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No. 1

# Rev. Delbert Thies

Our new pastor to the Deaf in Memphis, Tenn., the Rev. Delbert Thies, is a product of the State of Nebraska, the "White Spot" and "Hub" of the nation. [Illinois readers take note! — ED.] He was born in a stronghold of Lutheranism, Cuming County, Nebr., on March 17, 1923. He is the second oldest in a family of eight children and the only one of the five



**Rev.** Delbert Thies

boys in the family that took up the holy ministry. At present his father is employed by the Nebraska State Highway Department.

Eighteen years of his life were spent in that vicinity, and young Delbert attended public school till the 6th grade; then he had two years of Lutheran parochial school and several years of high school.

In September, 1946, he entered our Springfield, Ill., Seminary and graduated from this institution in June, 1951. He was married to Miss Katherine Mae Ropers on January 13, 1946, before he enrolled at the Seminary.

During his seminary years he spent two summers as a vicar. The first was in his "home" circuit at West Point, Nebr. The second summer he had the opportunity to serve the Deaf of Central Illinois under Pastor N. P. Uhlig. Under Pastor Uhlig and Student Hauptmann he continued his study of the signs at the Seminary. He also assisted in preaching to the Deaf and instructing children at the Illinois State School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. Upon graduation he accepted the assignment of the Board of Missions to the Deaf to serve Memphis, Tenn., and the mission field connected with that station, namely, North Dixie.

Candidate Thies was commissioned by the Rev. O. E. Schlecht at Wisner, Nebr., on July 1, 1951, and ordained and installed at Memphis on July 15, 1951, by the Rev. V. Brugge, assisted by Pastors W. Krueger and F. Gyle and Vicar L. Stacy.

As is the case with most of our missionaries to the Deaf, Pastor Thies also covers a large territory each month to bring the saving Gospel of Christ to the Deaf in the States of Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Georgia. He also visits the State Schools at Little Rock, Ark., and Cave Spring, Ga., and the Southern Home for the Aged at Atlanta, Ga. In Memphis and at the two State Schools he serves both white and colored Deaf groups.

At Memphis the white congregation numbers 13 and the colored congregation 11. In the entire field the pastor reports 30 communicants; however, many other Deaf friends attend his services regularly at the various places.

God has blessed Pastor and Mrs. Thies with

four healthy children. Both the pastor and his wife love the Deaf and find much joy in serving their Lord in this blessed work. May the Lord grant our Deaf Mission many more such consecrated workers. E. M.

## Women of the Bible

Jezebel — Had an Evil Heart

# 1 Kings 21:8: "So she wrote letters in Ahab's name"

Naboth had a vineyard full of beautiful grape arbors. King Ahab asked him to sell it to him. Naboth said that he must not break God's Law. God commanded that all property received through the death of one's father must not be sold. King Ahab was angry. Now he sinned by jealously wanting Naboth's vineyard. He went back to his palace and refused to eat, like a spoiled child.

If Queen Jezebel had been a good wife, she would have tried to make the king understand God's Law. She did not believe in God. She hated His Law. She liked to worship idols and hated priests who preached the true God. Jezebel told her husband not to worry. She promised to arrange everything, so that Ahab could get what he wanted.

She ordered some men to tell lies about Naboth in court. The men said that Naboth cursed the true God. The Law of God, which Jezebel hated, said: "All who curse the true God must be killed." The Law continued: "All property of people who curse God goes to the King." Jezebel had an evil heart. The people believed the lying witnesses. Naboth was killed, and his property was taken by the King.

This murder of an innocent man was so terrible that God sent Elijah to the king and his bad wife. God told Elijah to say: "God will punish you and take your children from you; and dogs will eat Jezebel." Ahab was sorry, but not Jezebel. Soon Ahab was killed in war. Jezebel was murdered, and the dogs ate her dead body, just as God said.

PRAYER: O God, I thank You for giving me faith in Your Son. Help me to keep Your Laws. Forgive me when I break Your Commands, because of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen. C. R. G. The First Letter of Timothy

(Translated by Rev. T. DeLaney, edited by Prof. M. Franzmann)

#### VI

As many slaves as are under the yoke of *slavery*, let them think their own masters as worthy of all honor, that the name of God and the teaching be not blasphemed (*have bad*, *unholy things said about them*). And those *slaves* that have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren *in the faith*, but let them serve them the more because they are believers and beloved, who are being helped by the good service. Teach and exhort (*urge to follow*) these things. (Verses 1-2.)

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound (true) teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching according to purity, he is conceited (has vain pride in himself) and knows nothing, but craves for (is sick with wanting) debating questions and arguments about words. From these things come envy, strife (quarrel), blasphemies (say bad things about God and holy things), wicked suspicions, arguments of men corrupted (bad) in mind and destitute of (without) the truth, thinking piety (appearance of believing) to be gain. But piety with contentment is great gain. Because we brought nothing into the world, nor are we able to take anything out; but having food and clothing, we should be satisfied with these. But those people desiring to be rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires (wishes), which plunge (throw) men into destruction and damnation. Because a root of all evils is the love of money; and some people, desiring to get rich, were seduced (led with a promise of reward) from the faith, and pierced through with many sorrows. (Verses 3-10.)

#### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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# Bible Readings for January, 1952

What will make it a happy year for us? Only the Word of God can do that. Love the Word and daily read it. Also love to learn it in church, and then live according to it. Then you will have a happy new year! In this Word you find forgiveness of all your sins, strength for your daily work, power to overcome temptations, comfort in trouble, sorrow, and sickness, and at last peace in death and everlasting life. Therefore love the Word, trust in it, and live the Word, and it will be a blessed new year for you. God give you that!

