests of the year—the figures of three staples will give us a sufficient idea of the results of God's bounty over all our land—cotton, about thirty million bales; wheat, nearly nine million of bushels, and corn two billion and a quarter bushels.

The American people would be saved from many a commotion if only immigration could be controlled so as to get the desirable people, without the burden of the undesirables. This is perhaps the greatest social problem that we have, the solution of which every citizen, man or woman, should watch with the very closest care.

We are thankful to God that with all our national faults, in His great mercy, America is still, in the eyes of all the world, "the land of opportunity."

North Carolina.

The New York Times has said this about the new North Carolina that has come to be: "If ever a commonwealth went in head over heels to boom and develop itself, that commonwealth is the Old North State. It is a financial, industrial, commercial regeneration." This judgment has been accepted cordially by all the other states of the Union. What are some of the reasons of this remarkable change in the condition of a state which years ago was considered as being behind in almost every form of development? The President of the United States has, with his usual keenness of vision, given three reasons for this marvelous new development of North Carolina: the agricultural activity, the manufacturing progress, and the development of water power.

The population of North Carolina is growing very rapidly without any appreciable increase of immigration from foreign lands. Outside of the south the foreign stock in the United States at large amounts to nearly one-half of the population. In New York City 76 per cent of the population is of foreign stock. In North Carolina the foreign element is the smallest of any state in the Union, the

native population being 99.3-10 per cent. This native population has increased so rapidly on account of the remarkable birth rate in North Carolina, wherein it exceeds all the other states, and the remarkably low death rate, in which it is also round the top of the list. The result is that we have a homogeneous and rapidly increasing population. They are all of the same language and mostly the same Protestant religion. They know each other better, can talk with one another the more satisfactorily, and can labor more vigorously hand in hand.

This is furthermore the case in the agricultural life. In many other states the population streams into the great cities which are becoming congested. We have no great cities in North Carolina but a number of smaller ones and very large towns and prosperous villages, which give a better average chance to everybody. The rural districts in North Carolina are not deserted—a native people is cultivating them with ever increasing good results and the beautiful new homes which one sees along every road show how contented and prosperous they are.

The great development of improved roads has added to the general benefit of both town and country. We cannot give North Carolina's annual mileage growth in some of the finest examples of road building in this country, because our work of scientific road construction is proceeding with such leaps and bounds that one scarcely has given a statistic on the subject before it is already antiquated.

The progress of the school system in North Carolina is almost unprecedented. The value of the school buildings and grounds in North Carolina has in 20 years gone up from \$1,000,000 to \$48,000,000. Seven years ago North Carolina spent \$1,000,000 a year on school maintenance, last year she spent \$23,000,000.

And so it has come to pass that in its manufacturing establishments, in the value of its lands, and in all other resources which it has, North Carolina has multiplied its total wealth by 10 in the last 20 years.

Winston-Salem.

Anybody who rides over the city after having noted its increase in stately buildings, in greater or smaller churches, in school buildings, and in magnificent mansions, will come to the conclusion that after all its chief wealth is in the very great number of modest, comfortable homes that have been built or are now in process of building. The suburbs are rapidly growing in every direction and on the western side of the city the stately R. J. Reynolds Memorial Auditorium with its accompanying great high school looks down in all its beauty, upon the populous valley below. There always awakens, however, in the passerby a regret that the wide-hearted and generous benefactress, Mrs. Katherine Reynolds Johnson, has not lived to see more of the good which she has so nobly instituted.

No year in the history of Slater College has seen such extensive physical development. Four additional buildings costing when furnished approximately \$200,000 have been completed during the year, of which the most important is the administration building and recitation hall, combined, erected to take care of the work of the Normal School and Teachers' College. The objective of Slater is a four years' teachers' college for the training of well-disciplined leaders of the colored youth in modern educational and industrial lines. In this development the city of Winston-Salem through its school system is rendering the utmost cooperation with Slater and is furnishing opportunity for practice teaching and observation which combine to give the Slater Normal and Industrial School the best educational opportunity of any similar institution for the race in the State of North Carolina.

The Moravian Church.

In view of the detailed and

valuable accounts which the pastors of the several affiliated churches will now give, we confine ourselves to a general survey of the condition of the Moravian church in town and country during the past year. It has been in some respects the most remarkable year through which the southern province has ever passed. It has been a 12 month of unprecedented liberality, and in the giving by the one part affectionately for the other. The many new church edifices arising and the other improvements are all contributions out of the pockets of the whole membership, showing their good will to each other and the desire on the part of all to benefit the particular section in which God has placed them and so to serve the glory of God in the salvation of as many souls as our beloved church is called to reach.

Conclusion.

Thus we come to the conclusion of our year's record in which the bright lines, thank God, exceed the dark ones and by which we hope to encourage our brothers and sisters in doing all the good they can, for the church, for the people, and for the Lord, in the hope of being able to do still better when they come to the kingdom, to the beautiful land that lies beyond.

NEW STARTS IN LIFE.

One of the things people often desire is another chance. "If I could only live my life over again," they say, "I would do so and so." Vain, indeed, is the asking. None of us can return and begin again but we can begin right now and just where we are and make the remainder of life so sweet, so happy and so useful that we will have little time to regret the past in the joy of present service. Next to numbering our blessings, the happiness of forgetting our hardships is one of the sweetest experiences of life.

With the New Year let us take a new start in thinking and speaking kindly of others so far as that is at all possible, and when we cannot commend, try to keep silent, unless by doing so we betray a friend, violate truth or mislead some one. When in doubt lean on the side of charity and forgiveness.

Each year, each month, each day, each hour offers opportunity for a new start. If it is not improved what assurance have we that if life could be lived over again we would make more and better out of it than when we stood at its opening gates with the morning sunlight in our faces.

If sorrows are written in the book of life for us in the coming years they are mercifully hidden and let us be grateful that we do not have to bear the load until it comes.

For most people the coming year will have more of sunshine than shadow, more of success than defeat, more of health than sickness.

Be glad, be brave, be strong, be true; sow sunshine, dispel clouds, cultivate good will, strengthen the weak, cheer the lonely, comfort the sad, be tender to children, affectionate to parents, kind to the unfortunate, just to all and faithful to God and there will be little to gain by a new start.

These are our best wishes for the New Year, but whatever experience comes, meet it with confidence and composure.

"Our lives are songs, God writes the words; We set them to music at pleasure. And the song grows glad or sweet or sad As we choose to fashion the measure."—Moral Welfare.

The census of 1920 showed over 1,000,000 children from ten to sixteen years of age working in the United States in factories, mills, canneries, agricultural, mines and in other industries and occupations. Nearly 400,000 of them were between 10 and 14 years of age.