There are a lot of priggish, pruitanical brethren who are led astray by the assumed piety of certain preachers. What brother Longface preaches is surely the truth because he is such a devout man. They size up what he preaches by his piety and not by the Book. I am not opposed to piety. The Bible teaches us to be sober. It also teaches us to be honest. But the man who keeps insisting that he is honest is generally a crook. And he who parades his piety is usually a hypocrite. Piety, like honesty, flourishes better when it is treated as something personal and too sacred to be put on parade.

If our piety is the test of our soundness, then the Pharisees would be orthodox. They were reverent. The Pharisee instead of leaving the door of his room open while he was on his knees praying, would stand out on the corner of the street and make long prayers. Thus he could be seen of all men. I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, nor a dresser of sycamore trees, but I predict that these superpious brethren will be on the street corners next. Paul was reverent, saintly, godly, and heavenly minded, but was not too pious to call one fellow a "son of the devil" (Acts 13:10). His brotherly love did not keep him from resisting Peter. "I resisted him to his face because he stood condemned" (Gal. 2:11). The real test of one's orthodoxy is not his sincerity nor affected devotion, but whether he is true to the charge to preach the word. (Emphasis mine, J.G.P.)

Realizing that the gospel and not piety is the power of God unto salvation, how shall we preach it? It must be preached boldly and without fear or favor. The second recorded prayer in the book of Acts is a prayer for boldness. Brethren today call the preacher aside and ask him to tone his preaching until it is so tame as to be insipid.
Some say that we should be like John, the apostle of love. Of course, they think John was not vigorous and trenchant in his preaching. Was John a shy, soft, effeminate preacher of the Word? The Sanhedrin was amazed at the boldness of Peter and John (Acts 4:13). Please notice that the text says "Peter and John". John was just as bold as Peter.

What reckless saints were those early preachers! They did not so much as regard their own lives in preaching Christ (Acts 20:24). Watch these great men in action and compare some brethren who are apparently afraid to quote the Great Commission with emphasis lest they should offend some sectarian. No doubt the uncompromising fearlessness of these apostles was derived from Christ. "They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). No one would suspect a compromising, cringing preacher of having been associated with the world's greatest Preacher.

Faithful preaching of the word of God will accomplish divine results. First: The word preached, believed and obeyed will put one into Christ where he is saved from his sins (Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Gal. 3:26-27). Second: The word preached will expose false teachers. Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus that false brethren would arise among them: "I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30). False teachers should be exposed. Those in the church shall not be spared. Third: The word preached fulfills the sacred charge of Paul to Timothy.

We would thus save ourselves. "Take heed unto thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee." (I Tim. 4:16).

The gospel preached "with thoughts that breathe the words that burn" will please God and disturb man. The early preachers did not please everybody. Occasionally a preacher of our day boasts that all were pleased with his work. Even the sects dismissed to attend his services. How different from Paul. He did not please the world nor all the brethren. When he went into a place to preach he had a revival or a riot. The enemies of the truth spoke of Paul and his companions after this fashion, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

Editor's Note: This article was written forty-four years ago, but how RELEVANT IT IS in this day and age.

THEOPHILUS

WE SHOULD JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL AND LEAVE OTHERS ALONE.

WHAT WOULD YOU PREACH?

"RIGHTOUSNESS" BUT THAT WOULD OFFEND THE WORLDLY.

OKAY, GOING TO CHURCH? THAT OFFENDS ABSENTEES THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

"THE CHURCH" OFFENDS PROTESTANTS.

"BIBLE AUTHORITY" OFFENDS CATHOLICS.

"JESUS?" OFFENDS THE JEWS.

"THE THEISTS" WOULD BE OFFENDED!

THE MORKALISTS
Who Will Stand Up And Execute Judgment?

Melvin Elliott

Aaron was a prominent man in the Old Testament because of his association with Moses in bringing Israel out of Egypt and because he was high priest. He had four sons--Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. Nadab and Abihu were destroyed by God (Num. 3:4); Eleazar was made high priest when Aaron died (Num. 20:28), and he had a son named Phinehas of whom David said, "...stood up...and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed." (Ps. 106:30).

In Numbers 25, we have the record of Israel joining themselves to Baal-peor and their men being immoral with the daughters of Moab. Zimri became so bold and brazen that he brought Cozbi from Moab and before Moses and all the congregation entered into his tent with her. This was when Phinehas, Aaron's grandson, "...he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; and went after the men of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through..." (Num. 25:7-8.) Because of this act by Phinehas the wrath of God was stayed. (Num. 25:11.)

One factor that makes this story unique is that Zimri was the "...son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites."..."Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian." (Num. 25:14-15.) Today if someone who "seemed to be somewhat" proclaims false doctrine and is challenged by faithful brethren, he usually receives an answer that such an one is prominent in the brotherhood. About two years ago I challenged a certain speaker on a college lectureship because of numerous false teachings and the reply was, Brother ... preaches where Brother ... is an elder and he is on the staff of ..., etc. So what! If a person advocates false doctrine, it is false regardless of who he is. It seems we have a group of sacrosanct men in the church that can do as they please and will yet be accepted by most brethren, especially if they are prominent.

For example: "Lynn Anderson, a minister of Highland Church of Christ, will lead a 'Church Growth Seminar' from 8 to 10 P.M. Wednesday at Elmwood West United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Pioneer. Pastors, church leaders and Council of Ministries, members from Brookhallow Christian Church, Grace Lutheran Church, St. James Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Elmwood West Methodist Church will participate in the Seminar. All other interested persons are invited to attend." Yet dozens of churches and people in this area still support the Herald of Truth (which has presented numerous false teachings) controlled by an apostate church (South Fifth and Highland) and her apostate preacher (Lynn Anderson) and some have refused to consider the abundant documented evidence that proves such a charge.

But one says, "It's not that way here." Let's examine the evidence. Scheduled for Indianapolis this June 7-9, 1979, is the Mid-America Evangelism Workshop. Scheduled to speak is Marvin Phillips. This man spoke on the 5th Annual Canton Christian Conference, March, 1977, and the tapes clearly show he was in fellowship with them. He was telling them how they could grow, rather than pointing out their departure from the truth. Alan
Bryan is to speak also. He organized no less than a missionary society in Florence, Alabama, January, 1977. David Powers, in a sermon titled "Let Us Go Up at Once and Possess the Land," tells about pacing off some land and "claimed it for God," and in about two months' time that seven acres was theirs and didn't cost the church a nickel. (This is Pentecostal testimony.) Abuses in the bus ministry, women teachers, youth church, etc., is common knowledge to all who care to learn of the practices of these men and others on the program.

Now what will happen in Indianapolis, I don't know. However, at the "Gateway to Glory" workshop of July 20-22, 1978, at St. Louis (and in numerous other workshops) which had several men in common with the one scheduled here, contained the following:

1. Promotion of the children's church.
2. Promotion of modern versions (perversions).
3. Undue emotional response.
4. Friday night collection.
5. Men attended a session with a woman speaker at least once.
6. Advocating singing during the Lord's Supper.

My purpose in writing this is not to tell anyone what they can do but to point out what is going on so people can make a choice. If churches want to sponsor and members want to fellowship those who are advocating the practices and procedures of denominationalism, that is their choice but they should have a knowledgeable choice.

So much more could be said, but brevity will not permit. I simply ask, "WHO WILL STAND UP AND EXECUTE JUDGMENT?"

4. Tape of sermon by David Powers.

CHURCH BULLETIN
Tipton, Indiana

-4-
In our first study, we saw that God gave the sabbath to the Jews, Deut. 5:2-3; at Mt. Sinai, Neh. 9:13-14; as a memorial of the Jews' deliverance from Egyptian bondage, Deut. 5:15; and the sabbath was abolished at the cross, Col. 2:14.

In our last study, I pointed out that the Sabbatarians make a distinction between the law of the Lord and the law of Moses. They claim that the law of Moses and the law of the Lord are not one and the same. To them the law of the Lord is the ten commandment law; the rest of the Old Testament law containing sacrifices, etc., is the law of Moses. They further teach that the law of Moses was abolished at the cross but not the ten commandment law. Furthermore, they teach that the sabbath is a part of the ten commandment law; therefore, the sabbath has not been abolished. Although the Sabbatarians make a distinction between the ten commandment law and the law of Moses, the Bible certainly does not. Scripturally, they both are the same, cf. Lk. 2:22-24. Therefore, the argument presented by the Sabbatarians that there is a difference between the law of Moses and the ten commandment law is a false argument.

But even if there was a difference, and there is not, between the ten commandment law and the law of Moses, the Bible still clearly and plainly teaches that the ten commandment law has been abolished, that we are dead to it, and that we have been delivered or discharged from it.

The ten commandment law was done away in Christ. Paul teaches the abolishment of the ten commandments in 2 Cor. 3. Beginning with verse 6, he says, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth
life. But if the ministration of death, WRITTEN AND ENGRAVEN IN STONES, WAS GORGEOUS, SO THAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL COULD NOT STEDFASTLY BEHOLD THE FACE OF MOSES FOR THE GLORY OF HIS COUNTENANCE: WHICH GLORY WAS TO BE DONE AWAY: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? Then in verse 11, Paul states, "For if that which IS DONE AWAY was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious." Also, in verse 13, "And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that WHICH IS ABOLISHED:" (emphasis mine, JGP). Paul, beyond a shadow of a doubt, identifies that which was done away in Christ and abolished. Notice what Paul says about that which was done away or abolished:

1. It was that testament which was written and engraved in stones. Verse 7.

2. It was that which was delivered to the children of Israel when they could not behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance. Verse 7.

Now friends if we can determine where it was that the "children of Israel could not behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance, "and what it was that was "written and engraved in stones," then we can know what it was that "was to be done away," verse 7; "is done away," verse 11; "is abolished," verse 13; and "done away in Christ," verse 14.

Let us, as always, let the Bible answer. The 34th chapter of Exodus provides the answer. Beginning with verse 1, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables, which thou brakest. And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount." Verses 28-30 state, "...And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the TEN COMMANDMENTS. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him." And finally verse 35, "And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone; and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him." (emphasis mine, JGP).

Now friends where was it that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance? At Mt. Sinai, when Moses had descended the mount, Ex. 34:29-35. What was engraved on those tables of stone? The ten commandments, Ex. 34:28. But yet Paul stated that it was done away in Christ, 2 Cor. 3:14. Therefore, the Bible clearly teaches the ten commandment law has been done away. Thus, the sabbath, being a part of the ten commandment law, has been done away.
Can You Answer This Riddle?

The following Bible riddle is over 100 years old. You may have seen it before but if not, see if you can find the answer to this puzzle by an unknown author. If not keep reading the Beacon and we'll print the answer soon.

God made Adam out of dust,
But thought it best to make me first;
So I was made before the man
To answer God's most holy plan.

My body He did make complete,
But without arms, or legs, or feet;
My ways and acts He did control,
Yet I was made without a soul.

A living being I became,
And Adam gave to me my name;
When from his presence I withdrew
I never more of Adam knew.

I did my Maker's laws obey;
From them I never went astray.
Thousands of miles I roam in fear.
And seldom on the earth appear.

But God did something in me see,
And put a living soul in me!
That soul from me my God did claim;
And took from me that soul again!

And when from me that soul had fled,
I was the same as when first made.
And without hands or feet, or soul,
I travel now from pole to pole.

I labor hard both day and night,
To fallen men I give much light,
Thousands of folk, both young and old,
May by my death a light behold!

And though I have both skin and bone,
I have no land to call my own.
To heaven I shall never go,
Nor to the grave, nor hell below.

Now as these lines, my friends, you read,
Search the Scriptures with great heed.
And if my name you cannot find,
It's very strange - You must be blind!

-7-
Our Record

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HOW WE GAVE

12/23/79: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $17.00; (1) $18.00; (2) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (3) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $60.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $110.00. CURRENCY: (32) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.63. TOTAL: $2,229.13.

12/30/79: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (3) $15.00; (1) $17.00; (1) $18.00; (5) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $25.00; (6) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (1) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $59.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $100.00; (2) $200.00; (1) $450.00. CURRENCY: (38) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $7.55. TOTAL: $2,449.55.

Directory Info

Iggy and Cathy Goodman have moved to 7873 Galaxy Court. The phone number is the same.

SICK

Quite a few of our number were out with colds, etc. Let us remember our shut-ins, sisters Ada Belle Cree and Eddie Hardin as well as any others we know about.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

The topic for today is 'Eternity.' I'll bet anything he gives at least five minutes overtime!
Unconscious Enemies Of Christianity

Gerald Miles

In Philippians 3:18 we find Paul making this statement, "For many walk, who I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are en enemies of the cross of Christ." In this verse we find that some are considered ENEMIES of Christ. In many instances these are aware of their actions and are trying to disrupt and destroy the work of the church. However, there are those who are enemies of the cross and may not be aware of it. We want to look at some of these.

One group who are enemies of the cross of Christ are those who are wrapped up in DENOMINATIONALISM. Many truly believe that all the division in the religious world is alright with God and that it offers man a "choice of religions". It is not alright with God! Denominationalism mocks the prayer of Christ and encourages infidelity. In John 17:20-21 we read, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Jesus did not pray for division in the religious world but for UNITY! We wonder why many are not religious at all. Jesus said that because of UNITY the world would believe on Him. It is not so strange then that many see all the division in religion and turn away in disgust. Denominationalism is the cause of MOST of the unbelief in the world today. It paraphrases the passages on unity found in the Bible. Yes, DENOMINATIONALISM an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Another enemy to the cross is the MORALIST. This person is depending on his goodness to save him. It WON'T! Because of him, many are discouraged from obeying the Gospel. Obedience is necessary (2 Thess. 1:8-9). The moralist also discourages church membership which is essential to going to
Morality is great. Would to God that more folks were interested in morality!! However, one cannot be good enough to earn salvation. Obedience to the plan of God is essential. The MORALIST is an unconscious enemy of the cross of Christ.

Another enemy to the cross is the MODERNIST. These people are destroying the confidence in the Bible and in the Christ as the Son of God. They always want people to use the "modern translations" of the Bible which are not textually correct. Many of these "versions" are changing the word of God into a "do as you please" sort of book. When confidence in the word of God is destroyed, Satan can have a field day with the lives of unsuspecting men. The MODERNIST is certainly an enemy of the cross of Christ. He may not be aware of it, but this does not change the facts of the case. He still destroys confidence in Jesus as the Christ.

