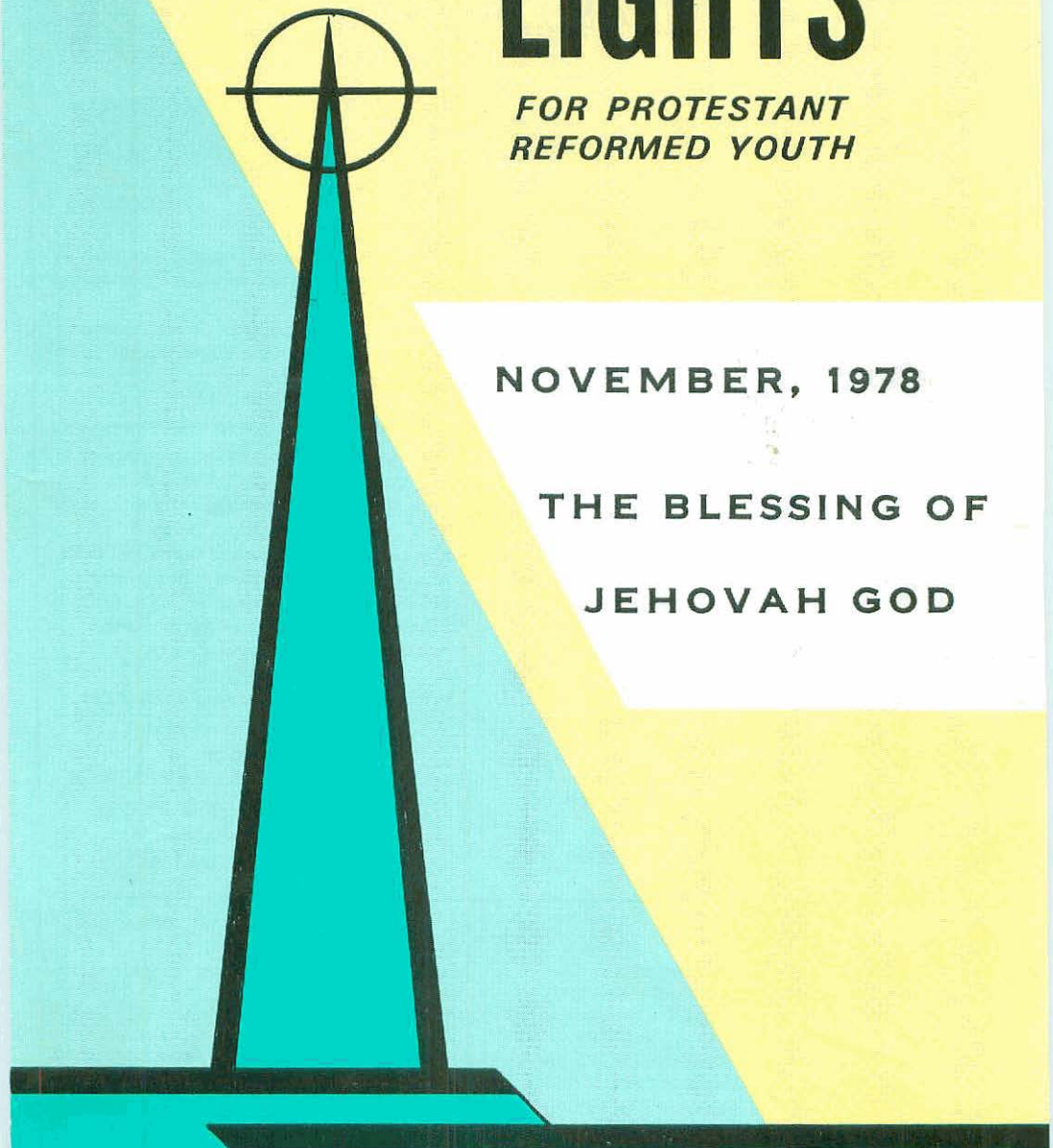
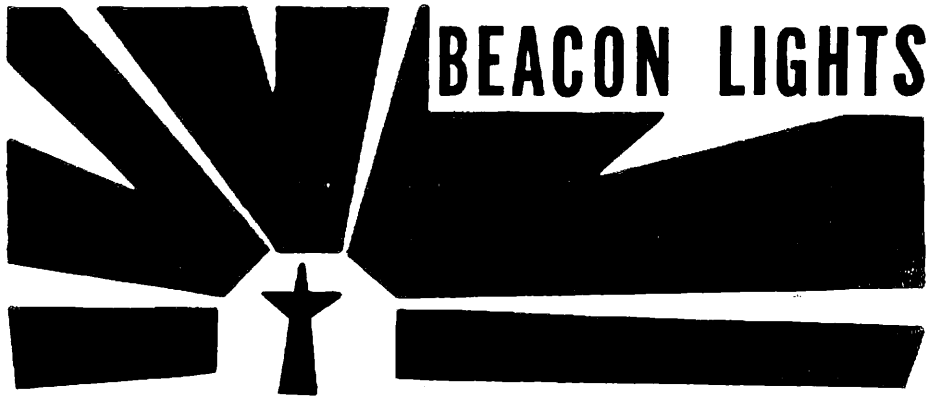
BEACON LIGHTS

FOR PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUTH



NOVEMBER, 1978

THE BLESSING OF JEHOVAH GOD



VOLUME XXXVII NOVEMBER, 1978 NUMBER 7

Published monthly (except June-July and August-September are combined) by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies.

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Beacon Lights
1401 Su-Lew S.W., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49504
Second Class Postage paid at
Jenison, Michigan
Subscription price $3.00

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

In this issue of *Beacon Lights for Protestant Reformed Youth*, we have included the remaining convention speech entitled "Remember Now Thy Creator - In The Home" by Rev. Kortering of Redlands, California. There are also candid pictures taken at the convention in South Holland, Illinois, courtesy of John Van Baren of our Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church. In addition, there is a look at this year's convention in review supplied by Carolyn Van Baren also of Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church.

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If you are a resident of Michigan who has received *Beacon Lights* for the first time this month and can't remember subscribing to it, you probably haven't subscribed to it yet. But now is your opportunity to become a regular reader. We invite you to accept this copy as the first of a years subscription to *Beacon Lights*. To get on our mailing list, simply detach the form on the inside back cover and mail it to the given address. You may enclose the $3.00 subscription price or be billed later.

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Give thanks to God, for good is He,
To Him all praise and glory be,
His wondrous works with praise record,
The only God, the sovereign Lord,

His wisdom made the heav'ns to be,
He spread the earth above the sea,
Praise Him Whose sun doth bring the day,
The moon and stars His might display,

He helped us in our deepest woes,
He ransomed us from all our foes,
Each creature's need He doth supply,
Give thanks to God, enthroned on high,

His grace abideth ever;
His mercy faileth never.

The Psalter 378, Psalm 136

Editorial

"JUST FORGIVEN"

by Gerald Kuiper

If you've ever taken the time to read bumper stickers on cars and trucks today, you will have been amazed, as I've been, at what seems to be a growing trend. It seems that no subject is too sacred or too private, and that anything can be said nowadays on a bumper sticker. Not only have the messages become more lawless and profane; but many of them are catchy "religious" slogans of the church world of today which uses bumpers for its bulletin boards. I saw one the other day which went something like this: "Christians; not perfect-just forgiven". I'd like to share a few of my thoughts about this particular slogan with you.

In the first place, this statement does have much more to it than "Honk if you love Jesus!", or some of the other blasphemous types like the one about the car being unmanned if the rapture occurs. These are not only ridiculous, but to me are sickening. In the second place, I was struck by the fact that the statement on the bumper sticker is basically true. After all, Christians are not as yet perfect on this earth, and we believe that they are surely forgiven. There were, however, many negative thoughts I had, and these prompted me to use this subject for this article.

