

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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The Presentation of Christ February 2

Luke 2:29-32

In peace and joy I now depart At God's disposing;
For full of comfort is my heart, Soft reposing.
So the Lord hath promised me, And death is but a slumber.

'Tis Christ that wrought this work for me, My faithful Savior,
Whom Thou hast made mine eyes to see By Thy favor.
Now I know He is my Life, My Help in need and dying.

Him Thou hast unto all set forth Their great Salvation
And to His kingdom called the earth, Every nation,
By Thy dear and wholesome Word, In every place resounding.

He is the Hope and saving Light Of lands benighted;
By Him are they who dwelt in night Fed and lighted.
He is Israel's Praise and Bliss, Their Joy, Reward, and Glory.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER, 1524

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These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and 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.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

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Secret Organizations

The following item appeared in the California and Nevada District supplement to the *Lutheran Witness* some time ago.

"Deaf Missions, San Francisco Field (Theo. DeLaney, pastor) — With the news that a chapter of DESOMS (Deaf Sons of Masons) is to be established in the San Francisco Bay Area, Pastor Delaney has begun a series of articles in his monthly paper showing from Scripture why Lutheran Christians are opposed to lodges such as this one. This is viewed as a program of Christian education, warning our deaf brethren of the pitfalls which lie along the pathway of life."

While this matter indeed deserves more space than we can give it in this issue, we can nevertheless briefly point out the chief objections which are decisive from the Christian standpoint. Masonry is the chief exponent of the lodge religion, and the DESOMS follow the line of thought of Masonry.

Masonry worships a god, a god of everybody's personal idea, but it is not the Triune God of the Bible, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. John 5:23; 2 John 9-11.

Masonry teaches a way of salvation, but it is a way of being saved by having done good and not the way of the Bible: by God's grace, through Jesus' redemption, and by faith. Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9.

Masonry offers prayer, but not in Jesus' name and therefore not acceptable to God. John 16:23.

The fellowship of Masonry, believer with unbeliever, is not Biblical. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Then there are its oaths and other things that are objectionable.

From our Mission to the Blind

Mail received by the Editor of the LUTHERAN MESSENGER and the LUTHERAN HERALD FOR THE BLIND was heavy in December. Holiday greetings with words of appreciation arrived from sightless friends in England, Canada, Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Palestine, Germany, and many other lands in addition to those in the U.S.A. Since 1927 the Editor has received and answered some 50,000 Braille and ink letters from the blind.

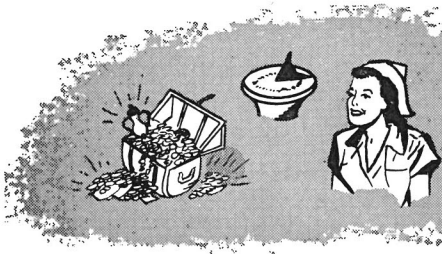
In December twenty-four food packages were delivered personally to needy handicapped persons by the Editor of the MESSENGER FOR THE BLIND. Six Christmas Cheer checks were mailed to others. The Lutheran Charities Association of Chicago supplied the funds.

A number of Chicago area blind have been ill at home and in hospitals. Letters and phone calls prompted the Editor's visits to many of the 100 hospitals in the Chicago area.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Cavanaugh, deaf-blind, living in neighboring Indiana, departed this life in 1956 to be with the Lord. The Editor visited them frequently since 1950.

In 1957 the LUTHERAN MESSENGER FOR THE BLIND will again print serially a book-length story, "Prince of the House of David" by Rev. E. Ingraham of London, England. It is fiction, vividly told, describing the life and works of the blessed Savior in the words of a young woman living at the time in Judea, in letters to her merchant father in Alexandria, Egypt.

REV. O. C. SCHROEDER



Stewardship

My First and Best for God

The Bible principle that God is to receive the first fruits is learned also from what happened to Jericho and Ai, two cities conquered by the victorious Israelites in Canaan.

Usually God permitted His people to keep for themselves the fortunes of war when He gave them victory over their enemies.

