

The Young People's Magazine

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No 2

In for the Kill

Animal watchers used to assume that lions never hunted elephants. They know otherwise now. Pictures have been taken of lions attacking a young elephant, bringing it down and then feasting on the carcass.

The pictures were taken in a national park in Botswana. A pride of lions were lying in the darkness near a Jeep. From the safety of the vehicle, a film crew were watching with their infra-red cameras at the ready. As a herd of elephants came closer, the lions began to roar. They were trying to frighten the elephants, as they looked for the easiest targets. They watched a mother and calf with interest, but the other elephants let them move to the safety of the inside of the herd.

The lions seemed to drift back to sleep again, but they noticed another mother, with a young one aged between eight and 10. Two of the lionesses pounced immediately. One jumped on the back of the young elephant and another grabbed its rear with her teeth, cutting the tendons in the hind leg of her prey. At once the animal crashed helpless to the ground; only 30 seconds had passed since the lions noticed the young elephant. Immediately the lions killed the victim and made it their dinner.

Everyone knows that lions are dangerous, and only the most rash of people will take risks when these magnificent beasts are around. But the Bible warns us that "a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). That is the devil, described as our adversary, or enemy, because he is always acting against our best interests. If every lion is dangerous, the devil most certainly is highly dangerous, and very effective in the evil work he has set himself to do.

See how he watched Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. See how he first attacked Eve rather than Adam, as the one he assumed would be easier to deal with. See how he led her on gradually in his temptations. And see how he used Eve to tempt Adam, to bring him too into the ways of sin.

We should be under no illusions; Satan is highly skilful; he always considers carefully and cleverly how to go about tempting human beings. He wants them to do what is wrong; he wants them to turn against God; he wants

them to follow himself; and he wants them to be in hell with him for ever. And, sadly, he is too often successful in the temptations he launches against sinners of every kind.

But is there any way of keeping safe from “the wiles of the devil” – his trickery, his deceitful ways of working? Yes, says Peter, there is. We are to “be vigilant”, or watchful. Satan is always prowling around like a lion, ready to attack and pull us down. He is always watching for an opportunity to tempt us into sin. He is far more subtle, far more clever than we are. He has been steadily gaining experience in the most effective ways of bringing sinners into the ways of sin and keeping them there. So we must be watchful.

Peter also tells us to “be sober” if we are to be safe from the devil. Not only must we avoid getting drunk; we must not do anything to excess. We must avoid all sin. And Peter goes on to tell us to “resist” Satan. We are not to give in to any of his temptations; instead we must recognise the authority of God, and of all His commandments. We must, for instance, keep the Sabbath and be honourable in our relationships with the opposite sex. – however strongly we are tempted to sin, and however attractive it may appear.

However convincingly Satan tells us that we will only be happy if we yield to his temptations and go on in the ways of sin, we must not listen to him. We should realise that he is out to deceive us, for he has been a liar from the beginning. We must never believe him, “for the ways of the Lord are right” (Hosea 14:9); they are always safe. Whatever Satan and his followers may say, there is no way of true and lasting happiness except the way which leads to heaven – the way of holiness.

During their time in Botswana, the film crew saw eight young elephants killed by lions. The lions even tried to attack some of the adults but they could not bring them down. This suggests to us how Satan, the lion from hell, even tried to bring down the Lord Jesus by his temptations. Of course, Satan could not succeed in these attacks; the pure and holy Jesus could not be tempted to any sin.

And how will *we* be safe from temptation? By hiding in Christ. Remember how He calls you: “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Go to Him – in other words, believe in Him – and you will be safe. He knows what it is to be tempted and He knows how to help those who are tempted. Remember how He taught His disciples to pray, “Lead us not into temptation”. And such petitions are written down in Scripture so that we too would use them.

Even Satan, that wicked lion, cannot bring down those who look to Christ. They will always be safe. Even in the weakness of death, the all-powerful God will protect them and bring them into the perfect safety of heaven.

The Sabbath Day

1. The Sabbath and Creation

Rev Donald Macdonald

This is the first part of a paper given at the 2006 Youth Conference.

We are focusing on one command almost in the middle of the Ten Commandments: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy”. We may ask ourselves: Do we really keep it at all? Certainly not as we should. We may do so in the eyes of others but, before God the Searcher of hearts, do we fulfil what He requires of us? Do we examine the question as we should? And what is it to keep the day holy as unto the Lord?