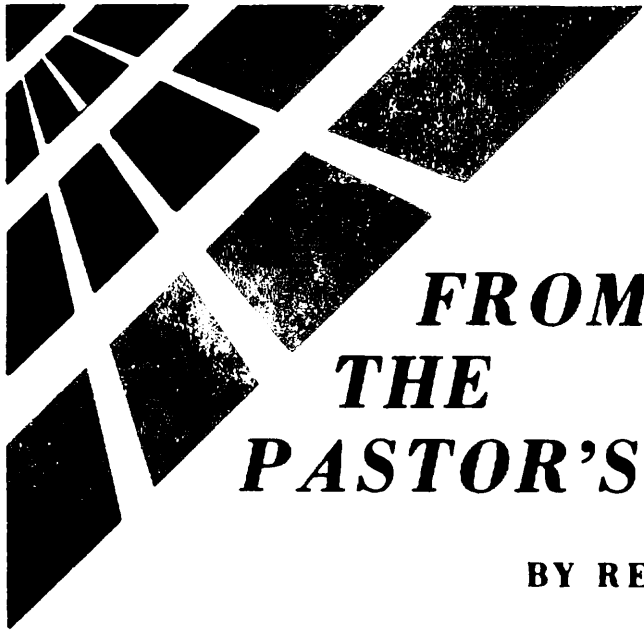
First, the underlying message here seems to be, "Look! Christians aren't perfect, and aren't expected to be. We're just forgiven". Or, it seems to imply, "You don't have to be perfect to be a Christian, because we really aren't that different from you". And further, "We can have a good time in this world too, but we are forgiven. So don't look down on us. Join our ranks!"

Secondly, I don't like the last part of the slogan, "Just forgiven". The beautiful gift of God's free grace to His chosen people is preceded by the adverb "just". The word seems to give to forgiveness a casual flavor, the idea that forgiveness is not that much wonder, but is perhaps incidental.

I'm afraid that many of us, and especially we younger people, unconsciously share some of the attitudes portrayed by that bumper sticker. For example, we are sometimes afraid to let it be known that we are different in our life style, that we live antithetically in the world. We desire that others consider us to be among those who can live comfortably with them, and that really we have few differences. I think that sometimes we are ready to say to those about us that there are many similarities between us. We all have our pet sins and our weaknesses, and the only difference is that we are forgiven and you are not, we say to them. We certainly say this clearly when we join with worldly acquaintances in evil activities, and live as those who are characterized by Paul as men who "sin that grace may abound".

We often forget, I think, that we are to strive for perfection. The Holy Scriptures proclaim to us that we are to be holy, for our God is holy. We are, as Rev. Hoeksema writes in **The Triple Knowledge "Imperfect, perfect Christians". We are in principle perfect. Through Jesus Christ, sin has been made dead within us. We are** born again and old things are passed away. When we live close to the world, we live far from God and that principle of the new life is not displayed in us when we fail to strive daily against evil. Read Rev. Hoeksema's treatment of Lord's Day 44, and read the epistles of John and Peter. You will find that there can be no concord between Christ and Belial, and that we are to strive to live lives which are sanctified.

Let us resolve together to work daily to know God better by studying His Word and by being constant in prayer. Let us live close to Him, antithetically, and work with all that is in us to live the life of thanksgiving to God for His forgiving mercy.



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

BY REV. G. LUBBERS

THE BLESSING OF JEHOVAH GOD

". . . and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27b

Did you ever stop to ponder, young people, that the Name of Jehovah God has been put upon your forehead because you belonged to the Israel of God? Have you pondered the magnitude of the great words which are spoken before each service in your midst on Sunday morning and on Sunday evening by the minister of the Word, "Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God the Father, and from

Jesus Christ our Lord, by the operation of the Holy Spirit"? Or is this simply some rite which we take for granted as we do with so many of the good things of God's Covenant with us, His people.

In this little phrase taken from Numbers 6:27, we have the LORD God speaking to Moses giving him instructions as to what mandate he must give to Aaron's priesthood in regard to laying the Name of Jehovah upon the Israel of God. God spoke these words to Moses when they were at Mount Sinai, after the tabernacle had been completed and the official services at the altar were to begin as a perpetual service until Christ should come to fulfil them all in His own precious blood.

Now the priest had to "bless the children of Israel" in the Name of the Lord. This blessing was not a mere "priestly wish", but it was what the LORD Himself will surely, efficaciously work in the heart of His people Israel. You pronounce this blessing upon Israel, says the Lord to Aaron's priesthood, and I will bless them! The work of bestowing the blessings of the covenant is not man's work, but is exclusively the wonder of Jehovah's salvation. This work of grace is fulfilled in Jesus Christ's Cross and resurrection, and in the outpouring of the Spirit in Pentecost. However, in the Old Testament Dispensation the priesthood of Aaron, both high priests and regular priests were to stand at the altar of the sacrifices and at the altar of incense and bless the people of Israel, who came to worship in the temple and thus to appear before the Lord!

Yes, the LORD says: and I will bless them!

Aaron speaks the words of God, and the LORD works His blessing by this Word and by His Spirit. Now surely the important thing is not whether Aaron and his sons spoke these words with their eyes closed or opened, but the important thing is that the proper words, the proper "blessing" was pronounced upon the congregation. When the LORD tells Moses to say that the blessing must be "on this wise" (Numbers 6:23) he means not the posture either of prayer or of a direct speech (it is in an hour of prayer!) but this refers to the **content** of the covenant blessing.

Let this be understood, young people!

We had better keep this straight in our mind lest we be caught up in the trivial.

We do not often hear this so-called "Aaronic blessing" pronounced from our pulpits do we? And we probably have never heard a sermon preached on this very remarkable "wording" of this blessing which Aaron is enjoined to lay upon Israel; in this blessing the Name of Jehovah is placed upon Israel as a crown and diadem.

Let us briefly attend to this threefold repetition here in this blessing. It reads as follows:

"The LORD bless thee and keep thee"

"The LORD make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."

"The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."
Numbers 6:24-26

It ought to be clear that the "LORD" here is the translation, in the KJV, for the Hebrew name "JEHOVAH". So three times the priest must take this name of JEHOVAH and place it upon the children of Israel, as the priest stands at the altar of God in the tabernacle and/or temple. Some have seen here the revelation of the triune God as Father, Son and Holy Ghost. It must be said that, although this is not clearly revealed here in New Testament clarity, nevertheless we do have here no mere repetition of the name Jehovah, but the threefold blessing of the LORD as this is ascribed in the Twelve Articles of Faith to the three Persons in the economy of salvation: God the Father in our creation, God the Son in our redemption, and God

the Holy Spirit in our sanctification. What we see clearly in the New Testament, after Christ has come to suffer and die, and the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, that we see here in this threefold repetition of the blessing of Jehovah in the Old Testament dimly and in shadowy form! The so-called Aaronic blessing and the blessing of Paul's epistles are the same blessings; the former is connected with the sacrifice upon the altar and the latter connected with the Cross and the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

We notice that in this "blessing" there is only **once** mentioned: the "LORD bless thee". That is the central thought in this text. It must not be repeated. It is the main subject. All the rest is the particularization of this blessing of God's covenant in Israel.

The most general is: "and **keep** thee". This refers to the Fatherly and loving care of Jehovah over His people. Thus Jehovah says to Jacob at Bethel, "Behold, I am with thee and will **keep thee** in all places whither thou goest...for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of". (Genesis 28:15) Here in this keeping we see the faithfulness of our heavenly Father over Jacob and all his seed forever. He is the God of Bethel, where angels ascend and descend upon Israel; where the Angel of the Lord surrounds His people. He will finish the work. We are "kept" in the power of Almighty God; yea, kept unto the salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last day. (I Peter 1:4,5) Not a hair can fall from our head without the will of our heavenly Father, and not a sparrow can fall from the house-top except by His bidding. We are kept safe and secure by His grace under the blood of the Lamb, in which blood we overcome! That was pronounced from the Old Testament altar in the tabernacle to the people, from the LORD who dwells upon the mercy-seat.

