

THE CHAMPION

A NEWSPAPER OF TODAY

MRS. NEVA C. CHILD, Editor,
T. E. & Royal B. Child, Publishers and Owners

Published Weekly on Thursday Afternoons, and Entered at the post office at Arcadia, Florida as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscription: One Dollar a Year, Most Positively in Advance.

Advertising Rates: Made known on application. Legal Advertising at legal rates. Reading notices five cents a Line each insertion, minimum twenty-five cents.

Office Second Floor Espenlaub Building, Oak Street, Arcadia

The Week of Prayer

The ministers of Arcadia will observe the week of prayer, as usual, by a series of meetings.

The services will be held in the different churches beginning at the Methodist church on Monday night. Each pastor will conduct the services in his own church. Below we give the topics as planned for the week by the evangelical alliance. All week of prayer collections will be used for the work of the American Bible Society.

Monday night, topic: "The Bible." Tuesday night: "God's Faithfulness; Man's Responsibility." Wednesday night: "Missions, Home and Foreign." Thursday night: "Intemperance and Gambling." Friday night: "The Family and the School." Saturday night: "The Signs of the Times."

A full attendance is requested at these meetings. The pastors will do their best to make them interesting and profitable.

...

The Annual Teachers' Convention is in session at Gainesville this week.

...

Persons desiring a copy of the premium list of the next State Fair may obtain same by addressing W. F. Stovall, Secretary, Tampa, Florida.

...

We do not know if the wave of prosperity has struck DeSoto County, Florida, yet. It is reported as having reached Tampa, Pensacola and Jacksonville in time for the Christmas shopping.

...

Mr. Ed Scott leaves for Tampa tomorrow in the interest of DeSoto County's Fair exhibit. Mr. Scott is a hustler, and he has set in to win first prize for our county, and we trust every citizen of the county will rally to his support.

...

Christmas was a beautiful day in Florida this year. Warm, sunny and summer-like. Roses blooming in the yards, and gardens green and fresh with young vegetables. It surely is something worth grateful praise just to be alive in Florida.

...

We are expecting to do a lot of good with our share of the Tampa Tribunes containing DeSoto's write-up, to appear next Sunday. We have lots of inquiries for information and need what the Tribune will give, to send to these out-of-the-state prospective settlers.

...

Never a week passes but what we have calls for descriptive matter of DeSoto county for the use of those who are looking for a location. And never a scrap of such literature does this county provide, and we are too poor to get out such circulars as would tell the would-be settlers all they want to know, nor could we afford the stamps to mail the circulars if we had them. Seems like the Board of Trade ought to get busy in this line.

...

The island of Sicily, off the coast of Italy, and the southern part of Italy was visited by a most disastrous earthquake the last of last week. It is estimated that over 100,000 people have perished. Many cities and villages losing almost their entire population. Only meager news can be obtained owing to the destruction of all means of communication in the devastated section. Many Americans, tourists, and the American consul are believed to be among the dead.

...

Have you yet chosen the model of which your life will be the exponent in the good year of our Lord 1909? How will this do?

Work for the benefit of others and keep down self. Avoid contention, walk carefully, and stand for the defense of the weak and oppressed. Be courteous, help the suffering. Seek not flattering titles or high position in society, and esteem the ties of human fraternity beyond those of heredity, creed or nationality. Be pure in thought word and deed. Despise scandal and abstain from prying into other's conduct. Be dignified, yet humble, avoid self righteousness. Never obtrude by an unwelcome presence or opinion, but day sanctify the temple of worship within your heart, and after the sweetness and light of your daily walk glorify things in Father in Heaven.

Presbyterian Church

Rev. H. Keigwin pastor.
Services every Sunday 11 a. m.
and 7:15 p. m.

Sunday school 10 a. m.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:15 p. m.

Every one is invited, and strangers in the town are always greeted with pleasure.

The pastor Sunday morning made the subject appropriate to the New Year speaking from the psalm of Moses, 90:12. "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." It was shown that

THE MEANING OF WISDOM

Is true religion, and the wisdom so often spoken of in the old testament looks forward to Jesus Christ "who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption".

MOST ESSENTIAL

If man dies as the brute dies, it may be wise to have mind and heart and soul and energies all absorbed in the things which are seen and temporal. But if he must live beyond the grave forever and ever in happiness or bane the wisest and most important occupation in life is to prepare for that future existence.

"WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE" And yet most men fail to "apply their heart unto Wisdom," who alone can so adjust their relationship to God and their future welfare. They manifest the consummation of folly, by absorbing themselves with the treasures, the honors and the pleasures of this fleeting existence, in utter disregard of the tremendous eternity into which at any moment they are liable to be ushered all unprepared for the endless journey.

THE REASON

For such rashness and folly is that the human soul in the stupidity of sin, does not know how "to number our days." By a strange infatuation we do not note that each passing year brings us that much nearer eternity, and like the horizon which as we advance always seems the same distance off, so the rolling years do not seem to bring us any nearer to the end of life, and thus flattering ourselves with the pleasing hope of "Time enough yet," the trouble of preparation for eternity is neglected.

THE ONLY REMEDY

For this fatal infatuation is to "SO number our days," not as many but as few and brief that it will impel us, to betake ourselves unto Wisdom and seek in Christ, the all important preparation for the life to come. If your note is due in a few days you will hustle to meet its demands when it falls due, and the soul which reclines that in a very short time, it must "pay the debt of nature", will not rashly neglect to apply the heart to the only Being, who can assist us in meeting the inevitable demands of eternal justice.

