

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## BELIEF IN GOD TODAY

International Sunday School Lesson For January 11

Golden Text: "Without faith it is impossible to please him. For whosoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."—Hebrews 11:6.

Lesson Text: Isaiah 40:28-31; John 14:8-14.

In our Scripture passages, the first from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament, we are given a portrayal of God. In chapters 40-55, Isaiah rises to great heights of eloquence "in portraying the incomparableness of God, the universal Creator, the omnipresent Ruler. The eloquence of these chapters is without parallel in the entire literature of the ancient oriental world." (Robert W. Rogers).

Of course, Christ came into the world to be the revelation of the Father God to his children. In practically every reference Christ made to God it was to "My Father," from the first appearance in the temple to meeting with the twelve, when he declared, "I must be about my Father's business," to the last hours upon the cross, when he said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Harry Emerson Fosdick has declared, "Christ has given man his loftiest idea of God, not so much by what he said as by what he was. That is an amazing thing to have done. In a world where multitudes have groped after God, guessed about God, philosophized about God, he lived a life of such self-authenticating spiritual

grandeur that increasing multitudes of people when they try to think about God can say nothing so true, so satisfying, so adequate, as to say that God is like Christ. That is an amazing thing. He did it."

The world today is hungry for a knowledge of God and it is the mission of the church to bring into the world the facts about God. Henry Luce, in a recent article in The Christian Century, asks, "But are there any facts about God? In the last few decades much of American Protestantism has not only acted but spoken as if there were no facts about God. It is true that our intelligentsia no longer treat religion as if it were, at best, a childish joke, but it pleases them to make a curious distinction between science and religion. Science, they say, is concerned with facts, and religion, by their kind leave is concerned with something they call 'values.' This kind of talk, says Robert Bulkley in The Christian Century, 'is sheer nonsense which would be laughable if it were not so dangerous. Either God exists or he does not exist. That is not a matter of goodness or beauty but of truth . . . If it is true, Christianity is true; if it is false, Christianity is false, and any attempt to rehabilitate it and use it for its contributions in the field of value are both stupid and dishonest.'"

Canon Theodore Wedel, of the Washington Cathedral declares, "An entire generation or more has grown up, even within the churches, who have never heard the true Christian gospel." The cry which Philip uttered, "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us," is the cry of hearts today. Jesus would answer today, as he answered Philip of old, "Have I been so long time with thee, and hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." If one would know God as a reality, one must, of necessity, know His Son, Jesus Christ, the revelation of God to man. To know Jesus really, to see him in all the splendor of power and goodness is to realize the final supremacy of love. His only power was the power of love and love today, if given sway, would conquer in all realms of life. Read again the description of love (charity) which Paul gives in the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians.

How can God be made real to us? Again quoting from Dr. Emerson Fosdick, "To many people God is only a vague Being in whom they dimly believe, but with whom they have no dealings . . . nothing is real to us except those things with which we habitually deal. Men say they do not pray because to them God is not real, but a truer statement generally would be that God is not real because they do not pray. In an exclamation that came from the heart of personal religion, the psalmist cried, 'O, God, thou art my God' (Psalm 63:1). To stand afar off and say 'O God,' is neither difficult nor searching. We do it when we are giving intellectual assent to a creed, but it is an inward and searching matter to say, 'O God, thou art my God.' The first involves only opinion, the second must be reached by prayer; the first leaves God afar off, the second alone makes him real. To be sure, all Christian service and all insight into history help to make God real to us; but there is an inward certainty of God that can only come from personal communion with God."



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J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the country's No. 1 crime fighter, calls on the Christian Church to help banish juvenile delinquency. Mr. Hoover's article was prepared at the request of "The Rural Churchman," a paper published by the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

## J. Edgar Hoover, Head of Federal Bureau Of Investigation, Calls Church To Curb Crime Says Church Attendance and Crime, Like Oil and Water, Do Not Mix — Unchurched Boys and Girls Are the Juvenile Delinquents Almost Without Exception — Disintegration of Home Greatest Cause of Youthful Crime

At the request of Mrs. E. T. Boyd, editor of *The Rural Churchman*, published by the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, expressed his opinions on the problem of crime prevention, and emphasized that churches have an important part to play in this task.

"The churches are in the front trenches of America's crime prevention crusade," Mr. Hoover said. "Never before has there been

such a challenging need for aggressive, inspirational leadership among the boys and girls of this country. At the present time only half the youth of America are being reached by the churches, and of those who are being reached, entirely too many are merely 'on the rolls.' This failure to make contact with the bulk of tomorrow's citizens is producing a fertile field for future juvenile crime. If America is to remain a Christian nation devoted to the fundamental ideals of the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule, then more adults must assume the responsibility of preparing young Americans for virile, dynamic Christian living.

