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◆ T H E ◆
MINISTERS
MANUAL
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EDITED BY JAMES W. COX

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL ISSUE

THE MINISTERS MANUAL

1998 EDITION

Edited by

JAMES W. COX

Jossey-Bass Publishers • San Francisco

PREFACE

This seventy-third annual issue of *The Ministers Manual* is the first for Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers. It is clear to me that this publisher is committed to maintaining the quality and usefulness of the *Manual* that have characterized its record across the years. In addition, Jossey-Bass proposes to make this annual volume, if possible, even better. The publisher's scrupulous attention to the many details of my task as editor has made this task in some respects more difficult but more promising.

A productive conference with my new editor in San Francisco last year led to some changes that should make *The Ministers Manual* more useful. Section II reflects the most significant changes. The Lectionary Message for each Sunday is first rather than last, and, while it focuses on one biblical text, it cites the other readings for the day. Also, two illustrations follow each lectionary message. These illustrations are in lieu of a formerly separate section.

A new feature in Section II is Hymn Suggestions. In it, both classical and contemporary hymns appropriate to the season and often highlighting the Scripture lessons for the day are listed and annotated.

I wish to thank the many persons who make this book possible. Without their contributions, such a volume would hardly be possible. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where I have taught since 1959, has provided valuable secretarial assistance in producing the manuscript. The present volume was word-processed by Beth Beauchamp, with the assistance of Ja-Rhonda Staples and Linda Durkin. To all of these people and the authors and publishers whose works I have quoted and highlighted, I am deeply grateful.

James W. Cox
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40280

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SECTION I.

General Aids and Resources

Civil Year Calendars for 1998 and 1999

1998

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31											

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4				2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		30	31					

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30												

1999

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3					1	2	3	4	5	6	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30				

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

THE MINISTERS MANUAL FOR 1998

Church and Civic Calendar for 1998

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- The Name of Jesus
- 5 Twelfth Night
- 6 Epiphany
- 18 Confession of St. Peter
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul

FEBRUARY

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- Groundhog Day
- 3 Four Chaplains Memorial Day
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 16 Presidents' Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 24 St. Matthias, Apostle
- 25 Ash Wednesday

MARCH

- 1 First Sunday in Lent
- 8 Second Sunday in Lent
- 15 Third Sunday in Lent
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Joseph, Husband of Mary
- 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent
- 25 The Annunciation
- 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent

APRIL

- 5 Palm/Passion Sunday
- Daylight saving time begins
- 5-11 Holy Week
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Passover
- 12 Easter
- 14 Pan-American Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Orthodox Easter
- 25 St. Mark, Evangelist

MAY

- 1 Law Day
- Loyalty Day

May Day

- St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
- 1-5 Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- 10 Mother's Day
- 12 Purim
- 25 Memorial Day
- 31 The Visitation of Mary
- First Day of Shavuot

JUNE

- 11 St. Barnabas, Apostle
- 14 Children's Sunday
- 21 Father's Day
- 24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- 29 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

JULY

- 1 Canada Day
- 4 Independence Day
- 22 St. Mary Magdalene
- 25 St. James, Apostle

AUGUST

- 3 Civic Holiday (Canada)
- 6 The Transfiguration
- 14 Atlantic Charter Day
- 15 Mary, Mother of Jesus
- 24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- 26 Women's Equality Day

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Labor Sunday
- 7 Labor Day
- 13 National Grandparents' Day
- Rally Day
- 14 Holy Cross Day
- 17 Citizenship Day
- 21 First Day of Rosh Hashanah
- St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 29 St. Michael and All Angels

OCTOBER

- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 5 Sukkoth
- 11 Laity Sunday

12 Columbus Day (observed)
Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
16 World Food Day
18 St. Luke, Evangelist
23 St. James, Brother of Jesus
24 United Nations Day
25 Daylight saving time ends
31 National UNICEF Day
Reformation Day
Halloween

