

BEACON LIGHTS

*FOR PROTESTANT
REFORMED YOUTH*



FEBRUARY, 1979

PROPER

COMPANIONS



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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

With this month's editorial Mr. Gerald Kuiper brings to a close years of service on the *Beacon Lights* staff as Associate Editor. Because of various other commitments which demand his time, he has decided to lay aside his editorial duties.

We regret to receive his resignation though we are glad for the opportunity to have served with him these years.

His editorial remarks have been in keeping with the purpose of *Beacon Lights* which is "to unite Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies so that they may work in close unity and secure a sense of solidarity. To seek the mutual edification of the members of the Federation. To strive to maintain our specific Protestant Reformed character with a united front and to promote the welfare of the Protestant Reformed Churches in which we have a name and a place." (*Beacon Lights*, Vol. 1, No. 1)

We thank him and wish him the Lord's continued blessing.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

After 25 years at the present subscription rate, the cost of *Beacon Lights* is being increased to \$5.00 per year effective February 1, 1979.

"God is God, and there is none beside Him. He is the Holy One of Israel, the incomparable One, infinitely and eternally distinct from all that is called creature. For 'to whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?...Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing: he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom then shall ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One' " (Isaiah 40:18, 20-25)
When I Survey... by H. Hoeksema p. 277

PROPER COMPANIONS

by Gerald Kulper

One of the greatest concerns we have as young people is that we must have friends. To find ourselves without friends often makes us very troubled, and causes us to spend much time trying to determine what is wrong with us. And not only do we desire friends, but we want their approval. Sometimes this desire for peer approval is so great that we will for the sake of friendship do things that are against our convictions and that we know are wrong. We will, for example, smoke or drink to prove that we are "big" enough to be in the group. Or we will join in loose and immoral talk to prove that we too are wise in the ways of the world. And some of you girls when not dating regularly at age sixteen or seventeen will decide that you must use enticements to attract the boys, and in so doing cheapen yourself and regret for years your actions.

Often times when caught up in the activities such as those mentioned above we will use as an excuse the fact that it wasn't really we who were to be blamed, but the group that we were in. We will answer to those in authority that they are not "to be on our case" but it is the fault of the group with which we associate. Some of us as parents, too, fall into this trap when we always refuse to see that it is our child who is guilty too because he is a part of the group. I say "trap" because using that excuse is merely a way of excusing ourselves, just as Adam did, when he said, "The woman Thou gavest me...". Throughout history there have

been those that insisted man is born perfect, and it is those evil companions round about him who lead him astray. We, just as Adam, do not want to look into our own hearts and admit that we are sinful and in need of cleansing. We find, however, that we must go to God for forgiveness of our sins.

Then when thinking back we realize that we may have chosen the wrong companions. The words of Solomon in Proverbs 13:20 come to our mind, where he tells us that "He who walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed". We realize then that the companions we choose will always exercise some formative influence on us, even though at the time we aren't always conscious of it. Their thoughts, their words, their conduct, and all their deeds will make a lasting impression on our minds, especially when we are young and impressionable. We find too that these companions with whom we sin are not always those outside the sphere of the church, and this troubles us. We fail to heed the words of the apostle Paul when he writes, "If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit". If we would remind each other of this often, we would not have such difficulty in our lives together. The Holy Scripture condemns keeping silence when we know there is wrong being done by those about us. Romans 1:32 states "...Who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the

same, but have pleasure in them that do them”.

Let us consider some guidelines we may use when choosing our friends. In the first place, we must never forget the importance of prayer in this respect. We should make a prayerful choice when seeking friends, and should let the Word of God lead us. When we find ourselves outside the select group of those who are popular, we should not always assume that we must change, but must heed the Word of God, even if this means we have no dates, or that we stay outside the “in” group.

Secondly, we should pay particular attention to the moral character of those whom we contemplate as our friends. We should understand that moral character is of far more consequence in this respect than physical or mental ability. Above all, we should choose as our friends those that fear the Lord. If this was done by all of us, we would together build one another up and be an influence to each other for good. Those who walk in ways of foolishness would soon realize that **they** are the ones who are without friends, and by God’s grace would see that **they** are the ones who are to change, because they need friends too, just as we do. We must sometimes realize too that there may be those with whom we must not associate because of their walk, even though they

may nominally be in the covenant. It is not our place to judge them as standing outside the household of faith. God will do that. But, if they live as fools, we are not to have any part with them.

And finally, we should not be afraid to consult our parents and other older acquaintances regarding our choice of friends. We can be quite sure that they have gone through these same difficulties and are able to give us guidance in this important activity. Then we can sing together the words of David as given us in Psalter number 15:

“Who, O Lord with Thee abiding,
In Thy house shall be Thy guest?
Who, his feet to Zion turning,
In Thy holy hill shall rest?

He that ever walks uprightly,
Does the right without a fear,
When he speaks, he speaks not lightly,
But with truth and love sincere.

He who slanders not his brother,
Does no evil to a friend;
To reproaches of another
He refuses to attend.

Wicked men win not his favor,
But the good who fear the Lord;
From his vow he will not waver,
Tho’ it bring him sad reward.”



Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a man who owed his lord ten thousand talents of silver. (Matthew 18:24.) A silver talent is worth about \$1,642.50; which would mean that the man owed about \$16,425,000.00!

(Number Quizzes on the Bible. Vera Hutchcroft)



MORE ON THE CULTS: The Herbert Armstrong Worldwide Church

by Agatha Lubbers

In an article that appears in the January, 1979, issue of **Beacon Lights**, I wrote that we are now, according to astrologers, in the Age of Aquarius. Although astrologers are not agreed about the exact beginning of the Age of Aquarius, they do think of the twentieth century as the Age of Aquarius. What do they mean by this designation?

Astrologers as well as astronomers speak of a star-age as approximately twenty-two hundred years. It is the age during which the sun rises on the first day of spring in the heavenly space occupied by one of the signs of the zodiac. For the past 2,200 years the sun has been rising in the sign of Pisces (the sign of the fish). Sometime in this century the sun has risen or will rise out of the space occupied by the constellation Aquarius.

Astrologers say too that every time star-ages change new forms of worship develop, new governments are in style, new philosophies become popular. The Age of Aquarius, say the astrologers, will

be characterized by humanism, brotherhood, and astrology.