I often recoil when I hear terms like *The Scottish Sabbath* and *The Hebridean Sunday*, and when people make such statements as: “The Sabbath belonged exclusively to the Jews”, and, “The Sabbath is no longer binding in the New Testament”. The fact is that the Sabbath is not Scottish or Hebridean or Jewish. It is a creation ordinance. It was given for the good of man; “the Sabbath was made for man”. Had it first been given to Abraham, there would have been some justification in describing it as the Jewish Sabbath. But it was given to Adam, the father of the human race, which includes both Jews and Gentiles.

In handling our subject we must begin with the Word of God. So we refer now to Genesis 2:1-3 and the first Sabbath. It is clearly seen that the Sabbath was intended for man, for God needed no rest for Himself; “the everlasting God the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not neither is weary” (Isaiah 40:28).

Adam was created on the sixth day. The first full day he saw was the seventh day of the creation week. The Sabbath was not given before Adam came into being but immediately after he was created. The first day of his life was to be given to God, as the firstfruits of his time. We must emphasise that the Sabbath is a gift; it was given to man at his beginning; it has never been taken back, for the gifts of God are without repentance. The institutions of labour, marriage and the Sabbath were given before the Fall, before sin entered into the experience of the human race. If sin had not entered and if Adam had remained in his original state, these institutions would have been preserved unspoilt; everyone would have obeyed God’s law perfectly. How important are these institutions, including the Sabbath, now that man is fallen! They have a significant place in the purpose of redemption.

Although the Sabbath day is not actually mentioned in the Bible from the Fall of Adam to the flood, or even during the time of Abraham and his

family, we must believe that the godly gave the Sabbath its proper place. When true religion was decaying seriously, as in the days of Noah, Sabbath-keeping would decline. This will be true in any age when ungodliness is on the increase. But godly men like Noah and Enoch would obviously have honoured the Sabbath.

When the Children of Israel were in Egypt, they would have neglected the Sabbath, although it would not have been totally lost. The importance of observing the Sabbath was set before Israel in the miracle of the manna. They were to gather a double portion of manna on the sixth day, as none would fall around their camp on the seventh day (Exodus 16:5,22-26). It is here emphasised, before the law was written on stones and given to them at Mount Sinai, that this day – the seventh day – was still in place; it was in no way relaxed.

The institutions of the Sabbath, labour and marriage, were all given to man when he was still in a state of innocence. But although they have fallen into decline as a direct result of the Fall and through the depravity of men's hearts, they have in no way been repealed. Rather they are continued for the good of man as a fallen creature in every generation.

Missionary to India

9. Illness

Alexander Duff reached India from Scotland in 1830. He established schools, so that young Indians would come in contact with the Bible. Last month we looked at Duff's work in St Andrew's Church in Calcutta after its minister left for Scotland.

Duff was always full of energy. He never spared himself, continually doing whatever he could to spread the truths of Scripture. Fit and well, he probably did not take enough care of his health.

May 1833 brought an unusually powerful cyclone, and large areas were flooded. The wind carried a fully-laden ship several miles inland. But, much more seriously, disease spread as the flood waters went down. The land was only beginning to dry up as late as November, when Duff set off by boat, with his family, for Takee, 70 miles east of Calcutta. Nothing would keep him back from doing what he felt to be his duty; he was to inspect a school connected with the one in Calcutta. On his return journey, Duff was struck down for the first time by illness – malaria. But after spending two or three weeks at sea, he recovered and was soon back at work.

But in the sweltering heat of the following April, Duff was unwell again, suffering on and off from fever. Strong-willed as he was, he kept on at his

work and even made another journey to visit the school at Takee. A Dr Temple saw him there and was alarmed at Duff's appearance. He sent the missionary back to Calcutta at once, warning him of the danger from what was then the most feared of illnesses in India – dysentery.

Back in Calcutta, Duff found another missionary, Anthony Groves, who had to give up an attempt to spread the gospel in Baghdad, the capital of present-day Iraq, where the penalty for turning from Islam was death. Groves was amazed to find young Indians in Duff's school searching the Scriptures diligently. After being shown round the whole building, Groves was left alone with the oldest class to examine them on their knowledge of the Bible and its doctrines. He was amazed to discover how well and how readily they could reply. This was, he declared, what he had been looking for since he left England. And he went on to appeal to the boys' consciences, exhorting them to take to heart what they knew.

In Baghdad he had preached to adults almost every day. Yet, he confessed, "in the case of even the most attentive I always painfully felt there was a crust between their mind and mine". But in Calcutta it was different: "I feel that every word is finding its way within. I could empty the whole of my own soul into theirs. How is this?" Duff's only answer was to open the door into the room where younger children were learning basic English. One important difference between Baghdad and Calcutta was that Duff's pupils could understand the truths which were presented to them.