NOVEMBER

1 All Saints' Day
2 All Souls' Day
8 Stewardship Sunday
11 Armistice Day
Veterans Day
Remembrance Day (Canada)
22 Bible Sunday

26 Thanksgiving Day
29 First Sunday of Advent
30 St. Andrew, Apostle

DECEMBER

6 Second Sunday of Advent
13 Third Sunday of Advent
14 Hanukkah
29 Fourth Sunday of Advent
21 Forefathers' Day
St. Thomas, Apostle
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas
26 Boxing Day (Canada)
St. Stephen, Deacon
27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
28 The Holy Innocents
31 New Year's Eve
Watch Night

The Revised Common Lectionary for 1998

The following Scripture lessons are recommended for use in public worship by various Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church and include first, second, and Gospel readings, and Psalms, according to Cycle C from January 4 to November 22 and according to Cycle A from November 29 to December 27. (Copyright 1992 Consultation on Common Texts.)

Jan. 4: Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18.

EPIPHANY SEASON

Jan. 11 (Epiphany Sunday): Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12.
Jan. 18: Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.
Jan. 25: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.
Feb. 1: Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30.
Feb. 8: Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.
Feb. 15: Jer. 17:5-10; Ps. 1; 1 Cor. 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26.
Feb. 22: Gen. 45:3-11, 15; Ps. 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.
Feb. 25 (Ash Wednesday): Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;

Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21.

Mar. 1 (Lent): Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Mar. 8: Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

Mar. 15: Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

Mar. 22: Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

Mar. 29: Isa. 43:16-21; Ps. 126; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

HOLY WEEK

Apr. 5 (Palm/Passion Sunday): Mark 11:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; (Passion) Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56.

Apr. 6 (Monday): Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 36:5-11; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11.

Apr. 7 (Tuesday): Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 71:1-14; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36.

Apr. 8 (Wednesday): Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 70; Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32.

Apr. 9 (Thursday): Exod. 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Apr. 10 (Good Friday): Isa. 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22; Heb. 10:16-25 (alt.); Heb. 14-16; 5:7-9 (alt.); John 18:1-19:42.

Apr. 11 (Holy Saturday): Job 14:1-14 (alt.); Lam. 3:1-9, 19-24; Ps. 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt. 27:57-66 (alt.); John 19:38-42 (alt.).

SEASON OF EASTER

Apr. 11-12 (Easter Vigil): Gen. 1:1-2, 4a; Ps. 136:1-9, 23-26; Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18, 9:8-13; Ps. 46; Gen. 22:1-18; Ps. 16; Exod. 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Exod. 15:1b-13, 17-18 (resp.); Isa. 55:1-11; Isa. 12:2-6 (resp.); Bar. 3:9-15, 32-4:4 (alt.); Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4-6 (alt.); Ps. 19; Ezek. 36:24-28; Pss. 42-43; Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 143; Zeph. 3:14-20; Ps. 98; Rom. 6:3-11; Ps. 114; Luke 24:1-12.
Apr. 12 (Easter): Isa. 65:17-25; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43 or 1 Cor. 15:19-26; John 20:1-18.
Apr. 19: Acts 5:27-32; Ps. 118:14-29; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31.
Apr. 26: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps. 30; Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.
May 3: Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30.
May 10: Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148; Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.
May 17: Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29.
May 24: Acts 16:16-34; Ps. 97; Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26.

SEASON OF PENTECOST

May 31 (Pentecost): Acts 2:1-21 or Gen. 11:1-9; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27).
June 7 (Trinity): Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Ps. 8; Rom. 5:1-5; John 16:12-15.
June 14: 1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14), 15-21a; Ps. 5:1-8; Gal. 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3.
June 21: 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7), 8:15a; Ps. 42; Gal. 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39.
June 28: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20; Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62.
July 5: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; Gal. 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.
July 12: Amos 7:7-17; Ps. 82; Col. 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37.
July 19: Amos 8:1-12; Ps. 52; Gal. 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42.
July 26: Hos. 1:2-10; Ps. 85; Col. 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13.

