

RELIGION FOR THE MODERN WORLD



SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11-13; Genesis 12:1-9.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Romans 8:1-9.

Creative Power of Faith

Lesson for October 19, 1947

THIS lesson takes us to the Westminster Abbey of the Bible—Hebrews, eleventh through the thirteenth chapters—to meditate for a season upon the valiant souls in the long ago who obtained a good report as they stood at the passage of destiny and sounded the trumpets of triumph, even the trumpets of faith.

The reader will be richly rewarded to stop right here and open his or her Bible and read these three chapters. Your attention will be riveted to the word, faith.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of 'things which do appear.'" Hebrews 11:1-3.

A Journey to a New Land

I WANT the boys and girls to look at the passage which describes how Abraham, "when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

How could Abraham leave his pleasant situation in Ur? Through faith in God, and that alone. A memory verse is here suggested: "I will trust, and will not be afraid," Isaiah 12:2. Abraham might well have been afraid of unknown enemies, of disease, of poverty. Men do become afraid of these things, unless their faith is in God. But Abraham believed in God—had faith in God. And he went forth, holding the hand of God.

There is creative power in such a faith. Abraham discovered that every step he took was accompanied by God. He built altars. He talked with God, and God talked with him. Such will be the experience of every boy and girl who stakes his or her all upon implicit faith in God.

What Faith Can Do

INTERMEDIATES are considering what they will do with their lives. It is the vitally important period when they are wistfully considering a life career. This lesson would seem to clearly indicate that God has a purpose and plan for each life. He will reveal that plan to "those who trust him for guidance. Faith in God at this point is absolutely essential if we are to live victoriously.

Read again the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and see how these heroes of faith in the long ago cast themselves wholly into the will of God for their lives. We can have no doubt about their ultimate success.

Parents and teachers are here reminded of their solemn responsibility in pointing intermediate boys and girls to the truth of Sunday's lesson. Life is too valuable, too fleeting, to be frittered away in purposeless drifting.

Faith is the bright shaft of God's presence and power to guide young people into his will. It is the unflinching light to direct their steps daily. It is the creative power to sustain them each step of the way.

This Power at Work

TAKE any one of the characters portrayed in these three chapters of Hebrews and see how faith in God produced men and women who changed the course of history.

Young people are interested in biography. I would commend to you the lives of the great men and women of modern times, who lived in the creative power of faith in God.

John Wesley, for example. There was a man whose life, when strangely warmed by the spirit of God, lifted England from the depths of secularism and set her feet once more on the highway of worthy achievement.

Martha Berry is another splendid example. Miss Berry devoted her life to God's will and purpose to open doors of opportunity to the under-privileged boys and girls of the southern mountain areas. Today, at Mt. Berry, stands a school with the largest campus in the world—a school which reveals what one life can accomplish when that life is built by the creative power of faith in the Living God.

"Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee."

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NEXT WEEK: ANOTHER BIBLE LESSON

