

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

International Sunday School Lesson
For January 18

Golden Text: "It is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God."—Romans 8:17.

Lesson Text: John 4:5-26; Romans 8:17, 31-39.

The eighth chapter of Romans, with its great theme—the nature and the joys and the high requirements of the Christian life, is one of the most beautiful and helpful of all the chapters in the Bible. Of this chapter, the great Charles Spurgeon said, that, like the Garden of Eden, it had all manner of delights. "If one were shut up to preach only from the eighth chapter, he would have a text which might last a lifetime. Every line of the chapter serves for a text. It is an inexhaustible mine."

The history of the Hebrew people, as delineated in the Old Testament, being the record of a long period of time, necessarily was characterized by changing religious thought. Moses proclaimed Jehovah as the God of the Israelites, but not as the God of the whole world. Moses depicted God as righteous and faithful, but he also speaks of him as being jealous, meaning that he will not tolerate the worship of any other god.

The prophets ascribed to God the qualities of creative power, perfect wisdom, unfailing fidelity and absolute righteousness, speaking of him always in personal terms and describing his tender regard and love for Israel. Isaiah gives one of the most complete descriptions of the prophetic idea of God, in chapter 40 . . . his power, his wisdom, his universality, his approachableness, and his tender love.

With the return of the Jews from exile, there came a change of emphasis in the relationship of man to God. The prophets believed God spoke directly to man, while with the coming of legalism and priestism, God was put farther away, to be approached only through the law or through priestly offices, with the result that ceremonies and laws became of increasing importance. To know the law and to fulfill the ceremonies became the real meaning of religion.

Jesus set himself against all of this. He reached back to the prophets, took all that was best in their idea of God, cleansed it of every vestige of nationalism, and then expressed in one word all that he believed God was—Father.

