

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from Page 2)

Kings 22:3 through 23:25. The discovery of a book occupies the center of interest. But the emphasis is not on the content of the book but on its effect on King Josiah.

Psalms 118:26-29 praises God for the present experience of light which God has caused to shine on his people. The plea for help in Psalms 130 nevertheless expresses absolute confidence that God's help is sure. The psalmist urges Israel to trust God's promise.

How Does the Church Live?

When we ask the wider question, "By what does the church live?" the Scripture allows only one answer — "By Christ living in her." Biblically speaking, the presence of Christ, the presence of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit are the same.

However, the Scripture will not allow the presence of God to degenerate into a vague, warm feeling of "spirituality." It produces responsibilities that the church must carry into action. Therefore, the church in which Christ is present lives by doing its job and dies when it

rejects its task.

Within the framework of this understanding the Bible now takes its proper place. It witnesses to the God and Father of Jesus Christ, who gives life to the church. It defines the task laid upon the church by her Lord. Because it provides these two essential services for the church, the Bible is the bread by which the church lives.

What the Scripture Says to Us

What are the priorities that sustain the life of the church? They are Christ himself, the mission to which he has committed the church, and the

Bible. The three belong together in the order given.

Modern idolatry often selects one of the three elements and emphasizes it out of proportion to the others. Looking at some forms of modern idolatry may help clarify the importance of the priorities.

Bibliolatry. This distortion of Christianity puts the Bible in the place of God. To say "The Bible is God's revelation" is to neglect God's living word in the preaching of the church and in the heart of the believer. "The Bible saves all who believe it" substitutes faith in the Bible for

faith in Christ. Christ saves — not the teaching about Christ.

Ecclesiolatry. This word means giving first place to church structures and practices. Essentially it sees the work of Christ and says the church has done it.

For example, worship is often regarded as a way by which we are brought into God's presence. Biblically, worship is the people's response to God's presence already with them. (See Ephesians 3:16.)

Prayer is sometimes thought of as a way to make God more agreeable to the wishes of the

(Continued on Page 8)



**If you don't have
a frost-free refrigerator-freezer,
you're working too hard.**

Chop, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop.
Hack, hack, hack, hack, hack, hack.
Drip, drip, drip, drip.
You wouldn't have to put up
with that nonsense if you had a frost-
free refrigerator-freezer. Because it de-



frosts itself — and eliminates a pretty
messy chore — automatically.

See your favorite appliance dealer
or Duke Power for a frost-free refriger-
ator-freezer.

And live the carefree electric way.

Duke Power 