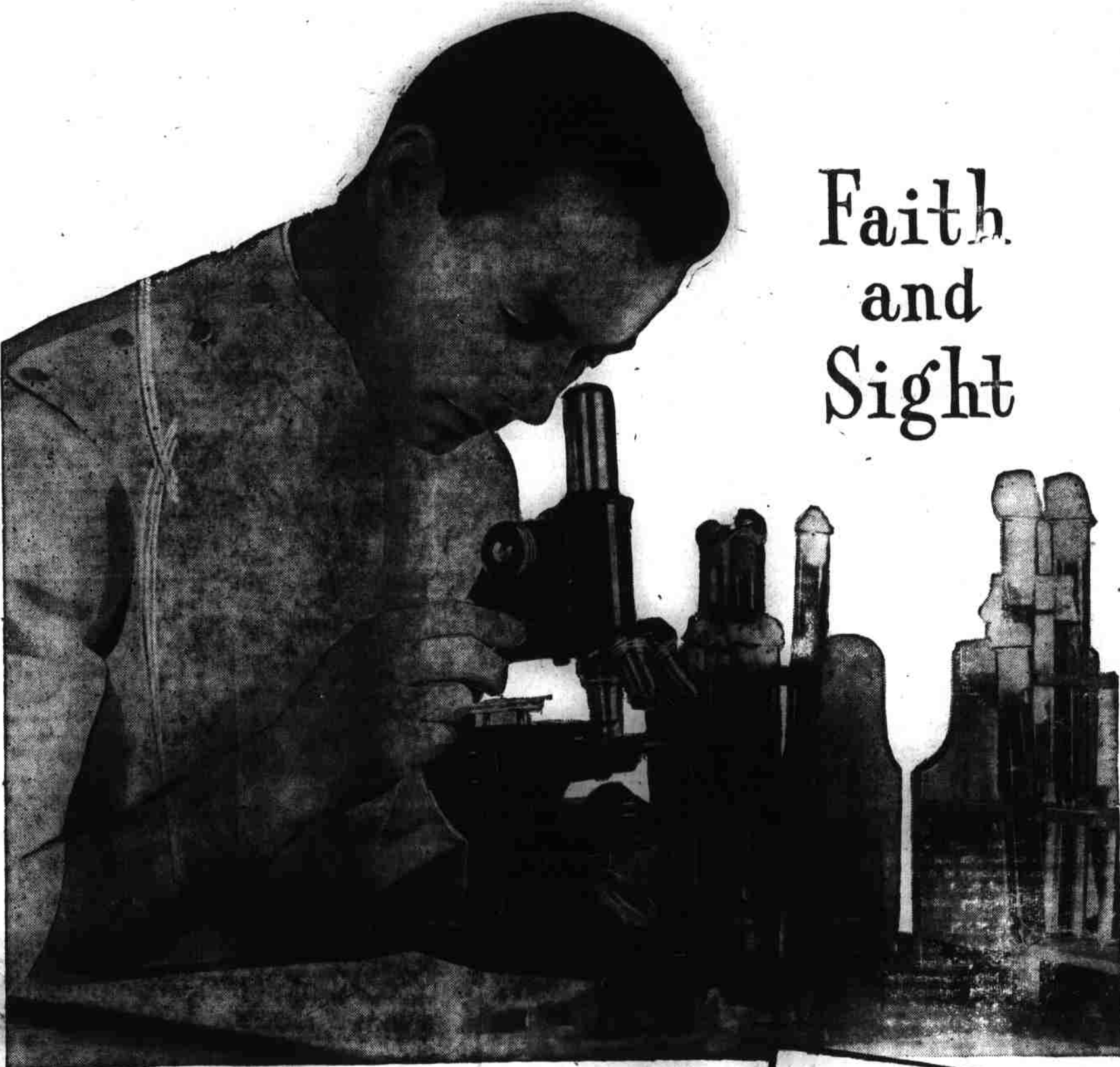
Maysville News

Mrs. Arnold Davis of Calypso spent a few days with her sister, Mrs. Paul Ing last week.
Mrs. Nora Hollowell of Kinston spent Sunday with Mrs. N. B. Best.
Visitors of Mrs. Ada Williams Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Grady of Holt's Store, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Miller and children of Mt. Olive.
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Brock of Mt. Olive visited Mr. and Mrs. John King Sunday.
Mrs. Charles raft and son of Mt. Olive were guests of her mother, Mrs. Annie Kornegay Wednesday.
Dr. E. L. Spivey, Assistant Baptist State Convention of Charlotte spent Wednesday night with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. King.
Mr. J. B. Williams has accepted work with the Tyndall Funeral Home in Mt. Olive.
Mrs. Bill Butts and son visited relatives here Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kater M. Nicholson announce the birth of a son, James Morris, on September 19. Mr. Nicholson has just accepted a position as police officer in Mt. Olive.
Maysville H. D. Club Meets
The Maysville H. D. Club held its monthly meeting in the home of Mrs. J. N. Holland with Mrs. Glanton Holland as joint hostess. The rooms were decorated with fall flowers. The president called the meeting to order with song, followed with club collect. Mrs. N. B. Best acted as secretary.
Following leaders reports, Miss Hilda Clontz gave a demonstration showing how to save your eyes by better lighting in the home.
During the social hour the hostesses served ice cream and cake. The club will meet in November with Mrs. G. R. Holland.

Uncle Sam Says

Small business firms can take a whole lot from many of their customers who have built a reserve savings of Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan for buying Savings Bonds. The Bond-Savings Plan at local banks where the customer drags in the grocery and the butcher maintain checking accounts is equally effective in providing a growing reserve for a business. For example, suppose you own a business which nets a \$1,000 a month. By opening your bank's Bond-Savings Plan you can have a



Faith and Sight

We are awed by science! Our life saving sulfa drugs, penicillin, radar, the cataclysmic atom bomb, even our nylon hose, all are results of scientific research.

In laboratories all over our land scientists gaze through microscopes at tiny organisms too small for human sight and there find the basis for many gifts of health and countless comforts and conveniences for daily living. Through telescopes we may view the distant stars!

But there is a vast area of life above and beyond scientific sight. There are eternal values which cannot be seen with the physical eye—spiritual truths which must be accepted on faith. It is only by faith that we can be lead to a higher plan of spiritual reality.

Faith and sight are not opposed to each other. Rather does each complement the other and together they make an invaluable contribution to the well-rounded life.

The Church has the faith-finding instruments for our use. You and your children should worship there for greater vision.

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 and support the church of his choice. 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 on Sunday and read your Bible daily.

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