But in the case of Jericho, all the captured wealth of the city was to go to God. "All the silver and gold and vessels of brass and iron are consecrated unto the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." Joshua 6:19.

Why this command? Because Jericho was the *first* city captured by the Israelites — and to God belonged the first fruits. And when Achan disobeyed this clear command of God and took some of the gold and other valuables for himself, he was stoned to death.

Then, when God's people marched against the second city, Joshua said, "Thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king; only the spoil thereof and the cattle thereof shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves." Joshua 8:2. So the spoils of the second and the third and so on the people could keep for their own needs, but the *first* was the Lord's.

This shows that God takes good care of His people and supplies their every need. But at the same time *God wants His people to be grateful* and remember the Giver of all good gifts. God wants the first fruits of His people's goods.

Times and conditions have changed since Israel conquered Jericho and Ai. But the principle which shows the relation between God and His people has not changed. God *still* gives us all we have. And God *still* expects us to remember Him with our God-given materials and the first fruits of our increase.

Furthermore, God's work is so important that only our best fruits will even begin to do the job right.

Did not God give His very *best* (His Son) and His very *first* (His only Son) to be the Savior of sinners?

Did not Jesus give His very *best* (Himself) as full payment for the sins of all men? Is not God giving us the very best when He assures us of heaven, everlasting life with Him, at His right hand with its pleasures forevermore?

Out of heart-filled gratitude for all this priceless goodness and grace shall we be satisfied to return to the Giver of all only some "leftovers"? No, rather let us say: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all," and surely as a good start — my *first* fruits! — *Adapted.*

A. L. HAUPTMANN



Field Gleanings

Jacksonville, Ill. — In the early morning hours of Thanksgiving Day, death came to **Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Zimmer** and their son **John** and his wife and son **Kenneth**, when all five lost their lives in a car

theran Church, where the family of John held membership. Pastors H. C. Rose, N. P. Uhlig, and D. I. Thies officiated. May we always be ready, for the Lord may call us very suddenly and unexpectedly.



Group of Jacksonville, Ill., Deaf

Seated, l. to r.: Mr. Felix Lupien, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Foster and children, Mrs. Broecker with daughter, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Theo. Zimmer. Standing: Miss Melba and Miss Grace Moses, Mrs. Lupien, Mr. Parke Moses, Mr. Foster, Mr. Broecker, Mr. Rob. Bowman, Mr. Theo. Zimmer, Pastor Uhlig. This group watched 1956 coming in. In 1956 Mr. Lupien, charter member and long-time treasurer, died in July, and Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Zimmer were killed in an accident on Thanksgiving Day (see story elsewhere in "Gleanings")

accident on the way to Chicago to be with a daughter for the day. Mr. Zimmer was president of Christ Lutheran Church, and therefore the death of Mr. and Mrs. Zimmer is a severe blow to the small group of that organization. Mrs. Zimmer has been a great worker for the auxiliary of the congregation. Funeral services for the five were held on Sunday, November 25, at Salem Lu-

St. Louis, Mo. — Three members were added to our list by confirmation on August 26: **Mrs. Russell Healey, Wm. Schwarz, and Sharon Meyer**. May God keep them strong in faith and love of their Savior. — On October 21 Rev. Wm. Reinking interpreted in signs the TV program "The Way of Life," thus giving the Deaf of the country the interpretation of the episode. — At Chester,

Ill., Mr. Martin Bogenpohl, the father of two of our members, **Mrs. Cora Long** and **Mrs. Helen Alexander**, passed away on October 8 and was given Christian burial on October 11 at Chester, Ill. Pastor Reinking interpreted the services. — Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rasch**, to whom a fine son was born October 21.

Denver, Colo. — During 1956

services for the Deaf of the Sidney, Nebr., area were begun; these, however, were moved to Sterling, Colo. Also at Durango, Colo., we have begun services for the Deaf. A picture of this group, which worships at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, appears in this issue. — Pastor Bailey's editor and typist of his bulletin, Mrs. Bailey, is back on her job after a stay at a hospital.