This turned out to be Duff's last day in his school for some years. Indeed he was already suffering from dysentery and he soon became very seriously ill. Four doctors attended him without success – no antibiotics then or any other form of treatment, except that a fifth doctor asked permission to try an unproven remedy. Whether this form of treatment was responsible or not, Duff began to improve. But it was clear to the doctors that Duff must return home to Scotland if he was to make a full recovery. He was prepared to go on a voyage for the good of his health, but could it not be much shorter than the one prescribed? He wanted to return to his work in India as soon as possible. "I devoted myself to the Lord," he argued, "to spend and be spent in His service in this land." Dr Martin replied firmly: "In the last nine months you have suffered more from tropical disease than many who have passed their lives in India. Let not a day be lost!"

Duff was not the only invalid; his wife too was ill. So in July 1834 the Duffs set sail from Calcutta on the *John M'Lellan*, bound for Greenock in Scotland. Another passenger was Groves, who had watched over Duff day and night since he had become ill, even sleeping in the same room so that the sick man would always have someone to look after him whenever necessary.

Anne Duff was herself too sick to give her husband the care he needed.

The very day they left Calcutta a son was born to them. He was brought through to Duff's cabin to cheer him up. But although Duff did not then know about it, another encouraging event was taking place at the same time – David Ewart, an old friend from his university days in St Andrews, was being ordained as the Church of Scotland's third missionary to India.

The Danger of Despising Religion

J C Ryle

Another piece, slightly edited, from this noted nineteenth-century English minister. The fourth in a series on dangers to young people, it follows the article in December.

One of your special dangers is to despise religion. I always notice that no one pays so little outward respect to religion as young people. No one attends the means of grace so badly, no one takes so little part in our services when they are present – use their Bibles so little, sing so little, listen to preaching so little. No one is so generally absent from prayer meetings. Young people seem to think they do not need these things. They may be good for others, but not for them. They appear ashamed of seeming to care about their souls; one would almost think they reckoned it a disgrace to go to heaven at all.

This is to *despise religion*; it is the same spirit which made the young people of Bethel mock Elisha. And of this spirit I say to all young people: Beware! If it is worthwhile to have a religion, it is worthwhile to be in earnest about it. Contempt of holy things is the high road to atheism. Let someone once begin to make a joke of any part of Christianity, and I am never surprised to hear that he has turned out a complete unbeliever.

Have you really made up your minds for this? Have you looked honestly into the gulf which is before you if you persist in despising religion? Remember the words of David: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). The *fool*, and none but the fool! He has *said* it, but he has never proved it! Remember, if there was ever a book which has been proved true from beginning to end, by every kind of evidence, that book is the Bible. It has defied the attacks of all enemies and fault-finders. "The Word of the Lord is tried" indeed (Psalm 18:30). It has been tried in every way and, the more it has been tried, the more evidently it has been shown to be the very work of God Himself. What will you believe, if you do not believe the Bible? There is no choice but to believe something ridiculous. Depend on it, no one is so ready to believe what is false as the man who

denies the Bible to be the Word of God. And if it is the Word of God, take heed that you do not despise it.

People may tell you there are difficulties in the Bible – things hard to be understood. It would not be God's book if there were no difficulties. And what if there are? You do not despise medicines because you cannot explain all that your doctor does by them. But whatever men may say, the things necessary for salvation are as clear as daylight. Be very sure of this: people never reject the Bible because they cannot understand it. They understand it only too well; they understand that it condemns their own behaviour; they understand that it witnesses against their own sins and summons them to judgement. They try to believe it is false and useless, because they do not want to accept it is true. "A bad life is the only grand objection to this book", said the famous Lord Rochester, laying his hand on the Bible. "Men question the truth of Christianity," said South, once a well-known preacher, "because they hate the practice of it."

When did God ever fail to keep His word? Never. What He has said, He has always done; and what He has spoken, He has always made good. Did He fail to keep His word at the flood? No. Did He fail with Sodom and Gomorrah? No. Did He fail with unbelieving Jerusalem? No. Has He failed with the Jews up to this very hour? No. He has never failed to fulfil His word. Take care not to be found among those who despise God's Word.

Never laugh at religion. Never make a jest of holy things. Never mock those who are in earnest about their souls. The time may come when you will count those happy whom you laughed at – a time when your laughter will be turned into sorrow and your mockery into heaviness.

