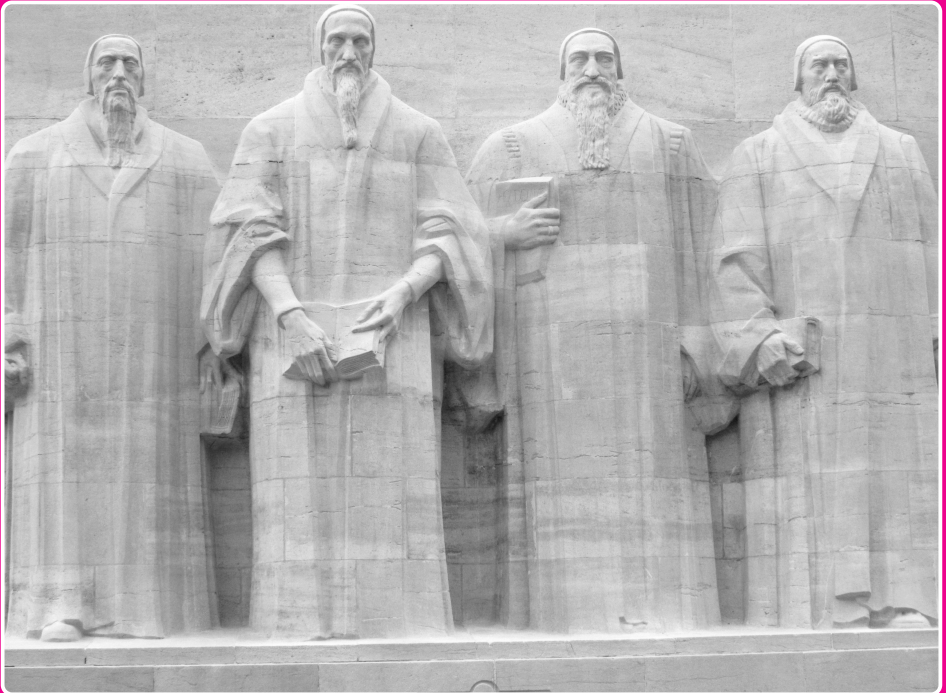


The Young People's Magazine

**Issued by the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland
Reformed in Doctrine, Worship and Practice**

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” Ecclesiastes 12:1



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Cover Picture: The Reformation Monument in Geneva. See page 25. The figures represent (left to right) William Farel, John Calvin, Theodore Beza and John Knox.

The Young People’s Magazine

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The Young People's Magazine

Volume 85

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Number 2

How to Live Life?

There was a long line of men known as Lord Chesterfield. The most famous of them lived from 1694 to 1773. He held several important posts; for instance, he was Ambassador from the United Kingdom to the Netherlands. He was also well known for writing a series of letters to his son, which were published after his death. These letters directed his son as to his duties and how he should behave.

In his older years, Chesterfield looked back on his life and wrote, "I have run the silly rounds of business and pleasure and have done with them all. I have enjoyed all the pleasures of the world and so I know how useless they are and I do not regret their loss. I estimate them at their real value, which is, in truth, very low." He had been taken up with the world and the things of the world; he had endless opportunities to enjoy whatever he hoped would give him pleasure. But now he had given them all up, and he was not sorry. He believed he now understood their real value; he saw that they were worth very little indeed.

Chesterfield went on to speak about "those who have not experienced" these important jobs and worldly pleasures. "They always overrate them", was now his conclusion. And why did most people think too much of worldly entertainments and high positions in this life? Here is his explanation: "They see only the bright outside and are dazzled with their glare; but I have been behind the scenes and have seen all the coarse pulleys and dirty ropes which move the gaudy machine". He was like someone who has eaten too much and who does not want to eat any more for fear that it might make them sick.

You may be very ambitious; you may want to be truly successful and work in some important position where everyone will hear about you and know how successful you are. But if that is all you want to get out of life, rather than helping other people and, more importantly, doing everything to the glory of God, it may all become very stale and boring. You may become so tired – so sick – of it all that you do not want any more of it. You may want to get away to some place where you can live a very quiet life.

Perhaps some who read this article want to immerse themselves in the world of entertainment, to watch as much of it as possible or even to follow a career in acting, for example. Chesterfield's warning applies especially to you. You should expect to find in such an ungodly environment what he called "the coarse pulleys and dirty ropes" that keep the entertainment machine moving. Chesterfield found that it was all far less attractive than he expected, and he wanted to be part of that scene no longer.

Remember that the purpose of a great part of the world of entertainment is to make sin attractive, so one thing is sure: you cannot have God's blessing there. It is a very solemn matter to launch yourself into a situation where you cannot look for God's blessing. That is very serious for this life, but how much more serious when it has eternal consequences! We should all, again and again, be asking God to bless us in every part of our lives, for Jesus' sake – and so to keep us away from what is sinful and to prepare us for a blessed eternity.

