

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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Car Pools Help To Solve Traffic Hazards

The major objective of the Ward System is to curtail traffic hazards around public schools, especially during inclement weather. "Can We Walk?" This subject matter deals with the sub-heading of one of our editorials on traffic problems.

Oh, what a wonderful time an organized group will have on Saturday, November 2, watching the gala parade of the A&T State University Homecoming Festival. After standing in groups for an hour or two, watching the parade, we walk about a quarter of a mile home to acquire our cars, only to drive to the game. One doesn't have to be a member of a ward to provide room for someone to ride in his car to the game. After standing for an hour, watching the parade, this can be tiring. Why walk home to acquire the car, drive to the stadium alone, and prevent out-of-town guests from having sufficient parking space? Why not team-up and drive to the game as a group?

Be on the watch out for hoodlums who arrive at the game as freshmen, but who, before the game is over, leave almost too intoxicated to know what's happening. After the game is over, they drive rented cars or personally owned cars as if they were hotrods. These people can be dangerous.

Car owners be cautious of the ones to whom you give rides at festivals or any other place. One reads quite often in the daily paper, where someone gave a person a ride. The person did not have to be a friend, which made the driver end up with a stranger, robbing him of his personal belongings and his car too. The driver is then left stranded on the highway. The rider used a deadly weapon to force the driver on a lonely road or secluded highway to do what he wanted done.

Parents will come from near and far to attend the Homecoming on Saturday, Nov. 2. After arriving, they will be tired and fatigued. Knowing how the parents feel, their children will usually acquire the car with little or no pressure. They will joy ride throughout the city and campus. Upon leaving the congested area at the game, there is usually a lot of starting and stopping. This type of thing can burn brake linings out of cars. The children are unaware of the mechanical condition of the car or problems which can result from certain types of action, therefore, they continue to ride and have a good time. Many of the cars will have been driven hundreds of miles and will be almost hot when they arrive in Greensboro. With the city being as crowded as it normally is at this time, accidents can more readily take place. Children are asked to take care of their parents' cars and personal belongings, as they are here to enjoy themselves, not to purchase new cars or parts for their cars before they can return to their homes.

Shortly following World War II, quite a few students went to school on the GI Loan. Some were able to purchase automobiles. Those who owned automobiles fell below the standing required by the college and GI Board to continue in school on the GI Loan. Honor roll students were the ones who usually had no transportation. GI's were not the only ones who failed. Students at large who possessed transportation failed.

The Festival of Homecoming reminds the alumni of old and new. They encourage people to aid scholarship funds. The alumni usually do this through their different fraternal organizations. They encourage help to others like Ward Systems do. Wards are set up to help others and take care of some need. A lot of problems, congestion, and means to ends can be accomplished through the use of wards.

"LORD, when Thou seest that my work is done,
 Let me not linger on,
 With failing powers,
 Adown the weary hours,
 A workless worker in a world of work.
 But, with a word,
 Just bid me home,
 And I will come
 Right gladly,
 Yea, right gladly
 Will I come."

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

8. WHAT FAITH REQUIRES What Is Our Concern?

In the face of the world's suffering, how can we believe in a loving God? We know that suffering does not always enoble; sometimes it degrades. Yet the history of mankind is filled with stories in which persons were triumphant in the midst of suffering.

A teen-age lad was once sold by his brothers into slavery in a foreign land. Through faithful service he rose to a position of responsibility in his master's household. Then his mistress accused him of adultery because he refused her lustful advances, and he was thrown into prison. But instead of becoming bitter, the young man held to his faith that God would be with him through every adversity.

You know the rest of the story. Joseph was finally brought from prison to interpret the Pharaoh's dreams. Because of his wisdom and his faith Pharaoh made him prime minister over the whole of Egypt.

Former President Eisenhower was recently asked about his heroes in American history. In response he said that throughout his career he has had the pictures of four great Americans in each of his offices: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Benjamin Franklin. For him, Washington was the greatest, the classic example of courage and faithfulness in the face of trouble.

