

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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REGISTRATION

It is not too early to seek information as to what precinct you live in before voting for the candidates who will be seeking governmental offices. We request all of our readers to seek information from the County Board of Elections or the Registrar of your precinct, to be sure that your name is on the books. If you have moved or if you are a new comer in the city, be sure that your name is listed in your precinct.

Primary Election Day is May 30. Closing date for registration and transfers for primary election is May 8. The date for a second primary, if called is June 27.

Listed here are the various governmental offices of which candidates will be seeking election: County Board of Commissioner, House of Representatives of Guilford County, Senator (State), U. S. Senator, Register of Deeds, Board of Education, Judge of High Point Municipal Court, Congressman of Sixth District. All candidates who will be seeking places in one of these governmental offices will distribute literature based upon his platform. We urge you to read this literature and prepare yourself to vote for your favorite candidate. Ask the candidates questions and urge them to help with the fight for civil rights so that we will not have to go to the streets for our rights. Vote for the candidates who are in favor of the civil rights bill. You cannot vote unless you are properly registered. Please do not start fussing about your rights when you know you have not met the state requirements for voting. Many have this to say, "One must pay his tax, own property or be able to answer questions from the Constitution of the United States. However, this is not required in Guilford County when it comes to voting.

In 1956, one representative from the House of Representatives of Guilford County recommended to put the N.A.A.C.P. out of business. Now if such candidate seeks for election knowing that only about two or three hundred Negroes are properly registered and vote in the Negro precincts, one could easily put the Negro in the "dog house."

Now there are enough Negroes registered in the city limits of Greensboro, not counting the county, High Point, and other little village towns. It is up to our professional and business leaders to see that these citizens exercise their rights and go to the polls to vote on election day. We have observed that there are five thousand Negroes who are registered and qualified to vote. Voting in the primary shouldn't be such an excuse as "I forgot what precinct I live in" or "I worked too late," or I was reminded to vote, but I had to take my children on a little outing and forgot about it. Please do not let little petty things upset this important event.

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This Week's Sunday School Lesson

THE CHRISTIAN'S USE OF LEISURE

Purpose of Our Study

To help persons want to use their leisure time in ways that enrich and strengthen their own lives and the lives of others.

Scripture

Read the lesson from your Bible: Matthew 6:33; Mark 6:30-32; 1 Corinthians 6:12-24, 19-20; Philip- pians 4:8. We print these verses below.

Matthew 6:33

33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Mark 6:30-32

30 The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves.

1 Corinthians 6:12-14, 19-20

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. . . . 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Memory Selection: Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

—1 Corinthians 10:31

Introducing the Scripture

Matthew 6:33 is the closing verse of a statement from Jesus that parallels the one just studied in Luke 12:22-31.

Mark 6:30-32 is an interesting report of a rest that Jesus recommended for his disciples following a strenuous evangelistic tour (6:7-13).

As you study the selections from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (6:12-14, 19-20), remember the nature of this writing and the kind of people to whom the words were addressed.

Paul had one of his longer and more successful ministries in the Romanized Greek city of Corinth. His first stay kept him eighteen months. So this letter was addressed to people he knew and loved. He knew the kind of people they had been before they accepted the gospel. He held great expectations for what they might become. When he considered the moral degradation from which they had emerged, he gloried in the power of the gospel. But when he heard that some had returned to their former ways, he was deeply saddened.

This letter includes Paul's sublime hymn to love (Chapter 13) and his interpretation of the victory of the Resurrection. It includes also a sharp rebuke to the Corinthian Christians for their divisions. Brother was going to

law against brother, and men were mistaking their Christian freedom for moral license.

Chapter 6:12-20 was addressed to the Corinthian Christians who were using their freedom to sin against the body.

Philippians 4:8 is a summary word by Paul to the Christians at Philippi. Paul wrote this letter from prison to a church that had always supported him and had just sent him a gift. This particular verse is almost a benediction. It is as though Paul were saying, "I'd like to come to you. I face a real crisis in my trial. I may never see you again. If not, here are some things to think upon."