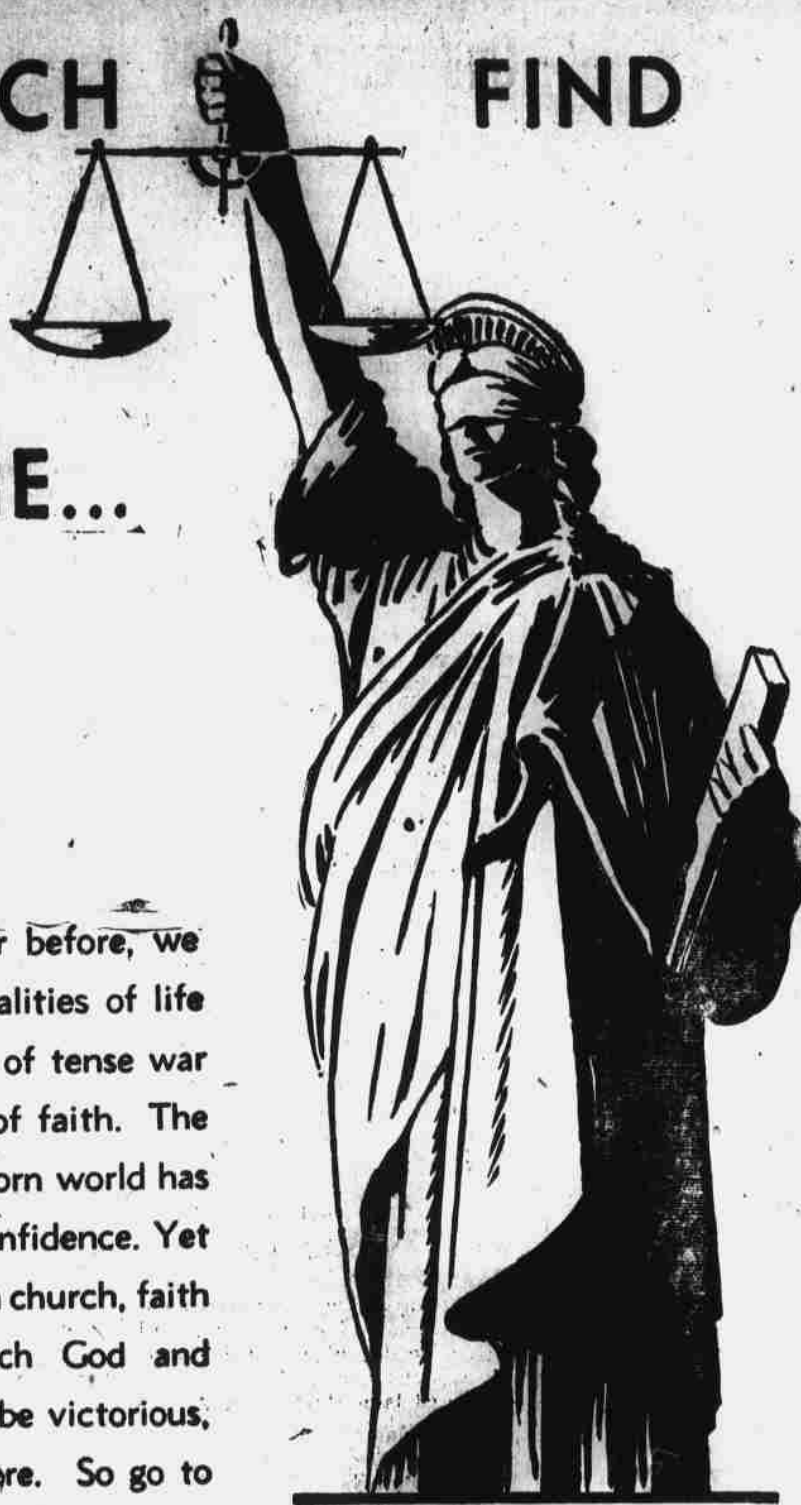
Charles E. Jefferson declares "When he (Jesus) spoke to God he always said 'Father,' and he told men that when they spoke to God the best word to use was 'Father.' He liked the word because it was familiar and warm and simple and homey. Everybody knows what a father is like. A father is interested in his children, and feeds them, and protects them, and provides for them. That is what God does for us . . . Jesus taught that we can know God. We can know him because we are akin to him. We are

IN CHURCH

FIND

COURAGE... PEACE... HOPE...

NOW, more than ever before, we need the simpler qualities of life that lie in the relaxation of tense war nerves and the renewal of faith. The strain of living in a war-torn world has taken its toll of man's confidence. Yet in the peace of a service in church, faith that the issues, in which God and Truth have a stake, will be victorious, returns to men everywhere. So go to church next Sunday and every Sunday . . . to the church of your choice . . . and find there the comfort and renewed confidence that America needs now for speedy success in her supreme effort on the side of right and justice.



COME TO CHURCH DURING 1948

Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
Choir rehearsal Saturday, 8:00 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:00 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:00 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
W. H. Marler, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Burgess and Bethlehem Churches hold Christian Union together on second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 3:00 P. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

**Be a Better Citizen!
Go to Some Church Next Sunday**

his children, and since that is so, his nature and our nature are the same. We think and feel and choose, and so does he. We sympathize and plan and love, and so does he. Our heart goes out to those who need our help. We know him not, of course, completely, but we know him well enough to love

him and to understand what he wants us to do."

The acceptance of the idea of the fatherhood of God brings with it acceptance of the idea of our sonship to him and of our brotherhood to all men. Edwin Lewis, in Great Christian Teachings, says, "You can claim

God as your Father only as you are willing to be his son. But your neighbor makes the same claim, in which case you and your neighbor are brothers. If you refuse to recognize this brotherhood, then you necessarily invalidate your claim to sonship. This is the inescapable logic of the

fatherhood of God." Jesus showed what sonship was and what it required. It meant giving God the absolute right of way and accepting his will no matter what it involved. "Whatever Jesus did as the son of God, he did also as a brother (Concluded on Page Three)

Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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