Deaf Group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Durango, Colo.



Pastor and Mrs. F. G. Gyle and Children

Miami, Fla. — Pastor Gyle was forced to go to the hospital some time ago for surgery. He returned home after a short stay at the hospital but must take it easy and avoid "weightlifting," as he described certain tasks, for hernia requires time for mending.

Newark, N. J. — On October 7 **Mr. Nicholas Zilocchi** of Union City was received as a member through profession of faith. May the Lord be with him and keep him in faith. He experienced the Lord's protection recently when his car was struck by hit-and-run teen-agers.

While he was unhurt, he missed his car that week, for within a week he was to be married to **Miss Doris Trappe** of Hackensack. May God bless this union. — Tragedy struck the Spaltons, as **Mrs. Evelyn Heady Spalton** and her infant son were killed when the car driven by her husband, **Mr. Donald Spalton**, was struck by a train at an unprotected crossing. He and an older son escaped. Let us always be ready and prepared; for the handicapped Deaf are in special danger in these days of crowded highways and fast cars.

Indianapolis, Ind. — Vicar Earl J. Thaler, who moved from Oklahoma City here in November, is busy with his group preparing for the week of February 24, when there will be a week of evangelism in our Lutheran churches of the area. Rev. Delbert Thies of Jacksonville, Ill., is scheduled as guest missionary for the Deaf church. Mr. Thaler replaced the missionary at large, Pastor Uhlig, who had been here four months and was moved to Jackson, Miss., and is now ordered to go to Boston, Mass., where Rev. Boerner had suffered a breakdown which caused him to resign from active duty.

Rochester, N. Y. — On November 18 Alpha Lutheran Deaf Church commemorated the third anniversary of the dedication of the church, Pastor Rohe preaching a very inspiring sermon. — **Mr. Arthur Meyer** recently came to America from Germany. He lipreads German only but is studying the English language and signs now. He was instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Germany and is a very welcome addition to Alpha's membership. — Alpha Ladies' Guild had a very successful

bazaar last fall through the fine cooperation of the members under the leadership of the chairman, Mrs. Hazel Borowitz. Alpha's Guild officers are Flora Ott, president; Marion Ziegler, vice-president; Ramona McGee, secretary; Effie Rohe, treasurer.

IDA EYSAMAN

Des Moines, Iowa. — **Susan Ann Neely**, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Neely of Waterloo, Iowa, was baptized October 28 at the Cedar Falls service. God keep her safe in soul and body. — On November 10 the angel of death took **Mr. John B. Miller** after an illness. He was given Christian burial November 15. He had become a member of Calvary Deaf Church last May and in October had been elected an elder of the congregation. He was only 47 years old and leaves a sorrowing wife and three children. We must not question God's ways, though one feels that at Mr. Miller's age he was still needed very much on earth. May God comfort the widow and children with the thought that he is resting with Jesus.

L. M. S.

New York, N. Y. — Pastor Wm. Hausmann of St. Mark's Lutheran Church now goes every Wednesday to Hartford, Conn., for religious teaching of children of the American School for the Deaf. — At Hartford, Conn., **Mr. George Bonvouloir** was received into membership by the rite of confirmation. — **Mr. Albritton Randolph** is the lay reader at St. Mark's in New York when Pastor Hausmann goes to the Hartford and Springfield Missions. — Pastor Hausmann, with Pastors Gerhold of Newark and Simon of St. Matthew's, New York, has been serving the Deaf of the Massachusetts area since the illness of Rev.

Boerner of Boston has forced him to resign.