Whether we are in the Age of Aquarius or not is not important to me, although it is a matter concerning which I am curious because so many writers refer to this as being significant. That we are in an age of religious confusion and religious deviation is certainly obvious to anyone who is a discernor of the events of the times in which we live. I teach a course at Covenant Christian High School that investigates the Cults and Isms. This has been a most fortunate time to teach such a course because news about cults and isms has proliferated this year. In a series of three articles entitled "The Truth about THE PLAIN TRUTH" written by the undersigned in the October, November, and December, 1968, issues of **Beacon Lights**, I investigated and analyzed carefully the Herbert Armstrong movement, one of the twentieth century cults that is currently in the news.

The Worldwide Church of God traces

its origin to the organizational genius of Herbert W. Armstrong who first organized the Radio Church of God. Armstrong started a radio ministry in January, 1934, in Eugene, Oregon. The first issues of the monthly magazine **THE PLAIN TRUTH** were published in 1934 on the borrowed mimeograph. In 1968 the Radio Church of God changed its name to the Worldwide Church of God. In the 46 years of its existence the Worldwide Church has grown to be an \$80 million empire consisting of 250 churches and more than 75,000 members including some in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Since 1972 the Worldwide Church of God has been in the news several times, especially in the last half year. In 1972 trouble erupted between Herbert W. Armstrong and his son Garner Ted, then 42, who had for sometime assumed much of the workload of the Worldwide Church of God. Garner Ted, who has the Johnny Carson-type physique and the Paul Harvey-type voice, was peremptorily yanked off the tube and sent into exile by his father. Insiders reported that the son was guilty of adultery. By 1974, however, Herbert announced that the returned Garner Ted was his divinely chosen successor as chief apostle and ambassador of the church. Angry schism ensued in the Worldwide Church because dissidents charged that Garner Ted had not properly repented his adulteries, adding that other church sinners had not been treated so forgivingly. Since 1974, therefore, the church has abandoned its requirement that divorced and remarried persons who join the church must break up their second marriages. (This was undoubtedly done for pragmatic reasons.)

In June, 1978, Garner Ted, now 48, was once again in the news. Despite the fact that Garner Ted, who as TV and radio preacher on **The World Tomorrow**, had tremendous pulling power gaining financial supporters and converts to the show's never-mentioned sponsor, the Worldwide

Church of God, he was removed from TV and radio. More significantly he was also ousted from the church's board and from his job as the operating head of the church and of the church-owned Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. Herbert W. Armstrong, the church's autocratic "Apostle" had seized control and at age 85 had made plans to go on TV himself. This he reportedly has done since July, 1978.

Time magazine reports the following concerning the byzantine - type power struggle in the June 19, 1978 issue.

Times have changed. Now Herbert's closest aide and spokesman is Lawyer Stanley Rader, himself recently sidelined and now back in power. Rader denies that Herbert ever designated Garner Ted as his successor. In a florid churchwide encyclical, the father explained the sudden ousting by accusing his son of perfidy (i.e. treachery or unfaithfulness): "I derived my authority from the living CHRIST. You derived what you had from me, and then used it totally CONTRARY to THE WAY Christ had led me." (Notice the blasphemy and absolutism of this statement. A.L.)

Many see in these goings-on a byzantine power struggle, in which Rader and his former secretary, who is now married to Herbert, have ganged up on Garner Ted. There is also another possible issue. Garner Ted has gradually played down some of Dad's more embarrassing dogmas. Among them: that heaven is racially segregated, that Britain and the U.S. have become the "real Israel,"....

(For a more careful study of the doctrines and theology of the Worldwide Church of God I refer you to my articles in the **Beacon Lights**.)

It is now January, 1979, and the

paranoid behavior of Herbert W. Armstrong is once again in the news. Last week California's attorney general agreed with those angry dropouts from the Worldwide Church who for a decade have grumbled that all is not holy or honest in the \$80 million empire created by the eccentric and monomaniacal Herbert W. Armstrong. (Complaints of autocratic rule caused 40 ministers and 3000 members to quit the church in 1973 and 1974, but income and membership reportedly gained in succeeding years.)

Newsweek, January 15, 1979 reports the following:

A California judge immediately placed the church in temporary receivership, and state attorneys seized armloads of financial records from the sect's offices in Pasadena. Among other things, the suit charged that Armstrong, 86, and Rader, 48, had sold as many as 50 parcels of church land in California, "shreded and destroyed" church records, and were about to sell for only \$10 million a school site in Texas that had been valued at \$30 million.

Although Armstrong pledged "every effort to cooperate with the attorney general's office," the suit threatened to unravel the incredibly prosperous organization he started 46 years ago. Claiming to be Christ's ambassador on earth, Armstrong preached a bizarre fundamentalism that upheld the Jewish Sabbath and a kosher diet and disavowed Christmas, Easter, the Trinity and other Christian doctrines. But the key to his success was an apocalyptic (i.e. prophetic) insistence that the end of the world was near. Only by heeding his prophecies could his followers avoid fiery extinction.

At this juncture we should notice that the ideas of Armstrong are always a

conglomeration of truth and error. Although we too may agree that the end of the world is near and that we are living in the last days, we disagree with Armstrong when he says that he has some corner on prophecy and that therefore only by heeding his prophecies can anyone avoid fiery extinction. This type of apocalyptic and exchatological error is one of the chief marks of the cultic movements.

Since the beginning of the troubles between father and son in 1972, groups of Armstrong ministers have complained publicly that the "ambassador of Christ" and his family had become more wealthy and worldly than his message allowed. From the \$75 million collected annually from no more than 70,000 followers, the sect paid its inner elite six-figure salaries, established the 80 acre Ambassador College, and a lavish Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, both in Pasadena, California. (**Time** reported in June, 1978, that the Pasadena school is almost destroyed. The full-time student body is being slashed from 1,120 to 250, the faculty from 177 to 25.)

From the office of his own Church of God, International, in Tyler, Texas, where he broadcasts a daily quarter-hour of radio prophecy, Garner Ted, who was in large part responsible for the phenomenal growth of the Worldwide Church of God "empire" through the **World Tomorrow** broadcasts, defended his father's integrity last week. He insisted that the "Rasputin-like" influence of Stanley Rader has caused the church's current crisis.

Newsweek reports as follows:

..."There were expenditures that I was deeply concerned about," said Garner Ted, "like \$700,000 for Rader in one year alone, including a salary of \$200,000." But since his excommunication, Garner Ted, said, he has been unable to speak with his father. "I try to get in touch with him but they keep changing his number," he

said.

