God's Requirements

By DR. PAUL K. AUSLEY Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

(Ed. Note - Dr. Ausley, also moderator of Kings Mountain Presbytery, delivered this sermon at Tuesday's meeting of Kings Mountain Presbytery at Armstrong Memorial Presbyterian Church in Gastonia).

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah, and was a fearless spokesman for God to declare divine judgment upon wickedness, to foretell the universal blessedness of the messianic reign, and to state the essential qualitieid of true rengion. From this prophecy we learn something of the clearcut ethical teaching of the Hebrew prophets, which was affirmed and interpreted forcefully in the teaching of Jesus. In our scripture lesson we have the sublime description of a coming era of peace, and then the classic definition of religion in tenns of justice, mercy, and reverence to ward the Lord. There are many ideas of religion. For some religion is many forms, rituals. and ceremonies, or rules and creeds. According to God it is none of these things. The one important thing is to learn God's idea of religion, to accept it, and to follow it.

The prophet looks forward to the coming of the Messiah, to the transforming power of the gospel in the world, and, finally to the consumation of the kingdom of Christ. There is going to be happy and genuine worship. "The house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted atove the hills; and people shall flow unto it." In the Messianic reign there will be peace, the Messiah will "judge among many people, and rebuke the strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Micah 4:3) The people will turn their instruments of war into tools of agriculture and industry. In humble submission

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doth the Lord require of thee, but ship of the Messiah, and learn dicate the motive we have in our him. to do justly, and to love mercy, from Him the ways of peace. dealings. Our action toward milan dto walk humbly with thy That goal can never be achieved lions facing starvation will reapart from a knowledge of Jesus veal our Christian integrity. Of Christ, the experience of Salva. course, it will require effort to

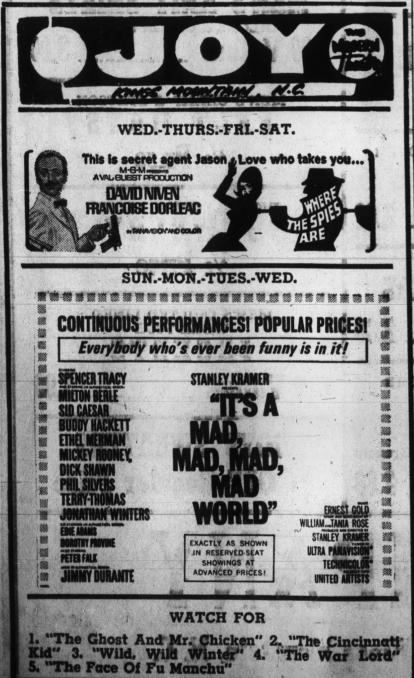
> to be just and kind and to live if he will think about the words in quiet fellowship with Him." of the Lord Jesus Christ-"It is This is a verse of scripture better to give than to receive" which millions of Jews and Chris. he will change his purpose of tians have known and repeated selfishness and be kind, considwith great aspirations. It has erate, and willing to share with served as a pivot for all great others. religions and I know of no other verse of scripture that ex. GOD presses the core of religion so This fellowship is made possiadequately as this one does.

The expectations of God seem to dig into our inner nature and acts as a safe-guard for making our decisions. Whether we realize it or not, this distinctive and inherent part of mankind helps us to think clearly on social issues and to act for the common good of all concerned. However, we do not always obey the decisions that comes from within. but when we do, we not only help ourselves, our fellowmen, but also fulfill our duty to God. I. JUSTICE

Justice is a word all of us use freely, but we seldom stop to define it. The conception of justice has been distorted by many good people. For instance, a man is brought into court and found guilty and has to pay the penalty, he is ready to condemn all courts because he feels that he has been wronged. Any honest person will have to concede to the fact that most of the courts are doing their best to protect and defen dthe citizens of the country. Now and then these people make mistakes but this nappens to all of us, and what happens occasionally should not be accepted as the policy of a court. So we need to get a better picture of what justice is. Justice to the ordinary man is

to be found in everyday living. That is, we recognize the right of others and that all are workng for the ideal of justice in a ommunity. Education plays its reatest role here; it not only rains leadership for the good of society, but also it continues to explore the best way of life for 'he individual and society.