Our last quotation from Chesterfield is: "I have been as wicked and as vain as Solomon and am now at last able to feel the truth of his reflection: that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. I bear my situation because I must, whether I wish to or not. I think of nothing but killing time the best way I can, now that it has become my enemy."

Yet there was more to Solomon and his thinking than Chesterfield noticed, and one does not like to hear a man described as "wicked" who had a new heart. Certainly Solomon was foolish – very foolish and sinful – when he tried to seek for satisfaction in the things of this world, seeking to enjoy life apart from God (see Ecclesiastes 2). But God overruled Solomon's folly and sin to teach him, and us, through his experiences, that "all is vanity".

Chesterfield seems to have despaired of finding satisfaction in any aspect of life. He ignored the final verses of Ecclesiastes: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14). Yes, in these words of Solomon we have a very forceful warning: that everything we do – and say and think – will be judged by God at the end of the world, including what no one else can see.

But we are to take encouragement from the words, "Fear God, and keep His commandments". This tells us that to fear God – to have a holy respect for God and His commandments – is a real possibility. Although we cannot keep God's commandments perfectly by our own power, He is able to turn us around completely so that we do fear God. We should pray earnestly to Him to turn us to Himself.

Our time in this world should not be considered an “enemy”; every moment of it is precious. We should not try to “kill” time; we should not waste it; we should try to put it to good use. Especially we should use it to seek the Lord. All too soon, we will be away from this world, and then it will be too late to seek Him.

Let us ask Him to give us a right perspective on life: to see that life apart from Him is “vanity”; it cannot give us any lasting satisfaction, any more than it gave Lord Chesterfield lasting satisfaction. But a life lived in the fear of God, a life spent trusting in Christ Jesus for salvation, is one which God will bless, not only in this world, but also throughout eternity.

John Calvin – His Life and Work

8. “Earnest in Faith, Pure in Motive”

Mr F R Daubney

Last month's section spoke of some of the opposition that Calvin experienced in Geneva. This is the final part of a paper given at the 2019 Youth Conference.

Calvin's commentaries. The Reformation was based on an acknowledgement of the supreme authority of Scripture. So it was natural that one of the foremost tasks of the Reformers should be to explain the books of the Bible. Luther, Melancthon and Bucer all wrote commentaries which shed light on Scripture and have proved very useful to students of the Word.

Calvin felt there was room for still more commentaries, and it is clear he possessed the gifts to write them. He was gifted with clear insight and sound judgement, and he knew how to explain the Scriptures; to this day his commentaries on the epistles of Paul and on the Psalms retain a position all their own. He published his exposition of Romans during his exile in Strasbourg, and the rest came out year after year during his time in Geneva. He covered the whole of the New Testament, except Revelation; and in the Old Testament, he wrote on the Books of Moses, on Joshua and all the prophets.

Calvin's influence throughout Europe. The reputation of Calvin and of the work which he was carrying out at Geneva brought many foreign visitors to the city. Among them was John Knox, who ministered in the English congregation set up for refugees. Knox's opinion of Geneva was this: “It is the most perfect school of Christ that ever was in the earth since the days of the Apostles. In other places I confess Christ to be truly preached, but manners and religion to be so sincerely reformed, I have not yet seen in any other place beside.”

Calvin's influence was extended by correspondence with the chief Reformers in Europe. He tried every way to help his persecuted fellow Protestants in France, writing to the Queen of Navarre on their behalf. He corresponded with the Swiss states urging them to use their influence on behalf of the oppressed Waldensians, and he kept up a correspondence with England, writing to the young King Edward and others, counselling the authorities in Church and state on the best methods of promoting the Reformation.

The Death of Calvin. The amount of work Calvin produced was huge, especially when we remember he was in delicate health and his work was often interrupted by illness and severe pain. "Would you that the Lord should find me idle when He comes?" he said. In 1562 his health began to get worse but for two years his strong spirit sustained him in his endless labours. He suffered great pain from kidney stones, and was weakened more and more by tuberculosis in his lungs.

By the beginning of 1563 he was often carried to his duties in a chair or on horseback. The next year, on March 27, he was carried to the Council Chamber to propose a new rector for the school. He then thanked the Senate for their kindness and added, "This is the last time that I shall stand here". A few weeks later he received the senators at his own house. He prayed and shook hands with them and received the assurance of their affection and gratitude. They would not see him again.

Only a few days before his death, his old friend Farel, then 75 years of age, travelled from Neuchatel to see him. About a week before his death, the usual meeting of ministers assembled at his home. He had a meal with them and joined in the conversation. From there he was taken to his bed, which he never left again. On 27 May 1564 John Calvin, the esteemed Reformer, died at the age of 54. There was a huge feeling of loss in Geneva but, as he had desired, the funeral was simple and no monument was raised to mark the spot where he was buried. Such was the triumph of his final years in Geneva that he had feared the people would make an idol of him.