There is another group which is a great danger to the cross of Christ. Perhaps these of whom we now speak are of greater danger to the cross than all the rest. This group is within the church. They enjoy the full fellowship of the church in most cases. This group is the LUKEWARM MEMBERS. This one is an enemy because his lukewarmness influences others to be like him. He is a cancer to all who are around him. Those who are WORLDLY are enemies of the cross also. The world can tell little difference between these people and the rest of humanity. The WORLDLY are a discredit to christianity. Those who PROMOTE Factions are also enemies of the cross. All christians are to be of one mind and one spirit. This group tries to drive a wedge between friends and between man and God. They do great harm to the cause of Christ.

All there are ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST. They might not be aware of it but they are enemies anyway. They cause many to be lost by the way they live. They tell the rest of the world that God did not mean what He said. The cross becomes a mere fairy tale with some. What about you? Are you an enemy of Christ? Will you obey the Gospel and be saved? Will you be a help and not a hindrance? DO IT TODAY WHILE YOU HAVE TIME!!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Brother Miles has written an excellent article, in my opinion, worthy of reproduction. He preaches for the Lord's Church in Cantonment, Florida. (Gerald also is an instructor at the Bellview Preacher Training School.) For those interested in receiving his bulletin, write Gerald at P. O. Box 162, Cantonment, Florida 32533.
What Should I Give?

Often in our budgets, what we give to the Lord is the last thing considered. But shouldn't our giving be the first thing considered? Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33). God will provide our necessities if we put Him first!

The standard of living for most of God's children has risen tremendously over the past twenty years. Has their giving risen with it? Have we really given as we have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1ff)? Or have we cheated God?

Before raising our standard of living, it would be wise to make sure we are also raising our giving! Before buying a newer, prettier, bigger home or car, we should look at our giving and our needs. When we look at our needs, we'll find that we really need less than we often think.

Actually, we have to live below our incomes if we are to be able to give liberally to the Lord. And there are many advantages to living below our actual incomes. There are fewer bills to pay and less worry over payments! There is greater security in knowing there is a little buffer in the family budget. And there is a sense of accomplishment in knowing that you can do something 95% of the American people cannot do. That is to be living below our means in order to give more to the Lord Jesus Christ!

"There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." Proverbs 13:7.

(Via McCLOUD CHURCH OF CHRIST Bulletin)
Our Record

Bible classes: 162
Worship: 184
Evening: 154
Wednesday: 145
Contribution: $1,893.06

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (1) $7.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $16.00; (1) $17.00; (2) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (1) $24.50; (2) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $59.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $248.00.

CURRENCY: (20) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $6.56. TOTAL: $1,893.06.

Responses

Steven Butler came forward Sunday evening requesting the prayers of the church.

SICK

We still had a number of our members out sick this past week. Let us remember to pray for them.
Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

A Great Soldier Passes

Brother Foy Esco Wallace, Jr., slipped away to his reward Tuesday, December 18, 1979, following a brief illness. His memorial services were conducted in Hereford, Texas, Friday, December 21, at the building of the Central Church of Christ. Tender and loving eulogies were spoken by brother J. T. Marlin, George DeHoff, Leroy Brownlow, and Gary Colley. Brother Noble Patterson led the beautiful congregational singing. This was a most difficult task, since all participants were intimate friends.

It was expressed during the memorial services that this marked the passing of a great man, but, also, the passing of an era of Gospel preachers. Though this mighty man last resided and passed from life in Hereford, Texas, he indeed belonged to the world! He was among the pioneers who understood and appreciated fully the Restoration Movement. He spent his life seeking to establish the Old Paths of New Testament Christianity. He loved the church for which Jesus died and was devoted to its spread. He would say, "He who made the world, made the book." His logic was simple and clear, blessing multiplied thousands. He was instrumental in showing multitudes the supremacy of the Lord's church over every religious order made by man.

Brother Wallace's sixty-seven years of preaching Christ and Him crucified began at the age of fifteen. He preached in every respect with the love of Truth and the fervor of New Testament preaching. He was God's servant, none other! "The Dean of Gospel Preachers" needed no notes nor his Bible when entering the pulpit. His long years of study and love for the Truth were easily discerned; his rapport with the audience was always strong. The discipline involved for deep study and devotion to the greatest cause on earth was personified in brother Wallace. No price was too great, nor road too long when the Gospel needed to be preached. His voice rang loud with the
Jerusalem Gospel; his pen wrote with commanding discernment and power. As with the Lord and his apostles, his friends loved him dearly, his enemies fought him fiercely. He was a friend of Truth and preacher of Truth. His preaching, writing, debating, editorship of the Gospel Advocate, and so many other accomplishments have been unparalleled in scholarship. His great abilities were his weights of responsibility; his humility and sweet spirit were chains of charm. The enemies of Truth who “ruffled his hair” were soundly dealt with; while a child would rumple it betimes. He truly was a great preacher, gentleman, and dear friend, he will be missed but not forgotten. His works do follow after him (Rom. 14:13). When most would have turned back or ceased their efforts, he pressed on as a good soldier of the cross past his eighty-third year. His last meeting was conducted with the Berclair congregation in Memphis, Tennessee. His battle-scarred armor has now been laid to rest. But while he rests from his labors on earth his passing brings him to his hallowed hopes and desires.

Left to mourn his passing are his faithful and loving wife of sixty-five years, Virgie Brightwell Wallace; three sons, Wilson Wallace, A. T. Wallace, and William Wallace; two daughters, Lee Ella Wallace and Mrs. Richard Black; four brothers, R. E. Wallace, D. L. Wallace, Paul Wallace, and Tom E. Wallace; four sisters, Mrs. Willie Speck, Mrs. Ella Frank Sikes, Mrs. Mattie Lee Benskins, and Mrs. Helen Jackson. There are fifteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition to these family members, there are literally thousands of brethren, beloved friends and especially Gospel preachers.

Surely, reunion must be a joyous occasion on “the yonder shore.” Oh, blessed hope!

“Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?” (II Sam. 3:38).

Would You Starve Your Child?

Would you have the heart to put your children to bed on Saturday night knowing that they had not had a bite of food to eat all day because of your negligence? You would not!

Then think of putting them to bed on Sunday night and looking into their innocent faces knowing that their souls are starving from having missed church services because of your negligence. They are innocent victims of the one who loves them most.

The effects of our neglect may be written across their lives in late years in terms of sin, unfaithfulness and unbelief. Parents, don't allow this to happen to your children.

--Selected--
"THE EVIL ONE"

Lonnie Davis

The Tempter, the Evil One, Adversary, Deceiver, Father of Lies, Ruler of Darkness, God of this World, are all names by which we can know the one we call Satan or Devil. No, I do not really know what he looks like. Does he have horns and a sharp tail? Does he have a red collar and sharp pointed ears? I wish I might never find out. Lately, because of all the "demon movies" the trend has been to depict Satan as an ugly grotesque creature, one who reeks of evil that can be noticed even with a casual glance.

The truth is that Satan does not appear to us in these forms. Instead, Satan comes to us as: houses, jobs, cars, fancy clothes, friends, golf clubs, boats, vacations, movies, tennis rackets, swimming pools, couches, horses, rings, etc. The list could go on and on. Now, I am not saying that Satan looks like a car or a horse. I am not saying that cars, boats, movies, or rings are wrong. I am simply saying that Satan often uses these forms to lead us away. He uses them anytime we put these possessions or pastimes ahead of our God. In the very first of the ten commandments God said, "You shall have no other gods before me...You shall not...serve them." (Ex. 20:3, Sa). We fall to Satan anytime we spend our lives in pursuit of things instead of spending our lives to please God. Paul wrote to the Romans and said concerning some Gentiles, "Therefore God gave them up." (Rom. 1:24). What a terrible thing to happen! Take my house from me, my car, my job, my friends, but please do not let God give me up. What terrible thing could they have done to have caused such a drastic action by God? The answer is found in Rom. 1:25, "Because they.....worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator."

In the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow", Ichabod Crane, the main character, is forever trying to avoid "Sleepy Hollow" because he knows that is where the headless horseman is. If Satan only had some marked off territory, some place where he is known to live, then we could, like Ichabod Crane, simply avoid that area. Satan is too smart for those kinds of tactics. He fights with all "our possessions." He hopes to cause our possessions to possess us because when they do, then he possesses us. When we worship and serve things then God will give us up.

I do not know where Satan lives, but I know where he cannot go. He cannot climb the heights and live in the presence of the most high God. He cannot exist around the righteous and holy, but as long as I do then I need not fear the Evil One.

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 183
Worship: 215
Evening: 168
Wednesday: 138
Contribution: $1939

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (2) $8.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $13.00; (2) $17.00; (4) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $37.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $59.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $109.00; (1) $120.00.
CURRENCY: (43) $1.00; (1) $2.00; (10) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00.

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Responses

Cecil and Mary Barr placed their membership here on January 20th. Mary is Martha Wilcoxson's twin sister. Cecil and Mary live at Star Route, Box 665, Lillian, Alabama 35549. Their phone number is 205-962-2643. They will be in ZONE 5. We welcome them to Bellview.

Martha Wilcoxson and David Faison came forward Sunday evening requesting prayers of the congregation.

Brenda Madden was baptized into Christ Sunday evening before services. We welcome her into the family of God. Her address is 5951 Muldoon Road, Pensacola, 32506 and her phone number is 455-8209. She will be in ZONE 3.

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"Old Testament Prophecies Of The Church Fulfilled In The New Testament"

Winston C. Temple

Due to the brevity of our article, we shall concern ourselves with only three main prophecies regarding the church; namely, 2 Samuel 7:12-14, Isaiah 2:2, 3 and Daniel 2:44, respectively.

2 Samuel 7:12-14 --

"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men."

As we study these passages one realizes that Solomon, David's son did build the Lord's house (I Chron. 22:5, 6; II Chron. chs. 3-6), but as we turn to the New Testament, we see the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy.

According to Acts 2:29-34, Christ was the promised seed of David who was raised up to sit on David's throne. Prior to the fulfillment of this great prophecy, the angel of the Lord announced to Mary, the mother of Jesus: "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name, JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-34). The Hebrew writer makes it
even plainer by applying the words in I Sam. 7:14, "I will be his father and he shall be my son..." to Jesus, the only begotten son of the Father (Hebrews 1:5). In Hebrews 3:6, we learn that Christ is "...a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." We learn from these passages that Christ was the One who built the Lord's house or kingdom (See Matt. 16:18, 19).

Isaiah 2:2-3 --

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills: and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

Please observe the following points of prophecy and their fulfillment:

(1) The Lord's house was to be established. The Lord's house is the church (I Tim. 3:15); and it was established (Acts 2:47).

(2) The Lord's house or church was to be built in the last days. The inspired writer Luke, recorded its establishment (Acts 2:16, 47).

(3) All nations would flow unto it (See Acts 2:5).

(4) The law and the word of the LORD would go forth from Zion or Jerusalem. Of a surety, the law, the word of the LORD or the gospel, did go forth from Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4; 14-40 c.f. Lk. 24:46-50).

Based on the above, we can see that the Lord's house or the church which Isaiah prophesied and Christ built certainly and without doubt came into existence on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter two. The word of the LORD did go forth and convicted men of their sins. Those who repented and were baptized had forgiveness of their sins and were added to the church (Acts 2:37, 38, 47).

Daniel 2:44 --

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."

This was a prophecy of the kingdom or church that was uttered in the days of Nebuchadnezer by Daniel, the man of God. Starting with Nebuchadnezer's kingdom one can count in order the following kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. It was in the days of the Roman kingdom or empire that verse forty-four had reference. In these days God would set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed.

The church or the kingdom of God was established in the days of the Roman empire (Continued on back page)
He had a dollar in his hand and he said he was going to give it to the Lord. In his own words it was because, "we haven't been making the budget." It was some birthday money he had saved for that special "something" whenever it came along. But now something else had caught his concern--we weren't meeting the budget. The money saved out of the weekly allowance was not adequate for this Lord's day contribution and he was giving a dollar. It surely was satisfying to see the contribution that day exceed the budget by more than $100.00.

And now as I think back about that little boy and his dollar I can't help but wonder how much richer the kingdom would be if each of us were as concerned about the budget, the lost, the Bible School program, etc., as he was about the budget. And where would the church be if each of us sacrificed as he did, for a dollar to him was quite a sum of money. This one thing I know for certain--we would be far ahead of where we presently are. Perhaps that is one of the reasons Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." May the day come when we adults have the honest, sincere concern for the church that children have.
Empire. Consider the following points.

(1) Every passage before Acts chapter two speaks of the kingdom being future (Matt. 3:1-3; 4:17; Mk. 1:15; Acts 1:3).

(2) Every passage after Acts 2 speaks of the kingdom as being in the past tense (Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9), unless it refers to the end of time when Christ shall deliver His church or kingdom up to the Father (I Cor. 15:24, 25).

(3) Christ, the King over His kingdom, was born, lived, died, was resurrected and ascended to the Father in the days of the Roman kings (See the gospel accounts and the first chapter of Acts).

These three prophecies and their fulfillment prove that Christ established His church-kingdom on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter two. It is the church of Christ (Rom. 1:16).

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NOTE: Last week we inadvertently left brother Gary Colley's name off the article concerning brother Foy E. Wallace, Jr.'s death. (JGP)

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Our Record

| Bible Classes: | 172 |
| Worship:       | 192 |
| Evening:       | 169 |
| Wednesday:     | 158 |
| Contribution:  | $1680 |

HOW WE GAVE

| CHECKS: | (3) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (7) |
|         | $10.00; (1) $13.00; (1) $15.00; (1) |
|         | $18.00; (3) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) |
|         | $24.00; (1) $25.00; (5) $30.00; (1) |
|         | $37.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (2) |
| CHECKS: | $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) |
|         | $55.00; (1) $59.00; (3) $60.00; (1) |
|         | $73.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $85.00; (1) |
|         | $90.00; (1) $120.00. |

CURRENCY: (23) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.21. TOTAL: $1,680.21.

SICK

Ray Dodd is in West Florida Hospital, Room 539. Eddie Hardin and Ada Belle Coe are still shut-in.
What Does the Bible Say About True Worship?

WILLIAM S. CLINE

What does the Bible say about true worship? The question is indeed an important one and deserves a biblical answer. The very question implies that there is such a thing as false worship. And since it is our responsibility to not go beyond the things written (I Cor. 4:6), we shall examine the Bible and see what it says about true worship.