Memphis, Tenn. — On October 21 **Richard Cassidy Johnson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Johnson, was baptized. — On December 2 **Mr. and Mrs. Louie Johnson** were received into Lutheran membership by confirmation, and two of their four children, **George Douglas** and **Glenn Allan**, were baptized by Rev. W. C. Krueger, Vicar H. Graef interpreting the service. — On December 22 **Lawrence Fields**, president of Peace Lutheran Deaf Church, and **Mary Harris** were united in marriage by Rev. J. T. Skinner, Mr. Graef interpreting the service. — November 22, Thanksgiving Day, **Rev. Victor Brugge**, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Memphis, passed away in his sleep. He had been seriously ill for many months. He was a true friend and benefactor of the Deaf of Memphis for many years. At Trinity a chapel was provided them some years ago. Pastor Brugge was widely known and served our church in various ways during the 29 years of his ministry. He was 61 years old at the time of his death. — **Mr. Billy Fitzgerald**, vice-president of Peace Lutheran Deaf Church, and **Miss Aline Davis** of Tuscaloosa, Ala., were on September 29 married at Tuscaloosa. Both were confirmed some years ago by Pastor Westermann while studying at the Alabama School for the Deaf. — **Mr. Lee Fullbright** of Benton, Ark., has recovered from a serious operation. H. G.



Know Your Bible

Ecclesiastes, or The Preacher

In the Hebrew church this book was annually read on the Feast of Tabernacles, which came sometime in October, five days after the Great Day of Atonement, the Yom Kippur. The book is a philosophical book, giving lessons of great value on true wisdom.

The author is given as Solomon; and evidently it was written in old, mature age, when Solomon, one of the richest, mightiest kings, looked back upon his life and its lessons. He had tasted life and had everything that he had wanted. While his record shows very bad spots, he

evidently in old age looked back and disapproved of many things that he had done, and gave the lessons to those following him in time and perhaps in mistakes.

The key words of the book are "**vanity**" and "**eternity**." It is a book that many do not understand or appreciate. And in our age of materialism, when people look for enjoyment and wealth in order to have the comforts and pleasures of life, it is well to heed the wisdom of the disillusioned wise king and to remember the book's great lesson: "Remember thy Creator" and "Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

The book can be divided into four

parts. In chapters one and two we have the Preacher's first sermon; it tells of **the vanity of all things human**, including wisdom and all earthly pleasures. Vanity means to be of little and short-lived value; and surely we all know how the joys and boastings of today are faded and bitter tomorrow. In the second sermon, chapters three to five, the Preacher speaks of **the proper use of earthly goods and pleasures**; "I said in my heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked; for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work." In the third sermon, or discourse, chapters six to eight, he tells of **the vanity of riches and how true wisdom can be obtained**. "Though a sinner do evil a hundred times and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him; but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a

shadow, because he feareth not before God." Ecclesiastes 8:12, 13.

In the final sermon the rules for obtaining true wisdom are given, chapters 9-12. A grand, poetic chapter is the 12th where he tells us: "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth," before age and unpleasant days come when we say: "I have no pleasure in them"; when the eyesight fails (v. 2a), tears flow (v. 2b), legs become weak (v. 3a), back bends (v. 3b), man does not talk much, teeth fall out (v. 3c), man can't sleep and wakes at the slightest noise (v. 4), man is dizzy (v. 5), fearful, the almond tree flourishes—the hair is white—the light grasshopper is a burden, and man goes to his "long home," the grave. A beautiful chapter with the final admonition to fear God and to remember that He will judge even every secret thing. Truly a little but valuable book is Ecclesiastes.

U.



Devotions

The selections from the Epistle to the Romans and the prayer and devotions are by Pastor N. P. Uhlig

SUGGESTED USE

1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth."
2. Find the place in your Bible, and read the verse or verses. Read slowly, and think what each verse says.
3. Read the explanation under the date. Look up the Bible verses in the New Testament as you come to them.
4. Close your devotion with the prayer for January, add what is on your heart, and repeat the Lord's prayer.

PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, I thank You for having given me this day. In mercy forgive my sins against You and others for Jesus' sake. Increase my

faith through the study of Your Word. Give me more love for others, even for those who sin against me. Give me strength for the trials and temptations that come to me. Make me to realize that I am Your child, and open my eyes to see the opportunities for telling others about You. Protect me from harm and danger. Let me not misuse my health and money. Bless those who are near and dear to me, and protect them. Bless my pastor and my congregation, and hold Your hands over the missionaries and the congregations of the church here and in foreign lands. Give wisdom and strength to the rulers of our nation and our state. Help and support those suffering from the violence of wicked people in many places of the earth. Awaken us all to realize that the only hope for temporal and eternal happiness of the world lies in the preaching of the Gospel, through which alone faith and love can come, and make us willing to support missions with constant prayer and generous contributions. Should death come to me today, receive my soul for Jesus' sake, and take care of those I leave behind. Hear my prayer, O Lord, for the sake of my Savior. Amen.

Friday, February 1

Romans 1:1-6

Who Am I? — Paul tells us who he is, namely, the servant of Jesus and one that is sent to tell others that Jesus is the Son of God, proved so by His resurrection, and the Savior that God had promised, who would come from the family of David. Are we always ready to tell others that we are servants of God and messengers of salvation to others? We should do so. Decide now that you will tell someone today to believe in Jesus.

Saturday, February 2

Romans 1:16-20

Presentation of Christ

God May Be Known. — Like Paul we must never be ashamed to tell the Gospel to others. It's something to be proud of to show lost people that God loves them and has revealed Himself to man in the Bible as well as in nature. Nature shows that its Maker is powerful and eternal; so man has no excuse, but he should turn to the Bible which tells us what God hates, sin, and what He loves — the heart that looks up to Jesus in humble faith. Let us read and study the two great

books and find God in them — the Bible and the book of nature.

Sunday, February 3

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Romans 1:21-25

Idol Worship Produces Sinful Life. — When man does not worship God as He wants to be worshiped and as He has revealed Himself in the Bible, then man worships idols according to man's imagination. It may be an image or a wrong idea of God or money or pleasure. But such idolatry always produces a sinful life. The history of every heathen nation and of all man-made religions shows that idolatry has always led to coarse or refined wickedness. Let us be strict with ourselves: Do we love, trust, and worship the Triune God above any and all other things?

Monday, February 4

Romans 2:1-6

A Message to Everyone. — God looks at the heart. Outward connection with a church or race means nothing in God's sight; eventually God's judgment strikes every evildoer down. While God has patience and holds off punishment often for a long time, this should lead man to

repentance and not to a false feeling that God overlooks wickedness. Lord, make us serious-minded!

Tuesday, February 5

Romans 2:11-16

Man's Conscience. — The old Hebrews had the written Law as well as we have it. But even the heathen have something left in their hearts of the Law, for God wrote the Law into man's heart; that is, He created Adam and Eve with a knowledge of what is wrong and what is right. The conscience of man shows that he knows that certain things are right and others wrong. Man's conscience may err for lack of sufficient knowledge of right and wrong. It may be sharpened by the study of God's written Law. So let us sharpen our conscience by daily study of the Bible; but let us remember that God's written Word is always superior to our conscience or feelings.

Wednesday, February 6

Romans 2:23-29

How Is God Dishonored. — Often people who consider themselves Christians, just as the Hebrews considered themselves righteous because they had the Law, break the laws they hold up to others. Thereby they cause nonbelievers to ridicule and despise religion and God. This dishonors God and makes mission work very hard and often unsuccessful. Paul called him a real Jew whose heart was right; so he is a true Christian whose faith in Christ rules and directs his life. May God forgive us that we so often unknowingly and perhaps knowingly disregard His will.

Thursday, February 7

Romans 3:9-20

All Equally Condemned by the Law. — There is no difference between men; all are sinners, and the Law condemns them all. The Law is like a mirror; because as man reads the Law and compares himself with its demands, he finds that he is a sinner. So Paul says that the Jews have nothing to boast over the non-Jews. So our mouths must be stopped also, and we must remain humble and meek. So far in Romans Paul has preached only the strict Law of God; thank God that we have Jesus and the Gospel, to which Paul now comes in his message in this Epistle.

