

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER LIFE

International Sunday School Lesson for August 23rd, 1953.

Memory Selection: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life, godly and respectful in every way."—1 Timothy 2:1-2 RSV.

Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Romans 8:26-28.

We have for our consideration this week part of a letter which Paul wrote to Timothy, a young minister of the gospel, who, at the time, was pastor of the church at Ephesus. While there is no exact way of knowing the date it was written, it is believed to have been written shortly before Paul's death, which occurred in Rome A. D. 67 or 68.

In this letter, the old Apostle is warning the young preacher of the dangers of false preaching, and then he gives him some interesting advice about the ordering and conduct of a church. Here is good counsel on how to select church officers and on how to administer the finances and charitable funds. And, most important, there is counsel on when and how to pray, and what to pray for. This makes up the main interest of our lesson. We have also, several verses from Paul's letter to the Romans, which are added to give emphasis to the real nature of prayer, as Paul saw it—which is a communing with God and cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever stopped to examine your own prayers? It would be an almost safe assumption to say that ninety-five per cent of all our prayers are prayers of supplication—that is, asking God to do something for the one praying. How many of our prayers are prayers of thanksgiving for blessings already received or to be received?

Paul tells Timothy that there are different kinds or types of prayers—prayers of supplications, intercessions, thanksgivings. There are prayers of confession, also, which all of us need to pray from time to time.

Taking for granted that you do pray—and all Christians must pray to keep contact with their Heavenly Father—who is on your prayer list? Paul gives a prayer list. He says we should pray for all men—for those in the highest position in the land—kings, presidents and government officials, who need our prayers and we need to pray for them.

For what do you pray? Are you selfish in your praying? Do you pray only for the members of your family circle and intimate friends, or do you include the members of God's family—all races, creeds and religions? All need to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and this, above all, should be your desire through prayer.

We realize that prayer may take many different forms and use many different words, but, as one has said, if it is worthy prayer, it has but one aim, and only one. That aim is the salvation of human souls. Only when it seeks that is it "good and acceptable in the sight of God."

Jesus believed in and felt the need of prayer. Oftentimes, he left his disciples and went into a nearby quiet place to commune with his Father. Surely, if the Son of God needed to pray, we weak, sinful mortals need it a thousand times more. Jesus declared that God would answer the prayers of those who asked, if the petitions were made in "His name."

It is well to recall that God's greatest servants have been believers in prayer. They discovered a power for this life through communion with God that made their lives eternal testimonies of God's great truth. A look into the lives of great men of God from Abraham to Paul to Francis of Assisi to Luther to Jonathan Edwards to our great leaders today—all reveal lives of constant and devoted prayer through which the power for their great achievements came.