There are passages that imply false worship. For example in Matt. 4:10 Jesus said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve." Thus, the necessity to worship and the object to worship. Therefore, to fail to worship (the necessity) the God of heaven (the object) is false worship. Again, in John 4:24 Jesus said, "God is Spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth." Here we have the object and the manner. Therefore, to fail to worship Jehovah (the object) in the right attitude and according to the proper avenues of worship (the manner) is false worship. In I Kings 12:25ff we learn that Jereboam changed the place of worship, the object of worship, the time of worship and the access to worship. He greatly sinned and led all Israel to sin by his changes. Surely we understand that to bow down to a pole or a stone and call such "God" or "Father" is not true worship. Likewise to worship Jehovah in the wrong manner or with the wrong attitude is likewise sin.

The Bible identifies false worship. There is ignorant worship (Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:1-3); there is will worship (where people do what they want to do, Col. 2:18-23; Amos 4:4-5); and, there is vain worship (Matt. 15:7-9).

The Bible identifies true worship. There are correct avenues of true worship. This is the "what" or what we are to do to worship in truth; and there are correct attitudes or "how" we are to worship in truth. Bible
study is one of the avenues of true worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; I Peter 4:11). Prayer is another avenue, or item, of true worship (Acts 2:42; James 4:3; I Tim. 2:8). According to I Tim. 2:8 it is godly men who lead the prayers and never the woman when in the presence of a man. Giving as God has prospered us is another avenue of worship (I Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8 and 9). The fourth item of true worship is singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Please notice that the only thing we have authority for is to sing. We do not have authority to play a mechanical instrument as many people do. Nor do we have authority to hum as some do. We are to sing. The final act of worship which we have authority to engage in today is eating the Lord's Supper. Jesus instituted the supper the night he was betrayed and New Testament Christians in the 1st Century ate the supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7, 11; I Cor. 11:23-30).

Bible study, prayer, giving, singing and eating the Lord's Supper are the five avenues of worship authorized in the New Testament. And since we are not to go beyond the things written (I Cor. 4:6), we cannot scripturally add to or take away from those things that are authorized. To change God's word is soul damming (Gal. 1:6-9). Even if an angel from heaven changed one part of God's law, that angel would be anathema. Ours is not to question or change. Ours is to obey.

Someone may say, "You have gone through several books of the New Testament to find the five items of worship. I think you should not do that." I know of no verse that contains all five avenues of worship though Acts 2:42 does contain four of the five. There is the apostles doctrine (Bible study), the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper), the prayers and fellowship (contribution or giving). Permit me to carry this point a bit further.

If one should object to several passages being used to point out what is true and acceptable worship he should note the following. Under the Mosaic system a lamb had to be offered at the Passover feast. There were numerous rules or laws regarding the offering of that lamb but in no single place are all of the laws regarding such listed. In Deut. 16:1-8 we find instructions concerning the Passover. We are told that the feast is to be in the month of Abib, but the passage does not say which day. And to have been on the wrong day would have been as much in error as to have been in the wrong month. We have to go elsewhere to find out the day of the month. Again, the passage cited says that the victim should be of the flock or the herd, but it does not say that it must be a lamb (thus a goat could have been from the flock or herd), and the passage does not say that the lamb must be without spot and blemish nor does it state that it must be of the first year. We must go to other passages to learn these tremendously important points. To have offered anything other than a lamb of the first year without blemish would have been sin. But again, the passage does not say that the animal should be roasted whole, that bitter herbs were to be eaten with it as well as unleavened bread, nor does it prescribe that no bone of its body should be broken. The passage says nothing at all about the burnt-offerings which were to be offered every day of the Passover week. Not nearly half of the legal requirements for the feast are mentioned in Deuteronomy. To learn all of what must be done to please Jehovah one must search out other passages which deal with the feast of the Passover. Therefore, one should not pause for even a moment when he learns that God, likewise, did not list every item of worship for the New Testament church in a single passage.

Just as important as the avenues are the attitudes. Much of worship is mental and it must be participated in in a correct manner. To simply listen to a preacher, to bow the head during prayer, to give some money, to eat the
I am thankful that the Bible identifies both false and true worship. I am thankful that we are told what we must do and how we must do it. May we have the courage and the conviction to avoid the false and seek after and follow the truth.

Promise Yourself

CURTIS E. SAMPLEY

Gordon Smith, a friend of mine in Gadsden, recently listed the following virtues as worthy of our serious consideration. They are as follows:

Promise yourself:

1. To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

2. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to everyone you meet.

3. To make all your friends feel that there is something good in them.

4. To look at the sunny side of everything and work to make your optimism come true.

5. To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

6. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own success.

7. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

8. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

9. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 177
Worship: 192
Evening: 169
Wednesday: 146
Contribution: $2694

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $17.00; (1) $18.00; (3) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $32.00; (1) $37.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $46.00; (3) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $59.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $109.00; (2) $120.00; (1) $175.00; (1) $200.00. CURRENCY: (30) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $5.79. TOTAL: $2,694.79.

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SICK

Ray Dodd is still in West Florida hospital.
Debbie Howland is now home from the hospital.
Eddie Hardin and Ada Belle Coe are still shut-in.

Let us remember these and others in our prayers. If you cannot visit the sick, send cards or call.
The following articles are by Bob Howton and Jerry Fausz. Bob is an elder for the Church of Christ in Cotontdale, Alabama and Jerry is the preacher. This congregation presently supports three of our students in the Preacher Training School. From time to time we will be printing "Today's Thought", all are written by brother Howton.

**Turn The Lights Off But Not The Church**

**JERRY FAUSZ**

"Turn the lights off" is something I heard often as a boy. It was not long before I got the message. As a matter of fact, it is not uncommon to hear the same words in my home today. Why not! It saves energy and is less expensive. Neglect or waste results from taking things for granted. How much do you practice energy conservation?

The situation is somewhat different where the church is concerned. Some turn the lights off every time they are away and/or not present at services. Do you get the point? Lights on and not being used is wasteful. However, the work of the church must continue. This simply means--one's contribution (which belongs to God) must be given on the first day of the week (every week) regardless (I Cor. 16:2). How much practice do you have in CONSISTENTLY giving what belongs to God?

The blessings from God in Christ are without end (Eph. 1:3). These are not to be taken for granted. God gives and gives (John 3:16). It is the
precious blood of Christ which made the Church a reality (Acts 20:28). God
gives each the ability to live (Acts 17:28). The blood of Christ continues
to cleanse, therefore, let us give and increase our giving whenever pos-
sible. It was the Lamb of God that was sacrificed for the sins of the
world. This truth radiates hope. Let us determine to give all that we pos-
sibly can and then sacrifice some.

By all means, turn your lights off and lock the door when you leave, but
remember the work of the Church must continue. Make it your business to
secure your home but the Church must also be loved. Always leave that which
belongs to God. It is your business. Practice towards perfection.

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Visitation Causes Growth
JERRY FAUSZ

It has become obvious that our visitation is on the increase. There is
nothing more stimulating than to have Christians and friends come to visit
in your home. Apparently several in our congregation are really trying to
initiate New Testament Christians by visiting and encouraging others from
"house to house" (Acts 2:46; 20:20). Visiting is the best medicine for
spiritual growing cramps and stimulating interest. May God help us to con-
tinue this wonderful work.

LOVEST THOU ME?

"I love thy church, O God,
Her walls before me stand,"
But please excuse my absence;
This bed is simply grand.

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;"
But Lord, no cash from me--
Thy glory comes too high.

"I am a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the lamb,"
Yes, though I seldom pay or pray,
I still insist I am.

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?"
Now others Lord, should do their part,
But please don't call on me.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below"
Lord, my hymns of praise I bring,
Because it doesn't cost to sing.
We started to Bible study the other morning and to our surprise, the car wouldn't crank. The battery was down. You know how it is. The battery was guaranteed for 48 months and we'd had it less than a year. There was no prior notice. Nothing! Just one measly whir and then nothing. Fortunately, I had another battery fully charged and a set of jumper cables. We made it to Bible study but only by the skin of our teeth. If my second battery had been down, we'd have been in a heap of trouble. If I hadn't had some jumper cables, we'd have been in trouble, too. In fact, if we hadn't had the additional help, we'd have been late.

A battery is somewhat like a human mind. It usually lasts for a reasonable period of time and during that time, it must be cared for properly or it will not be able to perform as desired when the need arises. A battery which is set aside and neglected is sure to be a disappointment when called into action. Just so, the human mind must be cared for, nurtured and maintained properly if it is to be worth having when a need arises.

I think of some of the brethren who absent themselves from Bible study and the worship services, as I draw a parallel to this battery. Take a family with children, for example. The children are never taken to Bible study classes. They get no spiritual enrichment at home and certainly none at the public school where they're enrolled. Spiritually speaking, they're dead batteries. Why? Because the ones who're supposed to be "charging" them daily with spiritual power are neglecting their duty. These same parents would never disconnect the "hot" wire running from their car's alternator to the battery and just leave it unhooked. They know what would happen. Why, then, would they continually keep their precious children out of Bible study classes? It kinda sounds like whatever it is that supplies the power to their thinking got unplugged somewhere along the line. For shame!! Let us be more careful with these precious and eternal souls and keep them fully charged at all times.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 177
Worship: 184
Evening: 162
Wednesday: 148
Contribution: $1774

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (2) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (2) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (4) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $37.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $59.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00.
CURRENCY: (30) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $5.77. TOTAL: $1,774.77.

SICK

A number of our members were out last week due to various illnesses. We hope all are better and will be able to be back in services with us this week. Our shut-ins remain the same.

Let us remember to pray for these and others. Also if you cannot visit the sick, send cards or call. Anything you can do will be appreciated.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

Shelby Nall - whose brother Olen died Friday, February 1st.

Howard Johnson - whose grandmother died in Alabama.

Mary Hughes - whose sister-in-law died in Texas.

Harold Maxey - whose mother died Sunday, February 10th. Her funeral will be in Bowling Green, Kentucky on Wednesday.

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THEOPHILUS

I know God wants us to give according to our prosperity. I just haven't prospered.

Why, even with my overtime I haven't got my new boat paid for.

And I've got vacation and entertainment expenses, then there's the payments on my cars and...

...the TV repair bill, I've got to replace that five iron I broke, not to mention the...

-28-
Recently in doing some research, I came across the following article by Alan E. Highers. It appeared in the FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIAN, July, 1967. As I read it, I wondered if we had corrected any of the problems in the 12 1/2 years since it was written. I do not believe we have. In fact, it appears that the situation has worsened. I publish it for your reading and meditation. May God help to reverse the situation described therein. [JGP]

ARE WE FAILING TO PREACH THE WHOLE TRUTH?

Alan E. Highers

The following figures were recently called to my attention as having come from Brother Guy N. Woods, based upon his many years of experience and observation in full-time meeting work:

1. 40 per cent of our brotherhood attends only one service a week.
2. 50 per cent do not know why we do not use instrumental music.
3. 25 per cent of the above 50 per cent would not mind the use of instrumental music.
4. 10 per cent of our brotherhood believes that one church is as good as another.
5. 95 per cent do not subscribe to a religious paper.
6. 75 per cent cannot find the plan of salvation in the New Testament.
My observations are not nearly so widespread as those of Brother Woods, but what I have seen, and especially in recent months, would tend to confirm his statistics. It is indeed a serious situation that deserves thoughtful consideration.

Lack of Knowledge

A quick glance at the list above will show that these deficiencies, with one possible exception, result from a lack of knowledge. The possible exception would be the large number not receiving a religious paper, which would be due to a lack of desire for knowledge. Remember the judgement and the prophets: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6). "Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge" (Isa. 5:13). The truth will make people free only when they know the truth (John 8:32). A lack of knowledge today will mean spiritual captivity and destruction.

The responsibility for this condition must be placed in a large measure upon elders and preachers. Elders have the obligation to supervise the teaching that is done to the church (Acts 20:28). They will have to give account of the souls under their care (Heb. 13:17). If preachers do not present a balanced study of both doctrinal and practical matters, elders should bring it to their attention and ask them to declare "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). It is unfortunate when elders do not provide for teaching that is directed toward the specific needs of the people within the congregation.

Responsibility of Preachers

Preachers, as those most often before the congregation in a public way, have both the opportunity and the duty to teach that which people need to hear (II Tim. 4:1-4). If one-half the people in the church do not know why we do not use instrumental music, then it is most likely the preacher who is failing to discharge his God-given responsibility. Too many preachers seem to assume the attitude: "People have heard sermons over and over on instrumental music and the plan of salvation. They are not interested in these themes." Some even seem to feel there is not enough "depth" in these subjects to manifest their superior knowledge and talent. It must be remembered that a new generation is ever arising, and that these fundamental themes must be preached again and again for their benefit. It only requires one untaught generation to bring about a full-scale apostasy from the church.

The present emphasis upon higher education among preachers may be one cause of the neglect toward these fundamental themes. According to a recent issue of CHRISTIANITY TODAY, "...a critical and unbelieving approach toward the Bible is at the root of theological education today." True, not many of the preachers themselves are receiving such a "theological education," but some of their teachers are. Some very fine men, who have received liberal theological educations, and who are now teaching in some Christian colleges, give evidence in their teaching of the liberal influence upon them. They
are giving forth, in fact, with an uncertain sound. It is obvious, there­fore, that men cannot preach convincingly upon such themes as the New Testa­ment church, the plan of salvation, and instrumental music, if they them­selves are not fully convinced!

Perhaps the greatest fault of preachers as a whole is the failure to make their preaching Bible-centered! There are some who try to make their preaching "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," but teach very little of the scriptures. The scholarly pioneer, Moses E. Lard, stated of such men in his day: "They are very clerical in bearing, soft in speech, and languid and effeminate in spirit. They are poets and ladies men, exquisites in parlors, and never condemn anything except their brethren....They are 'beautiful' men, and preach 'beautiful' sermons. Their prayers are 'beautiful' things, their songs 'beautiful' songs. Moreover, they are very abstract men, and the aesthetic, the moral, the true, the beautiful, and the good are very fond phrases in their bloodless and virtuous lips." Needless to say, all such preachers were not confined to Lard's day. Some of their tribe still linger with us today.

I am reminded of the preacher who criticized other preachers for dealing so much in first principles and doctrinal discussions. He insisted they should "exalt the BEAUTY of Christianity." Strangely enough, the man could not see that by proclaiming the doctrine of Christ and the apostles, the real beauty, unity, and harmony of Christianity was in fact, being exalted! It is that very beauty that has led hundreds and thousands of truth-seekers to forsake the bewilderment and confusion of sectarianism and to obey the gospel of Christ! May we ever uphold the beauty of truth and righteousness!

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BIBLE LAND LECTURES

Brother Frank Swaim will be here Thursday, February 28, to begin his lec­tures on the Holy Land. These lectures will deal with geographical points of interest, historical points of significance and important archaeological finds. The lectures will begin at 1:00 P.M. Anyone interested should plan to attend. I hope that many from Bellview will attend these lectures. No doubt, one's appreciation and understanding of God's Word will be increased by being here.