For Junior Readers – Lessons from the Life of John G Paton

Kidnapped

After John finished at the Free Church school in Maryhill he was offered work as a missionary with the Glasgow City Mission. He was sent to be a missionary in a very poor area of Glasgow. Most of the people in this area had not been to church for 10 or 20 years. Many of them had drink problems which caused all sorts of other problems for their families.

John went round visiting these people, praying with them and trying to organise small prayer meetings and Bible studies for them to attend. He did not make much progress at first. By the end of his first year, only six or seven people were attending the Sabbath evening service which he held in a hayloft.

The directors of the Glasgow City Mission heard that not much progress had been made. They thought that maybe it would be best to move John to another area of Glasgow. But John asked them to give him six more months to try to build up the work. He wanted to stay because he felt that the people were just beginning to trust him.

When he went back to his small group of regulars they were very shocked to hear what the directors of the Glasgow City Mission had said to him. They did not want John to be sent away. They started bringing more people to the meetings. So many came that they had to find a new place to meet in. By the end of his time there, up to 600 people were attending.

John tells us about one young Roman Catholic girl who started coming to his meetings and was converted. She became a Protestant and went to live with a Protestant family. One night a carriage with two men and two women drove up to the house where this girl was staying. It had been sent from a nunnery, with instructions to take this girl and her little sister back there. The girl refused to go with them. She told them she had made a choice and she was now a Protestant and they had no authority over her. She managed to get a message to John asking him to come at once.

By the time John arrived at the house, it was filled with a noisy crowd of Roman Catholics. The girls asked John to protect them but he was pushed into a corner and surrounded by people. The two women pulled the girl, who was sick, out of bed. They started to dress her but she fainted. When John saw this he shouted out to them, "Do not murder the poor girl! Get her water, quick, quick." And he managed to rush through the people surrounding him as if going to get some water. But he made for the only door of the house. He took the key, slipped out and locked the door behind him, leaving all the people inside. He then ran to the nearest police station to get help.

Two policemen came back with him to the house, but unknown to John, they too were Roman Catholics. When they got to the house, the policemen helped the people from the nunnery take the girls to the carriage! John shouted for help to the crowd which had gathered, and one big Highland policeman who was passing sprang into action. He struck the man driving the carriage with his baton and then jumped up and took the reins of the horse and drove the carriage to the police station.

Now at last, you think, the girl will be safe! But no! When they got to the police station, they found that the officer in charge also was a Roman Catholic. When he heard what had happened, he said: "Her friends are taking her to a comfortable home; you have no right to interfere, and I have let them go".

The Glasgow City Mission decided to take this case to court and to sue the

people who had kidnapped the girl. The police became more co-operative and for nearly a fortnight the police and members of John's Bible Class searched for the girl. The nunnery said the girl's little sister was with them but not the girl herself. No trace was found of the girl or the people who had kidnapped her till, one day, a girl from the Bible Class heard the kidnapped girl calling to her from a cellar window with bars over it. She told the girl to run and let John know where she was. When John heard this he went at once to get the police to rescue the girl. But when they arrived at the property, the girl had mysteriously disappeared.

Sadly, John never found the poor girl. He later heard that she had been left very ill at a Poor House (where very poor people were looked after). She died there, with no friends around her. Where were the "comfortable house" and the "friends" the police officer spoke about?

Although the end of this young girl's life may not have been pleasant, she had the one thing that is needful. She had Christ as her Saviour. Because she was determined to do what is right and leave a religion that did not encourage her to put her faith in Christ alone, she was persecuted. How thankful you should be that you do not have to choose between following Christ and your freedom!

In other countries Christians are being imprisoned, tortured and killed because they are determined to follow Christ. Do you pray to God and ask Him to give you a true, living faith in Christ alone? Do you thank Him for the freedom we have in this country to follow the true faith? Do you pray to God asking Him to build up the true religion in our country? These are all things you and I should pray for.

S M Campbell

For Younger Readers

To Tell the Truth is Best

Mary and Willie were eating their lunch. Near where they were sitting was an open window. Near them too, on the sewing machine, was a cake.

Willie asked if they could have the cake. Their mother went to break it into two pieces, one for each of them. She meant to make the pieces the same size but one turned out to be just a little bigger than the other.

The smaller piece was nearer Mary, but she stretched out her hand to take the other piece. She wanted the bigger piece for herself.

Her mother was not pleased. She did not want Mary to be selfish. So she pulled back Mary's hand and gave the bigger piece to Willie instead. She gave the smaller part to Mary.

As she did so, she looked straight at Mary and asked her: "Why did you not take the piece nearest to you? Why did you reach over it for the other?"