In conclusion I shall quote the historian Felice again, "Calvin was the guide of the French Reformers, their counsellor, the soul of their first synods. The immense authority he exercised over them was so well recognised that the name of Calvinists was given to them about the middle of the sixteenth century." And another historian said, "Calvin is great by reason of his marvellous powers, his lasting labours, and the moral height and purity of his motives. Earnest in faith, pure in motive, austere in his life, and mighty in his works, Calvin is one of those who deserve their great fame."

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance" (Psalm 112:6).

“One More Step Higher”

A minister was walking home after taking a service. He was passing a little cluster of cottages and noticed that one of them was in a very poor state of repair. The thatched roof had several holes through which the rain – and the snow – could fall. The panes in the windows were broken and the spaces were filled up with rags and straw.

The door was open, and the minister walked in. In front of him, he found William, a man of 29, whose arms and legs were surprisingly small. His condition, it was said, was the result of his mother’s bad treatment of him when he was young and she was drunk. William was alone, with a book on his knees, which he was reading cheerfully. But the state of his clothes corresponded to the state of the house; they were rags.

The minister greeted him and asked, “What book are you reading?”

“The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”, William replied at once.

The minister decided not to explain who he was but to find out what kind of person William was; so he asked, “Do you find it true, as religious people say, that a great deal of good may be got from reading that book? Do you think it would make me better?”

William looked up and said, seriously and earnestly: “If the same Spirit that moved holy men of old to write it opens your heart, then it will do you good – not else. But ‘the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned’.”

Already the minister was convinced that here was a child of God, a beloved brother. Yet he had further questions to ask. First, he wanted to know how William came to understand these things, adding, “You surely cannot be a learned man”.

“I don’t know who you are, nor what brought you here; but this book tells me to be ready to give to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in me; and I pray God I may be able to do it with meekness and fear. You see what a cripple I am; but you don’t know what a sinner I am.”

“How is that?” The minister pointed out that William could not go about drinking or take part in the various sins that young men like him might hope to enjoy. “How then have you sinned?”

“I am one of the vilest of sinners for all that. I thought, because God had made me such a poor lame cripple and punished me so much for nothing, as I thought, that therefore I might take liberty to sin; for I said He would never

be so hard as to punish me both here and hereafter. And because it was the easiest sin for me to get at, I took to cursing and swearing horribly.

William had taken to judging God and judging what God had done and what He would do. He was refusing to submit to God's authority over him, as expressed in His commandments; he was a rebel against God.

But William went on: "About three years ago (and blessed be God for it) one day when I was moving on my crutches over to the door, to catch a bit of sunshine, I was taken with a terrible pain and I cried out, and fell down". Then he thought to himself: "What good have I ever done in my whole life? Why, none at all. Then I shall not go to heaven; and if I don't go there, I must go to the other place." And he confessed to the minister: "I didn't know any other way to heaven than by my own works".

The minister then asked, "Is there any other way than doing all the good we can in order to gain God's favour?"

William knew the answer to the question; he knew too that it was best given in Paul's words in the Bible: "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin", and, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost".

Then he explained, "In this distress I prayed, and they were the strangest prayers, I suppose, you ever heard in your life. But God heard them Praying is just telling God what we feel we need from Him. I then took to reading a Testament we had in the house. At first I could find nothing but what condemned me – awful words, about 'serpents' and 'generations of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?'

"Then I took to reading it over again, and when I came to the blessed first chapter of the First Epistle of John and read these precious words, 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin', I felt that that precious blood healed me and I seemed as if I was in a new world. I could now repent; I could believe; I could love God. And if I had 1000 lives, I could have laid them all down for Christ."

"Have you never sinned since that time?"

William shook his head with a sad smile as he answered, again from Scripture: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us".

"But if you were to sin so as to fall away after all this, had you not better have remained in your ignorance?"

Again, William's ability to quote suitable verses from the Bible showed how well he had studied God's Word. He said, "Being confident of this very

thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”, and, “If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins”. Yet William had never read any book except the Bible; he had never heard a sermon preached; he had never even been inside a church. The Lord had taught him through his careful reading of the Bible; He had applied the truth – especially about sin, and salvation through Jesus Christ – to William’s mind and heart by the Holy Spirit.

The next question was like this: Does it matter “what sins you commit, or how you live, now that He has become your Saviour?”

William answered, “God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” And he followed this scripture by another: “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again”.

The young man looked his questioner in the eye. It was now his turn to ask a question. “I am sure”, he said, “you are more than what you seem. Tell me what you are and why you come to see me.”

“I am a poor sinner who has been led like you, by the Holy Spirit, to trust in that Jesus who died for the ungodly. I have just been telling your poor neighbours that ‘the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord’.”

William was delighted. He lifted himself up from his stool and grasped both the minister’s hands, before going down on his knees to pray: “O my God, I thank Thee; Thou hast answered my prayer. I prayed that I might see and talk to one of Thy people before I died.”

The two men talked together for some time, before the minister went home. He visited William several times afterwards. Plans were made to move William to a more comfortable house, but he was content to go on living where he was.