-31-
Our Record

Bible Classes: 158
Worship: 193
Evening: 162
Wednesday: 144
Contribution: $1667

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (2) $12.00; (2) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (3) $20.00; (3) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (8) $30.00; (1) $37.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $77.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00.

CURRENCY: (32) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $5.87. TOTAL: $1,667.87.

HOSPITALIZED

Neil Nicholson is in Sacred Heart Hospital, Room 428. He suffered a heart attack Sunday evening.

SICK

Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still at home. They would appreciate visits, calls, and cards. Rick Jones is now home from the hospital. His wife Becky and their children were unable to be with us Sunday due to illness. Let us remember all the sick in our prayers.

Our congratulations to Gail Meredith on the arrival Saturday afternoon (1 pm) of Amber Lee. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 7 oz. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Lynn Stokes placed her membership with Bellview Sunday evening. Her address is Bob's Trailer Court, 4967 Mobile Hwy., Pensacola, 32506. She will be in Zone 7.

The Bible... it's your best life insurance policy
COMMERCIAL RELIGION and ORAL ROBERTS

MAX PATTERSON

Rarely has anyone been more successful in raising money than Oral Roberts. One might claim correctly that he is an expert at mass-media marketing, using the best known techniques of money-raising and psychology. But what is Oral Roberts like on a personal level? Is he off camera like he is on camera? These and many other questions are answered in a new book entitled Prime Time Religion by Jerry Sholes. Sholes worked very closely with Roberts for three and one-half years.

Following are some observations from Sholes that gives several interesting insights into this person and the type of psychology he uses.

1. Roberts' book, Seed-Faith, is based upon one principle--give independently from your need--and expect a miracle back from God. This book, along with others, generally contain examples of people who gave Roberts money and then got their miracles. In all of his books he advises, "You give first and then expect miracles in your life."

2. Roberts' miracles are exposed as fakes. Sholes writes about those who came to Roberts for healing: "If faith could have brought them up out of those wheelchairs, they would have come out and been ready to run a 50-yard dash on the spot! It never happened."

"Oh, once in a while someone would get up out of a wheelchair and limp off the stage. But I'd seen them a day or two before get out of their wheelchairs to get into cars or go into the restroom. They weren't total and incurable wheelchair cases. They merely needed the wheelchairs for comfort because of the particular illness they had. They could, however, get up and walk short distances if they had to, or if they really wanted to."

-33-
They really wanted to for Oral, so they'd do it and then return to their wheelchairs backstage. It was a dog and pony show."

3. Sholes tells of a faculty member at Oral Roberts University that had a young baby to become seriously ill. The faculty member apparently decided to really put prayer to the test and prayed for the child, while at the same time refusing to take the baby to the hospital. Well, the baby died, right in the home.

The story gets worse. Through fasting and praying the couple tried to bring the infant back to life. They requested Oral Roberts to also pray for the child. A certain ORU Vice-President described Oral's reaction as, "He wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot pole."

I think you must agree, given what Roberts has always claimed to be and able to do, that his reaction is, to say the least, shocking. The same Vice-President that reported Roberts "wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot pole" related, "A story like that would ruin Oral. The press would crucify him." Oral would not even go near the faculty member's home.

4. Sholes describes at length the personal aspects of the man. He wears $500 plus Brioni suits and drives $25,000 cars that are replaced every six months. He enjoys a million-dollar home in Palm Springs, California, in addition to his very expensive home in Tulsa and his farm near Tulsa complete with cattle. He is a member of an ultra-posh Thunderbird Country Club which both he and his son joined when memberships were only $20,000. Artists have used an air brush on his photographs to hide the diamond rings and solid gold bracelets he's taken to wearing. When you step into his plush office, you have to look up at him seated behind a desk on a raised, dais-like area.

5. On the sordid side, Sholes describes the drinking done by staff members at ORU, including Roberts' son, Richard. He tells of Oral's temper tantrums that he throws. His wife sometimes hides his car keys when he throws a tantrum, afraid of what he might do while in such a state, either to himself or to others. Sholes describes at length Roberts' ego that must be constantly fed, and no one is to cross him. He describes how the plans for the City of Faith were discussed and worked out seven months before Roberts got on National TV and said the Lord had just given him a vision on what to build and the name by which it was to be called.

The purpose of Sholes' book is not only to expose Oral Roberts, but to warn all of the little people who send in their dollars and five dollars where their money is going. He points out that it would be much better if the money were kept locally. Also, Sholes thinks some kind of regulation is in order to prevent this kind of fleecing of the public.

(Incidentally, after the book was published, Mr. Sholes was so savagely beaten, but not robbed, in a Tulsa parking lot that plastic surgery was required to repair his face.)

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Be Present Every Sunday!

IN BIBLE SCHOOL

-34-
There are many fine publications in our brotherhood. Here at Bellview, brother Cline edits *The Defender* and we also print *Biblical Notes* by brother Roy Deaver. Anyone who has read these two publications knows of their dedication to truth. These two publications are free and should be on the reading list of every concerned Christian. Another excellent publication is *The Spiritual Sword*. Brother Thomas Warren is the editor of the publication. His name is synonymous with soundness. *The Spiritual Sword* is published quarterly by the Getwell Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee. The cost is only $3.00 per year. The articles are superb. For example, the theme of the past issue was "The Baptist Churches." In my opinion, it is the best concise expose on the Baptists that can be found. Articles in this issue deal with the origin and history of Baptists, doctrines of Baptists, and a conclusion. After having read this issue, I made the statement to our elders that members of the church would do well to get this issue and use it as a tract to their Baptist friends. Single issues are only 75¢ each. I hope that congregations will order 50-100 copies and make them available to their members to use. Brethren Warren and Elkins are deserving of commendation and we gladly commend them. To order your issue write:

Getwell Church of Christ
1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

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**BIBLE LAND LECTURES**

Don't forget that brother Frank Swaim will be here Thursday, February 28, to begin his lectures on the Holy Land. The lectures are from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Make your plans to attend. If you miss the first Thursday, come and be present the following two Thursdays (March 6 and 13).
Our Record
Bible Classes: 197
Worship: 216
Evening: 200
Wednesday: 148
Contribution: $2071

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (5)
$10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (1)
$18.00; (3) $20.00; (3) $23.00; (2)
$25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $37.00; (1)
$38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (3)
$50.00; (1) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1)
$62.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $77.00; (1)
$85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $100.00; (1)
$102.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $159.00.
CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (11) $5.00;
(2) $10.00. CHANGE: $9.91. TOTAL
CONTRIBUTION: $2,071.91.

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RESPONSES

Teresa Orr came forward Sunday evening requesting the prayers of
the congregation.

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MARCH TO BIBLE SCHOOL IN MARCH
The Tendency To Compromise

M. C. Kurfees

Many years ago, brother M. C. Kurfees wrote a series of three articles which appeared in the Gospel Advocate. In 1929, the articles were printed in booklet form. They were titled, "The Need of Continued Emphasis On The Restoration of the Ancient Order." Brother Kurfees had the desire to write these articles but time and duties had prohibited until he received a letter from brother Price Billingsley requesting that he write along those same lines. Brother Billingsley was concerned about the compromises that were being made by children of God. Upon receiving this request of brother Billingsley, brother Kurfees then wrote the three articles. His first article was titled "The Common Tendency Among Religious People in All The Ages to Compromise With Error." We greatly need this article today; therefore we reprint it. (JGP)

According to this outline, the common tendency in question, as the heading of the present article indicates, first demands our attention. It is an indisputable and significant fact that in all the ages of God's recorded dealings with man, His people have exhibited, in some form or other, the tendency to compromise with error. This tendency is not always flagrant nor even very manifest on the surface, but the tendency, nevertheless, has always existed. Like the pendulum of a clock swinging to and fro, the people of God have swung from one extreme to another, sometimes clinging tenaciously to the word and way of God and sometimes drifting away from His word and way and following their own ways. It is true that, in all periods of religious history. Some of the people have, in the main, been true to God and were ready at all times to defend His truth and speak out boldly against all
recognized departures from it. Hence, distributed in different periods, there have almost always been the Hezekiahs, the Jehoshaphats, the Josiahs, and those of the type of John the Baptist and the Apostles John, Peter, and Paul to life their clarion voices in defense of God's word and way, and to speak out with equal boldness against the ways and devices of men; but there have also been those like Ahab, Ahaz, Ahazia, Jehoram, Jeroboam, Manasseh, Omri, and Zedekiah, who ignored the order of God and led the people in rebellion against His authority; and still again, there have sometimes been those who, like Amaziah, Azariah, and Asa, were sometimes right and sometimes wrong, following the Lord in some things and departing from His will in other things.

Now, instead of men with this fluctuating, vacillating, and wavering tendency to compromise with wrong, the world has always needed men, and sadly needs them today, who, like a stone wall, resolutely stand always and everywhere for the right and against the wrong; men who are willing to say with the indomitable and peerless Paul: "Christ shall be magnified in my body whether by life, or by death" (Phil. 1:20); men who, with the happy contentment of complete resignation to the will of God, can join the illustrious apostle in the added and significant reason for his brave course: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). What sublime courage! What heroic faith! What enduring patience! What magnificent resignation! Men of such character exemplify the inspired admonition to "hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not" (Heb. 10:23), and their example is worthy of all imitation by the Christians of every age.

We are now prepared to consider the fact that all religious denominations and all denominationalism and partyism in religion of every description are traceable to this tendency. It is the one prolific source out of which, without exception, they have all come; and hence, nothing will ever stop or even materially check the tide of denominationalism and division among the followers of Christ until men stop yielding to this baleful tendency; and before we complete the present investigation, I think we shall see the one and only way by which it can ever be stopped. We should not have error, in any form, mixed with the truth; and hence, while we should always be considerate and respectful as well as kind and courteous in dealing with honest advocates and propagators of error, we should, nevertheless, be careful to point out to them plainly and unmistakably what God says and whereinsoever denominationalism or anything else is a departure therefrom. This is one of the crying and pressing needs of the present hour. Not only is there today with conflicting sects and sectarianism on every hand the urgent "need for a reaffirmation of gospel cardinals," but so long as there are sinners to save and people to be delivered from the confusion and entanglements of denominationalism, so long will it be necessary to preach the gospel of the Son of God in all its fullness.

To illustrate, there is just as much need in our time to set forth and defend the fundamental truths of God's word as there was when it was so ably done by Alexander Campbell in his debate with Robert Owen on the Evidences of Christianity in 1829; in his debate with Bishop Purcell on the Roman Catholic Religion in 1837; and in his debate with N. L. Rice on baptism and other vital themes in 1843; or when the equal faithfulness it was done by Benjamin Franklin in his debate with James Matthews on "Predestination and the Foreknowledge of God" in 1852; and in his debate with Joel Hume on "Hereditary Total Depravity" in 1853; or when it was done by Clark Braden in the Braden and Hughey debate in 1868; or by L. B. Wilkes in the Wilkes-Ditzler or Louisville debate in 1870. The demand for these seven famous de-
bates from 1829 to 1870 was brought about largely by the aggressive, uncompromising, and unyielding fight waged by the faithful and fearless preachers of the time against denominationalism and all other forms of division among the people of God; and similar results would doubtless follow today if all the preachers professing to be undenominational were still making the same aggressive, uncompromising, and unyielding fight. Of course the truth of the Bible is precisely the same now that it was then, and error is just as rampant and many-sided on every hand now as it was then. The trouble today's there is too great a let-up among the preachers in waging war against error in any and all forms. On the other hand, the people other than the preachers in many instances, like ancient Israel, "will not hear the law of Jehovah" but say in effect: "Prophesy not unto us right things; speak unto us smooth things" (Isa. 30:9, 10); and, in some instances, Jehovah can say today as He said then: "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and, My people love to have it so" (Jer. 5:31); and thus the tendency is to compromise, which is always and everywhere wrong where the issue is a question of truth or error. Let it be stated here with all possible emphasis that whenever and wherever churches "slacken in dealing with the unruly" and preachers "speak but to praise and preach inoffensively," then and there is a compromise with error and the cause of God is made to suffer. No matter what may be the preacher's learning, he must surrender to nothing in religion but the word of God. Proper education in schools and colleges is all right, but nothing in literature or science must be "elevated to the authority of the word of God," but, on the contrary, in the preacher's hands, all learning in any and all lines should be made subservient to the faithful proclamation of that word.

Hence, I here respectfully call attention to the fact that the crying need, in the present religious situation, is a faithful, pointed, full, and reserved proclamation of God's word, not only as it was so ably set forth in the famous debates mentioned and in others that might be mentioned, but as it was then so faithfully proclaimed both orally in the general evangelistic field and by the pens of such men as Tolbert Fanning, John Smith, Walter Scott, Dr. Robert Richardson, John T. Johnson, Samuel Rogers, John I. Rogers, Jacob Creath, Philip S. Fall, Aylett Raines, John Allen Gano, Benjamin Franklin, Elijah Goodwin, Moses E. Lard, and many others of the period long ago, to say nothing of its equally faithful proclamation by both tongue and pen of the heroic spirits nearer our own time, such as the lamented I. B. Grubbs, J. W. McGarvey, John F. Rowe, David Lipscomb, E. G. Sewell, James A. Harding, and many others too numerous to mention by name. Some of the great men that have been enumerated pursued a course on some lines which some of us cannot fully endorse, but all of them were uncompromising defenders of the Bible as the inspired word of God, and were committed to the plea for a restoration of the "ancient order;" but this is precisely our duty now as much as it was their duty then. Never was it more important to turn the light of God's word on the isms and schisms of men than it is now. Hence let every "soldier of Jesus Christ" stand aloof from all denominationalism and from all factions, "put on the whole armor of God," and "fight the good fight of the faith." While it is entirely proper to "co-operate" sometimes even with those in error on some things, provided we do so in a way not to uphold any error, yet we should never "cooperate with sectarianists," nor with anybody else in any way or to any extent whatever that upholds anything not in accordance with the word of God.

As to working through any mortal or religious institution aside from the church, if preachers and all other Christians will give proper attention to the New Testament, they will find that there is no possible moral or religi-
ous good which they cannot do simply as members of the church of the living God, and that, so far as this high end is concerned, they will find no time to "work through lodges and glory in politics." I have often proposed to the representatives and leaders of other institutions that, if they would name some moral or religious good which I cannot do as a member of the church of God, but which I could do in their institutions, then I would promptly join. No such thing has ever yet been named or pointed out to me, and for the very simple reason that there is no such thing. From the Christian point of view, this fact is a complete refutation of the claim that any such institution, aside from the church, is necessary. Hence, there should be no compromise here, but faithful and unceasing adherence to the truth.