Meanwhile, the aged Herbert Armstrong now lives in virtual seclusion in Tucson, Ariz., with his new much younger wife. "Church members still believe he is God's representative on earth," said former member John Trechak, one of the church's leading critics. "But he is so senile that his messages are whatever he has been told in the last fifteen minutes." Within a 24-hour period last week, Armstrong fired and then rehired Rader, to the chagrin of his many opponents in the church. Rader promptly sought to have the suit dismissed as an unconstitutional infringement on the freedom of religion. His motion failed, but a hearing is scheduled this week to determine whether the receivership should be continued.

Whatever the court eventually decides, the leadership of the Worldwide Church of God has reached **its own apocalyptic moment**. And in its **search for a media messiah**, the membership may well turn once again to the ambassador's original heir apparent, Garner Ted. (I underscore, AL.)

In June, 1978, **Time** analyzed the situation as follows:

Who will eventually succeed the aged and ailing Apostle Herbert? Recent convert Rader appears all-powerful, but he is not a minister and has numerous enemies. "Many people fear Stan immensely," says a veteran headquarters official. An anonymous "committee of Twelve" has sent a vicious anti-Rader letter to all Worldwide ministers. Rader's candidate to take over may be the newly installed director of the church's ministry, C.

Wayne Cole. But Garner Ted should not be counted out. Says Professor Joseph Hopkins of Pennsylvania's Westminster College, author of a recent book called **The Armstrong Empire**: "There is nobody around who can take Garner Ted's place as a radio-TV money raiser. The Worldwide Church of God has no future without him."

Whether the Worldwide Church has a future without Garner Ted is difficult for me to discern with complete accuracy, but this evaluation by **Time** coincides with an evaluation given by Martin E. Marty. Recently Martin E. Marty, one of America's most highly respected spokesmen for liberal Christians spoke to about 300 persons in the Gezon Auditorium of Calvin College as part of the college's year-long lecture series. I was one of these 300 persons. In that speech Marty said that most religious television programs represent a threat to the organized Church because they promote an "individualized religion." In terms of the Apostles Creed this would mean that there is no real communion of the saints because the Church is not gathered by the word and spirit in these TV spectaculars. The Gospel is not preached. It is instead a gospel of man which is not "the Gospel."

Marty also said that the majority of religious programs "are run by personalities who are skilled in a highly competitive showbiz enterprise. They almost never add members to the rolls of the Church, yet take millions of dollars that would ordinarily go into collection plates." He also stated that such shows are a threat to the Church because they are "almost entirely entertainment."

Although the analysis of Marty is all very true from a merely formal point, it is still very superficial because it does not touch the real root of the problem. The fundamental problem of movements such as the Worldwide Church of God is that

they are not the Church and simply pose as the Church. They offer stones for bread and they present a gospel which is not the gospel. They are those who are condemned by the apostle Paul in Galatians 1:6-9,

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Movements like the Armstrong empire have great influence but they are personalized and they are not really Christ centered. They mention Christ but they deny Christ and his work. They rarely survive the person who starts it. Marty said, "Most of these projects eventually come to an end in some kind of scandal."

That this analysis is correct is most assuredly true of the Armstrong movement.

The Church, which is the Bride of Christ, is of God. The Worldwide Church of God is not the Church of God. It simply is not the Church. It is a sect. They are those who are ever seeking and never coming to the knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Tim. 3:7). Because the Worldwide Church of God is not the Church, it stands condemned by the same condemnation given by Moses when he spoke to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 13:1-6:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, wherof he

spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee."

Because the Worldwide Church of God is a cult given over to apocalyptic pronouncements, it falls under another of the condemnations of Moses in Deuteronomy 18:22,

When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

The Worldwide Church of God is not the Church and Armstrong is not the ambassador of Christ even though he arrogantly claims to be such. Christ condemns all of his kind when he proclaims in Matthew 24:11,23, and 24 the following:

And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is

Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

In another place Jesus says,

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:15,16a)

The apocalypse is not yet for the true Church of Christ. Let the Church, however, lift up her head for her redemption is nigh. "Be not afraid, my Children," says our God, "for unto you is the kingdom."

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 5:20-21)

THOUGHTS ON OUR WORSHIP

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Prayers of the individual members of the congregation before the service belong only indirectly to the service.

It is important because it is intended to put the people in the proper frame of mind to worship.

The time before the service should be put to this purpose and not for socializing or for looking around.

This prayer should include personal prayer for one's family, the minister, the consistory, the people of God as a whole in their needs, those not there, and for one's self.

Through this prayer, one seeks to remove lusts, worries, and fears and all sins which would interfere from the heart and mind. This preparation begins already Saturday night and reaches its climax in the church just before the worship service.

Children (young people, Ed.) should be taught to pray also, they do not have to wait until they make confession of faith. They are participants and members of the worship service as well.

[source material: *Liturgies, Lesson XIII, Liturgical Actions*, Prof H. Hanko]



Truth vs. Error

REV. ROBERT C. HARBACH

GOD'S COVENANT

Our text is taken from Hebrews 12:22 & 24, where we treat the theme, *God's Covenant*, and deal with the proposition that God's Covenant According to Scripture is a Relation of Friendship, Not a Conditional Contract.

Our text read, in Hebrews 12:22, 24, "But ye are come," or more literally, "ye *have* come...to Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant." It's plain from these words that the Bible *does* teach such a thing as a covenant. As might be expected, Jesus Himself, the Mediator of the Covenant, taught covenant doctrine. Instituting the Lord's Supper, He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament (or covenant) in My blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20). Now the covenant *idea* is not new, for it goes back to Noah and the covenant God made with him and his seed, a covenant which was an everlasting covenant, so that it is still in force. Noah himself reveals that the covenant is, fundamentally, a relation of friendship, for Noah walked with God. Walking with someone is an act of fellowship and friendship. Noah also found grace in God's sight. Then it is a covenant of grace. Even back at the beginning of time, God shed the blood of the covenant to clothe Adam and Eve with coats of skins. "By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (Hebrews 11:4), because Abel's sacrifice also was a foregleam of the blood of the covenant. The very first promise God made implies the covenant of friendship: "I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman; between thy seed (Satan's

brood) and her seed (Christ); He (Christ) shall bruise thy head (Satan's), and thou (Satan) shalt bruise His (Christ's) heel" (Genesis 3:15). Enmity against the wicked one implies friendship existing between God and His children. Also this covenant of friendship is suggested by man's actually dwelling with God in the garden of Paradise (Genesis 2:15). But was there really a covenant, right from the beginning? From Hosea 6:7 we know that there was. We read there that Ephraim and Judah "like men have transgressed the covenant". The word *men* in the original language is *Adam*. Hosea then states that the whole nation of Israel transgressed God's covenant, as Adam had. So Adam was in covenant relation to God. The coats of skins, with which God clothed him, show that the blood of the covenant was shed for him. Then the covenant was, from the beginning. It always was, is now in the *new* covenant, and always will be in "the blood of the everlasting covenant" (Hebrews 13:20).