Yet before long, the Lord took William to the best of homes, to heaven. One evening he was reading from the Bible to his mother. Suddenly he stopped and said, “Mother, I am taken very ill. Help me up the ladder and put me in bed, and then I shall have only one more step higher and I shall be in my Father’s house.” She did as William asked, helping him up to the attic room where he slept; there was no stair, just a ladder.

His mother then went out. When she returned, she brought a neighbour with her. But William could no longer speak, and in a few minutes his soul was away to his eternal home.

May we all seek grace, for Christ's sake, to follow William on the narrow way of godliness that leads to everlasting life in heaven. Not least, may we make good use of the Book that he read so carefully and so profitably. No doubt many readers have far more opportunities to find the way of salvation than William ever did. May we too make good use of them.

Life of David, Sweet Psalmist of Israel

3. His Reign

Dr R J Dickie

Last month's part of this Youth Conference paper told about various incidents in David's life after he had been appointed king of Israel – though he did not begin to rule till King Saul died. That article ended with David living in the Philistine city of Ziklag.

David as king. On returning to Ziklag, a messenger brought news that Saul's three sons had been killed on Mount Gilboa in a battle with the Philistines. Saul had committed suicide. David mourned, and then began a new stage in his life, as king of Judah. He moved to Hebron, along with his wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, and his followers. David was appointed king of Judah and he began a seven-and-a-half-year reign in Hebron. The united kingdom fashioned by Saul had split in two – Judah in the south and Israel in the north. It took David many years of statesmanship to reunite them.

Abner son of Ner, Saul's uncle, crowned Saul's son Ishbosheth king over the tribes of Israel at Mahanaim. The kingdoms of Judah and Israel fought, with David's kingdom growing stronger as Saul's grew weaker. Finally, after Abner quarrelled with Ishbosheth, Abner approached David and made a pact with him, which allowed David to unite the two kingdoms and rule over all Israel. Abner and Ishbosheth were murdered without David's knowledge.

David was now 30 years old. His first action as king was to capture what was now the City of David in Jerusalem. He fortified it and built himself a palace there. When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king and was threatening their dominance over all of Palestine, they attacked, spread out over the Valley of Rephaim and captured Bethlehem. David hit back and, in three battles, forced the Philistines out of Israel.

Once David had established the safety of his kingdom, he brought the ark of the covenant, which had been passed from city to city, to Jerusalem. He then wanted to build a temple to God and consulted Nathan the prophet. Nathan replied that God would always be with David, but his son would

build the temple because David had been a warrior and shed blood. God said, “Thou shalt not build an house for My name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.”

David then began fighting wars against Israel’s neighbours on the east bank of the Jordan. He defeated the Moabites, the Edomites, the Ammonites and the Arameans. These wars began as defensive wars, and ended with the establishment of an empire that extended over both sides of the Jordan River, as far as the Mediterranean Sea. David enforced justice in his empire and established civil and military administrations in Jerusalem.

David’s wives and children. Despite his relatively flawless reign on a national level, there were many problems with his personal conduct. First of all, we learn that David had eight wives: Michal, Ahinoam, Abigail, Maachah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah, and Bath-shua (Bathsheba) the daughter of Ammiel. I will now give brief details about these women.

This paper has already mentioned Michal to the point where she helped David to flee. When David was a fugitive, Saul gave her in marriage to Phaltiel. David demanded the return of Michal when he was to become king of all Israel, and she was taken from her weeping husband to be reunited to David. She despised David’s rejoicing when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem and David rebuked her for that. She was childless.

Ahinoam the Jezreelitess became David’s wife when he was a fugitive. She was the mother of David’s eldest son, Amnon.

Abigail the Carmelite was the wife of Nabal, a churlish man who refused to provide for David. She interceded with David to save Nabal from being killed. Nabal died shortly afterwards and Abigail accepted David’s proposal of marriage.

Scripture gives scanty details about four of David’s wives: Maachah was the daughter of King Talmai of Geshur and she was the mother of Absalom. Haggith was the mother of Adonijah; Abital was the mother of Shephatiah; and Eglah was the mother of Ithream.

We come finally to Bathsheba, who was the wife of Uriah. When David’s men were at war, David saw her bathing. His lust for her led him to commit adultery with her. David then contrived to have Uriah killed so that he could marry Bathsheba and conceal the fact that he had fathered her child. When confronted by Nathan the prophet, David admitted his sin. Psalm 51 records David’s sin in the matter of Bathsheba, and his repentance.

Nathan conveyed to David the solemn message the Lord had given for him. Although the Lord would spare David and had forgiven his sin, he would nevertheless be punished for his blatant sins: the sword would never depart from his house, his wives would be taken from him and given to other men,

and the little child would die. Bathsheba and David soon conceived a second son, Solomon, and she had two further sons.

To summarise, Michal was childless, Bathsheba gave birth to four sons, and the other six wives bore one son each. Altogether, Scripture records that David had 19 sons by various women, and one daughter, Tamar.