"Church attendance is a vital factor in the Nation's crime prevention program. While serving as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the past 20 years, I have been profoundly impressed with the fact that the 'church-going-people' are the most substantial group of citizens in the Nation. Church attendance and crime appear to be like the ingredients of oil and water—they do not mix.

"The Churches have an excellent opportunity to fight the causes of crime. These are many and varied—lack of proper parental guidance, lack of wholesome companions, lack of discipline, lack of respect for the rights of others, disregard for parents, and constituted authorities, lack of emotional stability. The value of the church in filling many of these needs is obvious.

"Through experience we of the FBI have also observed that those who are active in some church are also the people who seem most interested in establishing a genuine 'home' for their children. The greatest single factor in crime causation among juveniles today is the disintegration of the American home. We need homes where children feel inalienably attached to the family circle, a place where questions are answered, sympathy and affection received and frequent daily family activities promoted which allow expression and participation by every member of the group. We need homes where children learn respect for their parents, respect for law, respect for God and the religious principles which must be perpetuated if America is to survive as a great nation.

"In both church and home children must be made to understand their individual responsibility for personal conduct.

"It has become imperative," said Mr. Hoover in closing, "that every American arouse himself to the urgent necessity of instituting in each community a wide variety of activities, programs and policies designed to counteract the present trend. Respect for law, personal liberty, life and property, must be preached, taught and practiced. There must be a veritable crusade against crime. The churches have a vital task in making contact with our youth, in re-decorating and restoring the American home, in providing inspirational religious leadership, to make America the law-abiding, God-fearing nation our forefathers designed it to be."

tees invited the members of the club to the dining room, where a delicious birthday cake was all trimmed with candles. Miss Maness assisted the hostesses in cutting the cake, and jello and salted pecans were also served to the following members: Mesdames Alfred Lane, Colon Jackson, W. O. Hunter, Jesse Chesson, Addie Jones, Milton Dail, Misses Annie Parker and Frances Maness.

## WHO KNOWS

1. What is the population of Siam?
2. What is the ancient name of Siam?
3. For whom was the "Holland Tunnel" named?
4. What anniversary did the U. S. Marine Corps observe recently?
5. When will Britain end her mandate and military occupation of Palestine?
6. How many commercials were broadcast on our radios in 1947?
7. How much did restaurant tips cost Americans last year?
8. How many tons of cereals will Europeans need to import this year?
9. What are the most crowded cities in the United States?
10. Is a college education necessary for a farmer?

### THE ANSWERS

1. 15,000,000.
2. Thailand.
3. For its chief engineer, Clifford M. Holland.
4. The 172nd.
5. May 1, 1948.
6. More than 26,000,000.
7. Approximately \$400,000,000.
8. 22,000,000 tons to maintain present diets.
9. Memphis, San Antonio, Birmingham, Atlanta and New Orleans.
10. College-trained farmers earn five times as much as those with only grade-school educations, on the average.

## Experiment Station Releases Bulletin

"Factory Meets Farm in North Carolina" is the title of a new bulletin just released by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, and free copies are available to residents of the state who request them. Dr. Francis E. McVay, assistant agricultural economist for the Station, wrote the bulletin, basing it on

### DO YOU KNOW—



That the almost extinct buffalo or bison was the only native horned cattle found in America, but has never been domesticated. A year after his discovery Columbus brought the first farm animals to this continent—a bull and several cows.

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## TAYLOR THEATRE

EDENTON, N. C. SHOWS CONTINUOUS EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

Today (Thursday) and Friday, January 8-9—

Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour and Bob Hope in "ROAD TO RIO"

Saturday, January 10— Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton in "CODE OF THE SADDLE"

Sunday, January 11— Walter Brennan and Ruth Warrick in "DRIFTWOOD"

Monday and Tuesday, January 12-13— John Garfield and Lilli Palmer in "BODY AND SOUL"

Wednesday, January 14— Double Feature Freddie Stewart in "SMART POLITICS" Also "DEVIL MONSTER"

Coming January 15-16— "RED STALLION"

## ANNOUNCING . . . THE OPENING OF RIVERSIDE AUTO SERVICE

AT MATT MATHEWS' OLD STAND  
The Riverside Auto Service will open on January 15 and will be operated by Charlie and Frank Ward. Complete auto service will be offered for all makes and models automobiles, trucks and tractors. We will be equipped to install auto glass in all model cars and trucks.

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