

What Was The Main Thing?

What's ahead in science? Some say that in due time we may hear the very words of Jesus, which are still floating around in space, needing only to be caught by some scientific device.

If this prediction should come true, we know that our Savior will be found talking about the forty days between His resurrection and His ascension. We are told in the opening verses of the Book of Acts what his great subject was. He was "speaking unto them of the things concerning the Kingdom of God."

Some of His followers to-day might think that Jesus, in those last few weeks on earth, would have been talking mostly about salvation. Others would imagine missions as His favorite theme. Still others, world peace or social service, or perhaps, faith or love. Why was it the Kingdom? One reason doubtless was that this subject includes all the rest. Perhaps another was that certain other subjects, if one of these takes possession of a man, so that he ignores the rest, tends to make him one-sided. Even salvation sometimes so fills a person with the thought of his own salvation that he forgets others, or other important matters such as spiritual growth. He wants to...

...sing continually, "I'm saved, saved, saved," instead of "Come we that love the Lord" or "Throw out the life-line. There is a brother whom someone can save." "Look not every man on the things of his own," says the New Testament, "but on the things of others."

Another indication that the Kingdom was Jesus' main interest is the numerous parables. There are about thirty of these, and in most of them the Kingdom is the theme, or rather some phase of the Kingdom that needs to be made clear. A little girl once asked to hear some of the "like" stories - how the Kingdom is like unto yeast (leaven) hidden in three measures of meal till all was leavened - illustrating how the Kingdom is gradually to permeate society. Again the Kingdom is like the laborers in a vineyard, in that some who go to work late (in life) are rewarded with surprising liberality.

Again, in the Lord's Prayer the Kingdom bulks large. We find it mentioned most at the beginning - "Thy Kingdom come" - and also as the prayer comes to its close, "for Thine is the Kingdom...for ever, Amen."

Jesus, talking about the Kingdom at the end of His earthly ministry, was also talking about it as that ministry began. He came, says Mark in his first chapter, "preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God."

The Kingdom was more than a subject of much interest to Jesus. It was his passion. And it might become that with many of His followers if they would give it an adequate

chance, if they devoted to it the time and attention they give to some hobby - to music, painting, or whatever it may be.

What interesting topics a course of reading on the Kingdom might include! If those pursuing it confined their study the first year to the lives of great missionaries, they might begin with Pearl Buck's story of her father, "Fighting Angel", and then read Dr. Grenfell's "Forty Years for Labrador". After that saga of the frozen North they might turn to Dr. Albert Schweitzer's account of the steaming jungles of Africa. Later they might read the amazing story of the Salvation Army and the founder, General William Booth's "In Darkest England." Coming nearer home, they might turn to the "Athletes for Christ" in our own land, with such tales as that of thirty-odd-year old Paul Anderson of Georgia, the world's strongest man. Having won this distinction against all comers at the Olympic Games, this "Samson" has devoted his time in recent years largely to speaking to young people in churches and elsewhere. At the annual conference of the dedicated stars of baseball, football and other sports at Blue Ridge, each June, he is a well-known figure.

An experience of the Lindbergh's on a round-the-world plane trip contains a hint of what many a person might do in service to the Kingdom. Reaching an Eskimo village in Alaska one week-end, the famous aviator and his wife heard a strange story about a certain problem which the missionary for a time had faced. In seeking to translate the Lord's Prayer into Eskimo he had discovered that there is no word for "power" in the Eskimo language. One day, however, he recalled that there is a substance which the natives had seen used in blasting. He then saw that just as the Eskimo word "igloo" has not been translated into English but taken over bodily, so it could be in reverse with the English name of this substance. On Sunday, therefore, when the Lindberghs were listening intently to the swarthy congregation as they repeated the well-known prayer, they caught one word, in the closing portion which they understood: "for Thine is the Kingdom, and the dynamite, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Dynamite, destructive in its immediate working, is nearly always constructive in its ultimate purpose, as in building railroads and highways in mountainous or rocky regions. And those who go all-out for the Kingdom, putting tremendous energy and vigor into its advancement, may have an experience somewhat akin to what Christ spoke of one day, as Luke tells us in his twentieth chapter, verse one. "There were some," he said, "who should not 'taste of death', before they had seen the Kingdom 'come to power'."

EXTENSION NOTES

By W. Riley Palmer, County Extension Chairman and Staff

Elephant hide may be the next word in leather! It will not be inexpensive because of labor involved in processing and obtaining it. Elephant leather is the only new leather to hit the market in years. This leather is being made into women's loafers and boots, men's boots, luggage, belts, and other small items. It is light in weight, virtually indestructible, grainy-surfaced, and it won't scuff and resists water.

The second in a series of tobacco educational meetings will be held Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Department Building in the Pisgah Community. A 11 tobacco farmers in the Candler and Pisgah Communities are urged to attend. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Plans are underway to organize a Buncombe County 4-H Exchange Club. The purpose is to plan a two year exchange program with one county in another state. Through this exchange program, participants will have an opportunity to learn first-hand about the 4-H programs in other states and increase their knowledge of agriculture and agribusiness in an area different from his own. To further these plans, an organizational meeting will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the County Extension Office on the 3rd Floor of the Buncombe County Courthouse. All active 4-H club members, 13 years and older, are invited to attend.