The Bible says Jesus is the arbitrator of the covenant. Then the covenant is no mere by-end. For Jesus is the Pilot, navigator and terminal toward which the covenant and all things tend. So the covenant is not a by-pass, nor a shunt-line, but the main line of history! The Bible is the Book of the Old and New Covenant (Hebrews 9:19-20). So then the covenant does not appear in a mere appendix to this Book. It is the very thought-structure, and weave-pattern of the Book. It is not merely a little finger, or even a thigh bone, but the backbone of the skeletal frame of the Christian Faith. It is the central controlling Christian principle. In Jesus' expression, "the new covenant in My blood", you have the main root of all truth. From that root all Scripture stems. Cut a branch from a tree, and you may still have a fine tree. Cut all branches off, and you would still have a living organism. Cut the trunk down to a stump, and the roots would shoot forth growth again. God had often cut the covenant tree down to a stump. Shem came from the stump of Seth. Isaac came from the dead stump of Abraham. Joseph espoused to Mary, came from the ground-level stump of King Zedekiah. Mary, as her Son, was a shoot from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). But cut out the root, rip out the covenant idea, and the gospel would totally disappear from Scripture. From the Bible cut out the words *covenant* and *testament* and you no longer have the Bible, but an utterly different book!

The Bible is not only spattered with covenant doctrine, but that is the main stream of Scripture. It's not, our covenant-conception determines our view of Scripture. But Scripture determines our covenant view. There is one Lord, the Bible says, one faith, one baptism, one body, one gospel, one central Bible message, one

righteousness, one hope, one promise, one covenant, one seed, one holy people, one church and one way of salvation. The old covenant was old in that the truth was administered outwardly, on tables of stone. The new covenant is the same old covenant, but now administered inwardly, written upon the tables of our hearts. What was *the* central sign in the Old Covenant? *Washing*-in the blood of the Lamb! What is the basic sign in the New Covenant? Washing in His blood! In the Bible, then, you see unity of promise, church and covenant!

It's very plain now that God's covenant is no mere means to an end. How could an everlasting covenant be that? It's the end itself that God had in mind from all eternity. *God* is from everlasting to everlasting and remembers His everlasting covenant forever (Psalm 111:9). It's then not merely a way to salvation, but salvation itself. So Christ was given "for a covenant of the people", the very salvation and "light of the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6). God's covenant is no mere appendage to the Faith.

God's covenant is established entirely by Himself, not along with the co-operative effort of man. Not God *and* man, but God alone establishes His covenant. "I will establish My covenant" (Genesis 6:18), the Lord insists. "I will make an everlasting covenant of peace with you" (Isaiah 55:3). "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel" (Jeremiah 31:31) God is covenant-Maker, Israel-covenant member.

In Genesis 15 we have God establishing His everlasting covenant with Abraham and his spiritual seed,-and "if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed" (Galations 4:29). At God's command Abraham offered a sacrifice with the pieces laid out in rows with a path between. But the Lord, under symbol of furnace and lamp, alone walked between the pieces of the sacrifice. When two men made a covenant with each other, both would walk between the pieces of the sacrifice, thus signifying, individually, May I be hacked in pieces, if I do not fulfill my part in the covenant. In God's covenant, this responsibility He takes on Himself, as much as to say, If you fail your part in the covenant, I will die for you. My covenant shall stand. For God initiates, institutes, realizes and maintains His covenant in the death of His Son. Further proof that the covenant is unilateral (one-sided) we have in "the blood of the covenant". There is no mutual blood-shedding. It is all the blood of God! Entering the covenant means we are brought over to God's side.

Now we may take up the question, With whom is the covenant made? Some think it is made with men, but not with Christ. He is simply the Mediator of the covenant and needs no salvation. He just

sees to it that God's purposes are fulfilled. No, the covenant is made with Christ, and through Him as covenant Head God ordained a people into fellowship with Himself. Twice God says, "I will give Thee (God's elect Servant-Frienc, the Messiah) for a covenant of the people" (Isaiah 42:6; 49:8). God also speaks of Him as the true Son of David, "I have made a covenant with My chosen" (Psalm 89:3). Christ is *in* and Head of the Covenant. So also are believers and their spiritual seed. God says of His elect New Testament Church, "I will make a New Covenant with" them, swearing, "I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33).

It is plain that Scripture teaches that God alone established His covenant. He commanded it forever. He makes it, gives it, confirms it, remembers it. He does not offer it, but declares it, keeps it, and brings His eternally loved people into the bond of the covenant (Ezekiel 20:37). It is called not only the everlasting covenant, but the brotherly covenant, a better covenant, the covenant of My peace, a covenant of peace My covenant of peace, the covenant of thy fathers, the covenant of the Lord, the covenant of God and the New Covenant.

What is the Christian's part in the covenant? It is that we trust in the one triune God. For it is necessary to exercise faith in Him, not to enter the covenant, but to live covenant life. The life of faith *is* lived because faith is the gift of God, is bestowed upon and created in us, thus rendering us capable of believing. Faith, too, is called for, as we are admonished and obligated to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. This we do in the use of His own gift. By faith we walk in a new and holy life. So doing we reveal the mark of a Christian. Without that mark of a holy life there is no Christian. Covenant people are a holy people. Amen.

Heavenly Father, through the blood of the everlasting covenant makes us perfect in every good work to do Thy will, working in us that which is pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



