

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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GOOD MANNERS

The year 1971 should be one of the most prosperous years in the history of Greensboro. There are more doors open to job, school, and social opportunities than ever before, but one should not forget the editorial of Good Manners which we publish every year.

It has always been said that good manners will carry a person further than money. That doesn't mean that a Negro has to be an "Uncle Tom" or "Aunt Hannah" or a person with a master's degree in education to acquire the habit of using good manners in the everyday walks of life.

Our older parents were accustomed to wearing tacky garments when they went out to seek a job, or a bargain of some commodity which was needed. By going out in this manner, they felt that the proprietor would have sympathy and grant them a better bargain or job because their appearance showed they were in need.

This is a new day. The younger generation is wiser and understands his needs without putting on ragged attire.

I often see nowadays, many of the older parents uptown seeking a bargain with their teen-age jackets and misfitted suits, bowing and being submissive to some proprietor of a business firm. The first reply comes from the salesman of the firm, "Come in Auntie (or Uncle), what can I do for you today?" The customer answers, "I am looking for certain commodities." Their appearance induces the salesman to present some cheap or store worn goods which cannot be sold as first-class materials. On many occasions, the buyer usually falls for the cheap goods and buys it at a price that he could get the same line of products at first class. The salesman tells the customer to pay ten dollars down on the price of the goods which is twenty-five dollars and pay a dollar a week for goods which are worth about ten dollars. The salesman tells auntie or uncle, "I have seen you around town, and I know you have good credit references, but give me at least three of them, and sign your name on this application blank. The buyer signs his name "John Hancock or Mary Jones" with the understanding that payment will be made each Monday following. If a payment is missed one or two weeks, she receives a letter addressed to Mary Jones. When she opens the letter, the first thing she reads is, "Mary, you have missed two weeks on your payment," or a collector may be sent to the residence requesting payment of back bills. If the buyer is able to catch up his payments and also pay a week in advance, the same salesman is back telling the customer of some new commodity on display. Before any business is transacted, he will have to tell two or three commercial jokes with reflections on some Negro, to create humor, and a big laugh. The salesman of the firm places all Negroes in the same category. The new generation is educated to the point that they are getting away from such manners. Many refuse to buy from a sales agent when they do not put a handle to their name on the contract. The customer mails a check when payment is due, and will not allow agents to come to their homes early in the morning before the household duties are done in order to receive guests.

May we urge our readers, please do not be high pressured by salesmen to buy commodities beyond your earnings and then be humiliated by bills and collectors at home and especially at work. Put yourselves in a position with business firms so you may be able to demand respect.

On many occasions when one goes shopping properly dressed and stops in a cheap credit store he is greeted by

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**THINKING ABOUT GOD**

What is our concern?

Each of us has a different idea of God.

Man is constantly seeking to understand God, and God is forever eluding man's grasp. We almost always think of him in human terms since these are the highest categories we can use with understanding.

This approach is true in the Bible also. The biblical writers know that God transcends or surpasses everything they may think about him; but if they are to speak of him at all, it must be in terms they can understand. Of all the biblical writers, the prophets are most aware of God's transcendence; yet they are the very ones who speak of him in the most human terms.

Neither the biblical writers nor we can say what God is but only what he is like. Our language is always analogical. That is, when we speak or think of God in these human terms, we are saying that he is something like this, that this human expression or anthropomorphism in a way describes him.

Anthropomorphisms are never dangerous as long as we remember that we are saying what God is like and not what he really is. When we limit God to our descriptions, then we are making God in our own image. We shall talk more about the images of God later in the lesson.

Searching the Scripture

The Scripture for this lesson is Psalms 42; 53; 139; Acts 14:

a salesman as Reverend, Professor, or Madame. Hold this standard up with good manners in your transactions or business, even though you may be an ordinary industrial worker.

The little things that count most in the use of good manners are, first: the use of your neighbor's telephone. If you do not have one, long drawn out conversations are unmannerly; cut your conversation short, even if you do have a telephone. Beware of the type of conversation you have on the telephone. I was told that three children were burned in a house where a family was on a three party line, and one of the parties was using the line and refused to hang up so the family could call the fire department. Getting revenge over the telephone, they talk as long as they wish, not knowing what circumstances, the other parties are having, such as the need of a doctor, taxi, policeman, or the management of one's job.

One should go neatly dressed to and from work. Go before time to change clothes or uniform, if required. When working on construction jobs, be sure that the proprietor has a dressing room with showers. Most business firms like for their employees to be neat in appearance and conduct.

We are not writing this story as an authority on etiquette, but we are pointing out a few things for which we are criticized.

It has been said from time to time to train a child in the way it should go and when it becomes old, it will not depart from it.

The first step of good manners is in the home. All types of profanity that a child uses is picked up from family squabbles, mostly from the mother, because she is with the child all during the day, and she thinks the child is cute when it uses some profanity that he learns in the home. Not only the child, but in most cases when you see congregations of teen agers on the street and old dirty men, all you can hear is all types and kinds of profanity, regardless of who passes.

Why so many people are unable to keep their jobs is that the boss gives certain employees more privilege than he does them. They are jealous and think other employees take advantage of their earnings and use it more properly for better living conditions. They say the boss accuses them of being impetuous and contrary on the job simply because they try to tell the boss how to run his business. They refuse to work in the rain, or snow and they just have to get the boss told every day. This is why we say good manners carry one further than money. Many proprietors would rather pay a contrary person a month's salary in advance and get rid of them than to have him keep confusion all the time. Good manners pay in every respect. It has been said time and time again that a good name is better than all richness and fine gold, and is derived from good manners. A person with good manners is first pure, peaceful, gentle, and is easily entreated, full of mercy and of good fruit without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Space and time will not allow us the privilege of explaining the uses of common sense and the use of good manners. What do you think?

15-17; 17:22-31. Selected verses are printed below.

Psalms 42:1-3

1 As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me continually, "Where is your God?" Psalms 53:1-2

1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none that does good. 2 God looks down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any that are wise, that seek after God. Psalms 139:7

7 Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? Acts 17:22-23

22 So Paul, standing in the middle of the Are-op-agus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you."

Memory Selection: God looks down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any that are wise, that seek after God. —Psalms 53:2

How We Think of God

J. E. Phillips points out in his little book *Your God Is Too Small* that men have many false conceptions of God. Many persons think of God as no more than the conscience. They feel there is a "resident policeman" within us who approves or, more usually, disapproves of what we do, and this is God speaking to us. The danger here is that one's conscience can be so easily influenced or silenced that it does not make a very satisfactory God.

Others think of God as a grand old man who lives somewhere up in heaven and from time to time looks benevolently down upon his earth. He is very old and probably old-fashioned as well.

Others see God as meek and mild, like our common misconception of Jesus, and so neither very upset by our sins nor disposed to do anything about them. But to feel that God's love is expressed in an unwillingness to deal with sin is to cheapen love and debase it into sheer sentimentality.

Some think of God as a refuge to which we go to escape the stresses of everyday life. We can, indeed, "cast our burdens upon the Lord" — but only after we have carried them as far as

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