On Thursday, Mr. Sam Dobson, Extension Agronomy Specialist and Mr. Bob McGuire Extension Animal Husbandry Specialist, will visit the Beef Cattle Farm of W. F. and Bill

Duckett in the Sandy Mush Community to see the special demonstration they are conducting to produce feed and pasture for a large herd of beef cattle. During the same visit at 3:30 p.m. a demonstration will be given on the techniques of the "cold" branding method of identifying cattle.

Buy now, pay later has become a familiar slogan, and installment buying has become a way of life for many families. No wonder! It's a way to have the things you want before you can pay for them. But it's also a way to get into trouble, if you can't pay for all the things you've signed contracts to buy. And it's a wide-open opportunity for the unscrupulous to take you for a ride, if you're not careful.

You can buy almost anything on the installment plan. No matter what you buy, you pay more than what's on the price tag - up to 42 percent more - and there are even legal ways for you to be tricked into paying twice what something's worth and still not get the item. Before signing an installment contract think: Do I want this badly enough to pay the monthly charge? Can I afford the payments? Am I sure everything will happen the way the salesman says it will?

Zesty Ham Dip
Combine 1 jar Gerber Strained Ham, 2 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese and 2 tablespoons sour cream. Chill thoroughly, then serve with a relish tray of carrot, celery and cucumber sticks or a bowl of crunchy potato chips.

Stuffed Celery
Add 1 to 2 tablespoons Gerber High Protein Cereal to a jar of Gerber Junior Beef, Season lightly with onion salt, mustard and a teaspoon of mayonnaise. Spread on cleaned celery stalks and chill. Cut into 1/2 inch bite-size pieces.

News From Cragmont

By Lib Harper

Salvation and Rewards", (Ephesians 2:8-10) was the theme used for an outstanding message on Sunday morning by Pastor W. E. Lytle. Salvation he said, is a free gift of God, and rewards will be given according to the deeds done here on earth.

Sunday evening, February 9, marked another historical and fruitful event in the history of Mills Chapel. In observance of Race Relation Sunday, Pastor W. E. Lytle and the entire Church family worshipped with Pastor E. Ferrell and the congregation at First Baptist. Evidence of prayer and efforts of two dedicated men was not in vain as a large congregation full of warmth and love gathered and worshipped the Lord as one family. God intended that the Christian family be as one, and it is not a difficult task, after one has experienced a new birth in Christ.

Next Sunday night at 7:00 First Baptist will be our guest at Mills Chapel. Pastor Edgar Ferrell will deliver the message and officers of his Church will serve in other capacities during the service. We again solicit your prayers that this service will be a blessing to both congregations and that we will unite closer in God's Love.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, during the evening worship at 7:00, singspiration will be observed. All choirs will participate, and solo's by Pastor Lytle, Mrs. Mable Lytle, O. L. Sherrill and others are always inspiring. Let's not forget to pray for this service and support it by attending. It is good to worship the Lord through music.

On Saturday night of this week, the Christian Education Committee will sponsor a "Sweetheart Ball" at the Youth Center on Cragmont Road. Pre-

teens of the community will be there from 5 to 7:30 and the teenager's activities will start at 8:00 o'clock. This promises to be a gala affair with plenty of fun for all. Don't you dare miss it!

On Monday night of this week, Frank Marshall, President of the General Baptist Layman League Convention was guest speaker of our local Layman League. In addition to a most informative report, as to the objectives of the State's Layman Movement, he shared with the group slides of his recent trip to Rio De Janeiro.

Mrs. Grace Greenlee and Mrs. Annabell Dabiel were honored with a birthday dinner Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Greenlee.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harper attended "Open House" Sunday afternoon at the Sage Dormitory at Warren Wilson College. Cheryl, their daughter is a senior and president of the dorm.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greenlee of Greensboro, spent several days here recently on business.

NOTE OF THANKS
We wish to express our thanks to the many friends and neighbors for their sympathy in the recent loss of our loved one. Your love and kindness makes our burden much easier to bear. May God Bless you all.
Mrs. Corrine Carson and Family

Real Cost of Insurance
NEW YORK - In real terms, the cost of basic automobile liability insurance actually has declined, the Insurance Information Institute reports. Based on the median national family income in each of the respective years, the cost was equal to 1.38 per cent of annual income in 1947 and to 1.03 per cent of annual income in 1967.

KIWANIS NEWS

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Kiwanis Club at their Thursday, Feb. 6, meeting at the Monte Vista Hotel heard projected plans of the group discussed. Kiwanis President Culver Smith outlined aims of the year 1969, with Youth Work being named as the main project; then Ernie Dewick, chairman of the New Ideas Committee, told of an old idea the Club is attempting to study. Mr. Dewick spoke of Dr. Jack Koontz's recent address to the Club citing the need for a Black Mountain-Swannanoa Medical Center. The Medical Center is a long-time need, Mr. Dewick said. With facilities for lab analysis, x-ray, a few beds, waiting rooms and doctor's offices, etc., the proposed Medical Center could well serve the Black Mountain-Swannanoa-Montreat area.

The New Ideas Committee will be meeting again to talk over various approaches toward the realization of a Black Mountain-Swannanoa Medical Center. To get the Center, many institutions, industries and individuals would have to work together. Ways to achieve this necessary unity are to be discussed in future meetings.

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Social Security

News

Q. My wife and I operate a small grocery store. As business is increasing we plan to hire some help soon in the store. Will we have to make social security reports on one employee?

A. Yes. The wages to one or more employees a business are covered by this program and must be reported, on quarterly returns, to the Internal Revenue office. You should contact the office for any technical questions and for the forms which to make them.

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