Friday, February 8

Romans 3:21-28

All Equally Helped by God's Grace. — The gracious Lord gave us not only the Law but also the Gospel with its message that Jesus came to our rescue and kept the Law perfectly for us, made good with His suffering and death our transgressions, and offers forgiveness to all. The only condition is acceptance by faith: "Only believe!" The forgiveness is not earned by us; it was earned by Jesus for us and given us freely. Thank God for this message. It gives all glory to God and sure hope to sinners.

Saturday, February 9

Romans 4:1-8

Abraham Saved Through Faith. — God declared Abraham to be righteous and saved not because he had earned that by doing good works, but because he believed God's

promises. And to seal to him that blessedness, Abraham was circumcised. So all that walk in the steps of faithful Abraham are declared righteous by God. Let us never think or say: "I shall be saved because I am good," but rather: "I believe that my Jesus died for me and that God forgave my sins on Jesus' account; therefore I know I am saved."

Sunday, February 10

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Romans 4:20-25

What Is Faith? — This section clearly shows us what faith is; namely, it means to trust God's promises of forgiveness for Jesus' sake very firmly, knowing that God never breaks His promise. That is what Abraham did; he "staggered not at the promises," he doubted them not; and so it is true for all times. Let us "believe on Him that raised Jesus from the dead, who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification"; for if He had failed in His work, He would not have been raised again. "Lord, increase our faith!"

Monday, February 11

Romans 5:1-5

Fruits of Salvation. — One of the finest short summaries of what a Christian gains is given here: peace; peace with God, the firm knowledge that God is my Friend through Jesus. We have free access, or admission, by faith to this grace, constantly receiving it and being refreshed by it. We have hope in the glory of God that He has promised us; we can be happy about tribulations and sufferings, because

we find help and thus always can patiently wait for the hour of help; we gain by experience that sure conviction that He will help us, and so we are never hopeless. This we get from the Holy Spirit, who upholds us. Oh, what glorious blessings are ours through faith!

Tuesday, February 12

Romans 5:12-19

Lost and Saved Through One. — Many do not believe that Adam's sin made his children sinners; but here it is plainly said. Adam stood for the whole human race as their representative; when he fell, all fell, and so now every baby is tainted with sin at birth. Likewise Jesus stood for the whole human race as the Substitute of all. When He kept the Law and paid the penalty of sin, which is death, the whole human race had really paid it and was saved. The blessings are shared by faith. "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

Wednesday, February 13

Romans 6:3-12

Planted into Christ by Baptism. — Here St. Paul shows us what Baptism should mean to us and what it does for us. By Baptism we are connected with Christ, planted together with Him. What happened to Him thereby happened to us. As He died, our sins died with Him; as He rose, we rose to a new life. Let us realize that a sinful life is totally unbecoming and wrong for a Christian. So let us live to God. Does my Baptism mean that to me? It should; O Lord, make me realize how precious my Baptism is!

Thursday, February 14

Romans 6:16-23

Made Free and Alive. — We, like the Christians in Rome, were made free and were given eternal life when we came to faith. The chains of sin held us like slaves, and the end was eternal death and separation from God; now Christ broke the chains, and through the work of the Holy Spirit we came to faith. By his sins, man can only earn death as the wages; but eternal life is a free gift of God. How can I ever thank God for this gift? I must live for Him now.

Friday, February 15

Romans 7:1-7

The Law Shows What Is Sinful. — As death makes a woman free from her husband, dissolving the union, so a Christian, dying with Christ's death unto the Law, becomes free of the Law in the sense that the condemnation of the Law is gone. The demands of the Law still concern him, but not its judgment, for through faith he is free from the curse of the Law. The Law is not the way to life; it is rather a mirror that shows the Christian what is sinful and what is not sinful, and it is a rule whereby he can guide his ways. Let us often look into this mirror and see our sin and then wash ourselves clean in Jesus' blood.