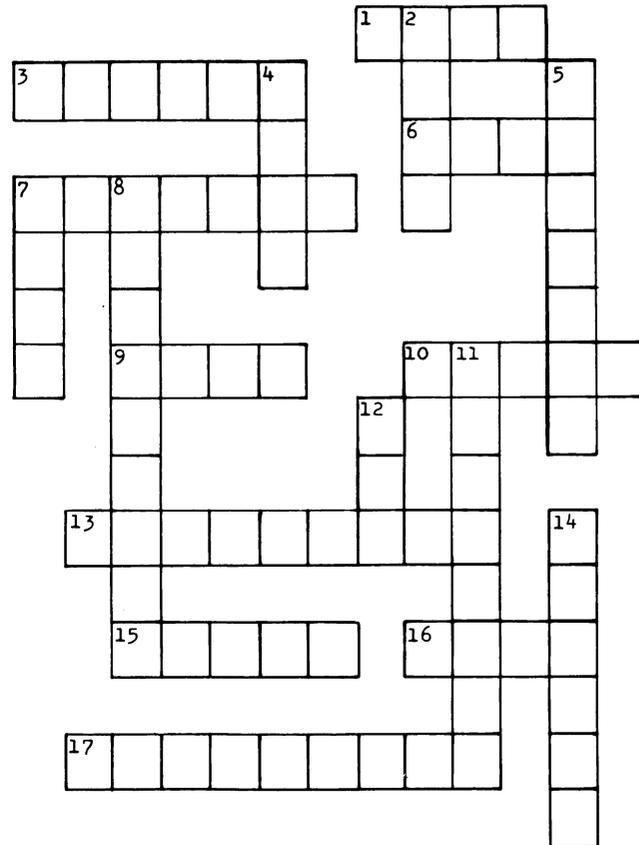
BIBLE OCCUPATIONS

ACROSS

1. King of Israel. (1 Sam. 11:15)
3. Deacon. (Acts 6:5)
6. Scribe. (Ezra 7:6)
7. Beggar. (Luke 16:20)
9. Farmer. (Gen. 4:2)
10. Lawgiver. (Mal. 4:4)
13. Silversmith. (Acts 19:24)
15. Sorcerer. (Acts 8:9)
16. Herdsman. (Amos 1:1)
17. Centurion. (Acts 10:22)

DOWN

2. Shepherd. (Gen. 4:2)
4. Tentmaker. (Acts 18:1-3)
5. Tax collector. (Matt. 9:9)
7. Physician. (Col. 4:14)
8. Publican. (Luke 19:2)
11. Slave. (Philem. 10)
12. Priest. (1 Sam. 1:9)
14. Ruler. (Gen. 41:42, 43)



MOTIVATION IN THE HOME

by Rev. C. Hanko

Dr. Abraham Kuyper of the Netherlands wrote a book entitled, "Three Small Foxes," a title which was taken from Scripture, particularly from the Song of Solomon (2:15), that speaks of "the little foxes that spoil the vine". The vine is, of course, the church. And these little foxes are evils that slink into the church under the cover of darkness to destroy the church. Dr. Kuyper had something entirely different in mind than I do tonight; but I also want to warn against these insidious cunning foxes that sneak unawares into our homes, into our schools, and into our churches with the purpose of destroying the church of the living God.

I have particularly a few little foxes in mind, that have been doing and are doing an increasingly amount of damage among us. No, I do not pretend that the evil I am speaking of is limited solely to the church. In fact, it has its origin and is much worse in the world round us. It belongs quite definitely to the lawless spirit of our times. This is the age of which Scripture warns us, the age of lawlessness. Some would call this present age the scientific age, some the atomic age, some the machine age. But we can far better sum up our times as the age of lawlessness. Men have become lovers of self more than lovers of God. God is not in all their thoughts. They have deliberately banished God out of their lives. Therefore, there is no respect any more for God's law. Think, for example of all the riots and uprisings in the various countries of the world. Think of the fact that even school teachers

go on a strike, afterward to return to their classes to teach patriotism and respect for authority. How can they expect the children to respect them when they defy all authority themselves? What is this world coming to? Man is so self-centered that he boasts of "love", love for mankind, by which he means that anything is justified if it is done out of love. You may commit adultery, you may steal, you may kill, if your motive is love. These evils have also crept into the church, even into our own lives, more than we realize.

The world has produced a generation of young people that wants to do its thing, and therefore does pretty much as it pleases. But how about our own children? There is obviously not the fear and the respect for those over authority that there should be. Even the strict discipline that should be exercised is often very offensive to them. The class hero is often the biggest goof-off, the one who dares to defy those in authority over him. Our children are known to use profane language on the school grounds, in the bus, and at basketball games. Young folks of high school age huddle together to discuss the TV shows they saw, or the movie they attended. All this has much more appeal to them than their school work. Children will plague and make fun of their classmates, setting up their own standard of right and wrong. The result of all this is that children do not apply themselves to their school work as they should. A number of serious minded

pupils don't like school because of all the goof-offs. There is a growing complaint of lack of motivation, that is lack of drive to produce good work, to prepare well for class, to learn their lessons well. Students graduate from high school that are far less equipped for life than were their parents. Some have difficulty reading and writing, and working arithmetic problems.

This is serious. Serious, in the first place, because our times require that young men and young women are able to meet the increased problems of life. The days of simple farming, simple carpenter work or mason work are past. Business becomes more and more complicated because of government demands, but also because of the machinery that is involved in most any field of endeavor. Besides, in the second place, the church of Jesus Christ is facing the end of the ages. We can only expect critical times in which the child of God must recognize the signs of the times and must be able to stand in an evil day. But finally, it is not worthy of a Christian School, much less of the Protestant Reformed School to produce graduates who do not actually deserve the diploma that they receive. We are responsible to God for the education that our children receive or fail to receive.

A short time ago, I discussed this matter with our teachers. It was deemed proper that I discuss this matter also with our parents. So tonight we face the question: in how far are our homes responsible for the lack of motivation so evident in our schools?

I wish to place ourselves before three questions:

I. Is there a lack of motivation even in our homes?

II. What is the cause for such a lack of motivation?

III. Where lies the solution?

I. Is there a lack of motivation even within the home?

I have before me a letter that appeared in the "Banner" of the Christian

Reformed Church a short time ago. I read this because it may very well be symptomatic of an evil that like a destructive little fox has crept into our homes.

This woman writes:

"What is a reasonable amount of time for a family to spend together? My husband is out three to six nights a week playing golf or baseball, rehearsing and/or performing in the church choir and a community choir, attending consistorial meetings, and so on. We have two pre-schoolers, and the constant care of attending them is depressing me. I am also becoming very critical of my husband. My husband works from eight to five. He is home on Sundays, but sings in the choir twice and sleeps all afternoon.

"I feel so resentful that he is gone so much. I have tried to discuss with him my feelings of resentment, but it hasn't brought about any change in our seven years of marriage. He was 28 years of age and I was 25 when we married. Could his lifestyle be set in a pattern that is hard to change? Before we had children I taught, but now my joy is centered about my home. I do try to involve myself in plenty of activities. Am I being selfish asking him to spend more time with us?" Signed, A lonely wife.

One can read between the lines that this marriage is not exactly a happy one. You can imagine that the father argues that everything he does is perfectly proper and legitimate. Does his wife want to take away all his pleasure and relaxation? Yet the wife is unhappy. She feels that she also has a certain claim to her husband, which he seems to ignore. I wonder if there are any wives here who voice the same complaint.