Mary's face went red. She did not like her mother's question. But she answered at once: "Wasn't that the smallest piece?"

Of course, Mary knew she tried to take the bigger part and wanted to leave the smaller piece for her brother. She knew she was not really telling the truth. And she knew that she did wrong. But she just went on eating her food without lifting her eyes.

Willie told her to look out of the window to see something very funny. But Mary did not bother. She did not feel comfortable inside herself because she knew that she did wrong.

Evening came. It was time to go to bed. As Mary was getting ready, her mother asked her: "Have you been a good child today, Mary?"

"Yes, pretty good," she answered.

"Can you think of any wrong thing you have done?" her mother asked again.

Mary, it seemed, could not think of anything. But, of course she had not forgotten.

So her mother asked, "Have you been truthful?"

Mary just looked down at the floor; she had nothing to say.

Her mother had another question to ask: "Mary, did you really think you were taking the smaller piece of cake today?"

Mary tried to defend herself; she asked, "I didn't say it was the smallest. Was that a lie?"

So her mother told her: "You had tried to make me think that you thought it was the smaller". Her mother went on to tell Mary that this was a *sin*. A sin is something we do wrong against *God*.

She went on to tell Mary that she was selfish and deceitful – Mary was trying to deceive her mother, trying to make her believe something that was not true. Her mother went on to tell Mary that she was a hypocrite.

"What is that?" asked Mary; she did not understand the word.

So her mother explained: “A hypocrite is someone who tries to make other people think he is better than he really is. Sometimes he succeeds in deceiving others, and sometimes not. But he never succeeds in deceiving God. You didn’t succeed in deceiving me today, for I saw through it all. And, Mary, what do you think God thought of what you did?”

Mary just said, “I don’t know”. She was beginning to look more upset.

Then her mother went on to tell Mary that she was not only selfish; she wasn’t just a hypocrite. “You really told a *lie*. You didn’t speak the truth, for you said, ‘Wasn’t that the smallest piece?’ Now God was looking right into your heart, and He saw just what you thought. He saw that you did not speak the truth in your heart. I cannot tell you how much displeased God is with such wickedness. If you are a hypocrite and a deceiver, you can never go to heaven.”

Then her mother told Mary there were verses in the Bible she wanted her to learn the next day. So, in the morning, before breakfast, Mary got out her little Bible. And her mother looked up these verses: “Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart” (Psalm 15:1,2).

What did Mary’s mother mean? In these words from the Bible, she saw that God was teaching something very important.

Who will go to heaven? Only those who speak the truth from their hearts – those who really mean what they say.

You too should learn these verses. Or perhaps you may find it easier to learn them in this form:

Within Thy tabernacle, Lord,
who shall abide with Thee?
And in Thy high and holy hill
who shall a dweller be?

The man that walketh uprightly,
and worketh righteousness,
And as he thinketh in his heart,
so doth he truth express.

Looking Around Us

Ready to Meet God?

A survey in Britain has shown that 60% of those questioned believed that they are ready to meet God. The chief executive of Premier Christian Radio, which organised the survey, commented: "I think it's wonderful that 60% of the British public are ready to meet God".

Of course it would be wonderful if that was so. But, sadly, people are not necessarily right in what they believe about their spiritual state. Indeed one of the biggest dangers facing religious people is to believe that they are on the way to heaven when they are still on the broad road to a lost eternity. Certainly Britain would be a very different country today if 60% of its citizens were truly converted. But one does not need to know much about the Bible to realise that the position is very, very different. For one thing, how many go to any kind of Christian church on a Sabbath? Fewer than 10%.

Clearly Britain today lacks a sense of the holiness and majesty of God. Clearly Britain also lacks a sense of sin. Otherwise sinners would not feel ready to meet God – apart from faith in Jesus Christ. Yes, some do have that faith. But how few!

Do you ask how I can tell that very few believe in Christ? Well, He said Himself that we are to know people by their fruits. In other words, we can know if people are true Christians by the way they live – if they are trying to live to the glory of God. This would mean, among many other things, them attending public worship if they are at all able to do so. And we can know that others are not true Christians by the way *they* live – if they neglect public worship and live obviously sinful lives. Paul wrote about those whose "sins are open beforehand, going before to judgement" (1 Timothy 5:24). He meant that their sins were so obvious that everyone should have been able to say: They must stand on the left side of Christ on the judgement day unless they repent; they are obviously not ready to meet God.

