

What's Being Planned By BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES

Copy for the church page must be in the Eccentric office by 3:30 p.m., Thursdays.

Lutheran Redeemer
A 1 o'clock luncheon is planned for today by the Ladies Missionary society for their monthly business meeting. Hostesses of the day are Mesdames Lawrence Steiner, Harry Anderson, W. C. Braver, Curtis Miller and Harold Storch.

First Baptist
The various women Circles of the church will hold a joint meeting Feb. 21 at the home of Mrs. Fraser E. Pomeroy, 1320 Dorchester. The meeting will feature the reception of new members.

Presbyterian
The annual meeting of the Westminster guild will follow potluck dinner scheduled for 6:45 p.m., Feb. 7.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Sunday Sermonette

A Continuing Series by Local Religious Leaders

When Religion Gets You!

By Rev. Emil Kontz
Minister, First Baptist Church

A basic fact about religion is illustrated in a boyhood experience.

A crowd of us boys would often go ice-skating on a nearby pond. On windy days we would unbutton our overcoats, open them wide, and use them as sails. We thrived to the fun of "catching the wind" and of skimming swiftly and smoothly over the ice. Since that time it has often occurred to me that in reality the wind caught us and carried us along. It was not so much that we had taken hold of something stronger than ourselves; rather, that greater power had seized and swept us along.

Too many people think and talk rather loosely about religion. "Getting" or "accepting" or "trying" religion. As though it were mainly something which we humans do. The Christian faith insists that religion is not centered in God, and not in man. Christianity speaks in terms of God taking a hold on us, and of all that God can do with and for us. The religion of Jesus Christ has its source and sustaining power in the redeeming love of God. It is for us human beings to be awakened to our need of the meaning and renewing effect of that power in our lives.

Think briefly about three such changes: When religion really gets you it will change your attitudes. This is an inner change, a change in thinking, outlook and belief. How basic is this change is indicated by the fact that we enjoyed it in the very first sermon he ever preached. Only the text of it is recorded in our Gospels, but it is enough.

Said the Master, "Repent for the Kingdom is at hand" (Matt. 5:17). The word "repent" is an old-fashioned word indeed, but mankind never outgrows its stern demand. It means literally, "change your mind," "turn around," "change your direction." Fundamental to other necessary changes is this primary change in one's internal attitude.

Secondly, true religion when given the opportunity to do so can change your actions. The inner change of attitudes and character will be reflected inevitably in the outer change of conduct and behavior. Because men have often failed to see the external change, they frequently doubt the reality and possibility of the internal transformation. Yet the answer to those who doubt that human nature can be changed comes from Prof. William E. Hoeking of Harvard.

In his book "Human Nature and Its Remaking" he says plainly: "The fundamental fact about human nature is that it can be and does change." Countless persons who have come under the revivifying and transforming power of Christ are evidence that He makes life different. Whatever your character or habits, God can change them—if only you give the opportunity for him to do so.

AS MEN desire to know God and Him in Christian Science, enlightenment, instead of drifting to a blind faith in God, they attain a reasonable knowledge of Him and which spiritualizes their thoughts for the things of Spirit are then seen to be real and the objects of sense unreal.

Christian Science offers the world healing by presenting the true concept of the true God and His creation.

Mrs. Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, gives this clear and appealing definition of Deity in the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" (p. 465): "God, is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. Mrs. Eddy's only authority and source of thought is the Bible."

The Christian Science teaching that God, infinite Truth, is good means that all that is true is perfect and eternal. God's goodness evidences Love, Love divine. Love is expressed in perfection and harmony. Little children can understand that God is good and they also learn that when they are good they are expressing God or Love, and that sickness is not good, and therefore is not real or true.

The omnipresence of good precludes the presence or substance of anything unlike itself. Omnipotence is the power of God, and another power. Omnipotence includes the possibility of a mind more intelligent than that of God, good. Omnipotence precludes the possibility of a law or activity apart from God.

Jesus did not ignore evil; he destroyed it. He said he came to do the will of God, good. If evil were of God he could not and would not have destroyed it. Christian Scientists do not close their eyes to evil, but endeavor to see through its false forms to power. James, the apostle, says (James 4:7): "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Resist means "be proof against; exert oneself to defeat, counteract, or frustrate." Evil claims to work invisibly and thus manifest itself in human affairs. To preserve oneself and others from being living in the false claims of evil even a gleam of the potency of God is effective. Spiritual power is recognized only through spiritual sense or understanding.

CHRISTIAN Science teaches that all that seems real in materiality, that is, all material phenomena, are human concepts, or misconceptions of the carnal or mortal thought, or ignorant belief, which is enmity against God. And when you let that Mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, just to that extent are you aware of the universe of God's creating, the phenomena of divine Mind.

Christian Science will so illumine your thought spiritually that you no longer will see through a false clarity, no longer will you believe that man, the beholder of God's wonders, could be the victim of false material sense. No longer will you judge by the hearing of the ear and the seeing of the eye, but you will judge through spiritual sense, thus judging righteous judgment. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing" (John 6:63).

So, we come back to the truth we stated in the beginning. It is not so important that you "get religion," that you try a dose of this or that kind of religious patent medicine. Much more important is it "religion gets you." That you turn with childlike trust and confident faith to God your heavenly Father, and surrender yourself completely to Him so that He may make you what you can and ought to be.

The Rev. Collins Thornton, pastor of Zion Nazarene church in Pontiac, will exchange pulpits with the Rev. William G. Ardrey, the Birmingham church this Sunday. He will speak at the regular morning services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and at the young peoples service at 6:30 p.m.

The Musical Wreaths of Flint, who use washboards and curtain rods as well as the more formal instruments, will also be heard Sunday. In addition to the three sermon meetings, they will play during the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

Science Speaker Says Knowledge Of God Is Truth

Miss Jean M. Snyder, C.S.B., of the board of lecturers of the Mother Church, First Baptist Church, Scientist, in Boston spoke at the Birmingham church Thursday evening.

"Christian Science: The Living Light of Christ, Truth," the lecturer spoke substantially as follows: "The human race is seeking a way out of its difficulties, searching for a solution of its problems, pursuing in devious material ways what it regards as its good, but which is really evil. The need is to know God."

Whatver the problem, be it mental, moral, physical, financial or economic, national or international, there is one and only effective solution is a practical, definite knowledge of God and His laws, His authority and His consistent nothingness of evil or error in whatever form it seems to appear.

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First Methodist
The Rev. Dr. Hartman A. Lichwardt will occupy the pulpit during the absence of the Rev. Dr. Arnold F. Runkel. He will speak at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

First Presbyterian
"Let Us Ask God About It," will be the topic of the Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D., at the 8:30 and 11 o'clock services, Judges 20:27. "A and the child of Israel inquired of the Lord," will be the text of his sermons.

Christian Science
"Taken from the Psalms 143:10, 'Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God; thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness' is the text of the sermon on 'Spirit' at the Birmingham Christian Science church Sunday morning.

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