

# Bible News

By MARY ALLRED  
Member of Women's Speakers Bureau, American Bible Society

In all the literature of the world there is no book that has contributed so richly to the upbuilding of character and to the serenity and peace of the human spirit as the Bible.

The Bible leads us to God, and teaches us His will. Yet few people know how to read this Book. This is true even of many professing Christians. It has little real value for them. Usually they will not admit this. They feel that to do so would be a kind of sacrilege. If they were altogether frank, they would have to concede that they get very little help from the Bible, and that they do not read it regularly.

One young woman, a church member, said to someone recently, "I never read the Bible except when I am looking up a passage about which I have had an argument with someone." A young man confessed that his mother, who is now dead, had urged him to read the Bible. "I honestly tried to read it," he said, "but I couldn't make anything out of it. I keep it now in the bottom of a bureau drawer."

Others make a practice of reading exactly one chapter a day, but if you press them to tell you what help they get from this reading, they are vague and uncertain. In the course of a conversation a woman said, "The Bible is a wonderful book. I just wouldn't dream of commencing the day without reading my chapter." The minister's question to her "What did you get out of the chapter this morning?" ... What lesson did you learn?" ... left her embarrassed. She was not able to recall anything from her reading, not only that day but every day. She felt she was accumulating merit by reading a chapter a day. It was the right thing to do, she thought, altogether apart from whether she was helped by her reading.

There are many reasons why one might read the Bible. One most important reason is that the Bible is a practical guide to life.

Try this method that many have used and see if it does not help you. First: Begin with a book of the Bible and continue to read in small installments in that book until you have completed it. Then select another book and read it through to the finish. In

this way you will not miss any of the searching messages of God's Word. For this purpose the Psalms and the New Testament will be most helpful.

Second: Keep on reading until you come to a verse that you can feel is God's marching orders for you for the day. Don't be afraid to mark your Bible. Underline every verse that searches your heart. God's spirit will bring its truth to bear upon your heart and mind. Carry that verse with you through the day. It will be as a staff on your journey. In many a trying hour it will steady and inspire you.

Third: Mark the place where you have finished reading and commence with the next verse the following day. It may be advisable for you to tarry on the one verse for several days or even a week until the full implication of its teaching has been brought to bear upon your life. You will find that, in many cases, you may have read ten verses or fifteen before coming to that one that you feel is God's message for the day. On the other hand, maybe you have read only four or five verses, or in more exceptional cases, only one.

Fourth: Always preface your reading by a brief prayer that God's Holy Spirit will bring the truth of His Word to bear upon your heart. As you open the Bible to read the verses from the place where you left off, ask yourself this question: "What is God's message for me today?" Exclude from your mind every thought of the application of this message to other persons whom you know in your own home or among your business associates and friends. This is God's message for you. The power of concentration and the ability to apply God's message to your own life, and yours alone, will come slowly. It will increase with your growth in spiritual discipline.

## Civil Service Exams Slated

The Postal Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Greensboro, has announced that applications will be accepted until further notice for examination for positions as substitute postal clerk and substitute city letter carrier. The positions to be filled are

## This Is The Life

By DONALD E. THOMAS

### THE RICH YOUNG RULER

One day a rich young ruler came running and knelt before Jesus. "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" he asked. Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You must keep the commandments," replied Jesus. "I kept them all since I was a child," replied the ruler. What else must I do? Jesus looked and loved him and said, "Sell all you have and give to the poor." Then take your cross and follow me. When the young ruler heard this, he went away in sorrow, for he had great possessions. That is true. As long as we don't give our money, our time and ourselves, we are all for him, but when you have to dig down, that's it. We are too busy trying to make more money. Money can't get you into Heaven nor can the church. How can we be saved? By accepting Christ as our Savior. This is what Jesus says: "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God."—St. Mark 10:23.

in the post offices in Chowan and surrounding counties. Starting salary for positions at first and second class post offices is \$2.57 per hour and \$2.19 per hour at third class offices.

Applicants will be required to take a written test and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment according to rating achieved, without regard to race, creed, sex, color or national origin.

Interested persons should secure complete information and application forms from their local post office or from the executive secretary, Postal Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, P. O. Box 3603, Greensboro, N. C. 27402.

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# Make Church-Going a Habit

## Sunday School Lesson

### THE SOURCE OF OUR FAITH

International Sunday School Lesson for January 9

Memory Selection: "Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.'"—Matthew 16:17.

Lesson Text: Psalms 19:1-4; John 20:24-31; Romans 1:19-20; 10:5-17; II Timothy 3:14-17.

In today's lesson we endeavor to illustrate the ways whereby we can recognize the sources of our Christian faith, so that we may embrace our Christian heritage.

Our Scriptures today cover, in part, the conversion of Thomas' doubting to an act of acknowledgment. Thomas had not been present with the disciples when Jesus revealed himself to them for the first time after the Resurrection. Therefore, when they related the wonderful happening to him, Thomas could not fully accept their story and demanded proof.

That Thomas was innately a believer is indicated by the fact that when Jesus appeared and invited him to touch his wounds, and thereby reassure himself, Thomas did not avail himself of the invitation, but cried out with all his heart: "My Lord my God."

God gave us the universe, and while we have explored certain factors in this regard, and added greatly to man's knowledge in so doing, there is much that is unknown to us. The laws of the universe are many and varied. They are orderly and rhythmic in that orderliness. But the extent and capacities of the universe are fully understood only by God. Certainly, as we gaze upon the great canopy of the sky, we must necessarily feel dwarf-like before such beauty and such majesty. We cannot but feel that it took a Supreme Being to create such a wonder. And who among us has

not gazed upon the small perfection of a new-born baby, and marvelled at the gift God has given us to create another human being — another soul? Such revelations must surely become fundamentals of faith.

But the root that is strongest of all, on which our faith is based, is God's gift of Christ to mankind. Our Christian faith rests firmly on God's disclosure of himself through his only Son.

The Old Testament exemplifies the expectation of the Messiah; the New Testament teaches the revelation of Christ to mankind. And in Christ's short stay on earth, in his conquest of evil, in his healing of the afflicted, in his resurrection from the grave, is God's dominion over mankind graphically illustrated.

This is the revelation we have to accept; but only if we accept it wholeheartedly, and base our lives on that acceptance, can we experience a sense of completeness within our faith. For faith, although it can be revealed and strengthened greatly by true witness, and can be made to encircle the globe by proclamation, must, in the final analysis, be a personal thing between us and God.

Certainly there are many things that exist outside ourselves, that can strengthen our faith and bring us closer to God. The administration of the Holy Sacraments, the power of preaching, the study of the Scriptures themselves — all these serve to strengthen our faith; but, without genuine, heartfelt acceptance — without personal acknowledgement — we are incomplete within ourselves. Such is the power of our faith.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copy-righted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission).



## WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE

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

The Church is the greatest factor 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 his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) 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.

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Sunday Acts 1:1-11	Monday Acts 4:1-12	Tuesday Acts 16:19-24	Wednesday Acts 16:35-40	Thursday Galatians 2:1-10	Friday Galatians 4:21-31	Saturday Hebrews 10:19-25
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## Town Of Edenton

W. B. GARDNER, Administrator