But Paul also said that there are some men whose sins "follow after" them to judgement. Their sins are not so obvious, so one may not be able to tell so easily – indeed, one may not be able to tell with any confidence at all – whether they are true Christians or not. Yet their sins are still following them to judgement if they have not been washed away by the blood of Christ. They are not yet ready to meet God.

Our only safety lies in fleeing to Christ. He said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). All who do so are ready to die; they will be safe when they die; they will be safe on the day of judgement. But no one else.

“You Have Never Asked”

Alexander Vass lived in Easter Ross, in the Scottish Highlands. His God-fearing father was the manager of a farm, but he died shortly after a new minister had come to their parish of Rosskeen. This was John Calder, who proved to be an excellent, godly minister.

No one who knew Alexander could complain about the way he lived; no one could point to any outward sins that he was committing. Yet there was something seriously wrong with Alexander’s life; he had no thought about the salvation of his soul.

Not long after his father’s death, Alexander was sitting in the Rosskeen church one Sabbath. The new minister was preaching and took as his text: “The children of Thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before Thee” (Psalm 102:28). As he went on with his sermon, Calder spoke with great energy and solemnly emphasised the great responsibility which rests on the children of godly parents. They have great advantages – their parents showed them a good example; they taught them from the Bible; they prayed for them many times.

Then the preacher became even more pointed; he began to address personally those who were children of godly parents. “You are present hearing me”, he said, “whose parents have offered many prayers for you, but you have never asked for an answer to those earnest petitions”. He warned such people that, if they went on in their carelessness, these prayers would be answered – if not in the conversion of these children, then in the conversion of “the sons of the stranger” (Isaiah 56:6). And he went on pointedly: “But you will be out, and left out for ever”.

The minister’s words pierced Alexander’s heart; his conscience was disturbed. He could not face walking home with others; he hung back so that he could be alone with his thoughts. And these were serious thoughts; they were intensely solemn. He felt, with every step he took, that he was about to fall into hell.

This was the beginning of deep conviction of sin which lasted for quite some time. But God used Calder to direct him to Christ, just as He had used him to bring Alexander to feel the guilt of his sin. Alexander, we are told, was brought “to the door of hope opened up through the rent veil of the flesh of Christ”. By faith he “found rest in the Redeemer’s finished work. The peace of God that passes knowledge became his, and his soul, weary and heavy laden, had its burden of guilt removed.”

God was gracious to Alexander and he became useful in the Church for many years after his conversion. And, no doubt, he often praised God that he

had not been allowed to go on any longer without thinking seriously about the needs of his soul. How thankful he would have been to have realised that it was not enough to live without serious outward sins. Even if other people could not see them, God could see all the secret sins of his heart.

It is the same today. It is a great blessing to have godly parents, but it is not enough. It is not enough to be taught by parents and others; you must be taught by God Himself. It is not enough to have others pray for you; you must pray for yourself also. Ask Him to show you that you are a sinner who needs to be forgiven and to be made holy. Ask Him to show you Christ as the Saviour who died for sinners and rose again. Ask Him to protect you as you travel through this world and at last to bring you safely to heaven.

Let those who have godly parents remember their huge responsibility.

Scripture and Catechism Exercises 2006-07

Exercise 2

All answers from *overseas* should be sent to *Mrs N M Ross, F P Manse, 10 Achany Road, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9JB, Scotland*. The correctors should have your answers before the end of March. These exercises are based on Daniel 5 to Malachi 4, Genesis 1-23, James 1 to Revelation 22 and Matthew 1-11.

Senior Section (15 years old and over)

UK answers to *Miss C MacQueen, 32 Fraser Crescent, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9DR*.

Old Testament

1. Explain how Hosea 13:14 is a prophecy of the Saviour's sacrifice. (4)
2. Read Hosea chapter 14.
 - (a) What particular sin was Israel guilty of? (1)
 - (b) Quote the words of a prayer which is suitable for us. (2)
 - (c) Write in your own words how a blessing on the Church is depicted in verses 4 to 6. (3)
 - (d) What would be the result of this outpouring of blessing? (2)
 - (e) How will the "wise" and "prudent" react? (2)
 - (f) What will happen to those who ignore these things? (1)
3. The answers are in Genesis chapters 2 to 4.
 - (a) Quote the verse which shows how Adam was unique in all the creation of God. (2)
 - (b) Write briefly about Eden, the garden of delights. (2)
 - (c) How did Adam and Eve react to God's visit after they had sinned? (2)
 - (d) Explain how verse 15 of chapter 3 describes the work of the promised Saviour. (2)
 - (e) What changes did sin bring about on the ground which was previously fertile? (2)
 - (f) What was the difference between the sacrifice brought by Cain and that brought by Abel? (2)

New Testament

1. Read James chapter 3.
 - (a) Comment on two illustrations of the power of the tongue, although it is so small. (3)
 - (b) Discuss any two of the examples given of speech which is not worthy of reasonable beings. (3)
 - (c) To what do envy and strife lead? (1)
 - (d) Quote a beautiful verse about heavenly wisdom. (1)
2. Read 1 Peter chapter 2.