One thing is quite obvious. This particular father does little or nothing

toward the training of the children in the home. He leaves that entirely to his wife. In a situation like that, family devotions are often slighted or forgotten. The family is never together at one time. The children grow up to seek their own interests, so that the home becomes a veritable hotel where the individuals stop in a moment at the restaurant, seek a night's lodging, but then are gone again. In that case, the father certainly is not a good steward of the talents entrusted to him, of which he must give account in the great Day of days. For surely our family, our wife and children, are a part of the responsibility that we have before God, a responsibility which we dare not ignore, and cannot with impunity.

Another complaint about fathers is that they show very little interest in their own spiritual development. One minister writes,

"It is my impression, by and large, that the women of our churches (CRC) still engage in serious Bible study, but that the group of men who are really applying themselves to the study of the Bible and the Confessions is getting smaller. The teaching function is often left to the female members. The men are too busy. It will appear to their sons that they are engaged in more manly pursuits than the ladies who study their Bibles. Pray and work that this trend may be checked in time!" (Rev. Kuyvenhover "Covenant Keeping in the Church" "Banner," Christian Reformed Church)

It cannot be denied that even in our churches the ladies societies have far more members and are far better attended than the men's societies. Of course, our men will say, "But I have an obligation at home also." How true that is. But how essential in fulfilling our obligation in our homes that we keep up in the study of the Scriptures and are active in the communion of saints. Other things may have

to be eliminated from our schedule, but it becomes a question of true spiritual values.

I turn my attention now to another little fox that watches for its prey in our homes. There is an old adage that says, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." Mothers have a tremendous influence upon their children. I think of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth, or Elizabeth and her son John the Baptist, or Lois and Eunice and Timothy, and also many more. What would these children have been if the Lord had not provided for them the kind of mother they had? Mothers have the rare privilege, not only of bringing children into the world, but also of loving them, caring for them, instructing them, and leading them with their sage advice, always as assistants to their husbands. Many of us here are grateful to God for the pious, godly mothers the Lord gave us. How little do those mothers realize what a powerful influence they have been upon our lives. What a power they have been in the church. Will your children say the same of you?

Mothers are often frustrated by the four walls that imprison them. They grow so weary of those same old dishes, those same floors to scrub, that same house to keep clean, those same meals to prepare, those same kids to take care of. For reasons, too many to mention, mothers seek their interests outside the home. No, there are not so many who follow the example of Phebe, whom Paul recommends to the church at Rome as one who has succeeded, that is, helped many, even the apostle himself. Too many in our day go out to work, either full time or during school hours. Many are engaged in other activities that take them away from the home. Often the result is that when the children are home, these mothers are too busy with the household chores or too tired to be bothered by the children.

Children are told to shift for themselves, entertain themselves at the TV set, or at least get out of the way.

What is often forgotten is that the first five years of a child's life is a crucial time. These are the formative years. Psychologists tell us that eighty percent of the child's learning ability is attained during those first five years. The child's knowledge, emotional stability, and attitude towards God and life in general are largely determined by the influence of the mother, or anyone who spends the largest amount of time with the child. Personally, I cannot imagine a mother willing to give a babysitter or anyone else the privilege of giving her baby a bath in the morning, watching it grow, seeing it smile, sit up, take its first step, display its first tooth, or all those thousands of things that make a child so precious to mother's heart. It seems to me that, if nothing else, the mother's love for her child would impel her to feel deeply responsible for all the needs of the child. Working mothers, or mothers who spend a lot of time away from home, cannot possibly fulfill their calling overagainst their children. For what applies to little children, who need mother's care, applies even more to children of school age, and especially teenagers.

Maybe I should also say a word about wives in this connection. Women often have a legitimate complaint that their husbands forget all about them, but husbands sometimes have the same complaint. Marriage is too often just taken for granted. Husbands are the bread winners. Theirs is the responsibility to take care of all the extra chores when they are at home. Wives are too tired to be ready to share their lives with their husbands. Too often they grow apart, a barrier arises between them that is never completely removed. Have you stopped to think, that as you wives treat your husbands, your daughters will likely also treat their husbands some day? Intimate

love between Dad and Mom reflects itself in the children.

In what way does that little fox creep in upon our children? Especially children of school age can become quite a problem. The authority of the home seems to be taken away and transferred to the child's peers in the school. Johnie doesn't have to eat his lunch at school, so I don't either. Mary wore this and that to school. I have to wear the same or the other children will make fun of me. Parents at home find themselves under the dictates of other children, other mothers who allow their children to do so many things that really should be taboo.

Then again, children are show-offs. They want attention. Teachers will often remark that each class has its own peculiar earmarks, and these earmarks are generally set by certain children who set the keynote for the entire class. Often the wrong children will take the lead. Some will deliberately take God's Name in vain. Some will use vile language or draw obscene pictures. It is almost a wonder that God in heaven puts up with some of the bad things that go on even in our schools. Children are mocked, sneered at, made fun of, teased and plagued no end, just because a certain "show-off" wants to show his superiority to some innocent victim. I know, this has always been the case, but it is growing worse. And even the fact, that maybe you did things like that in times past does not justify our children doing them today. Children will cheat in tests, will speak disrespectfully of their teachers, and defy their authority. All of which evidences itself in a lack of proper motivation in the classroom, reflecting a bad influence in the home.

II. What is the Cause of such a Lack of Motivation?

First of all, it should be mentioned that there is among us a certain complacency, lack of enthusiasm, lack of zeal for the things of God's kingdom. What evidences do I have for that? First,

our poor attendance at public meetings, such as school society meetings, men's societies, ladies societies, even young people's societies are poorly attended, and no one, just no one cares to take part in the program, while very few prepare for the Bible discussion. It actually makes one weep to see this growing apathy taking over in our churches. One is reminded of the church at Ephesus, mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the church that lost her first love. No, her chief fault was not merely that there was no longer the excitement, the enthusiasm that characterizes a newly organized church. Her fault was that she was gradually failing to manifest the love of God. Apathy and complacency lie rooted in a lack of spiritual sensitivity. Our people, in many instances do not hesitate to miss a service on Sunday; they go on vacation over weekends, they make trips here and there, while they seem to have no qualms of conscience whatever about the fact that their place is empty, and that they are not under the preaching of the Word in their own church. What kind of influence are we having on our children, who likely will go a step or two farther than we do? Besides, I wonder how many of our families have family devotions together every day, with all the members of the family present. I know that this is extremely difficult in a large family. But how much of this is not deliberate, so that it really could be avoided, that different ones fail to come home for meals, or grab a bite to eat and are off again? How much influence does our business, do sports, does entertainment by TV have upon our spiritual life, especially on our lack of spiritual sensitivity?