Of course in all such contentions for the truth against error, we should be courteous, and gentle, and kind, but wherever "there is a craving for smooth things" at the expense of the truth, we should remember the inspired injunction to "fight the good fight of the faith" (I Tim. 6:12) and "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). In the immortal words of that famous slogan adopted by the reformatory leaders of over a century ago, and which remained the slogan of their successors for about forty years, we should still, with all the eloquence that we can command, say to the world: "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; and where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent." As an infallibly safe rule for the guidance of men in all their religious faith and practice, no greater uninspired oracle, in my judgment, was ever proclaimed to the world. Constant and unswerving fidelity to that famous utterance will not only forestall any and all strife and division resulting from speculations on unrevealed things, but it will always and everywhere point the way to good success and will lead to ultimate victory.

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Our Record

| Bible Classes | 152 |
| Worship       | 186 |
| Evening       | 171 |
| Wednesday     | 154 |
| Contribution  | $2568 |

Our Sick

Neil Nicholson and Dawn Davis will enter Sacred Heart Hospital on Wednesday for surgery on Thursday. Let us remember them in our prayers.

-40-
Brother J. W. McGarvey, who, the London Times once said had the most thorough and profound knowledge of the English Bible of any man on earth, said, "I wonder if any of us has ever realized what it is to commit sin. I believe that I would esteem above every other gift that could be bestowed upon me as a preacher, the power to adequately conceive what sin is, and to adequately set it before the people. A number of times in my ministrations, I have prepared sermons designed to set forth the enormity of sin; but I have every time felt that I made a failure. I found, I thought, two causes of the failure: first, a want of realization in my own soul of the enormity of it; and second, inability to gather up such words and such figures of speech, as would, with anything like adequacy, set it forth before my hearer. The pleasures of sin have blinded our eyes to its enormity."

I am fearful that brother McGarvey was correct when he pointed out that very few of us really realize the awfulness of sin. This fact is seen by the refusal of some to label sin as sin. Some call it weakness, others label it as disease but God's Word calls it transgression and iniquity. We have, for the most part, minimized the awfulness of sin by not calling sin, sin. We have been told by the liberals that "sin" sounds too harsh; thus less offensive nomenclature has been adopted. We have sugar coated sin and made it look fascinating and fashionable. Lust is now called love, lying is called coloring the truth, drunkenness is called alcoholism, pornography is called art, and cursing is referred to as emphatic speech. Truly, according to some, it is hard to find an old-fashioned sinner. Paul says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor
drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." Paul warned against being deceived and how we need to heed the warning. When we get to the point that we think the standards of God are old fashioned and out of date, and when we get to the point that we no longer believe that sin is something evil, or something awful, but rather something desirable, then brethren we have gotten to the point of being deceived. We need to quit minimizing sin, and start calling sin by its right name. We need to quit pulling the punches and start making it plain that sin is sin, and that sin is awful.

The awfulness of sin can be seen in the Law of Moses. One of the purposes of the law was to point out the awfulness of sin. Gal. 3; Rom. 7. A casual glance at the Old Testament reveals that breaking the law, in some cases, brought the penalty of death by stoning. A rebellious child was to be stoned, Deut. 21:18-21; those who cursed and blasphemed the name of God were to be stoned, Lev. 24:10-16; and homosexuality and immorality were punished, cf. Lev. 18-20. What if this were practiced today? If this law were enforced today, our population would be greatly decreased. But the principle in these Old Testament accounts has to be that God is pointing out to us that sin is awful and cannot be tolerated. Thus, the Law of Moses reveals the awfulness of sin.

The Cross of Calvary also reveals the awfulness of sin. Had there been no sin, there would have been no calvary. Thus, when we treat sin lightly, we are treating the cross lightly. Christ went to the cross to satisfy the demands of justice. God does not ignore sin, Gen. 2:16-17. Only Christ's blood could remove sin; hence, He was the only fit substitute, Heb. 9:11-14. Christ died on the cross for the sins of mankind. The blood of God's only begotten Son had to be shed in order that man could be reconciled to God. At the Cross of Calvary, God reveals to us the awfulness of sin. All the money in the world and all the education in the world could not remove sin. It took the cross, not any cross, but the Cross of Calvary. It took the Cross of Calvary where Jesus cried out and said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The cross reveals the awfulness of sin.

Let's not deceive ourselves. Let's call sin, sin. Let's realize the awfulness of sin as revealed in the law and the cross. We can't do wrong and get by. Sin is still as awful as it ever was in the eyes of God.
'FUNNY'

FUNNY how $10 looks so big when you take it to worship, but so small when you take it to the supermarket.

FUNNY how reading the church bulletin is a real chore, but reading a 30 page newspaper every day is a habit you've grown to enjoy.

FUNNY how long an hour is in worship, but how short it is when golfing, fishing, or attending a ball game.

FUNNY how we applaud when the ball game goes into overtime, but we complain if the worship hour is 5 minutes longer than usual.

FUNNY how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible but how easy it is to read a 300 page novel.

FUNNY, but there will be some people who won't think this is "FUNNY".
Our Record
Bible Classes: 161
Worship: 201
Evening: 180
Wednesday: 141
Contribution: $2147

HOW WE GAVE

3/2/80 - CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (3) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (5) $25.00; (1) $26.00; (6) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (3) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (3) $60.00; (2) $62.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $109.00; (3) $120.00; (1) $135.00; (1) $200.00. CURRENCY: (34) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $8.52. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,568.02.

3/9/80 - CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $18.00; (3) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (2) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (6) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (5) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $54.00; (1) $55.00; (3) $60.00; (2) $62.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $248.00. CURRENCY: (36) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $5.79. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,147.79.

Our congratulations to William and Jean Cline on the arrival of Rebecca Beth. She was born on Tuesday, March 4th at 4:30 A.M. and weighed 8 lbs. ½ oz. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

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Our Sick

Neil Nicholson is still in Sacred Heart Hospital. Mary Matthey and Dawn Davis are now home from the hospital.

Ada Belle Cofe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in and would appreciate visits, calls, and cards.

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THE FIELDS ARE WHITE ALREADY UNTO HARVEST
HINDERING GOD’S WORD

JOHN G. PRIOLA

In I Cor. 9:12, Paul says that he suffered all things lest the gospel of Christ should be hindered. In the immediate context he has reference to his foregoing of the Corinthians financial support. And he says he has done that lest the gospel should be hindered. Then in Gal. 5:7, he says to the Galatians, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" Once again, another reference to the truth or the gospel being hindered. Thus, it should be obvious to all that the gospel can be hindered and there are Biblical examples of God's work being hindered in all ages. As an illustration stop and consider the events recorded in the book of Ezra. In chapter one Cyrus issues his decree that the people of Judah could return and build the temple once again. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel many returned and commenced work on the temple. But in chapter four God's adversaries attempted to hinder the building of the temple. They sought to hinder the rebuilding of the temple in three ways: (1) by trying to deceive the Jews into compromise - "Let us build with you" 4:2; (2) by open hindrance - "they weakened the hands of the people of Judah" 4:4; and (3) by misrepresentation - "they hired counsellors against them" 4:5. The work was halted until Darius issued his decree in chapter six allowing its completion. In the book of Nehemiah, God's word is hindered in rebuilding the wall.

What are some of the ways that God's Word can be hindered in this day and age? Division certainly hinders the gospel. We ought to be a people who are firmly united upon God's Word. Jesus prayed for unity, Jn. 17:20-23. Paul pled for unity in I Cor. 1:10. Where division begins, unity ceases. Brethren need to be able to sit down and reach solutions to problems. We need to take God's Word and search it for the answer to any problem that exists and then abide by its teaching. Division separates families and the church is the family of God. Congregations that are pulling against each
other cannot work together. I know of a congregation right here in Florida that will never grow until it corrects its division within its own membership. They have lost the respect of the community and are, no doubt, dead in the eyes of God. Paul in writing to the church at Philippi said, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ; that, whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Emphasis mine, JGP) Brethren ought to be united upon God's Word and not let division be a hindrance to the gospel.

Striving for power and authority within a congregation also hinders the gospel. How many congregations have you known that have been torn asunder because of some "power struggle" in the eldership, or between the preacher and the eldership. The desire for power and authority was the problem in Mk. 9:33-37. The disciples were disputing among themselves as to who should be the greatest. Jesus told them in Matt. 18:4 "Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven." Members need to follow the teaching of Heb. 13:17 and "obey them which have the rule over you and submit yourselves." I am not talking about following others in doing wrong. None of us should do that. I have reference to things that are simply a matter of judgment and "one has to have their way or else." The problem with Diotrephes was that he loved to have the pre-eminence. That simply means he had a fondness for being first. We have those in our ranks today, and as a result the gospel is hindered.

Lack of Christian growth hinders the gospel. Some people who have been members of the church for years still use the language of Ashdod. For example, some say, "there's my pastor" in reference to the preacher, others talk about someone "joining" the church when they obey the gospel, etc. We are instructed that as newborn babes we should desire or long for the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby, I Peter 2:2. We need more of a "longing for" the word. We need effective teaching programs with teachers who are prepared. One of the problems that prevailed in the church at Corinth was that they had not grown like they should have. Lack of Christian growth hinders the gospel.

Those who have gone back into the world also hinder the gospel of Christ. Congregations have, for the most part, failed in heeding God's instructions of discipline, II Thess. 3:6. As a result, many times non-members will tell you that they are as good as brother or sister so and so and all we can do is drop our heads. They evaluate their lives by the lives of wayward members and do not see the need of the gospel. People are more influenced by what they see than hear. It is show me instead of tell me, and when we allow backsliders to go undisciplined they hinder the gospel.

The lack of sound doctrine is another hindrance to the gospel. Today, maybe more than ever, we need our pulpits to be ringing loud with sound doctrine! We need to indoctrinate our people once again. We need sound doctrine concerning the church. We need to let others know that the church is not a "big sick denomination." In fact, we need to teach that the church is not a denomination at all! We need sound doctrine on the distinctive nature of the church. We need sound doctrine on the worship of the church. That will teach our people the sinfulness of the mechanical instrument in worship service. One of the reasons the church is in the shape it is in today is that sound doctrine has been absent.

Let us not be found guilty of hindering the gospel.
Be Courteous

Freedom is a wonderful thing. Many have died for it. Millions who never had it have longed for it. However, if individual freedom is carried to an extreme, it becomes selfishness. We must never allow our desire for personal freedom to interfere with the rights and wishes of others. The Christian should especially be concerned about the effect his actions have on those about him.

Paul urged that "in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3). This attitude would cause Christians to be the most considerate and polite people in the world. Peter commanded Christians to be courteous (I Peter 3:8). Christian people should constantly strive to be considerate to everyone. This should especially be true in our worship services. Many times, however, we forget to show common respect for others in the four areas discussed below:

1. TALKING DURING SERVICES. When we whisper and talk to each other or pass notes during worship, we disturb those around us. Of course we are also failing to worship properly ourselves. Let us develop a more reverent attitude in our worship and reserve our visiting until after the services.

2. CRYING OR FRETTING BABIES. It is natural for babies to cry, and some normal fretting usually goes unnoticed. However, when the crying is prolonged, it is considerate for the mother to remove the baby from the assembly. Our nursery is provided for this purpose. When the child is quieted, he can be brought back into the assembly where he can learn to take part. Mothers should not feel it is more disruptive to take the child out than to let him cry.

3. TALKING IN THE NURSERY. Some seem to feel the nursery is a place for visiting and talking even during worship time. A loud speaker has been provided so the services can be heard there and participated in by the mothers who have to be there. When anyone insists on talking and visiting, that person is not being considerate to those who want to worship. Remember to maintain as much of the atmosphere of the auditorium as possible.

4. WALKING OUT DURING THE INVITATION. When the congregation stands to sing the invitation song it is a very solemn time. We are appealing to those who need to respond to do so. When some of our members walk to the back and out of the door, it is quite distracting. One who has seriously considered responding may be disturbed and distracted. He may find it easier to hold back. Our thoughtlessness may have caused someone not to obey the Lord that day. Surely we can wait a few more minutes, until the services are over before we leave.

Let us all strive to be considerate of one another in our worship services and in every way. This follows the teachings of the New Testament and the example of Jesus.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 180
Worship : 203
Evening : 171
Wednesday : 146
Contribution : $2062

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $18.00; (3) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (1) $29.00; (8) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (1) $44.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $134.00.
CURRENCY: (32) $1.00; (1) $2.00; (10) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00.
CHANGE: $12.15. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,062.15.

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New Members

We welcome Paul and Frances Ledford and their son, Spencer into the fellowship at Bellview. Their address is P.O. Box 166, Cantonment, Florida, 32533 and their phone number is 968-9216. Please be sure and add them to your directory. They will be in ZONE 6.

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RESPONSES

Cathy Goodman came forward Sunday March 9th requesting the prayers of the congregation.

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Our Sick

Neil Nicholson is now home from the hospital.
Mary Matthey is at home recovering from her recent surgery.
A. J. Simmons, who worshipped here before moving to Brewton, Al., is in West Florida Hospital, Room 439.

Our shut-ins remain the same.
God's Last Words

JOHN G. PRIOLA

The last words of our loved ones, or our friends, seem to have more meaning and more effect upon us. People, when talking about deceased parents, usually make reference to something that they said right at the last. The last words that someone speaks always seem to be remembered longer. For example, Patrick Henry is remembered for his "Give me liberty or give me death," and Nathan Hale is remembered for his "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country". People have a tendency to remember the final words and events of one's life. God, in the closing chapter of the book of Revelation, the closing chapter of the Bible, has given us some things He wants remembered. He has given us some things that He feels important and wants us to remember. What are these?

First, God gives us one last glimpse of heaven. I know that there are scholarly individuals among us who do not believe that Rev. 21:1 - 22:5 is a reference to heaven. They believe the church is being spoken about in these passages. And while I am aware of this position, I, nevertheless at this time, do not subscribe to it. I readily admit that I have not devoted as much time to this study as have others, but in what studying I have done, I have not found anything in these verses that will prohibit heaven from being the subject under consideration. Thus, I believe that God takes this opportunity to give us one last reminder of heaven. All throughout this book God has stressed the need of overcoming. The expression "he that overcometh" appears seventeen times in the book. The last time is in Rev. 21:7 where it is stated, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." It is as if God is encouraging us to overcome, that is persevere unto the end, and then gives us one final reminder of the beauty of that place that awaits us, after this life, with all its strife, is over.
Secondly, we are given one last admonition to worship God, Vs. 8-9. Among the last words in the book is a warning to worship God. Thus, one final reminder that we should not trust in ourselves, money, pleasure, or any other thing, but that we should worship God. God, no doubt, knew how careless some of us might be, and issued one last time the command to worship Him.