- (a) What are we asked to “lay aside”? (2)
 (b) By what may we impress those who speak against us? (2)
 (c) How are we to conduct ourselves to our superiors,
 (1) the king (2) our masters, whatever their character? (4)
 (d) What can we learn from Christ’s example? (2)
 (e) Quote the verse from Isaiah 53 of which we are reminded. (2)

Memory Exercise

- Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 64 in the Shorter Catechism:
 What is required in the fifth commandment? (3)

Intermediate Section (13 and 14 years old)

UK answers to *Mrs E Couper, 17 Duncan Street, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7HU.*

Old Testament

1. From your reading of Genesis
 - (a) What was special about Enoch? (chapter 5) (2)
 - (b) What was special about Noah? (chapter 6) (2)
 - (c) What did Noah build immediately after the flood? (chapter 8) (2)
2. Why did the Lord have a “controversy” with the inhabitants of the land? (Hosea 4) (3)
3. What three things does the Lord require of man? (Micah 6) (3)
4. What advice is given to Israel so that they may “live”? (Amos 5) (3)
5. (a) What did the Lord “send” and what had He “prepared” for Jonah? (2)
 (b) What does this teach us about the Lord? (2)
6. Complete the following quotations:
 - (a) “Who is a God like unto thee . . . ?” (Micah 7)
 - (b) “The Lord God is my strength” (Habakkuk 3)
 - (c) “In that day there shall be a fountain” (Zechariah 13)
 - (d) “Sing O daughter of Zion” (Zephaniah 3) (4)

New Testament

1. The following quotations are from the Gospel of Matthew.
 In each of them state (1) to whom (2) by whom and (3) why they were spoken.
 - (a) “Thou shalt call his name Jesus.” (3)
 - (b) “Go and search diligently for the young child.” (3)
 - (c) “Let your light so shine” (3)
 - (d) “If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.” (3)
 - (e) “Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?” (3)
 - (f) “Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?” (3)

Memory Exercise

- Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 86 in the Shorter Catechism:
 What is faith in Jesus Christ? (3)

Junior Section (11 and 12 years old)

UK answers to *Mrs C M Sutherland, Inchure, Saval Road, Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4ED.*

Old Testament

1. From your reading of the Book of Jonah say (1) who spoke the following words and (2) to whom they were spoken:
 - (a) “Take me up and cast me forth into the sea.”
 - (b) “What meanest thou, O sleeper?”
 - (c) “Doest thou well to be angry?”
 - (d) “Lay not upon us innocent blood.”
 - (e) “What shall we do unto thee that the sea may be calm unto us?” (10)
2. One of the above sentences is part of a prayer. Which one? (1)
3. Read Genesis chapter 3.

- (a) In the first verse of the chapter Satan said to Eve: "Yea, hath God said?" A little further on in the chapter he told her a lie. Write out what he said. (2)
- (b) How did Adam and Eve try to cover their nakedness? (1)
- (c) Where did they try to hide from God? (1)
- (d) To whom did God say:
- (1) "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children." (1)
- (2) "Thorns and thistles shall it [the earth] bring forth to thee." (1)
- (3) "Thou art cursed above all cattle" (3)
- (e) What covering did God provide for Adam and Eve? (1)
- (f) Where would this covering have come from? (1)
- (g) How did God guard the tree of life? (2)

New Testament

1. Read James chapter 4 and then complete these sentences.
- (a) The devil will flee from us when we (10)
- (b) God will draw nigh unto us when we (10)
- (c) We are enemies of God when we (10)
- (d) The Lord will lift us up when we (10)
- (e) We should add "God willing" to our plans because (10)
2. (a) Matthew 8:16 tells us that many were brought to Jesus and healed. How many *other* people healed by Jesus do we read about in this chapter? Say who they were and from what trouble they were healed. (8)
- (b) Jesus said about one person that He had not found so great faith in Israel. What was remarkable about this person's faith? (1)

Memory Exercise

- Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 19 in the Shorter Catechism: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell? (3)

Upper Primary Section (9 and 10 years old)

UK answers to *Mrs Sheena Campbell, 2 Silverknowes Midway, Edinburgh, EH4 5PP.*

Old Testament

1. Genesis chapter 1 tells us about the creation of the world. Complete the table below by drawing lines between the day and what was created on that day:

Day	What was created
1	Earth, plants and trees
2	Sea animals and birds
3	Light
4	Land animals and man
5	Firmament or sky
6	Sun, moon and stars

- (5)
2. What was everything like which God had created? (Genesis 1:31) (1)
3. Read Genesis 2:1-3.
- (a) What did God do on the seventh day? (2)
- (b) What does this tell us we should do on the Sabbath day? (1)
4. Read Genesis 11:1-9.