Aug. 2: Hos. 11:1-11; Ps. 107:1-9, 43; Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.
Aug. 9: Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.
Aug. 16: Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:1-3, 8-19; Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56.
Aug. 23: Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17.
Aug. 30: Jer. 2: 4-13; Ps. 81:1, 10-16; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.
Sept. 6: Jer. 18:1-11; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; Philem. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.
Sept. 13: Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28; Ps. 14; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.
Sept. 20: Jer. 8:18-91; Ps. 79:1-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13.
Sept. 27: Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.
Oct. 4: Lam. 1:1-6; Ps. 137; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10.
Oct. 11: Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Ps. 66:1-12; 2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19.
Oct. 18: Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:97-104; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8.
Oct. 25: Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14.
Nov. 1: Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144; 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.
Nov. 8: Hag. 2:1-9; Ps. 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38.
Nov. 15: Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.
Nov. 22 (Christ the King): Jer. 23: 1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

Nov. 29 (Advent): Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44.
Dec. 6: Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12.
Dec. 13: Isa. 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11.
Dec. 20: Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25.
Dec. 25 (Christmas Day): Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) or Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 3:(1-7), 8-20 or Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14.
Dec. 27: Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23.

Four-Year Church Calendar

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Ash Wednesday	February 25	February 17	March 8	February 28
Palm Sunday	April 5	March 28	April 16	April 8
Good Friday	April 10	April 2	April 21	April 13
Easter	April 12	April 4	April 23	April 15
Ascension Day	May 21	May 13	June 1	May 24
Pentecost	May 31	May 23	June 11	June 3
Trinity Sunday	June 7	May 30	June 18	June 10
Thanksgiving	November 26	November 25	November 23	November 22
Advent Sunday	November 29	November 28	December 3	December 2

Forty-Year Easter Calendar

1998 April 12	2008 March 23	2018 April 1	2028 April 16
1999 April 4	2009 April 12	2019 April 21	2029 April 1
2000 April 23	2010 April 4	2020 April 12	2030 April 21
2001 April 18	2011 April 24	2021 April 4	2031 April 13
2002 March 31	2012 April 8	2022 April 17	2032 March 28
2003 April 20	2013 March 31	2023 April 9	2033 April 17
2004 April 11	2014 April 20	2024 March 31	2034 April 9
2005 March 27	2015 April 5	2025 April 20	2035 March 25
2006 April 16	2016 March 27	2026 April 5	2036 April 13
2007 April 8	2017 April 16	2027 March 28	2037 April 5

Traditional Wedding Anniversary Identifications

1 Paper	7 Wool	13 Lace	35 Coral
2 Cotton	8 Bronze	14 Ivory	40 Ruby
3 Leather	9 Pottery	15 Crystal	45 Sapphire
4 Linen	10 Tin	20 China	50 Gold
5 Wood	11 Steel	25 Silver	55 Emerald
6 Iron	12 Silk	30 Pearl	60 Diamond

Colors Appropriate for Days and Seasons

White. Symbolizes purity, perfection, and joy, and identifies festivals marking events in the life of Jesus, except Good Friday: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Eastertide, Ascension Day; also Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day, weddings, funerals. Gold also may be used.

Red. Symbolizes the Holy Spirit, martyrdom, and the love of God: Good Friday, Pentecost, and Sundays following.

Violet. Symbolizes penitence: Advent, Lent.

Green. Symbolizes mission to the world, hope, regeneration, nurturance, and growth: Epiphany season, Kingdomtide, Rural Life Sunday, Labor Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday.

Blue. Advent, in some churches.

Flowers in Season Appropriate for Church Use

January. Carnation or snowdrop.	July. Larkspur or water lily.
February. Violet or primrose.	August. Gladiolus poppy.
March. Jonquil or daffodil.	September. Aster or morning star.
April. Lily, sweet pea, or daisy.	October. Calendula or cosmos.
May. Lily of the valley or hawthorn.	November. Chrysanthemum.
June. Rose or honeysuckle.	December. Narcissus, holly, or poinsettia.