THE ONLY AGENCY

To work in us this mind of wisdom is the Holy Spirit, who is ready to instruct our ignorance of the flight of time and so to remove this strange infatuation of length of days from the mind that we shall be constrained at once to begin the preparation for the life to come. Hence the prayer should always be "Lord teach me to know mine end, and the measure of my days that I may know how frail I am."

Our text is a prayer, and a prayer appropriate for the new year, whose recurrence so forcibly reminds us that we have one less year of life, in which to seek salvation. Or if we have already applied our hearts unto Wisdom and

have made preparation for the endless future, the passing year should admonish us that we have one year less of time in which to perform the work which God has laid upon us, in the advancement of his cause. Like the books of the Roman Sibyl which she offered to Tarquin the Proved, and which increased in value as their number decreased, surely the coming year of our decreasing life should be prized more highly than the last, and we should so number our fleeting days as to impel us to apply our hearts unto our Blessed Master with the earnest inquiry "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do, for Thy cause and kingdom in the coming year?"

If it were revealed to you, as it was revealed to Robert Hardy, in Doctor Sheldon's story that you have but seven more days to live oh I am sure you "apply your heart unto wisdom" today and wisely begin your unfinished work for the Master. If in the coming year, we could thus live under the shadow of eternity, most certainly we would each day do with our might what our hands find to do in the Lord's vineyard before "the night come in which no man can work."

Ladies' Friday Musicales

The Ladies' Friday Musicales met with Mrs. W. B. Jones, Friday, December 18, 1908. At which time the officers were elected for the year 1909:

President, Mrs. J. N. Hollingsworth; vice president, Mrs. J. H. Treadwell; secretary, Mrs. S. J. Simmons; assistant secretary, Mrs. M. H. Smith; treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Mitchell; assistant treasurer, Mrs. W. B. Jones. Club adjourned to meet with Mrs. C. H. Mitchell, Friday, January 8, 1909, at 3:30 p. m.

MRS. C. V. CRAWFORD,
Secretary.

A Pretty DeSoto Wedding

At Grove City, DeSoto County, on Wednesday, December 23, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. Lorin A. Auger, Miss Edith May Auger was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mr. Jesse Tull Lampp, of Pinedale, Manatee County, the Rev. Rudolph Stahley, of St. Edmunds church, Arcadia, officiating.

The ceremony took place in the afternoon in the presence of the members of the two families and was followed by an elaborate supper. In the evening a reception took place, dancing and merrymaking and a midnight supper.

The knot was tied in the parlor under an arch of cedar and a wedding bell of evergreens and Marchall Neil roses. The rooms throughout the house were decorated with palms; cedar and a profusion of roses intertwined with red ribbons. In the dining room a beautiful bell hung over the centre of the table and ribbons extended to the corners of the table and were tied with bows at the corners. Many flowers formed a feature of the decorations.

After the supper a Grand March led by Mr. L. A. Auger and Mrs. A. St. John Shepard opened the festivities of the evening with music furnished by Bourne's orchestra which also played during the wedding ceremony and rendered Mendelsohn's Wedding March. Dancing interspersed with songs and other music enlivened the time till the gray dawn showed in the east.

The bride was the recipient of many fine and useful presents that will make their new home at Inglewood very pleasant and for many years to come recall that as one of the greatest days in their life.

Timely Views and News

Look on the Bright Side: Smile Away the Frown

Don't get on the trash pile,
Stay out of the mire;
Never say I'm as good as he is,
But try to get up higher.
The one that makes the best of life
And can find the time to give,
No matter what the trouble is,
They're sure to win.

If you haven't got a dime,
Smile and keep on trying;
Look misfortune in the face,
Ain't no use in crying,
Keep on smiling be a sample
To hide your troubles ain't a sin,
Tell the world you're feeling splendid—
Have the wit to grin.

When fate upsets whate'er you do
And things are upside down,
Put your shoulder to the wheel
And smile away the frown.
A little smile and word will help
Some other one to win,
No matter how distressed you feel,
It will set yourself to grin.

Smile and smile and don't be sad,
Jog along and feel you're glad;
What's the use to go round and whine
And sigh? If the day is dark
Or bright, trust in God and
Do what's right
And You'll get there in
The sweet by and by.

—Mrs. Annie Britt Stewart, in Opelika Post.

...

A Prosperous New Year to All.

...

It is now too late to wish you had taken advantage of Leap Year, bashful maiden. And four years and another chance comes is an awful while when one young and getting old fast.

...

Eleven handsome silver cups have been ordered by the State Fair management to be given as prizes to the winners in the college and high school athletic events, to be held at the next Fair.

...

Did you watch the old year out and the new one in with the determination to make 1909 the very best year of your life? If you made no resolutions, it is not yet too late.

...

To those who love us we send kindly greetings and good wishes for 1909. To those who hate us we wish the quickest and least painful death for their ill will. Let us be peaceable and if we cannot be friends let us forget to be enemies.

...

What Is Life to You?

To the preacher life's a sermon,
To the joker it's a jest;
To the miser life is money,
To the loafer life is rest.
To the lawyer life's a trial,
To the poet life's a song;
To the doctor life's a patient,
That needs treatment right along.
To the soldier life's a battle,
To the teacher life's a school;
Life's a good thing to the grafter,
It's a failure to the fool.
To the man upon the engine
Life's a long and heavy grade;
It's a gamble to the gambler,
To the merchant life's a trade.
Life's a picture to the artist,
To the rascal life's a fraud;
Life perhaps is but a burden
To the man beneath the sod.
Life is lovely to the lover,
To the player life's a play;
Life may be a load of trouble
To the man upon the day.
Life is but a long vacation
To the man who loves his work;
Life's an everlasting effort
To shun duty to the thief.
To the heaven's blest remnant
Life's a story ever new,
Life is what we try to make
Brother, what is life to you?