

International Sunday School Lesson
For
APRIL 28, 1963
 * (These comments are based on the International S. S. Lesson Outlines, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, USA, and used by permission.)
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FAITH GIVES SECURITY

Memory Selection: "Be still, and know that I am God."
—(Psalms 46:10)

Lesson Text: Psalms 23; 46.

Our only real security comes from faith in God. This is a simple statement which we will endeavor to enumerate as we study our Bible Lesson for today.

Our study continues in the Book of Psalms. Both the Twenty-third and the Forty-sixth Psalm need no introduction. Next to the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23 is undoubtedly the best known portion of the Bible. Intensely personal, it has been a source of comfort and inspiration to millions.

We are a troubled people living in a troubled world. The vagaries of nature plague us—earthquakes,

tornadoes, fires and diseases. And as if nature were not enough to contend with, our dependence upon others brings suffering and pain. The world, with the advance of knowledge, science, and gradual understanding of things hitherto unknown in the Universe, has grown smaller. Distance, no longer means anything any more, and with nations struggling for emancipation and power almost on each other's doorstep, the future sometimes looks bleak indeed. We live in the "shadow of the mushroom," and though we earnestly hope and pray for peace, we are not assured that there will be peace from one day to the next. Strident and discordant voices reach our ears; and we are uncertain what to believe about our government, our church leaders, the present, the future.

Entangled as we are with the multitude of problems and heartaches, we might wish at times that we could live in the quiet and peaceful days of old. Perhaps we think it was easier for the psalmists to feel the peaceful security of God because they had less formidable foes to face. But an understanding of the psalms for today will reveal that their problems were just as great as ours. In fact, just because the psalmists spoke of human problems that are so common to all people, their message is ever pertinent, ever

modern, ever up to date. And the Twenty-third Psalm affirms God's provision in helping man meet his basic needs. Every man needs food, water, spiritual refreshment, safe and healthy ways of living. Each of us walks through valleys of "deep darkness" or "the valley of the shadow of death." In the very presence of those who would harm us physically, emotionally, or spiritually, we must eat, drink, and live. Psalm 46 introduces us to still other dangers, such as the tragedies of nature: the earth changes; the mountains shake; the sea is a fearsome force of destruction in time of storm. The nations of the world still rage at one another, and governments come an go.

Under the present-day stresses in our lives, millions of us seek ways of escape from our tensions and pressures; the suicide rate grows rapidly; the sale of tranquilizers increases; some of us are overactive, crowding our days with activities designed to "keep us busy"—even to the extent of neglecting necessary daily functions in our family lives. We tend to "spread ourselves out" too thinly to be really effective in any one particular field. Any religious book offering "peace of mind" can become a best seller. We seem hungry for this kind of food. But in the light of his agony in Gethsemane and on the

cross, we know we who follow Jesus of Nazareth seek to withdraw from the world of struggle and pain. The peace Jesus brought is the inner security of being within God's will, not the absence of struggle or the denial of responsibility.

The security the Psalmist found did not rest in a changing world or in passing governments or in ceaseless activity or in fighting others. His security was in God himself, a close, intimate, faith-relationship to him. And because we, too, are spiritual beings, the solution for our spiritual problems must be found in a spiritual relationship of trust and love. The Psalmist gave no blueprint for life. He offers no chart for governments or peoples. He offers, instead, that which made his life confident and rich; a fellowship with God, his shepherd, his refuge, a very present help in the midst of trouble.

Regardless of circumstances, painful or not, we are ever secure in God's love for us, in ours for him, and in the certainty of the eternal worth of his purpose for us. This is true security; this is the message of the Psalms.

The people who manage to keep their heads above water nowadays have learned to stay out of the expensive dives.

Savings Bonds Sales High — State Is Ahead Of Quota

With Savings Bonds sales continuing to climb higher, North Carolina has achieved over 27 percent of its annual quota in the first quarter of this year.

For the first three months of 1963 cash sales of Series E and H Bonds were over \$13 million 800 thousand. This is an increase of almost 2 percent over the comparable months of last year.

Total bond sales of over \$4 million during March were nearly 6 percent above March a year ago.

The Savings Bonds Program in Madison County, which is headed by C. L. Rudisill Jr., had sales during March of \$7,793.00. For the year the County's sales amount to \$36,878.00. This is 22.1 percent of its annual quota. Chairman Rudisill, in expressing optimism over the performance of the Savings Bonds Program in the State and County, said, "A great factor in the growing success of the Savings Bonds Program is the excellent support being given to it by local media, banks, and industry."

He further pointed out that from May 1 through July 4 a special Freedom Bond Drive is being conducted throughout America. A major objective of this Drive is to

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sell at least one bond to every American family. To help reach this goal, service, veterans, farm, professional and women's organizations are cooperating.

Revival To Start At Oak Grove Baptist Church

Revival services will begin Sunday evening April 28 at Oak Grove Baptist Church. The Rev. M. L. Kierstein, pastor of New Morgan Hill Baptist Church at Enka will be bringing the message each evening at 7:30 o'clock. Everyone is welcome to attend this revival.

The Rev. Clell Fisher is pastor of the church.

ROARING FORK

Mrs. Hubert Pangle, Writer

Mr. Bill Bagby will fill his regular appointment at Bethel Christian Church Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fowler and three daughters visited Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wyatt Sunday. Also Mrs. Carolina Pangle and Buena Frisbee.

Mrs. Dale Balding and Gail visited her mother, Mrs. Lucy Parker Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Carolina Pangle is spending this week with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Whitson of Asheville.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Pangle and son visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts Friday night.

ANNOUNCING 23rd Annual Meeting

Of The French Broad Electric Membership Corp.

Saturday, April 27, 1963 -- Marshall High School Gym

Free Prizes - Big Displays - Co-Op Reports - Discussions - Election Of Board Of Directors

Registration Begins At 10:00 a. m. ----- Business Session At 1:00 p. m.

Speaker: Mr. J. C. Brown Jr.

Executive Manager Tarheel Electric Membership Association

To Be Eligible For Prizes You Must Receive Electric Service From Cooperative, Be Registered And Be Present At The Drawing

Lulu Belle and Scotty Wiseman, famous country music stars of Radio, Stage, Screen and Television, will perform at the Marshall High School Gym for the 23rd Annual Membership Meeting of French Broad Electric Membership Co-Op on Saturday, April 27.

Scotty, with the help of Lulu Belle, has written many famous songs. The most famous among teenagers today is "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" You will agree when you hear them that they have never lost the real quality and common touch of genuine country music. The entertainment will begin at 11:00 a. m., with local talent. At 11:45 a. m., there will be a drawing for a special door prize. The Girl Scout Troop, assisted by their leaders, will be serving lunch. Proceeds will be used to further the Girl Scout program in this area.

Come early and enjoy the music and have your lunch at the same hour.