

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Friday, August 9, 1963

Swim With Care

With vacation time in full swing, we offer a word of caution to the swimmer. Judging from the experience of other years, approximately 3,500 lives will have been lost by accidental drowning these next few months. This represents only

about half of the total number of people to drown each year, but they are crowded into the three summer months.

The annual death toll in the United States from drowning grows larger each year. More than one-half of those dying in this manner are young persons under 24 years of age, the largest single age group of youths between 15 and 19 years.

Every vacationist should be careful this summer. A period of rest and relaxation from work is fine and necessary, but carelessness should not rob it of its pleasure. To venture too far in the surf, or to take chances in swift current, means running the risk of drowning. Swimmers should be extremely careful.

On Taking Poison

Accidental death, as a result of swallowing poison, is increasing each year. You may not realize it, but more than 600,000 children each year swallow some kind of poison. This should make every parent think twice and carry out a routine check of bath room cabinets, kitchen, etc.

In practically every home there are some poisons, whether they be insecticides or medicines.

and children, who are naturally curious, are likely to try some of them out—if they are within reach.

It is too late, of course, to worry about that after some child has drunk poison and, therefore, this editorial is a warning and could save your child's life.

There are a growing number of poisons in general use today and it is difficult to know what antidote to administer when one takes poison by error. For this reason, several hundred poison centers have been established in the United States and it would be good for you to ask your doctor where these centers are located.

It would also be wise to keep a list of antidotes for the poisons kept in and around your home. Better still, it would be best to check and see that these poisons in your home are out of the reach of your children or someone else's children who might visit you, so that the antidote problem will not arise.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr and Mrs R. Edgar Lane announce the birth of a daughter, born Sunday, August 4, at the Albemarle Hospital. Mrs. Lane is the former Miss Janet Parrish.

Men's capacities have never been measured; nor are we to judge of what he can do by any precedents, so little has been tried. —Henry David Thoreau.

Sunday School Lesson

PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

International Sunday School Lesson for August 11, 1963.

Memory Selection: "You are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth." (Deut. 7:6).

Lesson Text: Genesis 5 thru 20

Today the aim of our lesson is to help Christians discover the place of the covenant in Abraham's relationship with God, and understand its significance, not only in the life of the Hebrew people, but also in the faith of the Christian church.

Abraham's faith, which we studied last week, was initiated by God and nurtured by the assurance that God had a special purpose in calling him to Canaan. A belief in this special purpose was central in the Hebrew nation from very early times. The Genesis writers used the word "covenant" to describe God's relationship with them. A covenant is an agreement or a contract between two people. Its terms are the conditions under which certain benefits are to be extended. Once a covenant has been established it becomes binding and obligatory on both parties. So long as the prescribed obligations are met, then values promised must be freely given.

We should remember that this "contract" between God and Abraham was unlike many that are established today. It was not the product of negotiation. The terms were imposed by God, a fact clearly recognized in the Old Testament. Abraham had no opportunity to bargain for particular conditions. He was free to accept or reject, and he freely gave himself to the divine offer.

Abraham had certain commitments to keep as a part of the covenant. He had to be obedient to the divine command, and this obedience brought him into Canaan, where his response was to worship. Thus, the life anticipated by the covenant was a righteous life, a life in which the divine expectations were the essence of Abraham's desires. Nothing less than full obedience to God's leading would be sufficient.

The covenant came from God. So we must look to him for any explanation of its meaning. Perhaps the most important meaning is that our human history has not just "happened", that it is not the result of blind chance or human decision alone. God is active in history. His mighty acts within the events of the past have helped shape what has occurred. He lives, he acts, and he has chosen to act through certain persons and nations who listen to his voice and heed his call. The whole Bible, indeed, is ordinarily interpreted in the light of this idea.

Jesus' coming was the fulfillment of a prophecy. He came to establish God's purposes through the means of a new covenant. The book of this covenant we call the New Testament. And while the covenant in Christ is "new", this does not automatically mean that the "old" covenant has been totally set aside, for Jesus declared that he had not come "to abolish the law and prophets" but rather "to fulfill them." The God of the old covenant is also the God of Jesus Christ. And the purposes he sought to achieve in the old are still his goals. He chose Abraham so that through him the peoples of the earth might be blessed. He still selects persons to be agents of proclamation, ambassadors of the good news of the gospel.

And just as Israel became blinded by its pride at having been chosen, we face a temptation today. Love of America can lead us to think of it as a "chosen" nation and to make of it a false idol. We can quickly fall victim to the too easy identification of God's purposes with America's self-interest. And we often tend to think that size determines greatness, when quality rather than quantity is the real determining factor. For example, we may be proud of our record in foreign aid since 1945 without necessarily reflecting upon the real motive behind it. Much has been given on the basis that our own welfare is tied to the strength of others. Little has been given as a product of our religious concern for the welfare of others.

Can America become a "chosen" nation? —Continued on Page Five

He Helped Me See Life Through...

The Eyes OF GOD



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 main 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.

I was a little girl, then. The pews at our church were rough wooden benches, and my feet wouldn't reach the floor.

But, as though it were yesterday, I remember his sermon. About a woman who poured oil on the feet of Jesus. Some people said this was a wasteful thing to do. The oil was expensive; the money might have been given to the poor... But Jesus wasn't angry with the woman!

"In the eyes of God," our old minister said, "the most precious treasure is the love in a human heart."

No single thought has influenced my life more than that one. Most of my happiness — all of my strength when sorrows come — have been somehow entwined with that simple truth. I shudder at times to think; what if that day I had not been there?

A sermon, a prayer, a Bible passage does not touch the same chord in every heart. But as you seek each Sunday to see life through the eyes of God, there will come mighty visions stirring the depths of your soul.

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Sunday Joel 2:28-29	Monday Matthew 26:6-15	Tuesday Luke 6:32-38	Wednesday John 15:12-17	Thursday Romans 5:6-12	Friday I Corinthians 13:1-13	Saturday I John 4:7-12
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