Saturday, February 16

Romans 7:18-25

A Christian's Inward Struggle. — Until death makes him free, a Christian has within him a constant struggle. He has a new heart and new, holy desires, here called the "law of God." But there is still the

old evil heart, too, and it wants the bad and wrong thing every time. So a Christian is torn between two forces in him. It makes him sad, for so many times evil wins; but he struggles on and ever fights on. He knows that as long as there is the struggle, the new man is alive; if there were no struggle any more, the new man would be dead. The fight must keep us humble; but let us watch and pray for strength always.

Sunday, February 17

Septuagesima Sunday

Romans 8:8-14

Led by the Spirit of God. — The spirit of Christ is produced by the Holy Spirit, who leads the Christian to become minded like Jesus and to think and speak and do as Jesus would. Who has not the Spirit of Christ is none of His, says Paul. That must make us think. How can Christians sometimes so completely forget that and speak and think and judge so differently from what God wants! Oh, let us daily pray: "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me," O Lord!

Monday, February 18

Romans 8:18-23

Something to Remember when We Suffer. — "We must through much tribulation [suffering] enter into the kingdom of God," God assures us through St. Paul. But here St. Paul reminds us that there waits such a glorious home and joy for us in heaven that any hardships here cannot be compared with that. On account of sin the whole creation — the animals, too — have suffering here; but while we are not told here that the animals will be in heaven,

we are told that there will be a total freedom from suffering in the new existence which is called the "new heaven and the new earth" by St. John. Only the lost in hell will be unhappy. Oh, let us be sure we escape and work hard through missionary work to lead others to life.

Tuesday, February 19

Romans 8:24-30

Never Hopeless. — Christians are never hopeless. Hope "saves" them; which here means that they are always lifted up again by hope. They are sure of God's promises; the Holy Spirit also prays for them; all things will work together for good to them. God has called them by the Gospel and brought them to faith; God has, before the world began, already chosen them for salvation through Christ; God has declared them righteous because of what Jesus did for them; and they are sure that God will glorify them; so why should they be hopeless? "Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God."

Wednesday, February 20

Romans 8:31-39

Victory Through Christ! — This is the most beautiful song of victory in the Bible, and it was sung by Paul, who suffered very much for Christ and eventually even died for Him. He was so sure because he knew that God's love in Jesus had held him and would hold him. And he was right. Others may have been thinking that he was a poor, unfortunate man when he was beheaded under the murderous Emperor Nero of Rome, but for him it was a coming home in victory and to glory. Make sure we stand in

faith; then we, too, can join in this wonderful song of triumph and victory.

Thursday, February 21

Romans 9:14-24

God Is Not Unrighteous. — On the one hand, we know that God wants everyone to be saved; on the other hand, we know that He has chosen those that are saved. We know that we are saved because of His mercy and for Christ's sake; we know those that are lost are lost because they rejected Him. But we must not accuse God of unfairness; He is the Potter, we are the clay; and the will of God is supreme. The mystery remains before us why some seemingly are preferred before others; but here we must put our fingers to our lips and say: We do not know. He has not disclosed His will, and He does not owe us that answer. "Be still and know that I am God," He said.

Friday, February 22

Romans 10:8-18

"O Earth, Earth, Earth, Hear the Word of the Lord!" — Here we are told that he who believes in the Lord will be saved, no matter to which race or color he belongs. But people must hear the story of salvation, and it must be brought to them. This is a very important duty, and Christians must be mission-minded. Are we? Do we pray enough for missions? Do we say enough about missions? Do we pay enough for missions? Lord, make us mission-minded!

Saturday, February 23

Romans 11:18-23

Let Us Be Humble. — The Hebrews were God's chosen people.

But when they rejected Christ, they were broken off like branches from a tree, and the heathen people got the Gospel. Christ's church was built in the New Testament largely from heathen peoples. But if we boast ourselves against others, let us remember that we can be broken off and the original branches again grafted into the tree.

