

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE EVER-PRESENT GOD

International Sunday School Lesson
for September 15, 1940

GOLDEN TEXT: "If a man love me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."—John 14.

(Lesson Text: Psalm 139)

While the definite time of the writing of this beautiful Psalm is not known, we can be sure from its context that it was written during the time of King David and best Biblical students believe it was written by David himself. Another fact that is practically certain is that it was written during David's mature or later years, because his conception of God was the product of long years of experience with God.

What is your conception of God? Do you think of Him as an austere judge, keeping records of your actions, anxious to condemn your mistakes? Or, do you think of Him as your Heavenly Father, who, while not condoning your sins and mistakes, is ever near to help you, guide you, and, while necessarily punishing you for your wrong doings, lovingly restores you unto Himself when you repent of your sins and ask His forgiveness?

It is upon our individual conception of God that this lesson hinges. If we think of God as a strict judge, then the thought of His presence everywhere, His knowing every thought and action, naturally fills our hearts with fear and dread, because none of us is perfect and we all, at times, fall far short of doing what we know to be in accordance with the will of God. The idea of an all-seeing God brings terror to the heart of any person who cherishes some secret sin, and well it may! Does the thought of the Psalmist, "Thou art acquainted with all my ways," bring joy or terror?

To the heart of the Psalmist the realization of God's intimate knowledge of him did not frighten him in any way. He realized that God knew him, inside and out, but he was also reassured in the belief that God's was an understanding knowledge, full of sympathy for his weaknesses and of praise for his goodness, and that

he need not attempt to hide anything from him.

In this psalm, we are also confronted with the omnipresence of God. God is everywhere. Not in the sticks and stubbles, or rocks and images of the heathen, but His spirit hovers over us any and everywhere we may be. He is not confined within the four walls of any temple, or to a sacred mountain, or to any one nation. He is present everywhere and is available to every sincere, seeking soul. We cannot hide from His presence at any time, as Adam and Eve discovered, or as Jonah or Judas found out.

This is at once a terrifying and a comforting thought. For those whose lives are lived contrary to the will and purpose of God, it is not reassuring to know that they cannot successfully run away from Him and hide their actions. For those who are trying as best they can, weak and ineffective as their efforts are, to obey the commands of God and carry out His will in their lives, the fact that God knows and is always near to help them fills them with a power which otherwise would be lacking.

From the experiences of his own life, David knew that God loved him and was his friend. Do you know God; is He real to you? God is not primarily an impersonal force, or power, or creative energy. He is a personal God who knows us each one, who cares for us, to whom we may talk about our plans and desires in life through the medium of prayer and who has promised to give us whatsoever we ask of Him in faith.

David was the first to suggest the conception of God which Jesus later gave to the world—that of the Fatherhood of God. Jesus, who knew God's character and purposes perfectly, taught us that God cares for us as a real father cares for his children and that as obedient children of the Heavenly Father, we should love and serve Him, opening our hearts and lives to Him, doing the things He has told us to do and abiding in close communion with Him.

Let us remember that we cannot hide our thoughts or our deeds from God, who is omniscient and omnipresent, and that we can find joy and strength in His presence when we repent of our sins and walk in the paths He has directed for us.

Scott Outlines Theme For Fair

North Carolina's 84th annual State Fair, to be held at Raleigh, October 8 through 12, will be dedicated to the purposes and principles of the campaign "For Balanced Prosperity in the South 1940-50," Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott said today.

Meanwhile, Fair Manager J. S. Dorton reports that "agricultural premiums will again be boosted this year in keeping with the theme of the 1940 exposition and program to encourage quality production and displays of farm commodities."

"The county fairs as well as the State Fair are rendering admirable service in promoting the welfare of farming, education and industry through exhibits," said Commissioner Scott. "We believe that by continuing to increase our premiums to farmers, we are encouraging quality production, adoption of better marketing methods and are securing farm displays that will inspire others to improve their agricultural programs."

Commissioner Scott listed the "ten roads to Balanced Prosperity" advocated by Southern Governors cooperating with other Southern agencies, as follows: (1) Balance money crops (including forestry) with "food, feed, and fertility crops"; (2) Balance crops with livestock, consistent with sound land use; (3) Balance production progress with marketing and transportation opportunities, without trade barrier; (4) Balance farms with factories; (5) Land, water, and mineral resources with population needs; (6) Balance work with thrift and local investment; (7) Owner prosperity with worker prosperity; (8) Increasing income with increasing home ownership; (9) Balance wealth with beauty and culture; (10) Economic gains with gains in moral values and human welfare.

of Hobbville, Misses Clarine and Dorothy Wiggins, of Trotville, visited Mrs. A. S. Bush Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Privott and son visited Mrs. Charlie Peele at Windsor Hospital, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Wilder and Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, of Norfolk, Va., were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dail. Miss Olivia Mae Barrow and Emmett Dail, of Edenton, visited them Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Byrd and family, of Holland, Va., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hobbs. They were accompanied home by Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Wilson, who have been their guests for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonsa Jordan, of Raleigh, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Sutton and son, of Sandston, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Fred White and family, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Harrell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Jr., and family, Mrs. R. S. Monds, Mrs. Reginald Tucker and son, of Hertford, visited Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Sr., on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Martha Monds, of Center Hill, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Sr.

Rev. J. T. Byrum and Dr. McCullers visited Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Jr., on Thursday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hollowell and son, of Green Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Hobbs and children, of Hobbville; Mr. and Mrs. Luke Hollowell, and Ray Hollowell, of Portsmouth, Va., were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hollowell Sunday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Byrum and family, Dr. McCullers and Mrs. W. J. Bunch were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Bunch on Sunday evening.

