

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

I am going to start off this article with a question. Can any person only half obey God? Absolutely not.

Take the story of Cain and Abel, for example. God told the people of the old testament days to offer a sacrifice of the best animal in the flock or herd. Abel gave of the fattest lamb in the flock, but Cain only half obeyed the law. Cain gave a sacrifice, but it was a sacrifice of grain, not one of the best animals.

Another example is Lot's wife. She walked away from the city like the Lord told her, but she turned and looked back at the city and was turned into a pillar of salt.

--Dick Hostetler

NEWS & NOTES

FOURTH SUNDAY SINGING - Elkhart, 3:00 o'clock this afternoon.

CAMP INDOGAN - Memorial day, May 30. Day of fellowship, fun and preparation of camp for summer program. Pot luck dinner. Bring carpentering, painting and cleaning tools and supplies.

MEN ONLY - Overnight encampment and lectureship at Camp Indogan on June 3 and 4. Complete schedule given on brochures.

PLANS IN THE MAKING - A booth at the 4-H Fair, August 3 - 6. A gospel meeting with Gene West, August 10-17.

Earl Gieseke
405 Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LA GRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

May 22, 1966

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A.M.
Worship Services	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P.M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P.M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road Come to worship;
LaGrange, Indiana 46761 Leave to serve.
Telephone No. 463-3571

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

- IF God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we give him?
- IF God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?
- IF God offered as many excuses as we do? And if the excuses were no more justifiable than ours?
- IF God's promises were no more certain than ours?
- IF God withheld His blessings from us as we withhold our offerings from Him?
- IF God loved Himself as much as we love ourselves and gave as little thought to us as we give to Him?

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

Curiosity of mankind has ever caused him to seek the "first" or "best" in every line of endeavor. There is a never ending search for the ultimate. He strives to know the tallest mountain, the longest bridge, the deepest ocean, the fastest car, the greatest power, etc. These are all prime objects of attention. There is a never ending desire to be first even among ideas and institutions, and of course, in the merchandising and sports world.

In view of this insatiable desire on the part of mankind to know the realm of "first," it is not surprising that on one occasion a scribe came to Christ and asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

The scribe was not unfamiliar with the law for he was a copyist. Likewise Christ was not unfamiliar with it for he used a passage found in Deut. 6:4, 5 as a basis for the answer which he gave. "Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mk. 29, 30

There are four cardinal aspects of this "first" or "great" command:

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. The heart is the emotional part of man; that which gives feelings to his religion. However, feelings alone are not enough, so Christ added,

2. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind. The mind is the thinking part of man, his intellect. We should give the best of our mind to the study of God's word. We should know his will, and

3. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength. Strength includes our talents, energies, and abilities. We must be willing to spend and be spent in His service, and

4. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul. The word soul here comes from a word meaning life (psyche). So Christ is saying that thou shalt love me with all thy life. All of the Christian martyrs are our example of this.

Each of these four aspects are necessary and any one of them left out would not equip a man to keep the total command. It would be much like having four negatives superimposed, one on top of the other, to give a composite picture of what God expects us to be in the keeping of this first command.

To build our religion around any one of these without regard to the others, such as a feeling without knowledge, a cold Pharisical knowledge without feeling, a life of austere service without knowledge, or a sacrifice of life without love, is not enough. But, a person that skillfully weaves a pattern of all four of these into his life is one that is, as the Lord says, not far from the kingdom of God.

--D. H.

BLOOD THAT SAVES

A report from New York tells of an appalling number of deaths due to "incompatible blood transfusions." In a world where the virus of sin has contaminated every responsible human being, it is heartening beyond expression to know the blood of Christ is available. It is the right type for every sick soul.

--Christian Chronicle