

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Virginia White Tennessee EDITOR

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Flexible Sentences

One of the modern theories about justice under the law concerns flexible length of prison terms. A judge sentences a defendant to a flexible period of imprisonment and the parole board decides, basing its decision on the behavior and rehabilitation of the prisoner, when the sentence will be terminated.

This accomplishes a number of things. First, it allows us to achieve a closer approximation of equal justice under the law. Second, it gives prisoners a great incentive for rehabilitation and good behavior.

Contrary to what some might conclude, studies have shown that hardened criminals often get longer terms in prison under this system than under more conventional methods.

One of the tragedies in this country which gets too little attention is that involving persons guilty of one crime, who up to that time have lived orderly and peaceful lives, and who receive very long sentences. Many who fall from grace but once, in trying circumstances, who write bad checks or steal, and are caught, get 20 to 40 year prison terms.

Flexible prison terms would enable parole boards to more

equitably adjust prison sentences in light of all circumstances, including current prevailing court practices over the country, prisoners' rehabilitation, etc. The trend in this direction is already obvious and should be accelerated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOD ONLY HOPE

(Too Late For Last Week)
 For many years there has been a special day each year set apart as Mother's and Father's Day. We sing sometimes, "Faith of our mothers and fathers living still." I believe we'll have to admit the faith of our mothers and fathers are being severely tested and tried in this day of transportation and communication. The world is just one large neighborhood and what affects our nation affects another. People are trying this thing and that. Nothing seems to be giving satisfaction and it seems life is very cheap and so uncertain. Almost by the push of a button the human race can be mopped off the face of the earth in a wholesale way.

God is our only hope, the only solution we have, and surely we should ask Him to give us the faith of our fathers and mothers, and by using the great supply of faith that God has in reserve for individuals and as nations and willing to work with faith (they go hand in hand) there'll be more accomplished than the world has ever dreamed of.

We thank God for the fathers and mothers, what they have meant to us—no sacrifice too great for them to make for us. They made many good impressions on our young lives that have stayed with us.

We (my brothers and sisters) have never known what it was like to have the loving care of a father. He was taken from us when we were very young in years. But we were fortunate to have a Christian mother. Perhaps one of the greatest impressions she made on our young lives was that she would daily read a portion of Scripture from God's word and many times we have heard her ask God to watch

MISSIONARY SOCIETY MEETS

The Ladies' Missionary Society of Berea Church of Christ held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Garland Eure Friday night, June 14. The president, Faye Harrell, called the meeting to order by asking the members to join in singing "Have You Been To Jesus?" Devotion was given by the hostess, followed with prayer by Pauline Webb. The minutes and roll call were given by the secretary, Mary Dail. During the business discussion it was decided to send money to two missionaries. Other business was then taken care of.

The meeting was a continuation of the study of Timothy with Charles Pressly in charge. The meeting was adjourned by all singing "Let The Lower Lights Be Burning," followed by prayer by Mrs. Norman Miller. The members and several guests were then served delicious refreshments.

Those of you who have your fathers and mothers living, the greatest joy and happiness you can cause them is to live a Christian life. And don't wait until they are gone and then cover their graves with flowers, but at least give them some flowers while they can enjoy them.

Fathers and mothers, there's no greater calling that has ever come to anyone than to train children for righteous living and to become God fearing men and women. The Bible says train up a child in the way he should go and when they are old they will not depart from it. Some of them may sow their wild oats so to speak or go in unforbidden paths but some time somewhere along life's highway they will remember the Christian training of father and mother and it will cause them to change their way of living.

J. L. LANE,
 Star Route, Winfall.

A CORRECTION

An error appeared in the Whiteston news appearing in last week's Perquimans Weekly. It was stated that Mrs. Leanna R. Winslow's birthday had been celebrated last week. As a matter of fact Mrs. Winslow's birthday will be on June 28.

This Is The Life



By DONALD R. THOMAS

A man goes to work six days a week, trying to make a living. He takes his pay or wages and buys food, clothes and puts a roof over his head. He thinks about every-day living but how about God's place in his life? Do you give God a few hours a week? If Christ isn't in your life, the old devil is taking Christ's place. He got Adam and Eve and they were our parents. Don't follow Adam's and Eve's footsteps. Don't let the old devil pull you into the lake of fire with him. Adam's sin meant death to all who don't accept Christ and are doomed to burn in hell forever (or lake of fire). If you haven't been born again or a backslider, accept Christ today. Tomorrow may be too late. Time is running out. The Good Book says: For in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

—1 Cor. 15:22

Science belongs to no one country. —Louis Pasteur.