Furthermore, God reminds us one last time that those who keep His commandments are blessed, vs. 14. God's religion is a doing religion. James said, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves," Jas. 1:22. John said that "he that doeth the will of God abideth forever," I John 2:17. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Notice that pure religion is a doing religion. Jesus said that "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," Matt. 7:21. God takes the opportunity in Revelation 22 to remind us, one final time, that those who do this will, will be blessed.

In verse seventeen there is a final invitation to come. God knows the horrors of hell, and He knows how many times some have refused the invitation, but still He offers the invitation one last time. Anyone who is lost certainly will not be able to accuse God of not inviting them to be saved. In Matt. 11:28-30, II Peter 3:9, and Rev. 3:20, He pleads with people to come and obey the gospel, and His closing words to mankind contain one last invitation.

In verse eighteen, He warns man one final time that He is not to tamper with God's Word. God is a jealous God; He is a particular God. For those who do not believe that God is concerned about particulars, read Leviticus 10:1-2. In this account, Nadab and Abihu were the right people-priests; in the right place-the altar; and at the right time-the time of sacrifice. The only thing wrong was the fire-"that he commanded not". God taught right there that He did not want His Word tampered with-that He was, and is, a God of particulars. In verses 18-19, He takes one final opportunity to remind us of that lesson.

In verse 20, He reminds us of His coming again. In verse 17, He issued the invitation and we had better respond and come to Him before He comes. His coming will be quickly - it will be too late then to make any preparations. In Acts 1:11, II Thess. 1:7-9, and many other passages, we are taught of the second coming of Christ, yet God, in Revelation 22, reminds us of this great event one last time.

Finally, in verse twenty-one the last words of inspiration are given to us. The closing words are a reminder of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The final teaching that God leaves with us is for us to remember what Christ has done for us. In the words of Samuel, "Consider how great things He hath done for you."

Revelation 22: God's final picture of heaven; His final admonition to worship; His final reminder that those who do His will will be blessed; His final invitation; His final warning; His last reminder of the second coming; and His final reminder of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Fruits Of Feminism

For years the advocates of the Equal Rights Amendment have insisted that only good would come from its ratification. Opponents pointed out that this amendment would allow the passing of (and upholding as constitutional) legislation to:

1. Subject women to compulsory military service and combat duty.
2. Mandate the "right" of women to kill their unborn babies by abortion.
3. Require the legalization of homosexual marriages and allow these couples to adopt children.
4. Demand publicly-funded child-care for all working mothers.
5. Eliminate all "separate but equal" team sports in public schools, and all other single sex activities.
6. Remove the tax exempt status of any religious body forbidding certain roles to women or homosexuals.

Didn't it all sound far-fetched? Yet a great deal of such legislation has been passed anyway under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972. And now at last the bud has blossomed, the fruit has ripened, and it is harvest time. The Secretary of Defense has advocated the registration of women for the draft. Isn't it a shame Gloria Steinham, Bella Abzug, and Betty Friedan are too old to go? Mike Royko, nationally syndicated Chicago columnist, yesterday wrote that he favored the draft for the "post Ms. Magazine" generation of women those that love to swear and swagger-smoke and drink-elbow to elbow with their male counterparts. I'm curious to see how the radical feminist movement reacts to the prospect of defending in combat the rights they have so vocally and, at times, violently demanded.

The proper perspective on these questions can only be had from a Bible-based viewpoint. Men and women are equal in rights (Gal. 3:28), but not identical in function (I Tim. 2:8-15). The reversal of their roles has stripped the gears of the family, the building block of our society and state. Isn't there something almost bizarre about the national preoccupation with military security from without, when—if the feminists have their way—there will be no homes left to defend?

Evolutionists On The Run

Recently the Wall Street Journal featured an article, "Modern Creationists Seeking Equal Time in U. L. Classrooms," including a report on debates between creationists and evolutionists. Dr. Robert Sloan, an evolutionary paleontologist at the University of Minnesota, was quoted as saying, "The creationists tend to win" the debates. This may be the reason a debate scheduled at Miami University between top evolutionists in education and creationists, Duane Gist and Henry Morris, was called off by the evolutionists. It was learned that evolutionists over the country pressured Dr. Fox and Dr. Greer, famous for their evolutionary stance, to withdraw from the debate, warning them of a probable defeat and a resulting nationwide setback to evolutionism in the schools.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 178
Worship: 207
Evening: 168
Wednesday: 149
Contribution: $1918

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $17.00; (1) $18.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $124.00. CURRENCY: (28) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (3) $10.00.

CHANGE: $5.08. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,918.08.

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WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF THE LEATHER ON YOUR BIBLE?

This might seem a strange question to ask, but the head of the American Bible Society was asked if he recommended something for the Bible to keep it from becoming stiff and cracking and pealing.

He replied, "There is an oil that is especially good for the treatment of leather on a Bible. In fact, it will insure that your Bible will stay in good condition. It is not sold on the market, but it may be found on the palm of the human hand."

Copied
Last Thursday, March 27, 1980, the church of our Lord lost a valiant soldier. Brother George Darling passed away at his home in Fort Deposit, Alabama. His death was sudden and unexpected. Many of us at Bellview knew brother Darling well. We know he called Bellview home. We know what a friend he was to this congregation and to the Bellview Preacher Training School. In fact, brother Darling offered tremendous assistance to Bill in planning the Preacher School. George loved the school. He loved the school because he loved young gospel preachers. One of his desires in life was to retire and move to Pensacola to work with the school. How fortunate we all would have been had that dream ever blossomed.

George Darling was a true soldier of the Cross. He was a soldier who prepared himself for battle and then fought as if his life were on the line. His philosophy was that if a thing were worth fighting for - it was worth fighting for with all your might. He was a man who loved the truth, who loved the church, and who loved others. Our lives are better for having known him.

Anyone who was present knows how difficult it was to lay him to rest last Saturday. It's difficult to say good-bye to one whom you love. Brother Rice led the songs that brother George loved so much. And although our hearts were grieving, we sang "Trials Dark on Every Hand," "Oh Victory In Jesus," and "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All," just like George did when he was with us. Brother Rice then spoke of brother George as one of the closest and dearest friends he has ever had. Ernest Underwood spoke of him as a prince of an individual. Then brother Cline, in one of the finest tributes possible, allowed brother Darling to preach his own funeral by reading portions of George's writings through the years. As I listened to
those writings, I thought few pens have ever been as powerful and pointed as the pen of brother Darling. One thing was evident: Brother George did not waver. He got the truth and stuck with it regardless of the cost. Why? Because more than anything else, George Darling wanted to go to heaven. His physical presence will be missed but his memory will always be cherished.

This week's article is one that was written by brother Darling in June, 1973. It is my intentions to print a number of his articles in the *BEACON*. This I intend to do for two reasons. Number one is that they are articles which are needed today, and number two, out of respect for a man whom I loved and appreciated.

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**ANXIETY for the CHURCH**

GEORGE E. DARLING, SR.

In Paul's catalogue of experiences which had troubled him, including all the physical persecutions he had suffered, he named the anxiety which was in his heart for the churches and his brethren. (2 Cor. 11:28)

Those who wound or hurt the church also wound the body of Jesus Christ, as did the soldiers who put him to death. The man of the world who hurls a charge at the church will surely be dealt with by the Lord in his own good way and time. Let him not think that he can insult the children in God's family and get away with it without answering to the Father. The church has Jesus Christ as its head. If the church is a group of narrow-minded bigots, then Christ is a narrow-minded bigot for he is its mind.

But the man of the world with all his slur, will not hurt the church so much as the unconcerned, lukewarm and indifferent members of the church. False teachers of the world can never lead away as many as can the false teachers within the church.

A wolf, clothed as a sheep, can slip into the flock and destroy the entire fold. And he will begin his destruction among the lambs. God warns of this and has ordained that elders are to guard against such. However, in many places, the elders seem to be incapable of distinguishing between wolves and sheep.

This is why the members of the church should be concerned, anxious and jealous about the church and its welfare. This is why every man and woman in it should be measured, not by their place in the world, not by their formal education or by how much wealth they possess, but by their love and faithfulness to truth and righteousness. Teachers need to be exhorted to
'speak things which become sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1)

Any member of the church should be so anxious to preserve the welfare of the Lord's church, that he would diligently study God's word to see that all that is taught and practiced in the congregation where he holds membership is in complete harmony with the truth of the scriptures. If it is not, he should either cause an uproar or move his membership, not before he has done all within his power to correct the error, but after having done all he can do to correct it.

He does not care for the church who shuts his ears to the warnings that come to the church about sin, error and false teaching and unscriptural practices in the lives of its members. He does not love the church, who will not confess his sins and repent of his actions that have injured God's family. The preacher who is called in to conduct the "Big Day" programs for a congregation that is known to uphold false doctrine, ungodly elders, adulterous deacons and preachers, on the pretense that he is only interested in raising money for a "just cause" does not care for the church. He is too "yellow-bellied" to point out the sins and wrong doings. No sir, that preacher does not love the church and is too ignorant to see that they have called him only as a matter of endorsement.

"Brother 'So and So' was our speaker for our "Big Day" program, and no one could doubt his firm stand for the faith, why he is known throughout our brotherhood. No one can call us in question since he appeared on our program. If Bro. So and So endorses us, and he does, or else he would have had no part with us, how can anyone fail to do so?"

Brethren, let us anxiously strive to keep the church clean, both from within and without; for ourselves and for others who will follow after us.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 153
Worship: 184
Evening: 160
Wednesday: 142
Contribution: $2,137

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $18.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (4) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $51.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (2) $62.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $200.00. CURRENCY: (30) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $5.61.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,137.61.

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New Members

Mrs. Mabel Henderson placed her membership at Bellview on March 23, 1980. She lives at 5931 Mitchell Lane, Pensacola, Florida 32506. She has no telephone. She will be in ZONE 3. We welcome her into the fellowship here. Be sure and add her to your directory.

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Directory Info

New Telephone numbers: Gene and Emma Fell; 962-2574 and Ray and Martha Wilcoxson; 962-2288.

We will put all changes of address and phone numbers in the BEACON as we receive them. Be sure and correct your directory so it will be up-to-date.

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SYMPATHY

Our sympathies to the families of Andrew Cline who passed away March 18th and A. B. Logan who passed away March 23rd. Both of these men were uncles to Bill Cline who preaches here at Bellview and were members of the Lord's church.

Our sympathies also to Doris Darling and family in the death of her husband, George E. Darling, Sr. on March 27th.

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Shut-Ins

Ada Belle Coo
Eddie Hardin
Neil Nicholson

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Take Your Stand, Brethren!

George E. Darling, Sr.

One of the most profitable studies one can make is of some of the leading characters of the Old Testament. A diligent and careful study of the times and conditions under which these great servants of God lived gives one a wonderful insight into the conditions that Israel was confronted with in her fidelity and in her departure from God. Christians should be more familiar with those times and characters.

It is not uncommon to find church members who are better acquainted with the Rock and Roll Bands, the Television and Hollywood stars than they are with Bible characters. In the homes of many church members you will find the wall plastered with pictures of movie stars, and perhaps a scrap book packed with their exploits. With our young people aping these characters they study and idolize, what can we expect? We have within the church today a spirit of worldliness that is destined to consume us unless we "cry aloud, spare not (and) lift up (our) voice, like a trumpet, and shew (the) people their transgressions and sins" Isa. 51:8.

Isaiah began his work at a time when the people of God were "filled with the customs of the East (and) their land full of idols." Isaiah dedicated his life to God and to the word of warning Judah against the wicked course it was following, being influenced by other nations. He was forever in conflict with the tendencies of the time. His work and his life serves as a marvelous example for gospel preachers of our day to follow in these times when so many are showing signs of softness. Isaiah was a lover of peace, but he realized that peace could only be found and established by a war of destruction of all that was contrary to God's plan and purposes. He found that it was impossible for him to preach the truth as God commanded him to do and "let other people alone." Strange indeed, the number who attempt
Every effectual, faithful servant of God sent to make known the way of the Lord, delivered a destructive as well as a constructive message. All evil, together with every indication to its favor, every attempt or even a tendency to fellowship error was uncompromisingly and witheringly condemned. There was no doubt left in the minds of those who heard them preach as to the meaning of their message; it did not mean one thing to the speaker and something else to the listener. It was plain, pointed and piercing. Isaiah pronounced a woe upon all who called "evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." (Isa. 5:20) This is the stand that needs to be taken by elders, preachers and by editors of religious publications today. Such a stand will do more to remedy the conditions which are today being "tactfully approached, circumspectly viewed and diplomatically eschewed" than any that is known. God's way will work!

No period in the history of Judah was more critical than that in which Isaiah prophesied. The factions within finally brought its downfall and sent its people into Babylonian captivity. The people refused to "hear the law of Jehovah" and said; "Prophecy unto us the right things, speak unto us the smooth things." (Isa. 30:10-11) Doesn't this sound familiar? Such a condition exists in the Lord's church today. We cannot correct this problem by giving to the people what they want. A preacher, if he is worth his salt to the cause of Christ, is not concerned with what the people want. He is concerned with what they need. With unflinching courage he will preach the "whole council of God", "in season and out of season", in the face of all opposition, and in the words of another faithful preacher he will say without fear, "Thus saith Jehovah, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16). Sad, but true, like the people to whom this was spoken, many will say, "We will not walk therein."

May God help us in these trying times and give us men of uncompromising courage, untiring zeal and unrelenting fidelity who will "cry aloud, spare not" and "lift up their voices like a trumpet, and declare unto" the people "their transgressions." Shame on the preacher who craves the "fleshpots of Egypt" in preference to the manna of God's eternal truth.

We need elders who are willing to take a stand for the truth and let the church know, in language that can be understood, where they stand. If the elders would do so, the church would not be faced with the problem of "Charismatic" teachers in the classrooms, and preachers in the pulpits advocating women leading public prayers, etc., etc.--The devil himself could hold membership in some congregations today without any fear of being rebuked by the elders, much less being withdrawn from. If elders would "Cry aloud" and let it be known that the congregation they oversee will not tolerate those who advocate open fellowship; those who are living in adultery; homosexuality; the use of instrumental music in worship; immodest dress; dancing or even those who are indifferent to the Lord's cause, we would see a new day dawn in our generation.