The second is: "The LORD make His **face** to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee". Here we have an intensification of this blessing of revelation of His Fatherly attitude of love and grace. Really this is God revealing Himself in the face of Jesus Christ. In all of Christ's work, His words, His miracles, His suffering and death, and His resurrection, we see the Father's fact. He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father. It was in Jesus that the LORD "made" (caused) His face to shine upon Israel. His name is "Jesus" for He it is that shall save His people from their sins. And thus in this Jesus, we see that the Lord is full of pity, mercy and grace to us from the mercy-seat of God's heavenly temple, as this was typified in the earthly Ark of the Covenant. Yes, then we see here in this "cause the FACE to shine" the work of Jesus Christ, the Son. Dimly, yes, but nonetheless very really we see in this Aaronic blessing, the very Christ of God. He was here portrayed in the shadows!

The third time we read: "The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee and **give thee peace**". Here we see the fruit of the blessing in the hearts of Israel. It is the great blessing. Jesus spoke of this when He was about to die; He spoke of this at the table of the Passover Lamb of the broken bread and the poured out wine. Said He, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". (John 14:27) Here we see the face of the LORD "lifted up upon Israel" here in the words and work of Christ. Of this, the priests spoke standing at the altar in the tabernacle. And when Christ stands in the midst of His apostles on resurrection day evening He says: "Peace be unto you". Yes, that was the same blessing which had been pronounced upon Israel for centuries in the temple of the Old Testament dispensation. Here we see the work of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace.** (Galatians 5:22) And so, dimly through the shadows in

hope the Old Testament saints looked for the hope of righteousness as they heard the Aaronic blessing pronounced from the altar.

It was a historic moment when Moses and Aaron brought the first sacrifice in the new tabernacle at Sinai's heights! What a moment! All Israel stands before the LORD. The Lord will appear in His Old Testament "glory". Israel must know that the LORD stands back of Aaron and his sons in the priesthood. Thus we read, "And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people, and **blessed them**, and came down from offering of the sin offering, and the burnt offering and peace offerings". (Leviticus 9:22) And then we read, "And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and **blessed** the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people". (Leviticus 9:23) What a moment this was! And when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces!

Yes, thou shall put my Name upon the children of Israel, and **I will bless them**!

Thy blessing is upon thy people, O LORD!

CONVENTION CHAPERONES!

All those interested in being chaperones at the 1979 convention, to be held at Pine Summit Camp in California July 23-27, please send your name, address and telephone number to:

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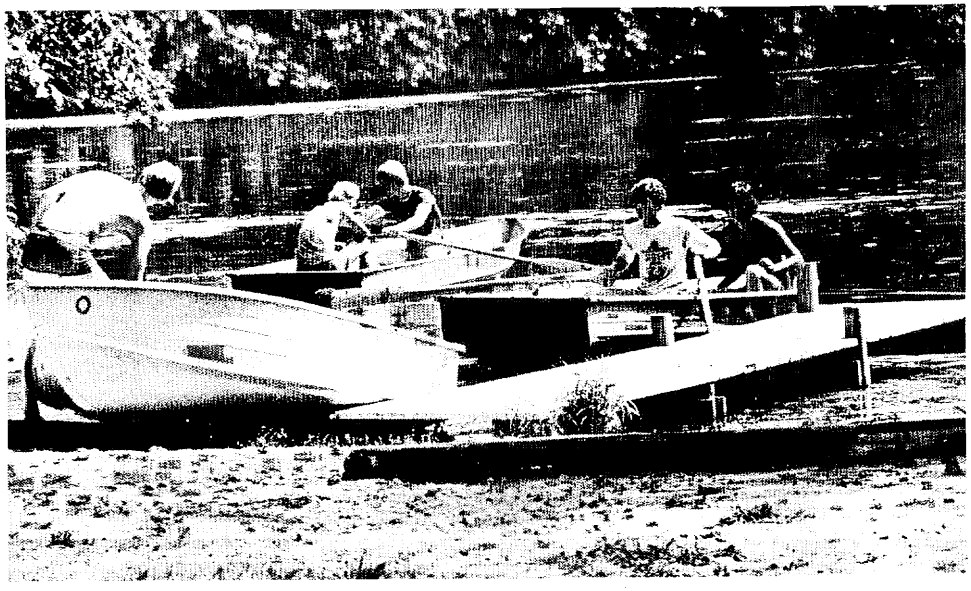


Who's In Charge of The "Chargers"

by Pete Koole

Young people, but especially the male counter-part, are more than likely inclined by their humanism and interests to be reading an article out of the S.I. (**Sports Illustrated**) than out of the **Beacon Lights**. Therefore, I conceived the notion to compose a few lines (or paragraphs) setting forth some sobering and realistic thoughts and concepts regarding sports competition, self discipline, (or lack of it) and acknowledging authority in a school sports program as we in the Grand Rapids area experience it.

As a matter of information for those who are puzzled or worried by the title of my article, I submit the following: Shortly before our own Covenant High School opened its doors in 1968, plans and decisions were in the making to include a physical educational program as per State requirements; although an interscholastic sports program was not in their requirements,--this came about by a School Board decision.

Response to that decision had its pros and cons among parents and the school society membership. Fears were expressed that such a program constituted an association and fraternization with the world of unbelievers. Others simply don't like sports, and seeing their child is not atheletically inclined so, likewise they objected.

On the other side of the coin were those who felt that the contact with the world is a reality one faces daily, yet the contact of sports is of such a nature that the school's Christian principles and standards would not be compromised or violated in this competition. Thus far no cheer-leader has run off with a Philistine.

Once teams were organized in basketball, baseball, track, golf, and volleyball, a nickname was chosen to represent the team in sports competition. By majority vote of the student body and with the Board's approval, the nickname "Chargers" came into existence, and by the way, made itself known and established in the March madness of 1973.

Now the emblem of a "Charger" to my imagination is a Knight in full armour on a charging steed with a standard (or is it a lance) guarding defensively and offensively, I would like to think, the reputation of the school. But we know the reality of the matter is that only through good and proper conduct and attitude of the coaches, players, students, and fans, can the word "Christian" in front of the word "School" be upheld and maintained.

I know and you know that competition has become a basic ingredient of our culture, and the atheletic scene reflects this culture. Winning has literally become the only goal. The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat is the name of the game.

At one time or another, we have all had rehearsed in our ears why sports competition is good for us. It can develop confidence, courage, discipline, team play, personal skills and ability, fairness, and above all a more desireable character and personality. It certainly should, and I

don't suggest it can't, but more often that is replaced in the heat of "combat" by anxiety, tension, and even hostility toward the opponent, and much too often vented to the official (the authority at that time).

Someone made the statement that competition in the sports arena brings out the best in a product, but the worst in a human being. Don't say that doesn't happen to us. I've witnessed it in others and also am guilty myself. That is one main reason and concern I have that a sports program be kept at a very low key and emphasis. It should be labeled that it can be dangerous to our spiritual health if it gets the upper hand and emphasis.

"Why?" Because some people get their priorities and values all mixed up. They don't go to this Church function, school activity, they would like this date changed, this class moved to a different night, all because we could have a practice or a game on that date. One case in point is that recently certain churches in our area of a different denomination had Prayer Day services changed from Wednesday evening to Thursday evening all because it interfered with a big tournament basketball game. See what I mean concerning priorities and values?

In passing, I might remark that professional sports on T.V. hold more influence upon us than we would care to admit. People readily admit I only got T.V. for sports, news, and weather reports.

Maybe at this juncture we also should ask ourselves whether the competitive urge is something that should be or should not be a part of a Christian's life, or whether competition is a part of reality that a Christian needs to learn to deal with in a Christian way.

We certainly are in need of a Christian perspective in the world of competition, whether this be in sports, business, or other functions. The Christian ....a person who has thrown off the old man and put on the new, must be distinctively unique and different in his life style and approach towards competition and all of life's functions and activities. Are we not called to fulfill the Christian mandate--Love thy neighbor as thyself--also in competition? He is not to be treated as an obstacle standing in one's pathway on the road to victory. Yet how often haven't we wrongly desired he would fall under pressure and not be at his best.