The rebellion of Absalom. David's personal grief continued when his son Amnon assaulted David's daughter, Tamar. She was Amnon's half-sister. Absalom, who was David's son and Tamar's brother, then killed Amnon in revenge. Absalom fled, but David could not stop thinking about him. Finally, Joab convinced David to allow Absalom to return.

Absalom was a handsome man and became popular with the people of Israel. Then, 40 years after Samuel had anointed David king, Absalom, along with 200 men, journeyed to Hebron with the intention of rebelling against his father and taking over his kingdom. He had the support of various groups – the men of Hebron who were insulted by the removal of the kingdom from Hebron to Jerusalem, the elders whose status was undermined by parts of David's policy, and the Benjamites who wanted to avenge Saul's family.

David feared that Absalom would return and conquer Jerusalem, so he and all his followers fled the city, leaving only ten concubines to guard the palace. David told the priests Zadok and Abiathar to remain in the city along with his friend Hushai the Archite.

Meanwhile, Absalom reached Jerusalem, took over the city and took David's concubines to himself. Hushai befriended Absalom, and told the priests to send messengers to inform David of Absalom's plans. David gathered his troops and then killed 20 000 of Absalom's Israelite soldiers, including Absalom himself. This meant that David returned to power. But a second revolt broke out at the hands of Sheba, the son of Bichri, supported by the men of Israel. With the help of Joab, David and the men of Judah succeeded in crushing this rebellion as well and killed Sheba.

For Junior Readers

“Tell Me More About God”

Joel was a student at the Free Presbyterian mission school at Ingwenya, in Zimbabwe, about 100 years ago. While attending school he was taught from the Bible and heard the gospel. He also learned to read his own language and was given a Bible of his own.

When Joel left school he found a job in a mine. He took his Bible with him and he read it and prayed every morning and evening. Small huts were

provided for the workers to live in. Then another boy, a heathen, was sent to share his hut. Joel went on praying and reading his Bible.

The other boy did not like it. He complained to Joel: “Why do you always trouble me? You read a book I do not understand, and you pray to One you cannot see. I do not like what you are doing. You are trying to teach me new customs. I did not come here to learn your customs. I just came here to work. We never pray in our home and I hate this custom of yours!”

You can imagine how difficult this was for Joel and how he may have been tempted to give up reading his Bible and praying to God. But he went on reading and praying every morning and every night. Then one day, early in the morning, when it was still dark, he heard the other boy saying, “Get up and let us pray; I like praying now. I have tried it myself; everything seems to be new with me now. Tell me more about God and His Christ. I like to hear about them now.”

The heathen boy now used to listen very attentively to the Word of God, and wanted to know more and more about Christ and His salvation for sinners. Is that not wonderful? Joel was doing his duty and the Lord made him a blessing to his companion.

Will you not pray that the Lord will help you to do what is right in front of others, even if they mock you for it? The Saviour said in the Sermon on the Mount: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). That is what Joel found out.

J van Kralingen

Seeking the Lord Early

3. Seeking Jesus Christ

J C Ryle

This was originally a sermon that Ryle directed to children; probably he was including young people. But everyone, young and old, should be able to read it with profit. It is taken, with editing, from Ryle's *Home Truths*, volume 5. January's article answered the question, “Who Love Jesus Christ?”

Proverbs 8:17. *I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me.*

Let us look next at the second part of our text, and see what we may learn from it. I really think this part is almost as pleasant as the first, for it contains a sweet promise, “Those that seek Me early shall find Me”.

How are you and I to *seek Jesus Christ*? He does not live on earth like one of us. We cannot see Him with our eyes. We cannot reach Him and take hold

of Him with our hands. And yet He says, "Those that seek Me . . . shall find Me". What can this mean? Let me try to tell you.

First of all, you must seek Jesus Christ *in His own Book*. The Bible is Jesus Christ's Book, and all who want to know Him must be very diligent in reading their Bibles. He says to every one of you, "Search the Scriptures", and He will give the Holy Spirit to those who seek Him in the Scriptures, and teach them all about Himself.

Be regular readers of the Bible all your lives. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly, and then you will be truly wise. Read it daily; read a great deal of it; try and remember it; learn texts by heart. I remember a little girl in my first parish, who could learn 70 verses of the Bible in a week. How pleasant it is to find the Apostle Paul reminding Timothy that, from a child, he had known the Holy Scriptures. Now why should all of you not be like Timothy in this? I should like to hear that you were all Bible-reading children, children who read the Bible at home as well as at school.

This is one way to seek Jesus Christ. You must seek Him in the Bible.

Second, you must seek Jesus Christ *in His own house*. Jesus Christ has many houses in this country, where people meet together to pray to Him and to hear about Him. This church is one of them. And wherever two or three are gathered together in Jesus Christ's name, He Himself is really present, though we cannot see Him with our eyes.

Children, I hope you will all regularly go to Jesus Christ's house as long as you live. I hope you will never do like those foolish people who keep away from it. What sad harm they are doing to their poor souls!