A second evil that has crept in upon us is the lack of respect for authority. The world today mocks with authority. Young teenagers of the world openly admit that they are having sexual relationships outside of marriage, even with different companions; but anyone who dares to tell

them that this is wrong is out of his mind. They want to know how to keep out of trouble, but the answer is not keep away from evil. They want to sin with impunity, and they are going to do all in their power to carry out their evil desires. But how about us parents in Christian homes? What kind of example do we give over against authorities? Do we speak disparagingly of the President of the U.S., in the presence of our children? I know, he is by no means Christian in carrying out his office, and this may be pointed out also; but do we speak of him as "Jimmy", as the man next door, rather than as the man whom God has placed in authority over us? How about when we are driving the car with the children present? Do we have some bad words to say about that stop light that is holding us up, or the truck that prevents us from passing, or the school bus that stops every so often, even though we are in a great hurry? Do we stay within the speed limit, or do we show our children that we, too, defy authority? And then, do we wonder why our children fail to show proper respect, honor and obedience?

A third evil is the wrong sense of values. O, we all know the Scriptures. We have been reminded time and again that we must seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all other things will be added unto us. But when it comes to applying that truth to life, we find all kinds of excuses. All of us have our obligations, our church budget, our school tuition, but also bills that increase with the constant rise of prices. We really consider ourselves quite poor. Some years ago, I made the remark that as long as we have more than one pair of shoes, one suit of clothes, one overcoat, one good dress, one automobile, we can consider ourselves rich. Today we would laugh at that. We need so much more today than ever before. It costs us so much to live today; far more than years ago. But why? Simply because our standard of living has

changed, our values have changed. We want to live almost like millionaires. This influences our children. I often stand aghast. You ask a child if he wants a cookie, and he asks you, "what kind is it?" He will probably even turn up his nose in scorn. Even our children want luxuries, and get them. So that self-discipline has gone out of the window. We fail to discipline ourselves we fail to put the real value to life, and we teach our children the same.

III. Where lies the solution? How do we get rid of these little foxes that destroy the vine, that destroy ourselves, and therefore our homes, and ultimately our churches?

Rule number 1 is, we all without exception must **learn to pray**. I do not mean this in a general way, although it is always true that the request of the disciples to Jesus: "Teach us to pray", must also be our daily desire. What I mean is, that we must learn to pray **EVEN as** our Lord taught us to pray. The first petition of the model prayer, "Hallowed be Thy Name", must also be our first and chief petition in all our prayers. After all, we are friend-servants of the living God, according to our own confession. We are stewards in God's house, who profess; I am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. That means as David expresses it, "I have the Lord always before me; He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." It means that we seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. GOD comes first in our lives; not that **BIG I**. We live out of God, through God, but also **unto** Him. How different your life will be, and my life, if we bring that ever more into practice. Then not material things, prosperity, sports, fun are foremost in our minds, but God, His Christ, His glory. Then follows quite naturally, that we also pray: "Thy Kingdom come". We live and we want to live ever more completely as citizens of the kingdom of heaven, minding the things above where Christ is, and not the

things below.

That makes us a good example to our children. After all our actions speak much louder than our words. Children are sharp; they detect deception at once. They want honesty. They want you to be an example to them. If your life is not in harmony with your admonitions, then your admonitions mean nothing. They run off from your children like water from a duck.

Moreover, if we have learned the first two petitions, and have begun to apply them to our lives, we also learn to say: "Thy will be done." This brings us to Rule number 2. We must learn the ten commandments. The basic principle of those commandments is: "Love Me" God is not satisfied with a part of our goods, a part of our lives—say our church attendance and paying our budget and tuition. Many people seem to think that attending church, daily prayers, reading the Bible on occasion gives them a passport to heaven. Nothing doing! Christ warns, Many shall say in that day, "Lord have I not prophesied in thy name, and done many wonderful works?" And the Lord will answer, "I never knew you." "I never saw anything of all that." No, the Lord requires that we love Him with our whole being and with all our possessions, home, and family, and friends, and all. That requires **self-discipline**. And self-discipline is the daily prayer, that the thoughts of our hearts, the words of our mouth, and all our deeds may be pleasing to God. Then there remains no excuse for sin.

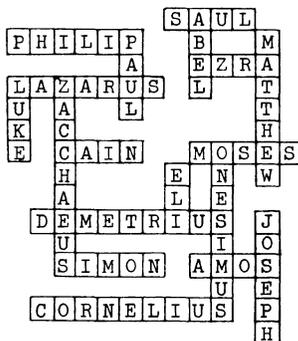
Rule number 3, we must teach our children the same thing. We must teach our children **self-discipline**. All the scolding talking, spanking in the world mean nothing if we do not teach our children self-discipline. **CHILDREN ARE NOT "piggie banks"**, as so many seem to think. They think a child can do anything he wants, only when he matures and gets married then he must settle down and benefit from what he learned as a child.

There is no more deceptive error than that. We must teach our children self-discipline even as children. When do we start? When they are ten years old? That is much too late. When they are five years old? That, too, is far too late. When they are one year old? No, too late. We must begin teaching self-discipline as soon as they are born! Never lose sight of that. Anytime later is too late. A child soon reveals his depraved nature. Nip it in the bud. A very small child gets fussy about what he eats; wants candy, cookies, and more candy, and more cookies. That is the time to teach the child to discipline his lusts. A father of a large family of boys saw that his boys were indulging in many evils. On family visitation he complained, "But I can't take them by the hand any more." The trouble was that when he could have taken them by the hand, he was too concerned about his farm to discipline his children properly. Of course, when a child becomes a teenager, it is far too late to warn him against the evils of sexual lust. That warning should have begun when the first evidences of sinful lust reveal themselves. **IT MUST NEVER BE LEFT UP TO THE CHILD TO DECIDE RIGHT OR WRONG.** You do not let him decide whether he should go to school or not. You tell him when it is time for him to

go to bed. You tell him when he must get up. You tell him what he must wear, what he must eat, etc. We must also lay down the rules for his spiritual walk in life. It must not be left to his discretion whether he will obey his teacher or not, whether he will study or not, whether he will do his homework or not. He must obey the rules and regulations of the home as long as he is in the home. Then the question never arises, "Shall I go to movies, shall I smoke pot, shall I engage in sex outside of marriage, or cheat in my tests, or lie to my teacher and parents?" They say with Joseph, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? These questions are all answered in advance by a good conscience before God. That is proper self-discipline. Yes, we must learn to pray. We must teach our children to pray. We must say in word and deed, so that our children learn to repeat it after us: Our Father, which art in heaven, Thou lovest me, therefore I love Thee. Thy will be done. Teach me Thy will, O Lord, from a clean and perfect heart! May God grant that to each of us.