I don't like to sound preachy or hang crepe, but these are realities to be considered by all of us-or our actions and attitudes will nulify our Christian standards and principles. If we are serious about confessing that all of life is religion, that is, service to either God or to an idol, then we cannot exclude--but only reform that important ingredient of our life-competition. A relationship and contact does exist between competitive sports and authority. The man in blue or with the striped shirt has been authorized and delegated to enforce that the game is played according to the rules and regulations drawn up for a given contest. Coaches, players and fans must recognize that and submit to that formula and jurisdiction, or chaos will be the outcome.

There seems to be a shift in the concept of authority in our society. It also seems as if the adult empire with all its presumed authority is tottering. Because an adult who has been placed in authority can carry that position with an attitude of conceit and arrogance, it nevertheless behooves those being governed to be submissive and show due respect, as difficult as that may be on the playing field as well as off. Some would advocate that respect has to be earned, not only conferred because of age, title, position, or rule. To a certain degree that may be true in the sense that authority is an awesome responsibility, and misuse of it bears its consequences and sometimes its bitter fruit.

Some writers question the word

"spheres" in connection with authority. I believe there is that element and aspect. The school is not the home, nor the Church the school. Even though there is a strong relationship one towards each other, nevertheless there are lines of distinction. The teacher may stand in the place of the parent while a child is in the classroom, but he or she never replaces the parent.

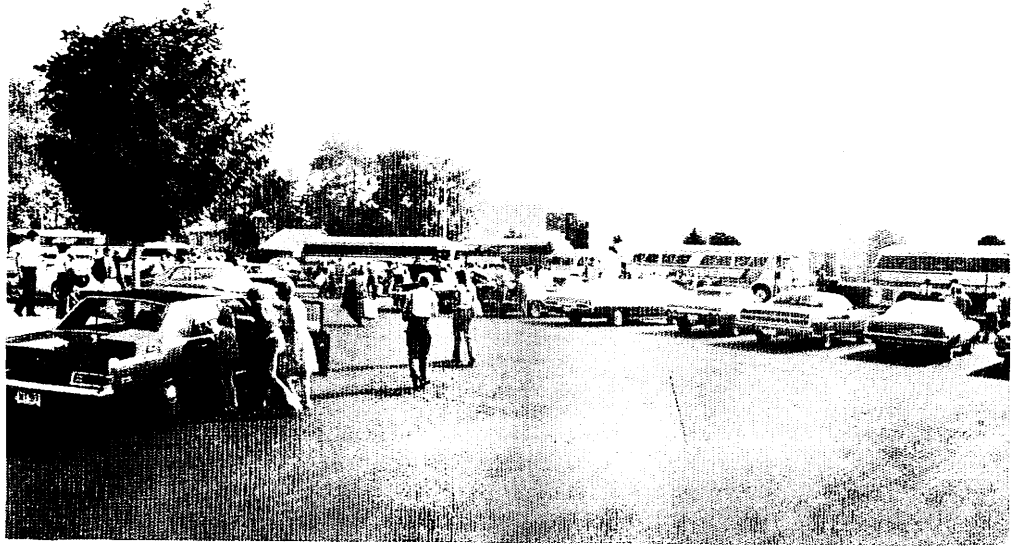
At the present, I can think of one instance where lines can be and are crossed. Example--If a baptized member of the Church is delinquent in doctrine and walk, the Church through its God ordained officers, has the duty and authority to discipline and even erase such a member, even though he or she may be under the roof of the parents, and the parents may raise strong objections to such a decision. Especially in the home, discipline has to be tempered with a certain amount of tolerance and understanding.

The authoritarian omnipotent type of government in the home is not my style of bringing up a family. In the home, Church and school, to be taught, instructed, and lead is the proper course...not to be driven, which leads to animosity and hostility in relationship one towards another.

Let me close by saying that in my humble opinion the biggest threat and danger to our continued existence as schools and churches is really not from without, but from within.

There is and always will be divided opinion regarding sports, gyms, T.V. and etc, but lets not devour each other on account of it.

Francis A. Schaeffer in his "The Church Before the Watching World" while commenting on the Presbyterian controversy forty years ago, makes this sad observation: "We did not speak with love about those with whom we differed and we have been paying a high price for it ever since...we did not talk of the need to show love as we stood against liberalism, and...that lack has cost us dearly." He adds: "I beg of those of other backgrounds to learn from our mistakes."



Current Events & Comments

" . . . and thanksgiving, . . . be unto our God...."

by David Harbach

"And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour. and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 7:11 &12. For an excellent and truly Reformed exposition of these verses and the whole of the book of Revelation, read Herman Heoksema's "Behold, He Cometh!"

You probably figured that the title of this article and the passage of scripture quoted were used because of the word "thanksgiving" occurring in both. You were right. But do you know how the word is used in the text? The word thanksgiving occurs many times in Holy Scripture, but is given for different reasons. Let me explain what I mean.

November 24th is our country's official day of thanksgiving. Our churches themselves will hold worship services on that same day to preach the truth concerning the thanksgiving to God for supplying our many physical and earthly needs throughout the year. Yet the giving of thanks to God for our earthly needs is not just some recent moment in our country's history that has been set apart as a special day from all other days. Man gladly pats himself on this day claiming how good he has been over the past year and is therefore worthy of the blessings of God. But scripture denies that man is good. The saints know that they are not worthy of the least of God's blessings and therefore give thanks unto God for all that he does give to them. Giving thanks unto God becomes a truth that can be traced through the scriptures all the way back to Adam and Eve.

Through the Old Testament, there is much evidence of the saints giving thanks unto God for many reasons, and also at times that even meant certain death if they did so. Look at the striking example of Daniel, young in age, and you find in the book by the same name, chapter six, verse ten, these words, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Imagine a decree today by our country's government stating that no man could ask a petition of God or man without first going to the President! Daniel was faced with exactly that situation, and was faced with a den of lions because he had faithfully defied a decree made by man that would have caused him to deny giving of thanks unto God. Daniel certainly did not blush, nor was he ashamed to give thanks unto God openly even though doing so would mean certain death. What a beautiful example of faithfulness for us to follow in this day and age and in the dark days that for certain lay ahead for

us.

The apostle Paul exhorts the saints at Colosse to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15. Also Paul exhorts the saints at Ephesus in the fifth chapter of Ephesians to "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;" vs. 1; "But fornication, and all uncleaness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amoung you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." verses 3 & 4. And verse 20 where we read, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;", clearly shows to us that the New Testament too has example after example of the need to give thanks unto God.

Recorded for us in Matthew 26: 27 and Luke 22 : 17-21 is the account of Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb, at the time of the last supper, giving thanks, then breaking the bread and pouring the wine, thus signifying His death upon the accursed tree. Also, at the time of the feeding of a large multitude, Jesus took seven loaves of bread and a few small fish from His disciples, gave thanks, and gave the loaves and fish to His disciples to distribute amoung the large multitude so they could eat and be nourished.

But all of this seems to center our attention on being thankful to God for earthly needs and physical needs. Yet when we study carefully the passage of scripture found in Revelation, you understand that in the new creation all thanksgiving comes from God and is attributed to Him for ever and ever. Thanksgiving is given because of the wonder work of salvation. Read verse ten of the same chapter, and you read of the redeemed in glory crying with a loud voice, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb," to which the angels respond. Today we give thanks to God for salvation in many ways, one of which is the singing of Psalms. Many times in a worship service you hear the enthusiastic singing of the saints, from the depths of regenerated hearts that have been illuminated by the glory of God, speaking of the joy of salvation. Indeed this thanksgiving day and all days may we sing from our hearts. "Salvation is of the Lord and thanksgiving be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

Cults Gain Popularity

by Deb Van Dyke

All of us are becoming more and more aware of the evils found in the world today. One that we don't know much about or pay much attention to is the growing cult movements. The cult movements are large groups who follow after one man and place his teachings on an equal basis or above the Bible.