Then there was Lincoln. His face reveals a man bearing almost intolerable burdens and sorrows. Yet, like Washington, he served courageously during a time when the life of our nation was in danger.

Suffering, then, offers us an opportunity to grow toward the kind of persons God wants us to be. While Christianity may never explain satisfactorily the relationship of evil to God's love, it does at least teach us how to endure as victors, not victims.

Before You Read the Scripture

You should keep in mind two broad themes that characterize the Scripture for this lesson. The first conceives of the believers' life of faith as a pilgrimage to the heavenly country (11:13-16) or a race toward the longed-for goal of eternal life (12:1-2). The second deals with persons who were faithful pilgrims in the past, the challenge to believers to endure patiently their present situation, and the future, destination of the faithful pilgrims — "the heavenly Jerusalem." (12:22)

Jews customarily made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, where the Temple, a focal point of their religion, was located. The Jews who became Christians could understand this symbolism and apply its meaning to their lives.

Similarly, Greek-speaking Christians would be familiar with the foot races that took place in arenas throughout the Roman Empire. They could appreciate the author's symbolic use of this event. Even Jewish Christians could understand

what he meant by this analogy.

The author contended that the God who came in human form gave an unshakable significance to man's past, present, and future. The past was given significance because of the examples of Old Testament heroes who had enough faith in God to press toward dimly seen goals, with no assurance of completely achieving them on earth. (11:4-39) These people's legacy of faithfulness to God's will was intended to inspire the readers of Hebrews to grow in their own commitment.

The present could be given significance through a deepening relationship of trust in the midst of suffering. Jesus had endured his suffering faithfully by relying on the inner strength given him by God. Believers could find the resources to endure their adversities in the same way. (12:3-11)

The future was given significance because of the promise it held—the fellowship that believers presently had with their Lord would be perfectly fulfilled in heaven. The God who had acted in the past and was acting in the present would also act in the future to bring all his faithful servants to himself. (12:22-24)

All this has meaning for us because it pertains to the communion of the saints, to which we in the church belong. We are not alone in making our pilgrimage or running our race. We can be inspired by the examples of faithful heroes who have endured adversities similar to ours and yet have persevered. And we have the divine assurance that we and all our loved ones who die in faith will receive what God has promised. (12:28-29)

What the Scripture Says

The Scripture for today is Hebrews 11 and 12. Selected verses are printed below. See Home Bible Study suggestions in the back of the quarterly. Hebrews 12:1-4, 7-15

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. . . . 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they

disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" spring up and cause trouble, and by it the many become defiled.

Memory Selection: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

—Hebrews 12:1-2

How We Understand the Scripture

The author of Hebrews insisted that patience and courage are the fruits of faith. Faith means we are certain of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see. (11:1-3) It is our faith in things we cannot see and understand that shapes our conduct.

Faith assures us that God is in the midst of our trials with us and is working for our good. Hebrews 11 piles example upon example of Israel's heroes whose faith brought them through hardship. In fact, it was their faith that made them heroes — that led to victory where others would have found defeat.

The Supreme Example

Not only these heroes but also Jesus held fast in the midst of hardship. The author of Hebrews asked that we keep our eyes on Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:1-2)

Sometimes we assume that Jesus didn't need faith. We feel that whereas we must walk by faith, he was able to walk by sight because of his special relationship with God. But the writer of Hebrews insisted upon the full humanity of Jesus as well as his divinity. Hebrews suggests that, as the initiator and perfecter of our faith, Jesus struggled to maintain his faith just as we do. How hard it must have been to keep faith in the face of the suffering of his people!

Faithful Perseverance

After mentioning Jesus' reliance on God to help him face hostility, rejection, suffering, and death, the author challenged his readers to hold steadfastly to their own faith. He urged them to endure their sufferings courageously so that, through their reliance on God,

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