

International Sunday School Lesson for MAY 19, 1968

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WHAT IS MAN'S DUTY TO GOD?

Memory Selection: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."
—(Ecclesiastes 12:13.)

Lesson Text: Ecclesiastes 5; 12.

The message contained in our Lesson today is that insincere worship is an offence to God. He sees into our hearts, so we do not deceive Him if we are hypocritical. We must not go into

His house simply because it is the "thing to do" . . . an acceptable custom. We must go, rather, fully aware of where we are going, and what our attendance implies. This attitude on our part is the only way to be receptive to the renewal we can derive from our church attendance — the renewal of spirit that everyone needs in life . . . the ability to hear, to remember, and use. For a clear, uncluttered mind, divested of everyday cares and business worries, is a receptive mind.

The philosophy contained in the Book of Ecclesiastes is especially applicable to our day and time. Ecclesiastes is concerned with spiritual riches, as opposed to worldly riches.

Today, unfortunately, money — and what money can buy — has become the yardstick of modern American living. We need to heed the voice of Ecclesiastes . . . "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain; this also is vanity."

If we will but pause and reflect we will realize that money can-

not satisfy our spiritual needs; on the contrary, it can blunt our sensitivities, our concern, our love for our fellowmen . . . all of which was the basic teaching of Jesus Christ while He was on earth, among men. And while we acknowledge that there is, of necessity, no virtue in poverty, we CAN take heart in the knowledge that there IS an advantage in being unencumbered by possessions!

Tranquility of spirit is hard to come by, embroiled as we are in the hectic pace of our twentieth century world; yet is one of mankind's greatest riches. For, while knowledge and progress have brought mankind many benefits, they have also exacted their toll — mentally, emotionally, and physically. It becomes increasingly harder to set aside a time for quiet reflection, for communication with one's inner self, and with God. Indeed, there are many among us who actually fear solitude, so conditioned are we to the pace today!

It is noteworthy that communion with God, throughout the Bible, has always taken place in

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quiet, lonely places. God chose His leaders from among the people, and — without exception — they were men who, by occupation, were forced to live apart from the companionship and the distractions of cities and commerce! Would it be too much to suppose that such men were therefore given to analyzing themselves inwardly, without the distraction of people, places and things? Would it be unreasonable to presuppose that their spirits were more understanding, more tolerant towards the preoccupations and foibles of others; their ears sharper, their eyes keener than the eyes and ears and spirit of those of the cities, surrounded as they were by the noises, the demands, the distractions of commerce and politics?

Man is not great by virtue of his worldly possessions; rather, he attains greatness by reason of his inner strengths, his inner beliefs . . . and these are nurtured by communion with God.

The writes of Ecclesiastes had lived fully, experimenting with his life, and had come to the conclusion — by trial and error — that the fundamental values of life were not contained in worldly things, but — rather — in the spiritual values. That he was (in later years) able to reduce his life to the fundamental truths, is to our everlasting benefit, and we will be wise if we heed this printed word. We can learn the hard way . . . by our own mistakes; we will, however, be wiser if we learn by the experiences of others.

By virtue of the writings by Ecclesiastes, let us resolve to set aside a few minutes each day, in the wilderness of our beings, to commune with God, to seek His guidance, and to dedicate ourselves anew to His service.

Singing

There will be a gospel singing at Maple Ridge Baptist Church in Candler, on Sunday, May 19, at 2 p. m.

All singers and listeners are cordially invited.

With Our Boys In Service

AIC Frederick Messer left Monday from the Asheville-Hendersonville Airport to Travis AFB, Calif. He has been spending his leave with his parents and relatives. He is the son of Mrs. Martha Rector of Marshall. He recently graduated from a Combat Pix Course at Lowry AFB, Colorado. He will be assigned to the 601 Photographic Flight Sq. at Korat AFB, Thailand. His job assigned will be 16 MM Motion Picture Laboratory Technician. Airman Messer is a 1965 graduate of Marshall High School.

Vietnam — Airman First Class With U. S. Combat Air Forces, John V. Treadway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade W. Treadway of Marshall, N. C., is on duty at Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam.

Airman Treadway, a security policeman, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

The airman is a 1966 graduate of Marshall High School.

Namfi Range, Crete, Greece (AHTNC) — Specialist Four Clyde L. Worley, 29, son of Mrs. Hazel E. Worley, Route 1, Marshall, N. C., took part in an Army Air Defense Command "Short Notice Annual Practice" (SNAP), recently at Namfi Range, Crete, Greece. He is a member of Battery A of the 73rd Artillery's 5th Battalion, a Sergeant Missile unit in Germany.

Participating units are given only 48 hours warning before being airlifted to the range. While at the site, crewman fire live missiles against radio-controlled aerial targets. The annual testing is designed to keep air defense units in a state of constant readiness to perform their missions.

His father, Clyde E. Worley, lives on Dallas St., in West Asheville.



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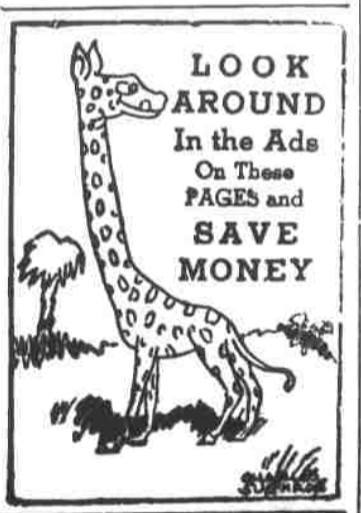
NOTICE OF EXECUTRIX

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF MADISON

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of THOMAS H. BAIRD, deceased, late of Mars Hill, Madison County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of October 1968, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of April, 1968.

MRS. NAN W. BAIRD, Executrix, Mars Hill, North Carolina. 4-25—5-16c



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