May these Bible Studies help you toward a richly blessed new year.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 — Read Luke 8:4-6, 9-13 Watch How You Hear the Word

Many people came together out of every city. And Jesus spoke by a parable, teaching about heavenly things by comparing them with earthly things. And what was His story? A sower (planter) went out to sow his seed. Some fell by the wayside, where people walked and stepped on it, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on a rock, where there was not much soil. And it came up quickly but soon dried up because it had not enough moisture. This is part of the story.

And the disciples, and we with them, ask Jesus: "What might this parable be?" And He tells them that God has given them to know the mysteries (hidden things) of the Kingdom of God. Yes, God must give us knowledge and understanding. To others who close their heart to God's Word it is given in parables. And why? That seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. God punishes people if they do not want to come to Jesus. At last, they cannot understand.

Now Jesus explains this parable to them and to us. The seed is the Word of God. They who are like the wayside are the people that hear the Word, but then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts so that they will not believe and be saved. Yes, when we hear the Word, the devil is near us and tries to take it out of our hearts. Therefore, when we hear the Word, let us ask God to help us keep it in our hearts so that we believe and be saved. They who are like the rock are people that hear the Word and receive it with joy.

But when troubles come, when the world laughs and mocks and hurts them because they believe, then they quickly fall away from Jesus. Let us ask God to keep us so that we do not give up our Jesus and His salvation.

PRAYER: Dear Savior, Oh, keep Thy Word in my heart. Do not let the devil take it out of my heart. Do not let me fall away when the world laughs and mocks. Amen.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

### Read Luke 8:7-10, 14-15

### Keep the Word in a Good and Honest Heart

Last Sunday we learned about some seed that fell on the way and other seed that fell on a rock. Today Jesus tells us about some seed that fell among thorns. The thorns grew up quickly and choked the good seed. It could not grow. But other seed fell on good ground, and it sprang up and gave fruit an hundredfold.

Jesus explained it, saying that they who are like thorny ground are the people that hear the Word. But then the worries of this life and the love of money and pleasures do not let the Word grow in their hearts. These things crowd out the Word. We see this happen every day. Do not let the worries, the riches, and the pleasures of this life crowd the Word of God out of your heart.

They who are like the good ground are the people that hear the Word and keep it in a good and honest heart. This kind of heart knows its sin and the love of Jesus and therefore loves His Word, honestly, truly, believes it, and patiently does much good for the glory of Jesus' name. Oh, may God give you and me such a heart! Gladly hear and learn the Word; keep it in your heart, and believe it. Then you will live a God-pleasing life and do much good, as the seed in the ground brings forth an hundredfold.

Now Jesus says: "He that has ears to hear, let him hear." Let us not carelessly hear and learn the Word. Let us keep it in a good and honest heart. Then we shall be blessed. May God grant it to everyone of us.

PRAYER: Dear Savior, thanks for Thy holy Word. Oh, help me keep it in my heart and then do much good for the glory of Thy name, because Thou didst love me and die for me. Amen.

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 - Read Luke 8:16-18 Let Your Light Shine Before Men

What will a man do with a candle when he has lit it? Will he cover it with a dish or put it under a bed? No! He will put it on a candlestick so that people who come in can see the light. We have a light in our heart. That is our faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now, should we hide this faith? No! We should let it shine so that other people can see it and then also believe in the one Savior. Let people see that you are a Christian. Show them how happy you are in this Jesus and His blood that washes you clean from all sin.

If a man believes not, that will be shown on the Last Day before the heavenly Father and His angels. Man cannot hide his sin. God will make all sins known on the Judgment Day. Therefore come to Jesus with all your sin. Trust in Him who was nailed to the Cross for you. Then you will walk in the light. Let people see your faith. Show them that Jesus died for all and that you believe in Him. Invite them to come to Jesus with you.

Jesus says: "Take heed (care) how ye hear." If we hear the Word and believe it, God will give us more and more understanding and joy and peace. Only the Word can give this. But if a man hears the Word and believes not, then all that he seems to have shall be taken from him. Accept the Word in true faith, and you will receive more and more blessings.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thanks for giving me this saving faith in my Crucified and Risen Savior and Lord. Let me in my daily life show the world that I am Thine. Amen.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - Read Luke 8:19-21

Follow Jesus; Hear His Word, and Do It

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Are you a true Christian? Many have the name Christian, but are not true believers. Today Jesus tells us who His true friends are.

He was preaching, and many people were around Him. People were glad to hear the Word of Jesus. Now His mother and His brothers came and wanted to see Him. And the people told Him about it. Did He then stop preaching and go out to see His mother? Oh, no! He tells us who His true mother and brothers are, saying: "My mother and My brethren are these which hear the Word of God and do it." It is not enough to have the name Christian, not enough to say: "I am a Christian; I love Jesus." It also is not enough to hear the Word. Oh, no! "Hear the Word of God, and do it."

Believe in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But remember faith works by love. In His Word God tells us: "Search the Scriptures," that means, "Read and study the Word of God." Now do it! Take your Bible and study it. Jesus tells us: "Hear the Word." Now go to the house of God every time you have a service. He says: "Pray without ceasing (stopping)." Now go and pray every day, pray for all people. Jesus says: "Preach the Gospel to every creature." Now help in bringing this Word of Jesus and His Cross to all people. "Hear the Word of God, and do it." Then you will be a true friend of Jesus, a true mother, a true brother or sister of His. They that hear and do it not are not true believers.

PRAYER: Dear Savior, help me not only to hear Thy Word and Thy commandments, but also to do them and so show my faith and love for Thee. Amen. J. L. S.

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These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the Deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The Deaf need God's Word.