The cult movements are growing rapidly. It has been estimated that between one and three million young people are involved in some kind of cult.

After reading a review on three of the largest cults in the October 1978 **Insight** magazine, I'd like to share some of their history and beliefs.

The cult we are most familiar with is the Moon Unification Church, or the "Moonies".

The leader, Sun Myung Moon, was born in 1920 in North Korea. Moon claims that in 1936 on Easter morning Jesus Christ appeared to him and told him he had a mission to carry out. This mission was to create a divine physical family since Christ didn't get married and have children.

When Moon first established his church in Seoul, Korea in 1954, it was called "The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity." Since then, the church has grown by leaps and bounds and now claims to have 30,000 members in America and approximately three million in 120 other countries.

The headquarters are located on a twenty-two acre estate in Tarrytown, New York. Moon is a millionaire. He gets his money from his followers who go out every day and try to sell things for the "Divine Father."

A few basic beliefs of the Moonies are: 1. Jesus was a sinless man but he didn't fulfill his mission because he died before he married, had children, and established a divine family. God chose Moon to fulfill this mission. 2. God has given revelations to Moon, who wrote them in "The Divine Principles". All of Moon's teachings are in this book. 3. The cross is a sign of Satan's victory since Jesus death on the cross prevented him from fulfilling His task on earth. 4. There is no Trinity. God has two qualities (spirit and energy) but He is also a Being with personal qualities of consciousness, intelligence, love, and purpose.

Once one has agreed to join the cult, his life is turned over to the control of his leaders. Everything he says or does is dictated by Moon. A member must hand over all possessions and lose all contact with family and friends.

The second cult is the "Children of God". Although it is not as familiar to us as the Moonies, it has just as many members and is as widespread.

Their leader is David Brandt Berg (Moses David). He was born in Oakland, Canada in 1919. Before he started the Children of God, Berg was an evangelist, a pastor of a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Arizona, and a Christian school teacher. In 1967, he started a youth ministry in California with coffee houses, mainly attracting drug

freaks and hippies.

Then he started preaching against the "materialistic American society and the conventional church," and attracted many more street people. A newsman later referred to them as Children of God and the name stayed with them.

On one of his preaching compaigns, Berg began to set up the program and structure for his group. He set up a complicated system of prime ministers, archbishops, bishops, and shepherds. After awhile he only associated with the highest leaders.

Berg moved to Europe after he divorced his wife and married his secretary. He didn't want to admit his wrongdoing, so he just moved where his followers couldn't see him. From Europe he sends his MO letters which is the Bible for his followers. In these letters "Mo" or Berg writes his beliefs on occult, reincarnation, and sexual permissiveness. His followers read, memorize, and follow these letters very diligently. They also sell them on streetcorners to earn money for the group.

The Children of God believe that 1. David Berg is a prophet. He was chosen by God to make revelations to the pwople through his MO letters. 2. Berg, his children and their spouses are the Rulers of the New Nation. 3. The Children of God are chosen people who will someday rule over the earth for a thousand years. 4. Followers must give up all possessions, cannot speak against authorities and must be in total submission. Murmurers are not tolerated. 5. Drugs and excessive drinking are not allowed; but swearing, pornography, and sexual permissiveness are permited.

The last cult I would like to cover is the Hare Krishna sect. Its real name is the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. It was founded in the fourteen hundreds by Bengalese Brahmin Chaitanya Mahaprablie. The beliefs and customs were passed on through the kings of Bengal. In 1939, Mahaprabhu was ordered by his king to bring Krishna to the English speaking people.

He introduced the beliefs first in a magazing called "Back to Godhead". Later he came to America, settled in Greenwich Village. New York and stood on the streed corner chanting the name Krishna to the sound of cymbols. He attracted many hippies and later founded a temple in New York which expanded to the seventy temples found in America today.

The followers are very clean, they wear robes, and some of the men shave their head. They follow a strict schedule, spending most of their day chanting and singing on the streed or selling "Back to Godhead" magazines.

The Krishna cult believes that 1. Jesus is a great teacher, 2. The world is just an illusion and in a man believes that he is a sinner, he is saying the world is real. 3. Salvation is granted if one chants the name Hare Krishna at least 1,728 times a day. 4. Worshipping gods of wood and stone is permissible. 5. A follower must not gamble, play games, participate in sports, use narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, coffee or tea, or eat meat, fish or eggs.

As Christians, we should look at the cults as the false prophets we are warned of in the Bible. Many young people join the cults because they are confused about their pupose in life and sick of the selfish greed of the world they live in. The cult followers attract joiners by showing brotherly love, confidence in themselves, and telling others how happy they are. Once a person gives any sign he is interested in their group, the followers invite him to retreat and keep talking with him until he joins.

As Christian young people, we should search the Scripture for guidance and consult our Leader, Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are our armour and weapon in the fight against Satan and his forces.

If the cult followers think that their

leader is worth following so faithfully, and are willing to give up everything for their religion, shouldn't we, who have a much better hope and purpose show a little more devotion?

Remember Now Thy Creator — IN THE HOME

by Rev. J. Kortering

The urgent need of the hour which we have as Protestant Reformed people of God is for stability in our homes. We do not need better instruction in catechism or in our Christian day schools; we are greatly blessed in these areas, though we must always strive to do better. We do not need more societies in our churches; we have plenty of opportunity to study God's Word together under capable leadership. We do need better homes. Every pastor, and undoubtedly every one of you young people, can recite instances in our midst in which the home is suffering breakdown.

I'm heartened that you show in part of your convention sensitivity to this need and you are concerned about it.

What really is the home? What is a Christian, covenant home?

Consider five things.

First, home is where we live. It's the one place we can feel comfortable just as we are without having to pretend. Bare feet and pajamas are not out of place at home. If you have a headache and act grouchy, you will be surrounded by people that understand.

That leads me to the second thing, home is people. Mother is the home-maker, father is the home sustainer, the children complete the family. Yes, home is where the family lives!

Thirdly, the home is the expression of the deepest of all human relationships. Marriage is the backbone of the home. Children who are born within that marriage are the joy of that home. All of this is expressed within the bond of love which we have as children of God in Christ Jesus.

Hence we must add that the home is the deepest expression of the covenant. The home is not a product of society, it is a wonder of grace. Being redeemed by Christ, we have the heart that loves God and thereby also loves one another. Since the home is a gift of God, we recognize the need to obey God's commands, also as they apply to the home.

In the fifth place, the home that thrives on the love of God and expresses that friendship with God has an eternal dimension. Not that we believe as the Mormons, that our marriages are for eternity; no, rather that in Christ we are members of an eternal family, brother and sisters in the family of God. God is our Father, we are His children. Even Ecclesiastes 12:5 speaks of man going to "his long home". Above our temporary,

earthly homes, we have a heavenly, everlasting home. Under the blessing of God, our present homes prepare us for that home.

In one word, home is the place where the family expresses love for one another in the sphere of the covenant of God with a view to eternity.

Such a home is very important. There are many reasons for this, but let me cite three briefly.

First, the home is important for individual happiness. Are not the words of our convention theme introduced thus, "Rejoice, O young man in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee," Ecclesiastes 11:9. Jesus expressed the joy of the citizens of the kingdom in the well known beatitudes of Matthew 5 and each one begins, "Happy...Happy...Happy..." Our Reformed fathers recognized this in our beloved Heidelberg Catechism when they sound the key-note, Christian comfort enables us to live and die **happily**. We can say as believing children of God, God wants us to be happy.

A Christian marriage and Christian home is one of God's greatest gifts to make us happy. I know the opposite is also true: when marriage fails, people are closest to a living hell. Yet it only proves that marriage in God's love and favor is greatest happiness. When we have a happy marriage, the most menial task is pleasure: hammering nails, changing diapers, shoveling snow!

