

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## PSALMS OF TRUST

International Sunday School Lesson for July 31, 1949

Memory Selection: "I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress; My God in whom I trust."—Psalm 91:2.

Lesson Text: Psalm 34: 3-8; 37: 3-6; 46: 1-3.

While the Psalms are poetry, there is a difference between Hebrew poetry and English poetry. Hebrew poetry is recognized neither by rhyme nor meter. It is characterized by parallelism of lines and rhythm of accent. This parallelism may consist of two lines, a couplet; three lines, a triplet; four lines, a quatrain; six lines, a sextet, or eight lines, an octet.

Often the second parallel line matches the first in meaning. In the greater part of the Psalms, this is true. Every other line could be omitted and still there would be readable poetry. But, sometimes, the second parallel line, instead of being similar in meaning to the first, has the opposite meaning, as

The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous

But the way of the Ungodly shall perish.

For our lesson this week, we are studying the Psalms of Trust. The trust which the psalms, selected for our study, express was not the result of a care-free and sheltered existence but the note of hard-earned triumph over adversity. Thus comes their appeal to troubled believers.

Psalm 34 begins by an acknowledgment of the rightful place of God in human life—that of the central place. The soul that really knows God is always praising Him for his goodness to it. Trust in God delivers the man of faith from the uncertainty and fear which come with the inability to see one's way through the confusion of a world in turmoil.

No one who has had the experience of trust in God can help wanting others to share it. Verse 3 is an invitation to join with the psalmist in praise to the God who makes himself the Guardian of his people. The psalmist gives his personal testimony that when he sought the Lord, the Lord was there and delivered him of his troubles. Out of his great assurance of the presence of God, the psalmist appeals to those who have not yet found the key to the happy life to make the great adventure of faith, to accept the divine invitation, to find for themselves that the great claims of religion are a glorious fact.

The 37th Psalm contrasts the lives of those whose trust is in the Lord with that out-and-out worldling whose soul is centered in himself and in the world. While those who make worldly success their main goal in life attain it more frequently and in larger measure than those who put it in secondary place, the psalmist says there is no real ground for envy. The prosperity of the worldling is transitory. It is only a summer-time wealth which he enjoys, and, like the greenness of summer foliage, it will wither under the chill breath of the autumn of adversity which is sure to come.

Wealth may never be the portion of the God-fearing man, he may never gain a place of high importance in this world, but of his integrity, the strength and beauty of his character, there will never be any doubt. He will have moral and spiritual riches which the world can never give and, in these things, he will find an abiding peace which the rich man can never hope to know.

The 46th Psalm is a great hymn of confidence, sung above the uproar of a world of conflict in which the great foundations are shaken and nothing is secure any more. In time of crisis and terror, this psalm has been a source of the deepest comfort to hard-pressed souls of every time and every place. Surely, this psalm is needed for our own time in which nothing seems secure and a great fear is over all the face of the earth. Down the ages comes the steady command, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Earle M. Hand, in *The Secret Place*, asks a pertinent question: "Do we wish to have a singing heart? The key is in our own hands with which to unlock the door to happiness. If we commit our lives wholly to Christ, trust him in all things, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you," he will give us singing hearts. Try it for yourself!

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



Just a typical American family, living in a typical American town:

Mr. Johnson had to climb the ladder of success the hard way—but he kept on climbing.

Mrs. Johnson smiled her way to happiness—smiling through weariness, smiling even through tears.

Marian's life seemed to blossom overnight from dolls to dates, and with the blossoming came a beauty that is more than skin deep.

And little "Chip," for all of the mischief in his merry eyes, shows promise of the same honest courage that folks admire in "the old block."

A certain church—one of the churches for which their town was named—has been mighty dear to the hearts of the Johnsons all these years. Their loyalty, their energy, their unselfish generosity have helped to make it "a fine church."

And that church, through the God-given truth it is teaching, has helped make the Johnsons "fine people."

### THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his community and nation. (3) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verse
Sunday	Matthew	18	15-20
Monday	Ephesians	3	14-19
Tuesday	Philippians	2	1-11
Wednesday	Romans	14	4-12
Thursday	Genesis	18	22-33
Friday	Genesis	22	1-14
Saturday	Genesis	45	1-6

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# Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Duling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

**BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Harold C. Turner, Pastor  
Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.  
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor  
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

**PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
E. B. Edwards, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.  
Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.  
Third Sunday  
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.  
Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. W. Davis, Supply Pastor  
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
Elizabeth White, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services, 11 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

**PINEY WOODS FRIENDS MEETING**  
Rev. Carl J. Yow, Pastor,  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
G. M. Singletary, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.  
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
D. L. Fouts, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

**BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**  
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**  
E. T. Jilson, Rector  
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.  
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.  
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

**BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Walker Perry, Pastor  
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go