Sunday School Lesson

GOD IN HIS WORLD

International Sunday School Lesson for June 23, 1963.

Memory Selection: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." (Psalms 18:1).

Lesson Text: Psalms 10:1-6; 95:1-7; 148.

The purpose of our study today is to help adults discover ways that God's creation witnesses to his existence, goodness, wisdom, and power.

The three psalms we are studying today are all beautiful and express one topic—God in his world. Psalms 10:4-6 could almost be called a song to the sun god. It is clear, however, that the true praise does not belong to the sun, but to the Creator of the sun. The apostle Paul also saw God revealed in nature. Paul felt that the creation itself can reveal the power and deity of the Creator, and that any man's claim that he cannot know what God is like is invalid.

In earliest times men saw God so fully in nature that they tended to identify God with nature. This almost any unexplained event in nature, such as a falling rock or a flash of lightning, or the "withdrawal" of the sun could be a signal for fear, awe and worship. The nature psalms nowhere make this mistake. Their worship is never to the "gods" revealed in nature, but always to the one God who created and is responsible for the sun, the moon, the stars, the rain, the lightning, the rivers, and all that is. The worship of one God by the Jews is readily seen.

Many people feel that science is attempting to destroy our faith in God. This is typical of the history of the relationship of the church and science. Many scholars in earlier centuries have been condemned as heretics because their questioning minds cast doubt on things that have been accepted widely in times past. But if we sincerely believe that all truth is from God and in God, these can be no conflict between science and faith. But if we believe that all truth is contained in the Bible rather than in God, we will see conflict. Let us examine this point.

The Bible affirms time and again that God is at work in nature. This is a claim of faith, and we believe it to be true. But this does not mean that we must accept every point of view expressed in the Bible as "scientific". For the Bible is not, and is not, a book of science. The biblical picture of the universe places the earth in the center, with layers of "heavens" above the earth leading to God's throne. This is an attempt to explain the overwhelming majesty of God and the importance of man, his child. But it is not a picture of the true relationship of the earth to the sun and to other planets. We affirm the Bible's central truth, but we cannot accept its pre-scientific description of the atmosphere.

The teaching of evolution does not need to disturb our faith. It is an attempt to explain the almost incredible variety of life that exists. Evolution does not and cannot say where God is in these changes. We believe, however, that he is at work in them, that it is through His rich creative genius that the varieties come to be. And so we are not disturbed that scientists may be discovering some of the methods by which he has worked. To him alone is the glory and the honor. Men are but thinking his thoughts after him.

If all the substance of our bodies, with its "space" squeezed out, are but specks of dirt—where are we? Has science led us once again to the very doorstep of the spiritual? We are not visible because we are spiritual persons. All the high qualities of human life—the ability to think, reason, and love, to appreciate goodness, truth, beauty—come from the development of spiritual capacities. We are basically invisible. The physical aspect of nature indicates the need for a Creator. How much more, then, does the moral and spiritual nature of man cry out for a Creator whose nature is at least the highest that we know of mankind!

If God is the Creator of all that is, we have an obligation to continue the exploration of his work in the world.

PROBING THE UNKNOWN

Early dawn at Cape Canaveral... and out of the flaming roar a finger of science probes the unknown.

Man has never been content to live behind a curtain of mystery. He must seek... discover... explore.

Nor is man's soul less eager than his mind!

For if we are meant each day to learn one more truth of our environment, we are meant, too, to learn one more truth of our Creator. There is hope that scientific probing can enrich our physical life; there is promise that religious searching will deepen our spiritual life.

Tomorrow depends on every lesson learned at Canaveral. But, to even greater degree, on every truth learned at Church.

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Sunday Job 36:5-12	Monday Job 42:1-6	Tuesday Psalms 40:4-8	Wednesday Romans 11:25-32	Thursday Romans 11:33-36	Friday II Timothy 3:1-9	Saturday James 3:13-18
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