Secondly, the home is God's means whereby He preserves His covenant. We can appreciate this as covenant young people. God has given us marriage, through the love-life of marriage, children are conceived and born. Parents receive children as God's gifts and are willing to give their lives for the well-being of their children. Hence the home is like an incubator of the covenant. Parents try to protect their growing children from evil influences. They teach them by precept and example what God requires of us within His covenant. When that training process is completed, there goes forth from the home covenant young people that are willing to take on responsibilities for their generation.

Finally, the home is the stabilizing element of society. This relates to the principle of the fifth commandment that children honor father and mother. When we recognize that God is the absolute Authority over all of us, parents and children, we will accept our respective responsibilities. We will abhor disobedience, gang rebellion, and revolution. We will learn respect for authority and the need to be honest and trustworthy. It is for this reason that the Christian home is the greatest opportunity to witness to the world round about us. The entire neighborhood should be able to see from the way we live that our home is Christian!

This brings up the subject of problems in the home today. There are definite threats to the well-being of the home in our society. Since we live in the midst of the world of our day, such threats must not be tossed aside and ignored. They often have an influence upon our homes as well.

We will simply list some of these problems.

We have the danger of government encroachment. There are obvious political implications in this. We are witnessing the practical results of a "free society", especially as man sinks deeper into the dregs of depravity. Consider abused children, women who refuse to care for their own children but under the pretense of "liberation" want to work, the fear of population explosion and its consequent birth control, public education and the demands placed upon the schools. To accomplish its goals, government tries to control more and more: by taxation, by legislation, by establishing child day-care centers. It all comes down to this, do children belong to parents or to the state? More are answering in our day, the state!

We are living in an immoral age. More people are living together, including sexual relationships, without marrying. In 1978 there are 1.9 million people living this way, an increase of 5 fold over 1970. Add to this the divorce rate of almost half of the marriages in some part of our country. People openly brag about birth control, claiming to reach zero population growth, yet 20% of all pregnancies today end in abortion here in America (that's over a million a year), and one half of the women who do deliver their babies have conceived them out of marriage. These facts cry to the God of heaven revealing a sordid life of debauchery and sin.

There are other problems facing the home. These include our mobile society. No more do families stay their whole life in one area or grow up in one-family houses. People move often and that, too, in all parts of the country and even the world. This divides the generations and somewhat gives opportunity for Satan to drive a wedge between parents and children. Add to this our affluency, our wealth of money. We have grown accustomed to a high standard of living. Now as the cost of that living goes up, we hate to give up that standard. We think we need all kinds of luxuries, so father gets additional work, probably mother leaves home to find a job, the children learn at an early age that jobs mean money and buying things they like. Often, the demand for money is not even for necessities, usually it is for luxuries. We like sports, boats, cars, fancy clothes, vacations, etc. It's rather dull to have to work for tuition in a Christian school, it's tempting to let that slide; but keep up with the fun. Much of this pulls the family apart, rather than bringing it closer together.

So we have to remember our Creator in the days of our youth. This will help us in dealing with the important place we have in the home.

Let me emphasize that your place in the home as young people is crucial. This is for two reasons.

First, you are at the transition point, about to leave your parental home and begin your own home. This causes you to respond negatively toward your parental home. Isn't it striking, that the only time in a person's life that he is dissatisfied at home is when he is your age, between 16 and 20 years of age. A young child is happy at home, an older person grows very appreciative of all that a parent has done when he looks back at his parental home. Yet, youth tends to grown restless. Many times you have a blow-up with your parents, you get angry, and threaten to leave home. Sometimes you sit quietly and dream about the good days that lie ahead when you can get out of the home. Allow me to make this observation for you: you are not alone in these feelings, it is somewhat normal; but here is the point, it is dangerous to act according to these feelings. You must learn to work them out. If you are really a mature young adult, you will not run from the home, you will talk this over with your parents and resolve it. By all means, do not enter marriage because you can't stand living at home. If you can't work out your problems at home, you are too immature for marriage.

The second reason why remembering our Creator is important in our youth is this, you are about to begin your own home. Your future home must be on a good foundation, if it is not, it will crumble and fall. It is so important that while you are young you maintain the correct **ideal** of the home and what kind of a home you want for yourself with your future husband or wife and children.

If we remember our Creator it will help.

How must we do this? According to context of the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon makes it very clear that we have to cut right through vanity. The great theme of the entire book is that,

"childhood and youth are vanity", verse 10 of chapter 11. In the preceeding chapters, he mentioned in detail what this vanity amounts to: wisdom and philosophy is vanity, so is science and knowledge apart from God, pleasures, materialism, fatalism, the big I, false religion, wealth, immoral living. Instead of this, youth does best to face the conclusion of the entire matter, "Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man", 12:13.

We have the privilege to view these commandments in the light of the entire Word of God. More particularly, we can examine God's creation of the home and learn from that what will make a happy home for us. If we remember our **Creator** as He made the home, we will have the principles for our Christian home today.

What does creation tell us about the home?

First, God wants us to live at home. Genesis 2:24 tells us, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother." Why? To get married to a wife. That's the occasion for leaving home. Until then, the young man belongs in the home of his parents, also the young woman. I'm not ready to say that it is wrong for young people to leave home, there are things such as jobs away from home, school, boy and girl friends, and other things. Yet, there is something sad and wrong if father and mother live in a well-provided home, and six blocks away a son or daughter live in an apartment by themselves. The occasion to leave home is marriage. When that is about to take place, it is honorable, Hebrews 13:4, it is not good for a man to be alone, Genesis 2:8, Paul instructed the young woman to marry, I Timothy 5:14.

Secondly, the creation defines the role of each member in the family. This is important for you, young people. The old fashioned home is never out of date because it is rooted in the God of creation! Genesis 2:7, God formed Adam out of the dust first and later made Eve. Because of this the head of the home is the husband, I Corinthians 11:3 and I Timothy 2:13. The husband must rule in love as Christ rules His church, Ephesians 5:23. The wife must be an helpmeet to her husband, Genesis 2:20. God made Eve from the rib of Adam, hence she was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. She became woman, taken out of the man. She is like the man, yet different from him, the perfect person to complete his life. Her role is to be subject to her husband, Ephesians 5:24. In that relationship, God the Creator has provided the means for child bearing. God made male and female. The physical differences complement each other in the sex act. The sex-act is not merely physical, it is the deepest expression of love for two persons. In sexually healthy adults, this physical relationship provides for conception and child birth. God made man and woman that way. Children are the natural result of a mutual love for one another. Hence we read in Timothy, first letter chapter 2:14,15, "she shall be saved in childbearing", that is, the wife experiences the joy of her salvation in bearing children, covenant children. What a high value we must place upon giving birth to children.

The Creator also spells out the duty of children: obey father and mother. I like the way the catechism expresses it in Lord's Day 39, "That I show all honor, love, and fidelity to my father and mother, and all in authority over me, and submit myself to their good instruction and correction with due obedience and also patiently bear with their weaknesses and infirmities since it pleases God to govern us by their hand."

To accomplish all this, the Creator placed within the heart of Adam and Eve the only power that would bring it al to pass, love. He made them in His own image, Genesis 1:26. We can appreciate this, since that love is now given to us also through Jesus Christ, Romans 5:5. Ah, this is it, love is of God! Marriage without

love is dead, parenthood without love is an atrosity. The only source of this love is in God through Jesus Christ.

It is God's will that the home continue. He created it, He renewed it by saving us in Jesus Christ, He wills that until Christ return, we continue maintaining Christian homes. Sometimes this will mean that we resist the temptation to be influenced by the world and abandon the home altogether: shack up with someone and not be married, have sex without marriage, conceive children without marriage. All this is sinful and contrary to the creation plan. Also it means that we will not break up our marriage by divorce just because there are problems in it. God intends the marriage to last until death. Matthew 19:8, this is rooted in creation. We must learn to solve our problems, confess our sins to one another and forgive one another.