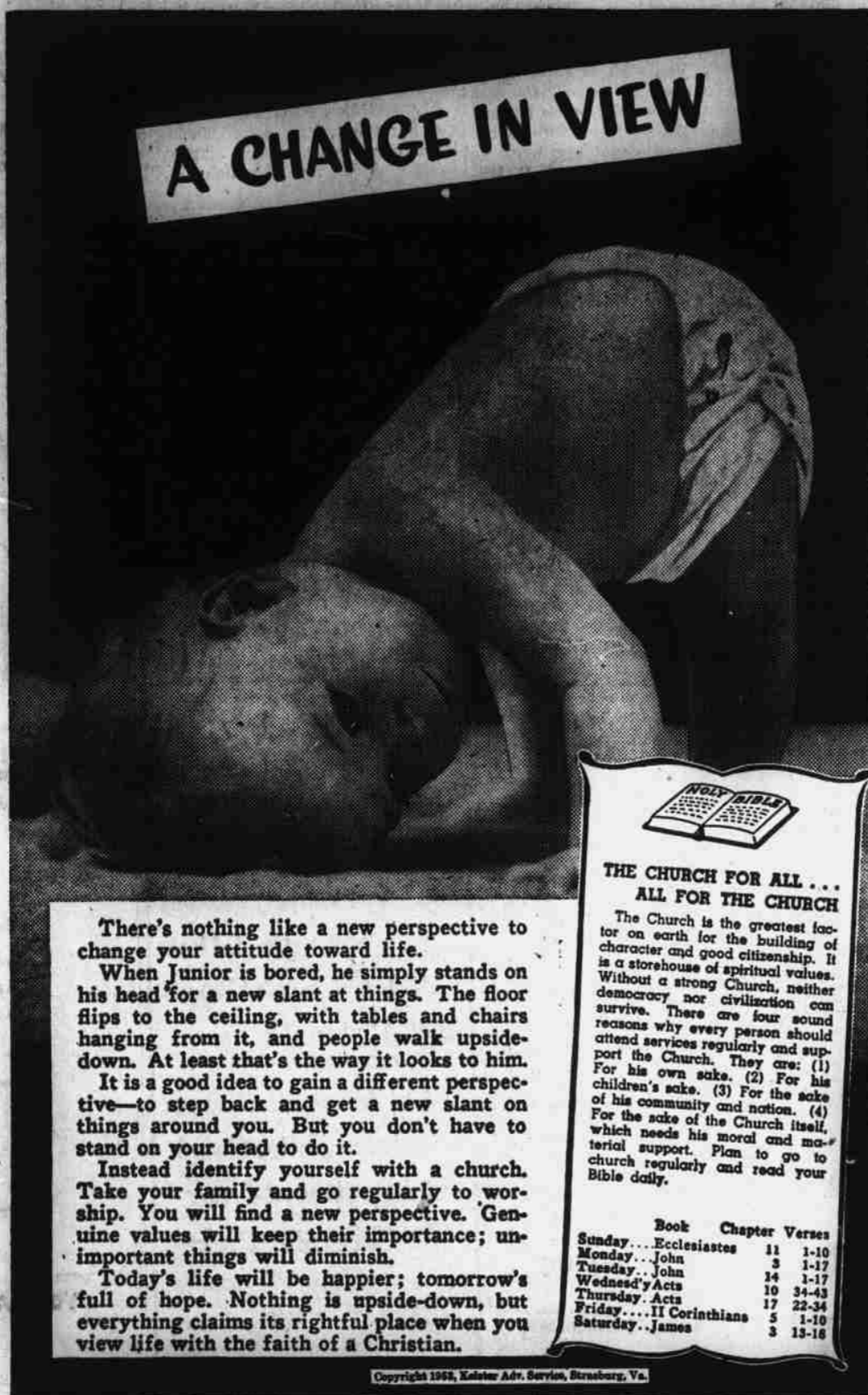
While one may pray at any time, in any place, it is well to have also a planned time and place for daily communion with God. This period of quiet meditation, Bible study and prayer will furnish the power for dynamic Christian living. Of course, a Christian's prayers are not limited by time or place, but may be uttered whenever the need for communion with God is felt, whether it be in the secret place alone or in the crowded thoroughfare of some great city.

Someone has rightly said that "we have really learned to pray when we realize that prayer is a privilege rather than a necessary duty."

(These commentaries are based on the International Uniform Sunday School Lesson outlines, copyright by the International Council of Religious Education and used by permission.)

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



There's nothing like a new perspective to change your attitude toward life.

When Junior is bored, he simply stands on his head for a new slant at things. The floor flips to the ceiling, with tables and chairs hanging from it, and people walk upside-down. At least that's the way it looks to him.

It is a good idea to gain a different perspective—to step back and get a new slant on things around you. But you don't have to stand on your head to do it.

Instead identify yourself with a church. Take your family and go regularly to worship. You will find a new perspective. Genuine values will keep their importance; unimportant things will diminish.

Today's life will be happier; tomorrow's full of hope. Nothing is upside-down, but everything claims its rightful place when you view life with the faith of a Christian.

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 services regularly and support the Church. 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 regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday... Ecclesiastes	11	1-10
Monday... John	3	1-17
Tuesday... John	3	1-17
Wednesday... Acts	10	24-43
Thursday... Acts	17	22-34
Friday... II Corinthians	5	1-10
Saturday... James	3	13-18

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. 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, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 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, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Ralph Knight, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday school at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go