Historical, Cultural, and Religious Anniversaries in 1998

Compiled by Kenneth M. Cox

10 years (1988). *February 24*: U.S. Supreme Court overturns a lower court award to Rev. Jerry Falwell against Larry Flynt's *Hustler* magazine, finding free speech protections for parodies and satire involving public figures. *April 25*: Israeli court sentences retired U.S. autoworker John Demjanjuk to death for Nazi death camp war crimes. *July 3*: U.S. Navy shoots down Iranian passenger jet, killing 290. *October 1*: Mikhail Gorbachev consolidates power by assuming the Soviet presidency.

25 years (1973). *January 22*: U.S. Supreme Court decides in *Roe v. Wade* that states may not prevent abortions during the first six months of pregnancy. *January 28*: Cease-fire signed in Paris ends direct involvement of U.S. troops in Vietnam. *May 8*: Siege at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, ends as occupying Indians surrender under terms of cease-fire. *June 9*: Secretariat wins the Belmont Stakes by thirty-one lengths to become thoroughbred horse racing's first Triple Crown winner since 1948. *September 20*: Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs in the tennis "battle of the sexes" in Houston. *October 6*: Arab-Israeli Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) war begins in the Middle East. *October 10*: Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns and pleads no contest to tax evasion charges; Gerald Ford assumes the office on December 6. *Debut*: American League's designated hitter.

40 years (1958). *May 31*: France names Charles de Gaulle premier. *September 29*: U.S. Supreme Court speeds up integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in *Cooper v. Aaron*. *Debuts*: United Church of Christ and United Presbyterian Church in United States; John Birch Society; U.S. Civil Rights Commission; American Express card; Sweet 'n' Low; Pizza Hut.

50 years (1948). *January 30*: Hindu extremists assassinate Mahatma Gandhi in India. *May 14*: The State of Israel is proclaimed. *August 22*: World Council of Churches is instituted in Amsterdam by representatives of churches in forty-four countries. *Debuts*: Transistor; phrase "cold war"; World Health Organization; comic strip "Pogo."

75 years (1923). *January 1*: Aimee Semple McPherson dedicates Angelus Temple in Los Angeles. *July 10*: Benito Mussolini dissolves Italy's nonfascist parties and begins to secure his fascist dictatorship. *September 1*: Earthquake and fire destroy Tokyo and Yokohama, killing 91,000. *Debuts*: Autogyro; *Time* magazine; Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*; Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening."

100 years (1898). *February 15*: Explosion that destroys the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor precipitates 112-day Spanish-American War beginning April 22. *Debuts*: Gideons association; Pepsi-Cola; George Gershwin.

Quotable Quotations

1. God gave burdens, also shoulders.—Yiddish Proverb

2. One of the proofs of the divinity of our gospel is the preaching it has survived.—Woodrow Wilson

3. Every artist was first an amateur.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

4. The giving of love is an education in itself.—Eleanor Roosevelt

5. Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.—Thomas La Mance

6. A good example is the best sermon.—Thomas Fuller

7. A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job.—Ella Harris

8. I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew); Their names are What and Why and When and How and Where and Who.—Rudyard Kipling

9. No one is the whole of himself; his friends are the rest of him.—Harry Emerson Fosdick

10. People seem to enjoy things more when they know a lot of other people have been left out of the pleasure.—Russell Baker

11. A good book has no ending.—R. D. Cumming

12. I now perceive one immense omission in my *Psychology*—the deepest principle of human nature is *the craving to be appreciated*.—William James

13. The Providence that watches over the affairs of men works out their mistakes, at times, to a healthier issue than could have been accomplished by their wisest forethought.—James A. Proude

14. Never mistake motion for action.—Ernest Hemingway

15. Neighbor, n. One whom we are commanded to love as ourselves, and who does all he knows how to make us disobedient.—Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

16. Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing.—Phyllis Diller

17. Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom.—Søren Kierkegaard

18. Perfectly to will what God wills, to want what He wants, is to have joy.—Meister Eckhart

19. This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one.—George Bernard Shaw

20. If you want a place in the sun, prepare to put up with a few blisters.—Abigail Van Buren

21. You raise your voice when you should reinforce your argument.—Samuel Johnson

22. There is much to be said for failure. It is more interesting than success.—Max Beer-bohm

23. There is nothing the body suffers which the soul may not profit by.—George Meredith

24. To speak of unforgivable sin is to impugn divine power.—St. Thomas Aquinas

25. We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.—Charles F. Kettering

26. A God on the cross! That is all my theology.—Jean Lacordaire

27. Clean your finger before you point at my spots.—Benjamin Franklin

28. Without religion, morality becomes simply a matter of individual taste, of public opinion or majority vote.—Catholic Bishops of the United States, November 1952

29. I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said I don't know.—Mark Twain

30. The first sign of your becoming religious is that you are becoming cheerful.—Swami Vivekananda

31. If Christianity has never disturbed us, we have not yet learned what it is.—William Temple

32. Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else.—Will Rogers

33. I've read the last page of the Bible. It's going to turn out all right.—Billy Graham

34. An individual religion can be as misleading and uninformed as an individual astronomy or an individual mathematics.—Fulton J. Sheen

35. It is easier to stay out than get out.—Mark Twain

36. The Bible is the Church's charter.—Hugh Pope

37. Dirt is matter out of place.—Oliver Lodge

38. God gave us memories so that we might have roses in December.—James M. Barrie

39. I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up—they have no holidays.—Henny Youngman

40. The place of the father in the modern suburban family is a very small one, particularly if he plays golf.—Bertrand Russell

41. I do not think the glory of God best promoted by a rigid abstinence from amusements.—John Keble

42. Seek the first possible opportunity to act on every good resolution you make.—William James

43. The God to whom little boys say their prayers has a face very like their mother's.—James M. Barrie

44. One man was so mad at me that he ended his letter: "Beware. You will never get out of this world alive."—John Steinbeck

45. Fanatics seldom laugh. They never laugh at themselves.—James M. Gillis

46. Superstition is to religion what astrology is to astronomy—the mad daughter of a wise mother.—Voltaire

47. The Holy Spirit is the living interiority of God.—Romano Guardini

48. Nowadays we know the price of everything and the value of nothing.—Oscar Wilde

49. I remember a friend of mine when growing up—he had every toy his father wanted.—James C. Humes

50. One of the most untruthful things possible . . . is a collection of facts, because they can be made to appear so many different ways.—Dr. Karl Menninger

51. The one thing we can never get enough of is love. And the one thing we never give enough is love.—Henry Miller

52. To be sure, it is a shocking thing, blowing smoke out of our mouths into other people's mouths, eyes, and noses, and having the same thing done to us.—Samuel Johnson

Questions of Life and Religion

These questions may be useful to prime homiletic pumps, as discussion starters, or for study and youth groups.