Now, you understand why we must remember our Creator if we are going to do this. Note carefully, Solomon does not say, remember the creation, he says, remember your **Creator**. Such remembering includes believing in Him, holding His Word for truth, conforming your lives to His will. He is **yours**, beloved covenant young people. What a thrill it is to believe this. You have a glorious future, for I can assure you that God will continue to work in you to enable you to carry on that great task of maintaining His covenant. The home is the heart-beat of the covenant. Avoid vanity, read God's Word and study it carefully, pray often and may He go with you. The conclusion of this whole matter is to fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man.

CONVENTION REVIEW

by Carolyn Van Baren

"Remember thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth" was the theme of the 38th Annual convention hosted by South Holland Young Peoples Society.

The convention began Monday, August 21, with registration. After the young people registered, volleyball games and basketball were played. Dinner was served in the homes where the young people stayed. At 8:00 South Holland church was packed with Young People and members of the congregation for the first mass meeting. Jim Lanting opened the meeting with a few tales of problems encountered while preparing the convention such as finding a firm mattress for Rev. Veldman. On a more serious note Rev. Kortering of Redlands, California, addressed the group on the first aspect, "Remember thy Creator in the Home"

For the remainder of the night a pool was open for swimming.

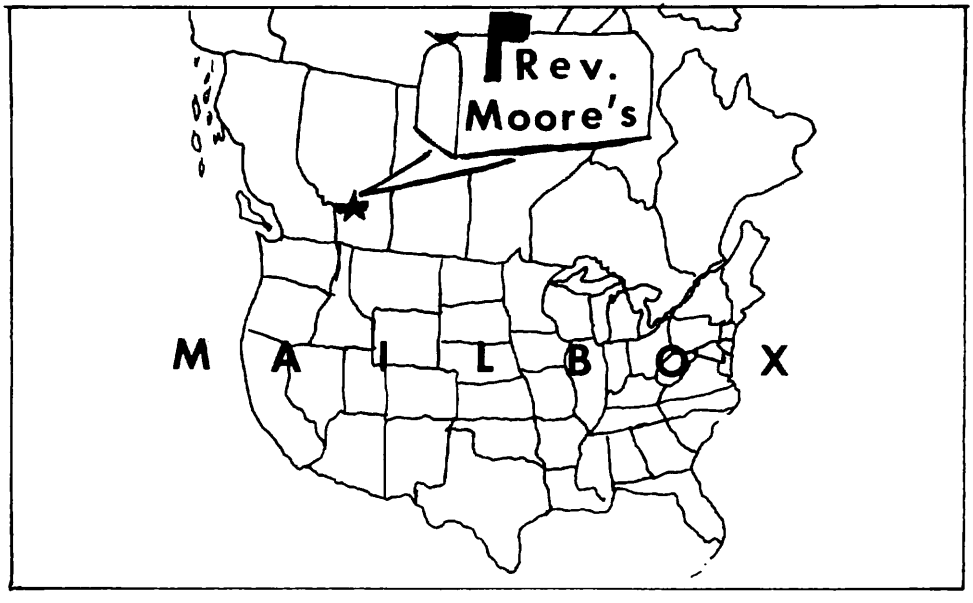
Tuesday morning pancakes were frying at the grade school from 7:30 until 9:00. A buisness meeting followed breakfast. Randolph, Wisconsin resigned as members of the Federation due to lack of society age young people. Pella, Iowa was accepted as a new member of the Federation. Welcome Pella! Discussion groups were held until lunch time. Candidate Bruinsma introduced the topic - "Respect Goes Both Ways" A continuation of "Remembering thy Creator - in the Home." Busses were boarded and cars jamed full of young people as everybody went to Veterans Park where mothers had Bar-B-Q, prepared for us. The afternoon was spent rollerskating at Lynwood Roller Rink. This gave plenty of opportunity to meet new friends. Seeing that it was "Terrific Tuesday" (Twirp day), the girls had a good chance to check out the guys. Dinner was served in the homes again and everybody met back at church around 6:45 Seven busses were boarded and the Young People were off to CHICAGO! First the group spent an hour 104 floors from ground level in the Sears Tower. The city was impressive all lit up. busses were boarded again to take a boat ride on the river. Three boats left the Chicago River to cruise along the shores of Lake Michigan. After the boat ride busses returned to South Holland. It was around midnight after a full day of activity.

Wednesday breakfast was served in the homes, then everybody met at church around 9 to leave for Lake Geneva Youth Camp. Busses arrived at the camp around noon, what a sight with kids and luggage sprawled all over the grounds! Cabins were assigned and moved into. By 12:30 things were looking normal again and lunch was served. The food was terrific! Right after lunch Carl Haak introduced us to our second discussion topic, "Remember thy Creator in the Church". The group was split up into small sections for discussion. From 3 til 5:30 there was free time to explore the camp, meet new friends, try canoeing or swimming. After dinner, Rev. Veldman addressed the Young People on the topic, "Remember thy Creator - in the Church". The remainder of the night was spent playing ping-pong, having water fights, playing volleyball or just goofing around.

Thursday morning breakfast was served at 8:30. A Business Meeting followed. New Federation Board members were elected. Everybody met at the chapel for our final discussion group. Dave Zandstra introduced the topic: "Remembering Thy Creator - in Society." After lunch the guys had a tug-of-war. The East-West ball game this year was played between East and West girls. East was the victor this year! The guys played a game afterwards with teams that were picked. Because of the heat the lake was pretty crowded. So was the dock - a few times too many. The Camp grounds looked deserted around 5:30, but in the cabins activity was flourishing! The banquet was held Thursday evening. After the meal we went to the chapel where Rev. den Hartog addressed us. in our final mass meeting, on: "Remembering Our Creator - in Society." An excursion on Lake Geneva followed the speech. The excursion was a two-hour boat cruise around the lake.

Friday morning brought the end of the 38th annual convention and mixed feelings. Breakfast was served, then everybody repacked suitcases. Busses were loaded with tired but happy people.

Another convention had become history but every person has memories of a week filled with covenant fellowship. There was in our hearts as we parted, knowing it would be a year before we meet together again. But we knew, as we sang, that God would be with us and by His counsels guide and uphold each one of us. In time we would once again meet together.



Greetings from Edmonton, Alberta. This time the question we treat comes from Grand Rapids, and it is connected with the following text.

Revelation 2:20-23a, "Not withstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman, Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold I will cast her unto a bed, and them that commit adultery with her unto great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death."

The question raised is: What does it mean that Christ gives Jezabel space to repent? Does this mean God gives the reprobate a chance to be saved? Is man after all the one who determines his salvation or not? Does Christ depend upon man's choice in order to save? Or could the wicked reprobate ever repent, if given ever so much time? These questions set forth the idea of what caused the first question to be raised.

The above questions are raised because of the fact that Scripture teaches clearly of God's Providence in the salvation of man," Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy and whom He will He hardeneth." Romans 9:18 God teaches us in His Word that salvation and damnation are both sovereignly determined. Do we then meet a contradiction in Scripture with our text in this article?

In answer, let us say at the outset there are no contradictions in Scripture! Secondly, God's Word as we quoted it from Romans is certainly true. God always determines according to His eternal counsel all things, also man and his end. Further, Scripture teaches that God hates the wicked, so that He never intends or desires the salvation of the reprobate wicked. This is taught literally by God in Psalm 11:5, "The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

But while our God sovereignly determines the salvation of His church, as well

as the damnation of the wicked. He never does so apart from man's moral rational nature. He maintains the responsibility of man. He condemns the wicked then, in the way of their sin. And that Christ gave Jezebel space to repent of her wickedness, means exactly that Christ held Jezebel accountable for her sin. His command came: repent, Jezebel, of your fornication. And when Jezebel hardened her heart to Christ's command, she may never say that she did not know. But she stand condemned in the way of her sin and wickedness. It is her hardness of heart and her sin, that brings upon her God's judgment.

