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Prayer For The New Year

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Help me, O Lord, to "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Help me to set my affections and desires "on things above, not on things on the earth."

Help me, O God, to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise."

In the Name of Christ, Thy Son,

Amen

Are We Putting First Things First?

We strive mightily for money and worldly goods but Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven". Matthew 19:24.

Prosperity is our goal yet we know that seldom do prosperity and humility go hand in hand.

We spend years of our lives securing an "education" but Paul tells us "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God". 1st Cor. 3:19.

We abhor and try to avoid troubles and misfortunes yet we are told twice—in Hebrews 12:6 and Revelation 3:19—that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth".

We love the world and its pleasures and conveniences yet, Jesus said "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind". Matthew 22:37.

We seek life's "sweets" and dodge its "bitters" yet we know that sweet foods make us sick and comfortable living makes us soft.

We aspire to the plaudits of the world yet we remember the crowd wanting to make Jesus their King and then crucifying Him and we know that the saying "Beware of him of whom all the world speaks well" is a truism because that man is agreeing with the world when he ought to be disagreeing.

We compliment our friends or remain silent when we know we should speak out and warn of "The wrath of God to come".

Let us remember that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and that the world is more dangerous to a Christian when it smiles than when it frowns.

—R. LeC.

The Children's Page

Omitted this week on account lack of space. Will be resumed in the next issue. The Children's Page book, containing 80 short Bible stories, sketched and illustrated by "The Little Jettys", has had a most gratifying reception, over 500 copies having sold since recently coming off the press. Grandmothers and Aunts—and Great Grandmothers—are purchasing more than any others. One Aunt who evidently has a colony of little nephews and nieces has ordered 30 copies, so far, and says there will be more. Many have said "the price is too low", but the aim in making it \$1.25, postpaid, is to put this child's book in reach of everybody.

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Architecture Suited for Presbyterian Worship

The article on this theme in the October 29th issue of the SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL has attracted wide interest. Requests have come to Mr. Ladson Brearley for copies of the mimeographed Chicago study on THE ARCHITECTURAL SETTING OF PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP from persons scattered all the way from Canada to Mexico and Formosa and including all of our own seminaries. Favorable comments have come from students in Richmond and Memphis, from a pastor in Mississippi and from a supporting article being prepared by one in Virginia. From Baltimore comes the report of a new pastor who has secured session approval for moving the Table away from the wall and placing it in the nave on the level of the congregation and for restoring the pulpit to the center.

On the other hand, there are reports of Roman Catholics rejoicing that there is now little difference between the Gothic Chancel architecture of Protestant and Catholic Churches and that the drive in Protestantism for one organic monolithic structure can only end by bringing Protestants into the papal obedience. It is Romanist not Reformed to regard an altar or a picture as the sacred place in the sanctuary.

In worship as in doctrine and government, God is the LORD. As the LORD, He has willed that His Voice be heard in the faithful preaching of His Gospel and His acts seen in the biblical administration of His sacraments. In the Great High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ, every believer is a royal priest with free and full access to the throne of grace and to the Table of the LORD. God makes His Countenance of love evident to us in the face of Jesus Christ. By faith we apprehend His heart of mercy, and this faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ.

When the eyes of the flesh are focussed, however, on an altar behind which there is a fictitious picture of the face of Jesus, either as a modern revolutionary, or as a study in calm repose, or as a man of the Renaissance, the eyes of the heart are thereby deflected from the true worship centre which God has established. May the Holy Spirit illumine the eyes of faith that we may see the Lamb standing in the midst of the throne as He was sacrificed for us, the High Priest ever living to make intercession for us in the Tabernacle which God pitched. And let us not ape the papist with a reproduction of medieval architecture and art which forgets the Reformed heritage and (with its picture worship centers) even disregards the Second Commandment and the Church's catechetical exposition thereof.

—W. C. R.