1. Are there absolutes, beliefs that are always true, that we can always rely on?

2. What are some of the features of the abundant life that Jesus came to give us?

3. How can we be sure that God accepts us?

4. Why is adultery wrong?

5. What special values does the season of Advent offer us?

6. When does adversity have positive results?

7. How does age affect our moral convictions?

8. Can the Bible help us make decisions about the use of alcoholic beverages?

9. Do we have personal angels to guide and protect us?

10. What can we say for and against anger?

11. Do we have a duty toward animals?

12. How can we handle anxiety?

13. Should we ever give up praying and hoping for the best for a particular "sinner"?

14. In what ways does the Apostle's Creed shore up our faith?

15. Can art be a servant of God?

16. What are the grounds of our assurance of salvation?

17. Why would anyone be an atheist?

18. What is the meaning of Christ's atonement?

19. How are our attitudes related to our character?

20. What are the sources of authority for a Christian?

21. What does baptism mean?

22. How much does one have to believe to be saved?

23. How are we to regard the Bible?

24. Can we bless people in such a way as to do them measurable good?

25. Do we have a moral obligation for the care of our body?

26. What can break the bondage of bad habits?

27. What are some of the books besides the Bible that contribute to spiritual growth?

28. How does God's call to special service come to an individual?

29. What are the pros and cons of capital punishment?

30. Is caring an inevitable attitude and activity for a true believer?

31. How do we distinguish between certainty and certitude?

32. Can human nature be changed?

33. What are the essential building blocks of solid character?

34. Why is cheating wrong?

35. What biblical standards should we apply in child rearing?

36. Is the test "What would Jesus do?" an adequate guide today?

37. Are there ways to observe Christmas more appropriately?

38. What is the Church and/or the church?

39. How does the gospel sometimes challenge tradition and custom?

40. What are the citizenship obligations of Christians?

41. According to John's Gospel, what are the several roles of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit?

42. To what do we commit ourselves when we make a profession of faith or experience confirmation?

43. What happens in Communion?
44. Is compromise un-Christian?
45. When is confession of our sins helpful?
46. How can conflict in Christian community be handled?
47. When is conscience a safe guide?
48. What are the sources of contentment?
49. How can we control our feelings and desires?
50. Is conversion once and for all or an ongoing process?
51. How are convictions formed?
52. What is courage?
53. When we call God "Creator," what do we mean?
54. How are cross and resurrection linked theologically?
55. What is a cult?
56. Death: friend or enemy?
57. Is depression a medical or a spiritual problem, or both?
58. How do we deny our Lord today?
59. Can disappointment become God's appointment?
60. How does God discipline his children?
61. What is divine providence?
62. Should divorce disqualify one for the service of God?
63. Is doubt a normal experience in the Christian pilgrimage?
64. What are our duties as good stewards of the earth?
65. When does eternal life begin?
66. How can we make responsible ethical decisions?
67. Why do we use such words as *the Lord's Supper*, *Communion*, and *Eucharist* to describe the memorial meal shared by Christians?
68. What are the various ways to do evangelism?
69. In what ways do we encounter evil in life?
70. What is faith?
71. How is family worship possible in our busy life today?
72. Can a faultfinding attitude be cured?
73. How can we master our fears?
74. Why is it difficult to forgive?
75. What does freedom in Christ mean?
76. What are the biblical guidelines for giving?
77. How can we practice the presence of God?
78. What is the gospel?
79. When do we experience the grace of God?
80. How does God guide us?
81. How can we "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"?
82. Can God use our handicaps in his service?
83. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
84. Why is hate self-defeating?
85. Does faith healing have a place in a church's ministry?
86. What does the Bible teach about heaven?
87. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
88. Does honesty require us to tell everything we know or feel?
89. How does hope function in the life of a Christian?
90. When is humility real?
91. What are some modern forms of idolatry?
92. In what ways are we made in the image of God?
93. Why did God come to us by incarnation, that is, in human form?
94. How does God speak to us today?
95. Does prayer for others do them good if they are not aware that we pray for them?
96. What does the humanity of Jesus imply?
97. When does judgment happen?
98. What is justification by faith?
99. Is there a necessary place for humor and laughter in the Christian life?
100. What is the purpose of Lenten observance?

Biblical Benedictions and Blessings

The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent from one another.—Gen. 31:49

The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace.—Num. 6:24–26

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers; let him not leave us nor forsake us; that he may incline our hearts unto him, *to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.*—1 Kings 8: 57–58

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.—Ps. 19:14

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus; that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Now the God of peace be with you.—Rom. 15:5–6, 13, 33

Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the teaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the glory through Jesus Christ for ever.—Rom. 16:25–27

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 1:3

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.—2 Cor. 13:14

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.—Eph. 6:23–24

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever

things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned and received, and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you.—Phil. 4:7–9

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of this goodness, and the work of faith with power; that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.—2 Thess. 1:11–12

Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.—2 Thess. 3:16–18

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.—1 Tim. 1:2

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.—Heb. 13:20–21

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.—1 Pet. 3:10–11, 14

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.—2 John 3

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before

the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.—Jude 24–25

Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.—Rev. 1:4–6

