

**The Cherokee Scout**

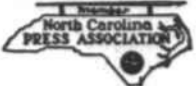
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**WORDS OF LIFE**

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Minister  
Church of the Messiah  
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Murphy, N. C.

Scripture Reading: St. Matthew, 6: 24—end.

Text: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God". St. Matt. 24: 33.

An interesting line of thought, this! "Seek ye first the kingdom of God". It is advice most given, and least often followed.

How do we allot our time, our energy, and our interest? Usually, we seek most faithfully to succeed in our occupation, or "living". Then, if there is time left over, together with enough energy to want to crawl out of bed Sunday morning, we plan a trip to go fishing, or go to see the in-laws. And, all too often, if we go to Church on Sun-

day, it is to take our place in the community and if we send our children to Sunday school, it is for a like reason. And yet, in our souls, every one of us knows that the Bible has not been repealed, nor the nature of the soul; and that the only path from earth to heaven is the old old well-marked highway,—"seek ye first the kingdom of God."

Just what is the kingdom of God? The years that have gone before, we have learned a lot (or, have we?) both about what the kingdom of God is, and what it is NOT. Let us get a mirror, and take a look.

First, God's kingdom is not an earthly empire. How the Jews were disillusioned when they found this out! Like children reaching for candy, they could already taste the joys of being God's chosen people, and of administering the world by his authority, and for their benefit. But alas, the kingdom of God is purity of soul, and is not the administering of authority, but submission to authority divine!

And America, the new "chosen" people of God, the world's most prosperous nation, is realizing now that the having of all the gifts of prosperity on many fronts is no guarantee for the future. By our prosperity, and the preponderance of power in the world that it gives

us, we can be sure neither of the friendship of foreign nations, nor of the continuance of prosperity within. Our leaders today, business and religious alike, warn us that Christ, and character, and love, are the price not only of future greatness, but of survival as well. The old verities have never been repealed. There is only one "security" that does not turn slippery beneath our feet; and that one security is "seek ye first the kingdom of God."

Man likes to pick his own highways from the cradle to the great beyond. Man has loved the high-way of empire. He has reached into far continents and islands to establish his colonies, to exploit, and to build his spheres of influence; and has said, "behold our provisions for the future". And just what did he provide for the future,—racial tensions! and the danger of Communism seeping in! Modern man, like the Jews of old is finding that the road of empire is not the road to heaven,—"seek ye first the kingdom of God."

And another road is popular,—the road of self-advancement. We honor the man who is self made; and still more we honor anyone who is successful. Whether a man wants to discover unknown insects, or build an industrial empire, we look up to him who makes a success. But, when a man has won success, and self stands out triumphant, there still comes back the whisper in the wind, "what price shall a man take for his soul"? A life dedicated to self cannot also be dedicated to God—"you cannot serve two masters". And through the gloom from the great beyond we sometimes catch the words put by Shakespeare into the mouth of Wosley, "If I had served my God with half the zeal with which I served my king, he would not thus have left me, in my old age." Too late the realization comes that he who serves success or persons serves this world. And again, this time as an epitaph of what might have been, we read he words, "seek ye first the kingdom of God."

And what of the kingdom of pleasure? Sunday, used as the

Lord's day, is a gift to us from God. Without His act of setting His day aside, the week-end would have remained simply work days. Yet, as so-called Christians, Sunday becomes to us the day of the kingdom of pleasure,—to stay late in bed,—to drive high in the mountains,—to go fishing,—to go to see the kinfolks,—to lounge around the house and watch TV. How about when death calls? Like the voices of the unwise virgins, calling in the night for the oil they DIDN'T put in their lamps, so our spirits hear the voices of the devotees of pleasure calling in eternity,—"We are believers in God and in Christ,—we just didn't have time for the externals". And the words float back, "the kingdom of heaven is within you". "If you had known me, you would have done all things as I instructed you in the words, "seek ye first the kingdom of God".

For each of us, the seeking of the kingdom of God is the road to glory eternal. For love, nurtured in the heart, expresses itself in voice and in face and in sweetness of character which is eternal. The individual has a reward now, and in eternity,—they can take to heaven with them the blessings of others. And faith leads to achievement. If the making of money be glorious, how much more glorious is the establishing of Christian customs in your neighborhood, the basic changing of our own lives, and the seeing of how children take as a pattern to imitate those in whom faith leads to works. And it may be that hope is close to the greatest of all. For if a person has hope in Christ, he will retain his courage, and retaining his courage, he will preserve unto the end, even unto judgement and salvation. For these, the words "seek ye first the kingdom of God", are a hum of victory.