- (a) How many languages were there at the start of the chapter? (1)
- (b) Where did the people stop who journeyed from the east? (1)
- (c) What did they decide to build? (2)
- (d) Why did they want to build these things? (2)
- (e) Did God like what they were doing? (1)
- (f) What did God do to stop the plans of the people? (1)
- (g) What happened then? (2)

New Testament

1. Read Matthew 1:18 - 2:4.
 - (a) By what name did the angel say the child should be called? What does this name mean? (2)
 - (b) By what name did the prophet say the child would be called? What does this name mean? (2)
 - (c) How did the wise men from the east describe the child who was born? (1)
 - (d) What is He called in verse 4? (1)
2. Now read Matthew 5: 1-12. These are sometimes called the Beatitudes.
 - (a) Who is speaking in these verses? (You might need to go back and read the last few verses in chapter 4 to find out.) (1)
 - (b) What will the "poor in spirit" receive? (1)
 - (c) Who shall "inherit the earth"? (1)
 - (d) What shall the "pure in heart" see? (1)
 - (e) Who shall be called the "children of God"? (1)

Memory Exercise

- Learn by heart and write down the answer to question 10 in the Shorter Catechism:
How did God create man? (2)

Lower Primary Section (8 years old and under)

UK answers to *Mrs R J Dickie, 11 Churchill Drive, Stornoway, Lewis, HSI 2NP.*

Old Testament

1. Who was born to Adam and Eve after Cain killed Abel? (Genesis 4:25)
2. Who went to heaven without dying? (Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5)
3. Who had three sons called Shem, Ham and Japheth? (Genesis 6:10)
4. What did God tell him to make? (Genesis 6:14)
5. When God sent the flood, the fountains of the great deep were broken up. How many days and nights did it rain? (Genesis 7:12)
6. What happened to all the people, animals and birds that were not safe in the ark? (Genesis 7:22, 23)
7. On which mountains did the ark rest after floating for 5 months? (Genesis 8:4)
8. Who told Noah to go out of the ark after he had been in it for more than a year? (Genesis 8:15, 16)
9. What did Noah build to offer burnt offerings? (Genesis 8:20)
10. What did God set in the cloud to be a sign that He will never again destroy the whole earth with a flood? (Genesis 9:13)

New Testament

1. Who shall inherit the earth? (Matthew 5:5)

- 2. Who shall see God? (Matthew 5:8)
 - 3. Who shall be called the children of God? (Matthew 5:9)
 - 4. Whose wife's mother was sick of a fever? (Matthew 8:14)
 - 5. What happened to the fever when Jesus touched her hand? (Matthew 8:15)
 - 6. What was Jesus doing in the ship when the storm came? (Matthew 8:24)
 - 7. What happened when Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea? (Matthew 8:26)
 - 8. Complete this invitation that Jesus gave: C__ unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy l ____, and I will give you r _____. (Matthew 11:28)
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Youth Conference 2007

The Conference will be held, God willing, in Edinburgh from Tuesday, April 3, to Thursday, April 5. The lower age limit is 16. The cost is £36 for those in full-time employment and £18 for others. Cheques are payable to the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Further details are to follow later. Please send your application and fee as soon as possible. It must arrive by March 23.

1. The Wise and Wealthy King

Lessons from the Life of Solomon *Rev W A Weale*

2. John Knox

His Life and Legacy *Rev H M Cartwright*

3. Reliable Bible Translations

The Need, the Difficulties and the Process *Mr D P Rowland*

4. Church History in Edinburgh

A Tour, conducted by *Rev D Campbell*

5. The Holy War (part 2)

Conquered by Love, Overcome by Grace *Rev R MacLeod*

6. "As the Lord Commanded"

How We Should Worship God *Rev D W B Somerset*

2007 Youth Conference Application

To Rev D A Ross, F P Manse, Laide, Ross-shire, IV22 2NB.
I/we wish to enrol as residential/non-residential. I enclose my/our fee.

Name(s)

Address

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