Sunday, February 24

Sexagesima Sunday and St. Matthias
Romans 11:33-36

God's Superiority. — The Epistle to the Romans is a deep book, especially where Paul treats of the doctrine of election and predestination, which terms mean that God, before the world began, has chosen those that would be saved, but has not picked some to damnation. Speaking of these and other mysteries which we can never understand, Paul tells us that God's ways are beyond our understanding, but that of Him and to Him and through Him are all things to glorify Him. But we must never forget that this great and wonderful God loves us and will take care of us. His name be praised forever.

Monday, February 25

Romans 12:1-5

Serving God and Our Neighbor in Love. — Since God has loved us and saved us, we should present our body and soul to Him and serve Him with the gifts and talents He gave us and serve the neighbor in love. The entire chapter gives us many hints how this service can well be done.

Tuesday, February 26

Romans 13:1-7

Obey the Government. — Chris-

tians belong to two kingdoms; they are citizens of an earthly nation, and that government has power over their bodies, and we must respect the government of the nation to which we belong. The civil authorities are God's representatives and as such have authority. But we are citizens also of the heavenly kingdom of God, and His rule must also be respected. The rules of life in the Bible are our guide.

Wednesday, February 27

Romans 14:14-19

Offend Not by Misusing Christian Liberty. — There are many things about which we have no specific directions in the Bible. What is not forbidden is not wrong in itself to do. But some weak Christian brother may have doubts about that very thing, and we might offend him by doing it. So Christian love should urge us not to do such a thing but rather desist. The law of love is supreme then. He may stumble and lose his faith through our actions.

Thursday, February 28

Romans 15:5-13

Have the Mind of Christ, the Savior of All. — The last two chapters of the Epistle to the Romans give us a number of suggestions and directions for our conduct toward others. Paul spoke these words to Jews and non-Jews and urges all to rejoice together over our wonderful Savior and to receive one another as brethren. How necessary this admonition is today, when there is so much class spirit and hatred between nations and races and groups! Surely, we need this reminder very much.



Bible Quiz

Why did King David not permit Shimei to be punished when he had called David a bloody man and a devil? 2 Samuel 16:11c.

The doctrine that man is saved through faith in Jesus does not contradict the Law, but what does it really do for the Law? Romans 3:31.

What happened at Taberah to those that murmured against God and against the leadership of Moses? Numbers 11:1, 3.

What had Paul learned in his life and work for the Lord in all situations? Philippians 4:11.

A certain reunion is mentioned in one of the psalms, and two of the party kissed each other; which two? Psalm 85:10.

Which three witnesses in heaven agree in the testimony that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior? 1 John 5:7.

What name is given to the cross on which Jesus was crucified? 1 Peter 2:24.

Who can be sure that he will inherit eternal life? Titus 3:7.

What does *Talitha, cumi* mean, words that Jesus spoke in the house of Jairus? Mark 5:41.

"Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again," says a proverb; how does the psalmist say it? Psalm 85:11.

For what did Jesus praise the non-Jewish captain, telling him that he pleased God more in that respect than did the Jews themselves? Luke 7:9.

What promise have good children from God? Exodus 20:12.

For what were the Jews hungry in the desert? Numbers 11:5.

What did Jesus say to Jairus when the people in his home told him not to trouble Jesus any more because his daughter was already dead? Mark 5:36.

What is more valuable than food and clothing? Matthew 6:25.

How many men were chosen from each of the twelve tribes to spy out the land of Canaan? Numbers 13:2.

What does sorrow do to a person's eyes? Job 17:7.

What will the birds of the air do when a man speaks badly about his ruler or about some rich, influential man? Ecclesiastes 10:20.

You can inherit a home and riches, but how can you get a good wife? Proverbs 19:14.

What reward comes to a person who attends diligently to his business? Proverbs 22:29.

What is the strong tower where the righteous person is safe? Proverbs 18:10.

"HELP one another," the snowflakes said
As they cuddled down in
their snowy bed.

"One of us would not be
felt;

One of us would surely
melt;

So I'll help you, and you'll
help me,

Then what a wonderful drift
there'll be."