The story of the Last Judg ment, so vividly told in the Gospels, places men in two groups. One destined for heaven, and the other eternal punishment. The harge brought against the latter group was that they had seen the Lord in prison and had not visited Him; hungry and gave Him no food; naked and gave Him nothing to wear. Immediately they wanted to know just when they had seen the Lord in such a condition. You will notice they did not say there were no people who needed help, but when was the Lord in such a condition? This was a confession that they had ignored their fellowman and failed to discharge their responsibility to society These men were respectable and loved justice, but blind to the practice of it. Many of us ignore those about us, yet contend that we are following Christ. We should take a closer look at Christ's requirements for being a Christian.



Kindness is the second re-ship is a vivid experience, yet so

tion, and the practice of the have kindness, but this is true principles of His Kingdom. with everything. The individual with everything. The individual A modern version expects you will think of himself first, but

III. WALK HUMBLY WITH

ble through Christ. This fellow-**Poultry Industry**

quirement of the Lord. A man few enjoy the benefits, because must have that extra something they are too busy to take the which impells him to go beyond time required. The poverty the half-way mark. Kindness is stricken spiritual world needs poultry industry has begun a University at Raleigh. beyond the realm of compulsion this strength which is imputed to campaign on a statewide basis and when manifested, has that man in the quiet hours with God. and create an active and fullygreat personal touch for which Most Christians are 'embarrassthe world is so hungry. Kindness ed when they come into the presasks no reward for it springs ence of God for they discover and Dennis Ramsey, Rose Hill, from a warm heart touched by their spiritual nakedness. But are heading the membership Kindness involves moral hear that still small voice of choice. It reflects our true na- God speaking to us and our TEXT: Micah 6:1-8 V-8 "What men will acknowledge the lord- ture. The decisions we make in hearts yearn to grasp more of

> Man's resource is in God, and God's commands, man taps that resource. There are men and women who have faced hard and the criterion for this is age. These people know what grief is. They have carried their burden without murmuring or what sustained thon. These peoand carried a smile that amazed one in need! the people of the community. Not only that, they also ministered

Begins Campaign

staffed poultry council. E. S. Kendricks, Wilkesboro,

for completion of the drive. "The North Carolina Poultry

the grace of God to do this. But if you recall, Christ promised to be with his people even unto the through humble obedience to end of the world. What does the Lord require of us?

1. God requires us to be just ships and met it with great cour. "Do unto others as ve would have them to do unto you." 2. God requires us to be kind

the example of this is given to complaining. Outsiders wender us in the parable of the good Samaritan. No race, or creed hin-

we give ours to Him?

Council, Inc., has functioned with out financial support since 1950," Veterans Officer explains Dr. W. C. Mills, specialist in charge of extension poul-North Carolina's \$200 million tr ywork at North Carolina State

as our industry has grown."

cial strength, the council will Mountain, N. C. on Thursday have a central headquarters with February 17, from 10:30 a.m. to Canada has more water rean executive secretary who will 2:30 p.m. to assist with veterans serves than any other country. represent the poultry industry on matters of mutual concern of all segments of the industry.

"With this kind of broadlybased organization, the industry should have a stronger and more unified voice in matters of public policy affecting the industry,"

Each member in the expanded ple retained a good disposition dered him from being kind to council will pay yearly dues of 32 3. God requires us to walk hum- in the organization's efforts and bly with Him — the test of this, activities in the areas of legislaunto those about them. It takes Christ gave His life for us, will tion, research, education and consumer relations.

Plans Feb. Visit

The N. C. Veterans Commis-"However, opportunities for ter, District Officer in the Sher- senior year in high school. The service have far outgrown the iff's Building with the County children who may have completstructure of the existing council Service Officer at Shelby, N. C. ed high school or will graduate Thus, council membersaip has on Monday February 7 and again after we are there a while, we campaign. March 1, has been set been extended to all full-time on Monday, February 21 from poultry industry employes. With 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He will greater membership and finan also be in the Town Hall, Kings

and their dependents.

Mr. Winchester stated, children of veterans who believe to qualify for educational benefits and/ or N. C. College Scholarships should apply for these benefits sion will have Jack C. Winches during the early part of their

> Olive oil is the principal ingredient of castile soap.

next spring should file now."

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