Interpreting The Lesson

Leisure in our world may become as necessary to our well-being as work/. The Christian who believes the world was made by God and is in God's keeping, who wants to act as a child of God, must recognize the need for leisure.

In considering our daily work as Christians we thought about Jesus' statements recorded in Luke 12. The conclusion we reached was that if we are to relate ourselves to our daily work in a Christian manner, we must put God first rather than the material goal of our work.

A Guide for All Times

The same word of Jesus comes to us in Matthew 6:33: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

When we consider this word of our Lord, we usually interpret it in the most general terms. Of course a Christian should seek God and put his righteousness first. But as we think of a little more deeply, we realize that a man is not putting God first unless he puts him first in his daily tasks. Righteousness that does not express itself in work is less than righteous, for this is the test of our response to God's call.

But sometimes, even when we see the meaning of putting God first in our work, we fail to see this meaning in our leisure and our play. In this word of Jesus we have guidance for all our time — every day, every hour, every activity.

Leisure for Renewal

We often hear two opposite complaints: "I don't have time to do the things I'd like to do," and "I have nothing to do — I am bored." These complaints represent two prongs of the leisure problem: finding needed leisure and using leisure well.

Jesus recognized the first of these problems. He had chosen his disciples and had lived with them and taught them. When he felt they were ready to go out on their own, he sent them forth two by two into the villages and the countryside. He warned them their work would not be easy. When they returned to him full of their experiences and the responses to their witness, he listened and then said, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

The interesting fact about Jesus' suggestion is that a good rest time had not come. The next verse says so many people were coming and going that Jesus and the disciples did not have time even to eat. Many of these were seekers with urgent needs.

Leisure is needed for renewal, Jesus seems to say. And we, like

the disciples, have no right to say we cannot go into a lonely place to rest simply because someone needs us now. Renewal may be the most pressing need if we are to avoid hurting our witness.

All Things Are Lawful

Now let us face the other problem of leisure: the hours when we can decide freely what we shall do.

The organization of our time is one of the most important decisions we make. Our use of time largely determines the kind of persons we become. We have only the present; we cannot go back to yesterday, nor can we act in the future today.

Putting off, "killing" time, lack of a goal or a plan for using time — all give us a feeling that our lives have no purpose or point.

We all have the same amount of time. The difference between feeling we have gotten somewhere or nowhere is chiefly in the use—the stewardship—of our time.

Christians have long disputed how they should use their leisure time. The Corinthian Christians wanted to say, "All things are lawful for me" (1 Corinthians 6: 12). Paul had preached that those who had been saved through faith in Christ were no longer bound by the law. Some of the Corinthians had interpreted this to mean they were free to do anything their unrestrained natural instincts and appetites led them to do.

Paul's answer was direct. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything."

To The Glory of God

The Christian is not bound by any law. But he belongs to God. His body is part of his personality. It is the temple, the housing for the Spirit, which God gave (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God's ownership of the whole person was sealed with a price — the self-giving of Jesus on the cross.

Therefore, Paul gave the Corinthians, and through them gives us, a guide, "So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20b). And this is a test for the Christian as he faces the use of his free time: Do nothing that would keep the body from glorifying God; only that which uses it as a temple of the Spirit that comes from him is allowed.

Think on These Things

It is not enough for the Christian to keep himself (and his body) unspotted from the world. We need a positive approach to our use of leisure time. This kind of guide we have in Philippians 4:8.

The true, the honorable, the just, the pure, the lovely, the gracious, the excellent, the praiseworthy — if a person uses his time in pursuit of these, will he find any interesting and worthy activity of mind or body closed to him?

The true opens the door of science and all exploration. The honorable can introduce one to the finest of history and heritage, and follow it through: literature, GAL 3 — Future Outlook music, arts and crafts, games of skill, and times of conversation. Thinking is thus translated into action, and leisure becomes renewal.

Questions To Discuss

At what points do you and your friends excuse your actions because "all things are lawful"?

(Continued on Page 2)