The elders of the Vultee church in Nashville, Tennessee recently placed an insert in their bulletin in which they informed the members of that congregation of their stand against the above mentioned things, plus many more. In the last paragraph they say: "Since we are to avoid and not keep company (Continued on back page)
Is This You And Your Child

JOHN G. PRIOLA

I hope that all of us will read and give serious consideration to the thought of the following poem. How many of us are negligent in our attendance? How many of us miss Bible Study and then attend worship? How many of us have children who should be at Bible Study but are not? We all need to be diligent in our attendance. For the first quarter of this year we averaged twenty-two more in morning worship than Bible Study. Comparatively speaking, that is much better than most congregations the size of Bellview; but spiritually speaking, that is twenty-two souls who need to examine their spiritual condition. Some who are absent from Bible Study have children that should be here. How much are you concerned about them? And while we are on this subject, what about Sunday night and Wednesday evening? SEE YOU AT THE SERVICES!

MARY HAD A LITTLE BOY

Mary had a little boy,
His soul was white as snow,
He never went to Sunday School,
'Cause Mary wouldn't go.

He never heard the love of Christ
That thrilled the childish mind;
While other children went to class
This child was left behind.

And as he grew from babe to youth,
She saw, to her dismay
A soul that once was snowy white
Had turned an ugly grey.

Realizing he was lost,
She tried to win him back,
But now, the soul that once was white,
Had turned to darkest black.

She even started back to church,
To Sunday School went, too;
She begged the preacher, "Isn't there
A thing that we can do?"

The preacher tried, but failed and said,
"We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you, years ago
But you would pay no mind."

And so, another soul is lost,
That once was white as snow;
Sunday School would have helped,
But Mary wouldn't go.

-Selected (VIA The Challenger)
with those who teach contrary to the doctrine found in the Bible (Rom. 16:17; II Thess. 3:6, 14-15; II John 10), it is our responsibility to teach and set the example concerning what the Lord's will says. When your elders know of any such error in this congregation, we will, in love, teach, admonish, exhort, and pray with the person involved. If such an effort is not successful, we must withdraw fellowship after we feel that everything possible has been done to bring repentance (Titus 3:10-11).

"Amen Brethren, I admire your stand - STICK TO IT! If you have those who are not willing to adhere to your admonitions - let them "go to Belmont."

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 166
Worship : 203
Evening : 157
Wednesday : 122
Contribution : $2128

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (1)
$8.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.50; (1)
$17.00; (1) $18.00; (7) $20.00; (2)
$22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $25.00; (3)
$30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3)
$40.00; (3) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1)
$53.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1)
$62.00; (1) $65.00; (1) $80.00; (1)
$85.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $150.00;
(1) $248.00. CURRENCY: (33) $1.00;
(7) $5.00; (4) $10.00. CHANGE:
$7.13. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2128.63.

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Sisters Fleetwood And Temple Pass
JOHN G. PRIOLA

This past week two faithful sisters in the Lord's Church departed this life. On Tuesday, April 8, 1980, Sister Dora Fleetwood passed and on Friday, April 11, 1980, Sister Zora Temple departed.

Solomon in Proverbs 31 gives praise to a virtuous woman. He asks the question, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Both of these women were "virtuous", or "worthy" as the American Standard reads. Their price was "far above rubies." In fact, when it came to truth they could not be bought at any price. They simply were not for sale. They had bought the truth and were not about to sell it.

Solomon continues in the thirty-first verse by saying, "a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." These women's works will praise them. It can be said of both that they had sons who are faithful gospel preachers. Sister Fleetwood's two sons, Albert and Allen, are preachers. She also has a son-in-law who has preached. All of her children are loyal to the church.

Sister Temple's only son, Winston, is a preacher and instructor in the Bellview Preacher Training School.

These women loved the church. They loved sound doctrine. As Bill Cline said, "You could not preach it too hard for them." They taught their children about the church. They taught their children that the Lord's Church was first in their lives. Both of their lives were a great blessing unto all who came in contact with them. Truly, the world needs their kind multiplied a million fold.
SIXTH ANNUAL LECTURESHP
BELLVIEW PREACHER TRAINING SCHOOL
MAY II - 15, 1980
"THINGS WRITTEN AGRETEIME"

SUNDAY, MAY II

9:00 IS THE LORD WITH US?..............................Charles Williamson
10:00 DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THE BIBLE?.....................Alan Adams
6:00 THE CHOICE OF RUTH................................Bill Dukes
7:00 THE FOUR TESTS OF JOSEPH............................John Bradshaw

MONDAY, MAY 12

7:00 PREACH THE WORD (Jer. 1:10)..........................George Darling
8:00 THE PROBLEM OF FELLOWSHIP........................Buster Dobbs

TUESDAY, MAY 13

8:00 EVERY MAN DID THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES (Josh. 21:25).... Ray Peters
9:00 THE BOOK OF MALACHI..................................Roy Deaver
10:00 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT..................Buster Dobbs
11:00 THE TIMES OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH..................Winston Temple

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH BREAK
(Tuesday May 13 - Continued)
1:00 SHALL YE SIT HERE WHILE YOUR BRETHREN GO TO WAR?............John Priola
1:45 PREACH THE PREACHING THAT I BID THEE (Jonah 3:2)...........Kenneth Cook
2:30 IMMORALITY - PAST AND PRESENT........................................Jerry Foutz
7:00 RESPECTING BIBLE AUTHORITY.............................................Buster Dobbs
8:00 THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH..................................................Winfred Clark

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

8:00 DEMONSTRATIONS NEEDED..................................................Elmer Scott
9:00 THE BOOK OF MALACHI......................................................Roy Deaver
10:00 PROVIDENCE.................................................................Rex A. Turner, Sr.
11:00 SEVEN APPEARANCES OF JEHOVAH TO ABRAHAM.................William S. Cline
12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH BREAK
1:00 THE VALLEY OF ACHOR - A DOOR OF HOPE (Hosea 2:15).........James Pilgrim
1:45 TARRYING WITH THE BAGGAGE............................................Barry Hatcher
2:30 REBELLING AGAINST GOD’S AUTHORITY...............................Gerald Reynolds
7:00 THE ATTITUDE OF HANNAH, A MOTHER OF ISRAEL...................Robert Taylor
8:00 THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH..................................................Winfred Clark

THURSDAY, MAY 15

8:00 PERSEVERING PREACHING (Isa. 6:8-12)...............................Ernest Underwood
9:00 THE BOOK OF MALACHI......................................................Roy Deaver
10:00 THE TABERNACLE, A TYPE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH......Robert Taylor
11:00 WILL MAN SERVE GOD FOR NAUGHT? (Job 1:9)......................Linwood Bishop
12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH BREAK
1:00 WE ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME (Num. 3:30).............................Larry Reynolds
1:45 TEACH THEM Diligently.....................................................Charles Tharp
2:30 REASONS WHY ISRAEL FELL.............................................Raymond Bush
7:00 MAN’S QUEST FOR HAPPINESS.........................................Curtis Sampley
8:00 THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH..................................................Winfred Clark
Our Record

Bible Classes: 190
Worship : 207
Evening : 175
Wednesday : 145
Contribution : $2201

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.50; (1) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (4) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (1) $28.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (1) $52.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $80.00; (2) $85.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $119.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $180.00. CURRENCY: (35) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (2) $10.00. CHANGE: $7.42. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2201.92.

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Our Sympathies To:

Our sympathies to Albert and Allen Fleetwood, Ruby McCaleb and Jewel Brannan in the death of their mother, Dora Fleetwood on April 8, 1980.

Our sympathies also to Winston Temple and Jean Martin in the death of their mother, Zora Temple on April 11, 1980.

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Our Religious World

Steven Thompson placed membership with Bellview April 13th. His address and phone number are as follows: Rt. 4, Box 896, Cantonment, Florida 32533; 968-9804. He will be in ZONE 7. We welcome him into the fellowship here at Bellview.

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The Five Faces Of Liberal

John Waddey

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently in Bible class, I made reference to this article by brother Waddey. After class, one brother asked that it be published in the BEACON. Although this article was written over four years ago, it is still just as timely as the day it was penned. (JGP)

The Lord's church is troubled across the nation by an element of teachers that have never shared the common salvation and faith of Jude 3, or else have abandoned it. Rather than being backsliders who fall away, they are devious heretics who stay among us to change the faith and practice of the church into a different form. The correct term to use in identifying these false teachers is difficult to decide. Since the term "liberal" has been tagged upon them, and since they are liberal in their attitude toward the authority of the Bible, we shall stick with that.

Sadly, a great number of our brethren are deceived by the sly tactics of these liberals. Like the Greek actors of old, these evil men hide behind a variety of masks, each portraying a totally different side of his nature.

First, there is the face he shows the preachers and elders of a strong, doctrinally sound congregation. He says what they want to hear. He even preaches acceptable Bible lessons. He gives right sounding answers to questions. He even says he is against liberalism. (Of course, he reserves his own private interpretation of the word.) He leaves the impression (false albeit) that he is just as sound, conservative and loyal to the cause of
Christ as any among us. I have observed this personally in several instances. A liberal preacher can move to any unsuspecting congregation and preach perfectly Scriptural sermons for a year or two until he has established himself and then the mask is removed. Surely these are hidden rocks in our love-feasts (Jude 12).

Secondly, there is the face a liberal shows the young people of the congregation (especially the high school, college age and the young intellectuals) when he raps with them or speaks to their youth meetings. He will be very pious and holy, speak the youth dialect and say just what they want to hear. He talks of love and service and loyalty to Jesus. If no dangerous (sound) adults are present he generally coyly ridicules and knocks the older brethren and leadership of the congregation and brotherhood. With his smooth and fair speech, he beguiles the hearts of the innocent (Rom. 16:18).

Thirdly, there is the face shown, when the liberal writes about the "conservative" opposition in the liberal media or when speaking in a forum of liberals. Here you see his true colors. The fangs really hang out. A transposition occurs: the gentle lamb becomes the roaring lion. The loving, pious, spiritual giant suddenly loses all his spiritual trappings and becomes a virulent spouter of venom toward all those brethren who would stand in his way and challenge his false doctrine. No terms of derision are too strong. Name-calling and "labelling" which he protests under other faces, he freely uses while speaking from this mask. Like Diotrephes, he prates against God's faithful men with wicked words (3 John 10).

Fourthly, is the face shown when confronted by a defender of the faith and exposed in his foul work. Usually the liberal takes the "bleeding heart" approach. He poses as a martyr who is persecuted unjustly. He begs sympathy and strives to avoid giving any answers that would reveal his true stance. He seeks to make the faithful defender of the faith look like a cruel, unloving persecutor.

Last, there is the face shown when the liberal is finally exposed and driven from the ranks of God's people. Some go into the camp of other sectarians like themselves; others drop completely out of organized religion. Here you see all disguises cast aside and the unbeliever in his naked shame. Usually you discover that his unbelief reaches far back into his career among us. He freely speaks of his disgust and revulsion at being hemmed in and restricted by Bible authority. It often becomes obvious that his apparent loyalty was a charade while he worked to convert others to his corrupt ways. Like Hymenaeus and Alexander he has made shipwreck concerning the faith, and he must be delivered unto Satan to be taught not to blaspheme (1 Tim. 1:19-20).

It is no pleasure to write thus of men who have dwelt among us in the kingdom, who have shared the cup of the Lord with us. But as Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "I tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is perdition, whose God is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame..." (Phil. 3:18-19). We must mark them, lest they destroy the cause we hold dear. (Rom. 16:17-18).
"Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees" (Job 4:4).

**THEOPHILUS**

I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS MERELY A BOOK OF FABLES.

AND I HAVE FOUND REASON TO QUESTION THE THEORIES OF OUR PHILOSOPHERS.

WHY, YOU INTOLERANT BIGOT!

YOU'RE AN INTELLECTUAL AND A SCHOLAR!

**THEOPHILUS**

WHEN I FINISH, CHRISTIANITY WILL BE A DEAD RELIGION AND THE BIBLE A FORGOTTEN BOOK!

I TOLD THE WORLD "GOD IS DEAD!"

BUT I WILL BE REMEMBERED! MY NAME SHALL LIVE ON AND ON!

WHO WAS THAT? YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN OLE WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?

WHEN I FINISH, CHRISTIANITY WILL BE A DEAD RELIGION AND THE BIBLE A FORGOTTEN BOOK!

I TOLD THE WORLD "GOD IS DEAD!"

BUT I WILL BE REMEMBERED! MY NAME SHALL LIVE ON AND ON!

WHO WAS THAT? YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN OLE WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?
Our Record

Bible Classes: 175
Worship: 199
Evening: 175
Wednesday: 158
Contribution: $2202

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (1) $8.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $13.00; (1) $18.00; (5) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (6) $40.00; (1) $44.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $109.00; (2) $120.00. CURRENCY: (34) $1.00; (3) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.79. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,202.79.

Directory Info

Please make the following changes in your directory.

Debbie Stokes, Rt. 10, Box 366; Pensacola, 32506. Phone Number: 944-3458.

Charles Owen, Jr., Lot 3516, Mobile Home Park, NAS, Pensacola, 32508.

Responses

Bill Crowe came forward Sunday evening asking for the prayers of the congregation.
Christianity is wholly and absolutely divine! It is truly "The Faith" once and for all delivered unto the saints. It did not evolve out of the nature of mankind. It is delivered to us from the divine heart of God and is to be accepted by sinful, needful man. This naturally strips Christianity of every vestige of humanism—Pope, vicar, prelate councils, conferences and conventions, synods, superintendents, Bishops, Cardinals or whatever, as well as man-made creeds, human books of discipline, human officers, and innovations in worship. In short, it causes the true follower of Christ to look to the "Word of God" for his guidance and authority, instead of looking to some representative of his "denomination" to come from "headquarters" with the final word.

When men return to those things revealed in the word of God there is unity. Every additional organization or order that man has brought into the midst of the followers of Christ has brought about confusion and division among brethren. The Word of God produces unity. No amount of endeavor can bring order out of denominational chaos, but a return to a "thus saith the Lord" can produce unity over night if men will adhere to it. God made the foundation upon which men should build and if they build upon it, denominationalism, even the "denominationalism" being promoted by some of my brethren (?) today can be destroyed. The restoration of the authority of Jesus Christ and the Apostles will destroy every sect, heal every division, and will open the doors for us to enter the very heart of heathenism, because they will see that we are united on AUTHORITY—DIVINE AUTHORITY!