This point reminds us of the seriousness of the Word of Christ that we hear from Lord's Day to Lord's Day. One may not stand non-committal before that Word. When Christ speaks, except there be repentance, heavy is the judgment of our God. But may we then praise our God when He gives us His grace to hear and obey the call to repent. For apart from this grace, we would be as the wicked. But in the way of grace, God's children in Christ heed the command of Christ and live!

By the way, I need more questions from you the readers. Besides it will be nice to hear from you!

Send questions to:
Rev. Richard G. Moore
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How Would Your Church Rate?

by Ben Wigger

If your church were rated on its Sunday service by someone from the outside, someone who was thoroughly familiar with its Christian function and purpose, how do you suppose it would fare?

Since we believe that the church is made up of the body of believers what we are in fact asking is, how would you fare? If someone from the outside rated you and your worship of God on any given Sunday, what would he think? Would he throw up his hands in disbelief and leave part-way through the service?

Now take the idea one step further and consider how you would rate yourself on these four parts of the service. The sermon, the music, the worship service and the friendliness of the congregation. To be very specific, what you must ask yourself now is, do I enjoy the communion of the saints to the best of my God given ability, and to the honor and glory of His name?

How are you generally affected by the hours spent each Lord's Day in His house?

It is always so easy to place the blame on someone or something else. You can say that the minister's sermon was just too deep for you to get anything out of it. Or the songs that were sung were just too slow and long, and what's wrong with hymns anyway. Or the service just lasted too long, or you didn't get home too early Saturday night, and on and on.

But let's start by saying that we do not always enjoy the communion of the saints in our worship service simply because of our sin. Sin so dominates our lives that even our worship of God is full of imperfection.

So now we see we do not measure up to a very good rating on any of the four divisions. Satan is always hard at work doing all he can to destroy our worship service. Since the very beginning of history, Satan has been trying to destroy God's church and the communion of the saints.

But this is not final word on the subject. To admit defeat at the hand of Satan would be to deny the power of God, and through the cross we have the assurance that the final victory will be ours.

For one thing, it is our lack of preparation and for another, our lack of spiritual mindedness that often has to be improved upon. It would be a mistake to assume that you can go about your business as usual on a Sunday, and then somehow, may be through concentration,

pull yourself apart from the world and enjoy a worthwhile worship service. You are old enough to realize that it just doesn't work that way. The entire day, not just as few hours as you can possibly get away with, must be given over to the conscious effort to serve God. The value of the time spent in God's house will depend greatly on your preparation for it.

The worship service can only administer to your needs if you come with a conscious awareness of just what those needs are. It has always amazed me how the Word of God can be delivered from week to week by a faithful servant of God to a wide range of people, and yet that Word will address each person's own individual needs.

Whatever your need is, the Word will touch it. And these are the services that are easy to remember. The first time in church after the death of a loved one, the Word will comfort you. If you are faced with a serious temptation, the Word will admonish you. If you have family problems, the Word will aid you in this also.

It seems impossible that in one row of the church, one person's eyes may be filled with tears as his heart is comforted by God's Word, while in another row, at the same time, someone is sleeping.

That's why, first of all, a believer comes before God on Sunday, to worship and sing with the church. But it is also important to remember that proper communion with each other is based on proper communion with God. If there is separation from God, then there is no proper communion of the saints. That's why it is not enough to have just a friendly congregation. If that friendliness is not based on the belief in Christ crucified, there is not communion.

When I asked you to consider that question at the beginning, the one about the outside critic reviewing your in-church enthusiasm, I was of course referring to a situation that does not exist. In that since there is no outside critic.

But quite really the Holy Spirit is always with us, not only in church, but He sees all of our actions. And how do you think He views our worship?

We do confess that our Sunday services are not all they should or could be. So then a real effort must be taken on our part to help make our services all they can be.

Prayer and the study of God's Word are steps which lead us to proper communion. A good chapter to read in this regard is I Corinthians 12. And remember to pray, for yourself, fellow believers, and above all for your pastor. This too is part of proper communion of the saints and leads to a much richer experience in church.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES!!!

Are you building a good Reformed library? Are you reading as much as you should to be solidly Reformed?
In this entertainment-mad age reading has suffered a set back. Yet knowledge comes from reading good books.
"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee,..."
Good books make excellent Christmas gifts.

NEWS From, For, and About Our Churches

by Cindi Dykstra

BIRTHS

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Corson of First Church were blessed in the birth of Melissa Lynn on August 18.

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Van Dyke of Faith rejoice in the birth of Trisha Lynn.

Mr. & Mrs. Art Tolsma of Edmonton rejoice in the birth of a son.

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Bishop of Kalamazoo rejoice in the birth of Tracy Lynn on September 12.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Ver Meer of Hope were blessed with the birth of Rebecca Dawn on September 18.

Mr. & Mrs. Rog Kamphuis of Hope were blessed in the birth of Ruthanne Lee on September 19.

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bertsch of Hope rejoice in the birth of David Lorenz on September 21.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bleyenberg of Redlands rejoice in the birth of Holly Ann on September 27.

Mr. & Mrs. D. Gunnink of First were blessed with the birth of Aaron Ross in October 2.

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Moelker of Hope were blessed with the birth of Kolleen Janette on October 11.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

South Holland has received the membership papers of Miss Candi Hoeksema from Hudsonville, Miss Linda Knoper from First, Mrs. Bert Wories, Jr. from First CRC of South Holland, and has transferred the membership of Miss Barb Zandstra to Doon.

First has transferred the membership of Mr & Mrs. Tom Oosterhouse and family to Southwest.

Doon has received the membership papers of Miss Mary Coleman from our Isabel Congregation.

First has received from Faith CRC the membership of Mrs. John Beiboer and 2 sons, Stuart and John; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Gleipker and their daughter Janolyn; Mr & Mrs. Timothy Hoolsema; and Mr. & Mrs. John Pastoor. They have received Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Knott and five baptized children; Robert, Judy, Karen, James, and Daniel from Dutton CRC; Mrs. H. Pastoor (nee Eileen Spriensma) from Jamestown CRC; and Mrs. Robert Kamphuis and her baptized daughter, Kara from Southwest.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Mrs. D. Zeutenhorst publicly confessed her faith in Doon on July 23.

Mrs. Steve Ezinga made public confession of her faith in Loveland on September 17.

Gary Boverhof, Jack Brands, Beth Kuiper, Larry Kuiper, Lori Kuiper, Gord Schipper, Jim Vander Woude, and Nancy Van Dyke publicly confessed their faith in Southwest Church on October 1.

MARRIAGES

Henry Van Den Top and Marlene Fisher were united in marriage in Randolph on August 12.

William Geelhold and Grace Helmus were united in marriage in Grand Rapids on September 1.

Roger Grevengoed and Minerva Van Maanen were united in marriage in Hull on September 10.

Joe Van Baren and Marcia Regnerus were united in marriage in South Holland on October 6.

Al Karsemeyer and Carol Lubbers were married in Hudsonville Church on October 12.

Paul Zandstra and Donna Vereeke were married in Hudsonville Ref. Church on October 13.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

A Beacon Lights Singspiration was held in Southwest on October 1.

Redlands Young Peoples Society sponsored a pie social on October 13. Proceeds are for the 1979 convention.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The annual Reformation Day lecture was held in First Church on October 19. Rev. B. Woudenberg spoke on "Is the Reformation Being Maintained?"

South Holland's Evangelism Committee sponsored a series of three lectures "intended for the defense and promotion of the historic Reformed faith in the Chicagoland area." Prof. Hanko spoke October 26 on "The Inerrancy of Scripture", Prof. R. Decker spoke October 30 on "Women in Church Office" and Rev. D. Engelsma spoke November 1 on "Reprobation--Is it Reformed?" The lectures were held in Illiana Christian High School.

Name _____

Street _____

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IT'S TIME TO COME BACK.

ARIE GRIFFIEON
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Please join us in Christian fellowship at the 1979 Protestant Reformed Young Peoples Convention, July 23-27.