And when you go, try to pay attention to all you hear and to get good from it. Do not stare about and make a noise, or talk to other children, but listen well to all that is read or preached. Jesus Christ is there and sees how you behave. He wants to see little children coming to His house and behaving well. Keep on doing so and ask Him to put His Spirit in you and fill you with all knowledge.

This is another way to seek Jesus Christ. You must seek Him in His house.

Third you must seek Jesus Christ *on your knees in prayer*. You must ask Him to give you everything that your soul needs. You must ask Him to cleanse you from all your sins in His blood, to give you His Spirit, to make you good, obedient, gentle, kind children, speaking the truth. You must ask Him to keep you from being selfish, idle, greedy, cunning, or ill-tempered. You must tell Him all you are afraid of, and all you feel, and all you wish to have for your soul. This is prayer.

And you do not need to be afraid of Him when you pray. He would like you to tell Him all in your own simple way, just as you tell your own mother

when you need anything. He loves children very much. He was once much displeased with His disciples, because they prevented people from bringing their children to Him. He said, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not”. And He is just the same now that He was then.

I should like you all to be praying children, children who tell the Lord all your needs and are not afraid to speak to Him. Prayer is the surest way to seek Him, and without prayer your souls will never prosper.

Never mind if your prayers seem very poor and weak. Only let them come from your hearts, and the Lord hears them.

The Lord Jesus hears every prayer that is prayed to Him in earnest. The least prayer of a little child on earth is loud enough to be heard plainly in heaven above. Heaven seems to be a long way off, but you may be sure the prayer is heard there the very moment it is spoken. A little key will often open a great door. Prayer is a little key of that sort. It can open the door of heaven and take you up to the very throne of God Himself. Blessed are they who delight in prayer and call much upon God.

This is the third way to seek the Lord Jesus Christ: you must seek Him in prayer.

I have told you how to seek the Lord. Ask yourselves, each one of you, before you go any further, Do I really seek Him?

For Younger Readers

God Answers Prayer

Things were not going well for a minister’s father. The father was running out of money and he needed £50 that very day. It was a lot of money at that time.

What could he do? The most important thing was to pray, to ask God to help him get the money. He badly needed the money, and he knew that God was able to help him. He was right in thinking like this. This is how we too should think, whatever may be wrong.

The man prayed very earnestly to God. And he did what he could to gather in the money he needed. He called on his first customer for that morning. The customer paid him £25. The man did not even need to ask for it. He could see that God was answering his prayer.

Then he went to his second customer; the same thing happened. The customer paid him £25. Now he had the £50 he needed.

Yes, God did answer his prayer.

Soon afterwards the minister preached from the text, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). His father came to God with his care and God showed that He cared for him.

You too should bring all your cares to God in prayer. Most of all, you should ask God to forgive all your sins and to give you a new heart, for Jesus' sake.

Scripture and Catechism Exercises 2019-20

UK Names for Exercise 1:

Senior Section. *Barnoldswick:* Claudia van Essen. *Brighton:* Katharine Hills. *Beaulieu:* Deborah MacLean. *Dingwall:* Esther Ross. *Edinburgh:* Fraser Morrison. *Glasgow:* Rebecca Smith. *Inverness:* Victoria Maton. *London:* David and John Munns. *North Harris:* Hannah Jardine. *North Tolsta:* Ruth Morrison. *Tonbridge:* Joseph Playfoot.

Exercise 2

All answers from *overseas* should be sent to *Miss Naomi Clemence*, 67 Clobberhill Road, Glasgow, G13 2LB. The correctors should have your answers before the end of March. These exercises are based on Numbers 22 to Joshua 13, and John 7 to Acts 19.

Senior Section (15 years old and over)

UK answers to *Mrs J Hicklin, 29 The Green, Edinburgh, EH4 5AF.*

Old Testament

The questions are based on Joshua 1, 2 and 6.

1. (a) What commandment was given to Joshua at the beginning of chapter 1? (1)
- (b) What encouragements did God give to him in carrying this out? (4)
- (c) Look at verse 7. What did Joshua specially need strength and courage for? (1)
- (d) What advice does God give to Joshua in order that he would "prosper and have good success"? (2)
- (e) What evidence can we see in the people's response, in verses 16-18, that they had benefited from their 40 years' trial in the wilderness? (2)
2. (a) How were the spies preserved by Rahab when the king of Jericho came to find them? (3)
- (b) What encouragement did Rahab give to the spies in Joshua 2:9-11? (4)
- (c) What did she ask for in return for her care for them? (2)
3. (a) Describe in your own words how the children of Israel were to conquer Jericho. (5)
- (b) What warning was given to the people before they entered Jericho? (2)
- (c) Why do you think Joshua said that anyone who rebuilt Jericho would be cursed? (1)

New Testament

The questions are based on John 9.