For the kingdom of God is within you. It is your birth by the Holy Spirit in baptism. It is your prayers by the bedside of a friend. It is your longings and your guidance in bringing up children to be companions with Christ, and to obey God. It is your sacrifice of fishing trips, and of Sundays naps, to your own attendance unto the word and work of God. It is the setting apart of your car for mileage unto God on Sundays. It is the guiding of your own soul along the king's highway, where the signs and markers are faith, hope and

**BACKWARD GLANCE**

10 YEARS AGO  
Thursday, September 25, 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Pruden Davidson spent a few days last week with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davidson, enroute from Millville, N. J. to Dallas, Texas, where they will make their home. Mr. Davidson is chief engineer of Armstrong Cork Company's new plant.

Mrs. John Bayless returned to her home in Knoxville Wednesday after three weeks here with Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Bayless and her mother, Mrs. Nettie Axley.

Mrs. Dixie Palmer and Miss Hattie Palmer had as guests last Thursday, Mrs. Palmer's son, Bob Palmer and Mrs. Palmer of Young-

love.

To sum it up, he who seeks first the kingdom of God, he it is who, in the end, arrives.

The story is told of a prince who was oppressed by the sight of the dirtiness of his kingdom, the laziness of his people, and the hopelessness of any efforts to make things better. In his desperation, he ordered that every man, woman, and child in his kingdom should cultivate, in every yard, and on every roadside, the blue flower. They did. Yards and roadsides became beautiful. Soon garbage was removed, and houses were repaired and painted. Hope replaced indifference. Thrift replaced laziness. These things are no mystery to him who seeks first the kingdom of God, for like the electric current within the electric light, when the kingdom of God is within, the whole life glows with beauty.

Can YOU live and work in the kingdom of God—is it within the reach of ordinary you and me? The answer is YES. By cultivating love within your heart, we can live always in the sunshine of God's love. By taking to ourselves faith within, we can attain objective after objective in bringing Christ, and His type of success, into our daily human relationships. And by keeping always the hope of heaven before us, we can face with courage which does not turn back each of the difficulties we meet, even unto the door of eternity.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God".

stown, Ohio, and Mrs. Albert Vest of Cleveland, Tenn. They were enroute home from a trip to Hot Springs, Ark.

J. D. Cobb is spending this week with his sister, Mrs. Thomas Spencer and Mr. Spencer on Route 2.

Mrs. W. A. Hoover and children and Mrs. Mabel Massey spent the week-end with Mrs. Hoover's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Sullivan in Cherryville.

Miss Roberta Henson of Franklin spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hyatt and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ward of Sunbury visited Miss Addie Mae Cooke Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Reed of Knoxville were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hyatt.

Mrs. A. E. Vestal of Asheboro is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Robert Weaver, Mr. Weaver and children.

20 YEARS AGO  
Thursday, September 25, 1927

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Lee and Mr. and Mrs. H. Bueck spent the week-end in Atlanta.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pass of Hayesville were visitors in town one day last week.

Mr. Tom Evans Jr., left Tuesday for Knoxville, Tenn., to enter the University of Tennessee where he will be a member of the Junior Class.

Mr. Bill Miller left Thursday morning for Atlanta, where he will resume his studies at Emory University.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hobbs of Chattanooga, Tenn., were the week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Moody.

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Miller were visitors in Robbinsville Tuesday.

The Civics Class, taught by Miss Higdon, is learning the forty-eight states and their capitals.

**ON OUR STREET**

By SALLY DAVIDSON

Fellow sitting on store window ledge, eating a "side walk sundae", looked like a "brown cow" to me.

Teen-age boy and girl with "one" large chocolate milk shake and two straws.

Car from California loaded with pottery and baskets from our Indian reservation.

Guy found out his mama had a hot apple pie for dinner, made it just in time to get the first piece.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Franklin and daughters, spent last week-end in Chattanooga and Manchester, Tenn.

Miss Frances Cover of Andrews was a visitor in Murphy Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Massey and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ellis spent Sunday in Franklin.

Mrs. Ervin Young of Chicago, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Gentry.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Russell, of Palmetto, Fla., were week-end guests of Mrs. Mattie Taylor.

30 YEARS AGO  
Friday, September 30, 1927

Miss Pauline Martin who is teaching school at Cheoah, is spending several days at home.

Mrs. J. C. Slocumb returned Monday from a visit to her parents at La Crosse, Wisconsin.

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