Speech delivered at the P.T.A. of our Hope Protestant Reformed School on October 13, 1978 by Rev. C. Hanko.

BIBLE OCCUPATIONS



TEST YOUR MEMORY

1. Whose name symbolized that “the glory is departed from Israel? I Samuel 3:11-14
 2. Which book comes before First Thessalonians?
 3. What is the person called who hates his brother? I John 3:15
 4. Complete the verse “So then faith cometh by hearing, and....” Romans 10:17
 5. How many days and nights did Job’s friends sit with him in silence to mourn? Job 2:13
 6. What was the number Peter suggested when he asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother? Matt. 18:21
 7. Where did Jesus tell Peter to find money to pay taxes? Matt. 17:24-27
 8. Name two spies who brought a good report from Canaan? Numbers 14:6-9
 9. How many times did Samson give Delilah the wrong answer as to the secret of his strength? Judges 16:15
 10. What did the neighbors want to call John the Baptist? Luke 1:58-59
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“A Christian’s Responsibility Toward the Environment”

by Neva Doezema

“A Christian’s responsibility toward the environment” involves a very personal commitment. A Christian must realize that he alone will never be able to clean up all the air, water, roadsides, or forests. Trash and especially pollution are here to stay. The modern advances of the society we live in make it inevitable. This, however, does not absolve us of our responsibility. A Christian must look critically at himself and ask the question: What effect do I have on God’s creation when I touch it?

Consider yourself driving a car. Do you throw out candy wrappers, cigarette butts or packages, soft drink cups, or fast food cartons? If so, you are not living up to your responsibility of keeping God’s creation beautiful. God did not create His wonderful outdoors for us to dump

trash in.

You may say: I never dump or throw trash from my car window. Good! Pat yourself on the back and then consider this: Do you save aluminum cans or the glass bottles your family uses to be recycled? Do you choose to buy glass bottles instead of plastic ones which are a petroleum product? Do you turn your thermostat down to 68, 67, 65, or 64 degrees? Gas and oil you know are irreplaceable resources which God has given us to use. We should do our best not to waste them.

Do you walk, bike, or ski places if possible? Do you try hard to be patient and form car pools for basketball games, work, or any social event? Do you drive 55 mph on the highway? Do you buy a real fur coat instead of an imitation one made with petroleum (Here's your chance ladies!) Petroleum is irreplaceable, whereas animal fur is reproducible.

Our responsibility to God's creation includes plants and animals. Are you a hunter out for a good time, or do you use what you shoot wisely to its full capacity? Are you careful of plants when you visit woods or deserts? Do you leave plants where they are, or do you uproot them maliciously or for your own use? Forests and deserts were created by God and are delicately balanced according to His wisdom. Man tampering with this balance can only harm it.

Home owners have a responsibility. Have you considered solar heat? The sun is a limitless source of energy given us by God to use to its fullest advantage. Is your home insulated to prevent heat leakage and therefore save gas? Have you installed reflective film on your windows or dual-pane glass to insulate?

Many of you may say: "What's the exhaust from one car more or less? What's one degree more or less? There's no difference." Of course you're partly right. You probably have as an individual no effect; but all the same you are with your one car adding to pollution however minutely. Think about it. You yourself have no noticeable effect to help clear the air, yet I think you must look at a much smaller portion of God's creation. That part of which you touch! The part God has given *you* to be king over. You should do your level best to keep it clean and to use as wisely as possible before God.

When teaching children of their responsibility toward God's creation, you must first instill in them appreciation for the beauty God has put there. You must talk about Creation and how God looked upon it and saw that it was good (Genesis 1:31). Would He say that now? Look at trees, majestic mountains, green grass, fast flowing streams and rivers, and all the animals with children. Point out their beauty and uniqueness. Talk of the majesty of the bald eagle or the toughness of a

coyote. Each animal has been created uniquely through God's wisdom for its place in creation.

Children have to be taught not to throw out trash or paper from cars. It is easy for them to imitate wrong actions of others. They should be taught that when they are finished with a snack, the wrapper must be thrown in the proper place and not on a schoolyard or playground.

Older children understand the effects of man and industry on the environment. Textbooks about environment and the care of it should be used. There are excellent textbooks available to teach children about their environment, pollution, and solutions to the pollution. These books reflect the worldly trend toward seeking a cleaner environment and give man's solutions to help clean up the mess. Children should learn this, but it should be taught with the emphasis on keeping God's creation which He has given to us clean, not as the world teaches, to achieve an utopia here in this world. We are merely strangers passing through and know God has promised us a better land (Revelation 21:1). Our responsibility lies to God, not to ourselves, even though we receive the benefit of a cleaner environment.

The world teaches ecology and beautification of this present polluted trashy mess for their own good. Polluted air can kill you (this applies to cigarette, cigar and pipe smokers especially) so it must be cleaned up. Trash is ugly so it must be picked up or never thrown. The world is seeking a heaven here on this earth. They are frantically trying to find remedies for the utter mess they have made on this beautiful earth. We, as Christians, should join this effort, but not for that reason lest we be disappointed also. We are here for a short time and have been called by God to care for His creation. God reveals Himself to us through His creation (Psalm 19:1) and we must not make a mockery of that special revelation. God has made us kings over creation and we must use, not desecrate, the honor He has bestowed on us.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

NEWS From, For, and About Our Churches

by Cindi Dykstra

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Feenstra of Redlands rejoice in the birth of Luke Alan on Dec. 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Schimmel of Hope Church rejoice in the birth of Rebecca Grace on Jan. 3.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Kalamazoo has received the membership of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Nederhood and two baptized children John and Joyce and the membership of Henry Nederhood from Milwood Chr. Ref. Church.

Faith has received the membership of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Veldman and two children from Georgetown Chr. Ref.

Church.

Hope, Grand Rapids has received the membership of Miss Gretine Meelker from Redlands and the membership of Mrs. Paul Zandstra from the Reformed Church.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Rich Worries made public confession of his faith in South Holland on Jan. 7.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

South Holland's Young People's Society made and sold submarine sandwiches. Proceeds went for the 1979 Convention.

Read *Beacon Lights* to know and grow.

R.F.P.A. books, they're for YOUth.

Let's Meet!
at



Big Bear Lake
California

Join us in
Christian Fellowship
at the 1979
P.R.Y.P. Convention
July 23~27