1. (a) What possible reasons did the disciples give for the man being blind from birth? (2)
- (b) What was the real reason for his blindness? (1)
- (c) Describe how Jesus healed the man's eyes. (4)
- (d) Why were the Pharisees divided in their opinion of Jesus? (2)
- (e) Why were the blind man's parents afraid to express an opinion on his healing? (2)
- (f) What reason did the Pharisees give for following Moses rather than Jesus? (2)
- (g) How did the man justify believing that Jesus was "of God"? (2)
- (h) Write out a verse in Psalm 146 that supports the man's belief that Jesus was of God. (2)

- (i) In what way were the Pharisees blind? (1)

Memory Exercise

Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to Question 24 in the Shorter Catechism:
How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? (3)

Intermediate Section (13 and 14 years old)

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

Old Testament

1. Read Deuteronomy 8:6-20.
 - (a) Give two blessings the children of Israel would enjoy in the “good land”. (2)
 - (b) After they had “eaten and were full” what were they to do? (2)
 - (c) List the three verses which warn them not to “forget the Lord thy God”? (3)
 - (d) Write out the verse which begins, “But thou shalt remember . . .”. (2)
 - (e) Give one lesson the children of Israel ought to have learnt from their time in the wilderness. (1)
2. Read Deuteronomy 34.
 - (a) Name two lands which the Lord showed Moses from the hill Pisgah. (2)
 - (b) Where did Moses die? (1)
 - (c) What was special about Moses’ health at the end of his life? (2)
 - (d) What was special about Moses’ burial? (2)
 - (e) What was special about Moses as a prophet? (1)

New Testament

1. Read John 20:11-31.
 - (a) Why was Mary weeping? (2)
 - (b) Who asked her: “Woman, why weepest thou?” (3)
 - (c) What made the disciples glad? (2)
 - (d) How many times did Jesus say “Peace be unto you”? (3)
 - (e) Why were all these things written? (2)
2. Read Acts 9:36-43.
 - (a) Where did Dorcas live? (1)
 - (b) Give one reason why she was well known? (1)
 - (c) What happened to her? (2)
 - (d) What did Peter do three times in the upper room before he spoke to Dorcas? (3)
 - (e) What did he say to her? (2)
 - (f) What was the amazing result for Dorcas? (2)
 - (g) What powerful effect did this have on “many” in that city? (1)

Memory Exercise

Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to Question 53 in the Shorter Catechism:
What is the third Commandment? (3)

Junior Section (11 and 12 years old)

UK answers to *Mrs M Logan, 188 Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh EH8 7QH.*

Old Testament

1. Read Deuteronomy chapter 9:8-21. Moses reminds the children of Israel of their great sin in making the golden calf.
 - (a) Where was Moses when the golden calf was made? (1)
 - (b) How long was he there for? (1)
 - (c) Who had written on the two tables of stone he received there? (1)
 - (d) What happened to the tables when Moses saw the golden calf? (1)
 - (e) What did he do to the calf? (4)
2. Read Deuteronomy chapters 32:48-52 and 34.
 - (a) Why was Moses not allowed to go into the land of Canaan? (1)
 - (b) Where did Moses die? (1)
 - (c) How old was he when he died? (1)

- (d) What was unusual about his burial? (1)
 (e) Who did Moses lay his hands on to succeed him as a leader? (1)
 3. Read Joshua 1:1-10
 (a) Several verses contain encouraging promises from God to this new leader. Choose one of the verses and write it out. (1)
 (b) What was the new leader's great task? (1)
 4. Read Joshua chapters 3:10-17 and 4:1-10.
 (a) What did the priests have to do so that the waters of the Jordan would be divided? (1)
 (b) What was done with the twelve stones which were taken out of the midst of Jordan? (1)
 (c) What were they to be used for in the future? (1)
 (d) What did Joshua do with another twelve stones? (1)

New Testament

1. Jesus made several claims beginning with the words, "I am". Find these from the parts of the chapters and write out the complete sentences.
 (a) I am ____: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness (John 8, first part).
 (b) I am ____: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved (John 10, first part).
 (c) I am ____, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine (John 10, first part).
 (d) I am ____: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (John 11, middle).
 (e) I am ____: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14, first part).
 (f) I am ____, and My Father is the husbandman. (John 15, first part) (12)
 2. Read about the death of Stephen in Acts chapter 7:54-60.
 (a) What did Stephen see as he looked up? (2)
 (b) Write out his prayer for himself as he was being stoned. (1)
 (c) Write out his prayer for his enemies. (1)
 (d) Find a similar prayer in Luke 23:20-40, and write it out. (1)
 (e) What happened to Stephen as he was being stoned? (1)
 3. Read Acts chapter 17:10-23.
 (a) In what way were the people of Berea more noble than those of Thessalonica? (1)
 (b) Why was Paul's spirit stirred in him at Athens? (1)
 (c) What was written on the altar Paul saw at Athens? (1)

Memory Exercise

Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to Question 40 in the Shorter Catechism:
 What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? (3)

Upper Primary Section (9 and 10 years old)