Mrs. C. E. Thomas and son, Billy, have returned to their home in Anderson, Ind., after visiting with Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Elliott.

Miss Helen Evans has gone to Manteo to resume her teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Winborne, Sr., Miss Elise Hines and Robert Winborne, of Suffolk, Va., spent Sunday with Mrs. W. H. Winborne and Miss Pattie Winborne.

Miss Esther Evans is teaching at Perquimans High School again this year.

Miss Esther Elliott has returned to her home at Aulander, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Elliott.

Miss Ruth Privott left Monday to enter W. C. U. N. C., Greensboro. She was accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Privott.

On the return trip home, spent Monday night in Raleigh as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Burch and son, of Baltimore, Md., arrived Tuesday for a visit with relatives. They were accompanied home by Mrs. W. W. Bunch, who had been visiting them.

Mrs. J. H. Dail visited Mrs. L. W. Bateman Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. A. S. Bush and Miss Louise Bush visited Mrs. Lula Rountree, of Hobbville, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Welch and Mr. and Mrs. Drew Welch visited Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leary Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Welch, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Welch, Jr., visited Monday to take Guy Russell Parker to enter State College.

Mrs. Lula Rountree, Miss Beatrice Rountree, and Mrs. Hallett Rountree, of Hobbville, visited Monday to take Guy Russell Parker to enter State College.

HOME AND GARDEN CLUB MET FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Home and Garden Demonstration Club met with Mrs. Z. A. Harris Friday afternoon. The meeting opened by group singing of "America." The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mrs. W. D. Landing, who represented the club at Farm and Home Week in Raleigh gave an interesting report. Fall fashions and home furnishings were demonstrated by Miss Maness.

During the social hour the hostesses, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Carlton Cannon, served dainty refreshments.

Those present were: Mesdames Ernest Reed, George Fields, W. N. Tucker, B. T. Wood, W. D. Landing, J. S. McNider, Z. A. Harris, Wilson Reed, Mark Hathaway, Beverly Tucker, Josiah Elliott, N. H. Medlin, Hugh Barelift, Charles Harrell, Carlton Cannon, Norman Elliott and Wm. Elliott, Miss Maness and Mrs. Murray.

Earnings And Soil Show Improvement

Income improvement and conservation of natural resources have gone hand in hand in North Carolina since 1933, according to Dr. I. O. Schaub, director of the State College Extension Service.

Under the first agricultural conservation program in 1936, approximately 195,000 Tar-Heel farmers participated. Of the total cropland, about 67 percent, or 4,969,000 acres, was covered by applications for payments. A total of 605,212 acres was diverted from soil-depleting crops.

Soil-building practices were put into effect on about 1,090,000 acres as follows: New seedings of legumes and legume mixtures, perennial grasses for pasture, and green manure

crops—1,019,975 acres; fertilizer and lime applications—42,700 acres; forest tree plantings—395 acres; terracing—26,485 acres; and miscellaneous—770 acres.

North Carolina growers have continued to participate actively in the AAA programs. There were 192,240 receiving payments under the 1937 program and 291,144 under the 1938 program. Applications for payments covered 5,275,947 acres, or 65 percent of the cropland in the State, agreements.

under the 1937 program, and 6,556,000 acres, or 82 percent of the cropland, under the 1938 program.

In addition to the Agricultural Conservation Program, many North Carolina farmers have signed five-year agreements with the Soil Conservation Service for complete programs of erosion control and good land management. At the first of this year, 8,460 farms, including 969,113 acres were operating under such agreements.



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SOCIETY MEETS AT NEW HOPE

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of New Hope Methodist Church held its regular monthly at the home of Mrs. J. H. Haskett in Durants Neck on Thursday afternoon, September 5th. The meeting opened with the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and prayer was offered by Mrs. J. W. Robbins. The minutes of the last meeting were read, dues were paid and the local collection was taken.

Fourteen members and four visitors were present. Two new members, Mrs. Elmer Banks and Mrs. Jerry Cartwright, were received and welcomed into the Society.

The committee for the nomination of new officers recommended the continuance of the present officers, and the recommendation was agreeable.

Rev. J. D. Cranford conducted the devotional. The beautiful story of the faith of the Shumanite woman and the Canaanite woman was understandingly told and appreciated. The meeting was dismissed by the Rev. Mr. Cranford.

During the social hour, the hostess served ice cream and cake.

BETHANY W. M. S. MEETS

On the 24th day of August, Bethany Woman's Missionary Society held its last meeting under the old name Beginning with September, the new name of the society is Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The following program was rendered: "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" was sung; the 23rd Psalm was repeated and Mrs. Emma White led in prayer. A short business session was held, after which Miss Merlee Asbell gave a most interesting and inspirational talk on "Songs in the Night," taken from Isaiah 1:40. "Our Best" was sung and the meeting closed with prayer by Miss Asbell.

CROSS ROADS NEWS

Weldon Hollowell, Conwell and Porter Byrum have returned to Wake Forest College to resume their studies after spending the summer at their respective homes.

Miss Fencie Chappell and Tony Clark, of Norfolk, Va., visited Miss Louise Bush Monday evening.

Justin Tune has gone to Princeton, N. J., to join the Westminster Choir, after spending the week-end in the Z. W. Evans' home.

Z. W. Evans and Mrs. Wayland Perry and daughter, Jeannette, have moved to Wakeville, Va.

Misses Willette, Esther, Helen and Marguerite Etta Evans spent Monday in Norfolk, Va.

Miss Ella Mae Nixon has gone to Burlington to resume her duties as a member of the school faculty.

Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Mrs. E. N. Elliott, Miss Esther Elliott and Miss Rountree and Mrs. Hallett Rountree,