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# TEENAGE VOTING RIGHTS

### By GAIL WEEKES

The U.S. Supreme Court gave the eighteen year olds the right to vote in general elections. But each individual state had the privilege to determine whether or not they wanted their 18 year olds to vote. North Carolina and many other states were hesitant in giving the voting right to the 18 year olds, but through discussions and deliberations the North Carolina legislature finally gave the voting right to the 18 yr. olds in all elections; national, general and local.

The next election will be the general election of November, 1972. There will be a primary in May to cut the candidates down to a smaller number. The offices in both parties are narrowed down to one man in one office for Republican and one for Democrats.

A big issue for the 18 year old male is the idea of getting insurance for a car. The male teenager has to pay more insurance whether he is a good driver or reckless driver.

When voting on the insurance commissioner, make sure one knows and understands his platform, see whether or not he will back the idea for which one is fighting.

It is unjust and unfair to make a person (18 yr. old male) pay more insurance than anyone else. There are just as many reckless drivers, female and older drivers that are more hazardous but don't have the high insurance rates.

Many accidents have been caused by drivers over 21 years of age, but no restrictions and no more insurance than any regular person.

The only rising and falling of the insurance is in case of an accident. If this year one has an accident the premiums go up so it looks as though one is paying them back the money they paid out for your insurance. Do you (18 yr. olds) know where this money goes? Why not find out?

The insurance company is eager to cancel a 'teenage male's insurance especially after an accident or even raise the price of his insurance.

Until one has been proven to be a reckless or careless driver, his insurance should be the same as everyone elses and the teenage males and females alike should be insured in the same manner, but for the teenage male to have to pay more insurance is hardly fair.

Look at the old people driving around these days, their reaction time is slow, yet, they get a license and are out on the streets driving slow and haphazardly easily causing many an accident. Just this past week a 71 year old male caused a three car collision and everyone in his car (which was four) were killed. His reluctance as a driver, his timing, and reaction caused him to do a careless and reckless thing.

Having the right to vote, the 18 yr. old wants the right to do many other things. For instance, going to the ABC store to purchase. This is a weapon used by the insurance companies to keep from lowering the premiums for the teenage male. They are saying that giving the teenage male the privilge to purchase alcohol gives them boy-friends should help the cause by voting for the right the right to drink it and in doing so more accidents are caused therefore the premiums should be higher. How-

## THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BEGINNING WHERE YOU ARE

The decent, well-behaved citizen should be able to live his entire life wiout being directly involved with the law-unless he gets a traffic ticket or is called for jury duty. Actually, however, we are all more caught up in the law than we imagine. How true this is can be demonstrated by a thoughtful reading of any issue of a metropolitan newspaper. Htre, for example, are a few of one day's stories:

"Mayor and governor to meet on budget asking for transit authority."

"Crime Commission asks for legislation on radical campus groups."

"Pollution foes ask U.S. aid." "Supreme Court OKs state gambling law."

"Architects urge reform in zoning code."

"Housing court only slaps slum landlords on the wrist, report says."

"Contract home buyers ask court for relief."

In short, whether he knows it or not, every citizen is involved in a structure of law that surrounds and shapes his life. It restrains the absolute freedom of his life and property, but at the same time it protects him from the intrusion of others. As a Christian citizen, he is bound to ask what the Bible has to say about his life under law.

#### SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

The Scripture for this lesson is Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-11; Daniel 6; Acts 4:13-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17. Selected verses are printed below. Acts 4:13-20

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they YOUR QUESTIONS conferred with one another, 16 saying, "What shall we do with many other problems we have

sign has been performed through the Bible passages given for them is manifest to all the in- study this week. habitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any one in this name." 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." 1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. 17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Memory Selection: We must obey God rather than men.

-Acts 5:29 EXPLORING THE

QUESTIONS Why can't I do what I want

with my own? What right has a zoning law to tell me what kind of house I can build and where? Why can't I park where I want?"

Do I have to obey all laws, whether I approve of them or not? As a Christian am I ever justified in consciously disobeying a law? On the other hand, if I see an unjust condition, am I bound to work for laws to bring it under control?

In the final analysis, is there any reason to believe that law will make men good or establish social justice. Is my Chrisworld?

### FINDING HELP WITH

For light on these and the these men? For that a notable with civil law, yet us examine

ever, if the right to purchase alcohol is given to all 18 year olds, male or female, then why not raise their premiums also. Everyone will have the purchasing right, old and or young, but their premiums are not raised.

Consider a family of eight, all are school age; three have drivers license, one is 161/2 years old and twin boys are 18 years old. Each have a part time job which requires driving. The 18 year olds drive school buses, which are needed now more than ever because of the cross-town busing for the school year. The money they make, the insurance premium is eating it up.

Young ladies of voting age with brothers, friends and commissioner so he can help in lowering the premiums of the teenage male drivers.

Deuteronomy 16:18-20. A legal system of laws and courts is part of God's provision for his people. It is God's will that men should love one another and live in right relations. This purpose is buttressed by a structure of law whereby men who are wronged may bring their oppressors to judgment.

We know surprisingly little about the daily operations of the biblical legal system. For protection the people lived in walled villages and cities from which they went out to work their fields. A council of elders exercised authority and met in the shelter of the city gete. These were the judges before whom any citizen with a grievance was entitled to come seeking justice. The body of law that guided them was the unwritten tradition and such formal law is found in Deuteronomy itself. (For example, see Deuteronomy 19 for regulations covering homicide and proper testimony.)

Deuteronomy 17:8-11. This passage provides for a kind of "Supreme Court" to handle cases too difficult for the local councils of elders. Such cases might involve the distinction between murder and manslaughter or between theft and embezzlement.

This tribunal was established at the central shrine and was composed of priests and laymen. The case was regarded as being heard "before the Lord," and the verdict was the Lord's verdict. Therefore the decision was final, and any person who did not accept it was put to death. The severity of this punishment suggests that, in biblical thought, all disagreements are to be handled within the legal system. No man can take the law into his own hands.

Daniel 6. Our third Scripture tian obligation discharged if I pussage is the familiar and drawork for the conversion of the matie story of Daniel's defiance of a law of King Darius. This chapter poses the question of an unjust law or of conflict between man's law and God's requirements

> That the law was unjust we cannot doubt. It was enacted by the connivance of jealous men to dispose of a rival for political power. It infringed the area of interior religious life where no law should go. We also notice that Daniel's defiance did not harm anyone. Even the king did not feel that Daniel's act damaged him in any way.

The issue is clearly, What shall a devout man do when the state legislates in the area of his life with God? Daniel's answer was, He shall continue his faithful obedience of God's will and (Continued on Page 7)