UK answers to *Mrs M Schouten, 58 Fairfield Road, Inverness, IV3 5QW.*

Old Testament

1. Read Joshua 1:5-9. God made promises to Joshua. Complete each verse in (a) and (b).
 (a) "As I was with Moses . . ." (1)
 (b) "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid . . ." (1)
 (c) What was promised to Joshua if he would think about all of God's words written in "the book of the law" and obey them? (1)
 2. Read Joshua 4:19-24. The Israelites have crossed over the River Jordan.
 (a) How many stones were taken from the river? (1)
 (b) In later years children might ask their parents why these stones were there. What answer should they give to their children? (2)
 3. Read Joshua 2:15-20, which tells of Rahab, who hid the spies in Jericho.
 (a) Where was Rahab's house? (1)
 (b) How did she let the spies escape? (1)
 (c) What was she to tie to her window so that she and her family would be safe? (1)
 (d) Now read Joshua 6:25 and say if the promise made to her was kept? (1)

4. Read Joshua 7:19-26.

- (a) Fill in the blank. Achan confessed he had sinned against _____. (1)
- (b) Where had he hidden his stolen treasures? (1)
- (c) How were he and his family punished? (1)
- (d) Write out the last part of Numbers 32:23, starting with the word, "and". (1)

New Testament

1. Read Acts 3:1-10. Answer true or false to each sentence:

- (a) The man went every day to the city gate. (1)
- (b) He was crippled from an accident. (1)
- (c) Peter wanted to give him money. (1)
- (d) He was healed in the name of Jesus Christ. (1)
- (e) He gave God all the glory. (1)
- (f) The people watching were amazed at this miracle. (6)

2. Read Acts 10:34-44. Peter preached about Jesus to Cornelius and his friends.

- (a) From these verses, write down any four facts about the life and death of Jesus. (4)
- (b) Fill in the blank. Remission (or forgiveness) of sins is promised to
whosoever _____ in Jesus. (1)
- (c) As Peter preached, what happened to those who listened? (1)

Memory Exercise

Learn by heart and write down the answer to Question 10 in the Shorter Catechism:
How did God create man? (3)

Lower Primary Section (8 years old and under)

UK answers to *Mrs R J Dickie, 11 Churchill Drive, Stornoway, Lewis, HS1 2NP.*

Old Testament

God has given commandments for us. Fill in the missing words:

- 1. Thou shalt have none other g_____ b_____ me. (Deuteronomy 5:7)
- 2. Thou shalt not make thee any g_____ I_____. (Deuteronomy 5:8)
- 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the L_____ thy G_____ in v_____. (Deuteronomy 5:11)
- 4. K_____ the s_____ day. (Deuteronomy 5:12)
- 5. Honour thy f_____ and thy m_____. (Deuteronomy 5:16)
- 6. Thou shalt not k_____. (Deuteronomy 5:17)
- 7. Neither shalt thou c_____ adultery. (Deuteronomy 5:18)
- 8. Neither shalt thou s_____. (Deuteronomy 5:19)
- 9. Neither shalt thou bear f_____ w_____ against thy neighbour. (Deuteronomy 5:20)
- 10. Neither shalt thou c_____. (Deuteronomy 5:21)

New Testament

- 1. Where did Peter and John go together for prayer at the ninth hour? (Acts 3:1)
- 2. What was wrong with the man who had to be carried and who asked alms (begged)? (Acts 3:2)
- 3. Did Peter and John give him money? (Acts 3:6)
- 4. Something better happened. Miracles like this were done in the times of the apostles. Peter said: In the name of J_____ C_____ of Nazareth r_____ up and w_____. (Acts 3:6)

5. Was he lame now? (Acts 3:7,8)
6. All the people saw him. What were the two things he was doing? (Acts 3:9)
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UK Youth Conference 2020

The Conference will be held, God willing, at Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perth, PH2 9EG, from Tuesday, April 7, to Thursday, April 9. The lower age limit is 16. The cost is the same as last year: £50 for those in full-time employment and £25 for others. Payment may be made by cheque to the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland; to pay by bank transfer contact: nm.fpchurch@btconnect.com. Please apply early – if possible, by the middle of March (to Free Presbyterian Church, 133 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LE, or use the e-mail address shown above). If necessary, you can contact Rev J B Jardine by phoning 01859 502253. Further details about the Conference will be sent to applicants later.

1. The Law of God

The Difference between Right and Wrong *Rev Keith M Watkins*

2. Scripture Teaching on the Family

God's Plan for the Family in an Age of Attack *Mr Matthew Vogan*

3. Hewitson and Kalley in Madeira

Spreading the Gospel Among Roman Catholics . . *Rev Kenneth Macleod*

4. Historical Tour to St Andrews

Scotland's Early Reformers conducted by *Rev David Campbell*

5. George Wishart

Preacher, Reformer, Martyr *Rev David Campbell*

6. Lessons from the Life of Jacob

His Relevance for Today *Rev J B Jardine*

2020 Youth Conference Application

To Free Presbyterian Church, 133 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LE

I/we wish to enrol as residential/non-residential. I enclose my/our fee.

Name(s)

Address

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Price £1.00