Of course, a return to New Testament Authority would play havoc with a lot of the sermons in the churches today. Sermons are being preached on every special "Day" in the year to the cost of peanuts in China. Too, it
would put a stop to churches and preachers hobnobbing with every denomination body on the earth and endorsing the "Thanksgiving Square" in Dallas and promoting a similar "inter-faith project" for Nashville. (Brethren, I'm not nitpicking, I'm writing about New Testament authority).

A return to Bible authority would do all but destroy many of the programs of so-called "Seminaries", "Divinity Schools" and "Bible Colleges" over our land. In order to appeal to the field of education they have placed on the curricular all sorts of "ologies" from psychology to sociology in order to appeal to a Degree seeking "clergy". What a barren looking thing would the curriculum be next year, if they returned to a "thus saith the Lord". Suppose there could be a return to plain simple apostolic truth in all our schools over the land, and we could have these keen minds converted to Christ, seeking to learn the truth of the Bible and then go out and sacrificially spread the truth to a lost and dying world. It would not take long for Freud, Schleiermacher, Bauer and Strauss, et.al. to take a back seat and the cause of Christ to overcome its enemies.

A return to the New Testament authority would give Christians the armor which God provides. Let the wranglers in the field of Schlasticism argue over the authorship of the Pentateuch, etc., but let us proclaim Christ, His death, His burial and resurrection, that our hope is in Him and that in Him is life evermore. That is the keyword to Christianity. That is authoritative. That authority should flow from the pulpit and flow in the veins and arteries of every "New Creature in Christ".

PREACH THE WORD, BROTHER!

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I BELIEVE THE CHURCH MIGHT GROW IF WE'D JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL AND LEAVE OTHERS ALONE.

---70---
GOOD NEWS

Jerry Fausz

Have you heard the news? If you want to greatly increase your chance for a long life, you will be interested in the following:

1. Do not ride in an automobile or get in the way of one—they cause 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay at home—17% of all accidents happen in the home.
3. Do not walk around on the street—14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Do not travel by air, rail, or water—6% of all accidents are the result of this type of traveling.
5. Only .001% of all deaths occur at worship and these are related to previous physical disorders such as heart attacks, etc.

So obviously, the safest place in this world is at worship. Be on the safe side, be at church services every Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening. It might save your life—to say nothing about saving your soul.

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To Risk

To laugh is to RISK appearing the fool. To weep is to RISK appearing sentimental. To reach out for another is to RISK involvement. To expose feelings is to RISK exposing your true self. To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to RISK their loss. To love is to RISK not being loved in return. To live is to RISK dying. To hope is to RISK despair. To try is to risk failure.

But RISK must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to RISK nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, grow, feel, change, love, live. Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave, he has forfeited freedom. ONLY A PERSON WHO RISK IS FREE.

--Selected (VIA THE CHALLENGER)

-71-
OUR RECORD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bible Classes:</th>
<th>170</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship:</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening:</td>
<td>153</td>
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<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
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HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $13.00; (1) $18.00; (3) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $36.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $54.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $78.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00.

CURRENCY: (36) $1.00; (3) $5.00; (3) $10.00. CHANGE: $5.90. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,752.90.

REMEMBER THE BELLVIEW PREACHER TRAINING SCHOOL LECTURESHP BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 11th AND ENDS THURSDAY, MAY 15th.

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Our Sick

Vera and Jimmy Fleetwood are both very sick. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in. Let's remember to call, visit, and send cards of cheer to all who are sick or shut-in.

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Area Meeting

WHEN: May 4th - 9th

WHERE: Leonard Street Church of Christ

PREACHING BY: Jimmie Wisdom

TIME: 7:30 P.M. each evening

THEME: "REVIVE US AGAIN"

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Last week, I received my April issue of THE GOSPEL STANDARD. This is an excellent paper edited by brother Charles Pledge. The April issue had an article by brother Pledge titled "I Am Baffled". In my estimation brother Pledge "hits the nail on the head" with this article. After I had read it, I immediately called it to the attention of brother Cline. He and I have been disturbed over the things that brother Pledge smacks at in his article. Other gospel preachers call and express the same concerns. I am re-printing the article in two parts. Part two will be in next week's BEACON. (JGP)

I AM BAFFLED

CHARLES A. PLEDGE

Quite frankly, and I know of no better way to state it, I am baffled. I state this, and express what follows, in the hope that someone wiser and more experienced may be able to help me escape from this state of mind. After all, it does hinder my ability to fellowship some and will probably frustrate my desire to fellowship others in the future. Furthermore, it is great pleasure to wander about in such a frame of mind.

There are several things which have caused me no small consternation as I have wrestled with my thoughts relative to them. One of these matters, although perhaps not ranked first in importance, but it doesn't come in last either, is the way so many are willing to "privately" express their strong "stand" about matters which they feel to be "doctrinal" in their private
conversations while publicly going along with that which they condemn in their private statements. How, for example, can one express his belief it is sinful for the local congregation to take money from its treasury and give to the "school" while at the same time preach for a congregation which does that and never publicly mention the matter? Why get worked up when privately discussing the matter and vow it is wrong, sinful and hurtful and should be stopped, but never publicly state their convictions? It puzzles me, to say the least.

Another matter that has, in addition to puzzling me, left me in amazement is that so many are very, very adamant over some matters to the point they will preach as strong a sermon or write as fiery an article as possible - then drop the whole matter as if it never existed in the first place. One shot does it! It seems to me that if a matter is worth getting all worked up over one time it is worth following through at least two or three times more. One sermon or one article may salve the conscience or "get it off the chest" but it will not usually solve the problem. If it is a sinful matter why not follow it through to the end or solution? If it is not sinful, why get bothered with it in the first place? And the "one shot effort" is common practice in the brotherhood.

One matter which has been of long-standing perplexity to my feeble understanding is why our brethren will give such a great recommendation to rat poison because it has about 97% purity. It would seem that when men of knowledge and experience recommend rat poison for the consumption of children and adults that they have lost something in their thought process. Well, some ask, who is recommending rat poison for consumption? To my certain knowledge, no one among us. BUT, what about the recommendations we hear for such materials as published by SWEET PUBLISHING Company, ACTION (and its editor, Jimmy Lovell), and a number of others? What about the recommendations for schools which consistently turn out students who are well on their way into liberalism when they leave the schools?

But look at the good these people do, it is often exclaimed. Yes, and look at the good the 97% pure contents of rat poison will do - but who wants to eat rat poison to get 97% pure food?

Defenders of such practices will usually say, "None of us are 100% right all the time". And they are right. But that has nothing to do with the problem. The problem with the publications, schools and other sources of error being considered REFUSE to correct the problems - and that makes the difference. Rat poison is RAT POISON and it will never be anything else! A sincere man (or institution operated by sincere people) will repent and make amends for their error. Rat poison just keeps right on killing - so does the institution which refuses to correct its error and make amends. And why recommend such any quicker than one would recommend rat poison. Such a practice of recommending these puzzles me, when those recommendations come from men who admittedly know better.

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-74-
PARENTS SLEEP WHILE HUMANISM DESTROYS SOULS OF YOUTH

A growing number of parents are painfully facing the realization that their children are turning away from their Christian training. Lives of our youth are being destroyed as they become involved in drugs, crimes, premarital sex, abortion, divorce, etc.

It is recognized that often there is neglect on the part of parents and the Bible school, and no effort is being made to minimize the responsibility of parents and church.

The biblical principle for training a child to be a faithful Christian is "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). But, the combined time of parents and the Bible school for training the child is much less than that of the public school. So while parents slept, totally trusting the educational system, Satan has developed subtle psychological methods to soft sell the religion of Humanism to our youth in the public school.

From self-proclaimed Humanists, we see that Humanism denies the existence of God, the divinity of Christ, the existence of life after death, and the divine revelation of the Bible. The central Humanist value is the individual person achieving fulfillment in life through freedom of choice and gratification of human desires, in the absence of moral codes.

No, Humanism does not verbally attack biblical principles in our school but uses subtle techniques whereby the child's thinking process is slowly structured. Children in elementary through high school are being indoctrinated with philosophy that there are no absolutes, no right, no wrong. Thus there is no need to feel guilt for sin. Moral values are self-determined, free from parental values and religious training. The child's desires instead of the Bible are to be his standard for making choices. Self instead of Christ is deified. Rights of the child as opposed to parental authority are emphasized.

The ultimate objective of Humanism is to train the consciences of our youth so that they recognize no need for God and Christ.

Fortunately, some educators are upholding Christian principles and resisting this anti-Christian infiltration. However, some are choosing the path of least resistance.

U. S. Senator Edward Zorinsky, in testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Education said, "The techniques being widely used today to change children's attitudes and values are an invasion of privacy, a threat to the family unit, and the emotional stability of the child." Senator Hayakawa and Hatch, and Congressman Conlan have likewise protested in congressional hearings against the implementation of Humanism in our schools.

Humanists scoff at religious parents and boast that if they can indoctrinate just one generation, the religious world can never catch up. Shall we continue to sleep while Humanism indoctrinates our youth and enslaves their souls?

-(VIA THE REPORTER)
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 179
Worship: 196
Evening: 176
Wednesday: 154
Contribution: $3245

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (5) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $25.00; (1) $28.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (7) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (3) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (2) $56.00; (6) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $129.00; (1) $170.00; (1) $200.00; (1) $248.00; (1) $400.00. CURRENCY: (20) $1.00; (4) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $11.65. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $3,245.05.

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RESTORED

Rick Jones came forward Wednesday evening asking for the prayers of the congregation.

Our Sick

Vera and Jimmy Fleetwood are still ill at this writing. Mary Hughes has the flu. Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in.

REMEMBER THE BELLVIEW PREACHER TRAINING SCHOOL LECTURESHIP BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 11 AND ENDS MAY 15th.

NEW MEMBERS

Bobby, Jackie and Cindy Thompson placed membership here Sunday, May 4th. Their address is Rt. 4, Box 896, Cantonment, Florida 32533 and phone number is 968-9804. They will be in ZONE 6. Their son, Steven placed his membership here three weeks ago.

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THEOPHILUS

-76-
Still another matter that offers no end of difficulty is the matter of fellowship as practiced among us. It has been my observation for many years that we are hasty to withdraw ourselves from a brother over a matter of judgment or of opinion (as agreed upon by all involved) but over matters of faith we just keep on extending the warmest of fellowship. Look at the matters of faith involved:

1. Divorce and remarriage. It is publicly taught by many among us that the one exception stated by our Lord (Matt. 19:9) is the only reason one may break the bonds designed by God to last until death of one marriage partner, and marry another. For as long as I have been a Christian, I have heard it emphatically taught that to go contrary to this teaching of the Lord would damn the soul. In short, it is fatal error - fatal to the soul. But, we have men who have long taught and maintained such a position, now extending fellowship to those who teach what they term fatal error. I am puzzled over how I may (yea, must) withdraw fellowship from those who practice fatal error but at the same time fellowship the teacher of that error. In other words, we must withhold fellowship from all the "lay" members of denominations but may fellowship the teachers of denominational error. It seems absurd!

2. Tongue speaking. Whole congregations will withdraw fellowship from a brother or sister who "speaks in a 'tongue'", but at the same time hold to their bosom of affection and fellowship one who teaches that the Holy Spirit still operates in a miraculous way on Christians today. It isn't consistent!

3. Instrumental music. We will refuse to worship with the instrument
because it is error but we will fellowship those who teach that it is acceptable in Christian worship. One eldership in Kentucky recently gave their "power of attorney" to a man who teaches instrumental music in Christian worship is acceptable to God - and this to expel faithful brethren from a building the congregation holds half interest in! It is just not consistent! We also have heard of public renown say they couldn't preach against this particular error (as well as some other errors) because it would lose listeners if they did. And we just keep on supporting them and "programs".

4. Unauthorized worship. We will not worship with denominations because of their unauthorized worship. Yet, our own brethren introduce into our worship hand clapping, humming, hugging, special group singing and a host of other things and only an eyebrow (or occasionally a lone voice) will be raised. In fact, we appear to be rather proud of our own choirs. If unauthorized worship is sinful, does it matter who participates in it, or conducts it; do those involved make it wrong, or is a matter wrong because God so declares? Is it wrong when denominations institute "Christmas programs" but right when brethren conduct them? Is "Special Day" worship wrong because denominations conducts it, but right when brethren do so. But, if such error in worship will damn the soul, what about the teaching of such error? Is the teaching of it not as damnable as the practice?

In short, just how far can we go in these and other matters in tolerating and fellowshiping; or in other ways encouraging such error? Right here in Atlanta, Georgia a few years ago, most brethren became alarmed and withdrew fellowship from a congregation in Decatur, Georgia because a number of things were not right (1. divided assembly; 2. erroneous teaching and practice regarding several other things). Today, that same congregation is just as far from the truth in many ways but it is back in the good graces of most congregations and Christians in the Atlanta area. In fact, in conjunction with the Campus church of Christ and the Druid Hills church of Christ, Decatur is hosting a teacher training seminar for the area. (And guess who originated the seminar? SWEET PUBLISHING COMPANY!) Furthermore, the annual "Thanksgiving Worship" hosted by the Decatur congregation is well attended by area Christians. Although I use this merely as an example, there are literally hundreds of such cases over the brotherhood where such is going on.

How long will apostate congregations and individuals enjoy the fellowship of those who are sincerely striving to walk in the old paths? How long before we withdraw fellowship from apostates - and those who insist on extending fellowship to them?

I say these things and raise the questions in the hope that the wiser and more knowledgeable will respond and help correct whatever misconceptions I may have.

I am baffled by such matters as those mentioned, as well as all such of like principle. We admit (as a people, generally) we must not fellowship the devil; but we turn around and fellowship his servants. Some will not fellowship his servants but insist on fellowshiping those who defend his servants in their evil practices and teachings. Just how far may we extend our fellowship and please God?

A number of able men in the brotherhood have the knowledge and ability to help us all in these areas: Guy N. Woods; Thomas B. Warren; Roy Deaver;
Robert R. Taylor; Garland Elkins; and a number of others — men for whom I have long had great respect and warm affection. By their frequent preaching and writing in these areas of question, we know they are well aware of the problems. Perhaps if these are unable or unwilling to help, there are others who, in the spirit of concern for baffled brethren over the brotherhood, will extend their help. Until then, a large number of us must remain baffled over the obvious inconsistencies and inequities in our practices and teaching. We trust our plea will not go unanswered.

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COWBELLS AT CONCERTS

G. R. Holton

An interesting letter appeared recently in the "Dear Abby" column of many newspapers. It said, in part:

DEAR ABBY: A reader in St. Augustine, Fla., said he quit going to church because the organist played too loudly. Well, I've been an organist since 1934, and the problem is probably not the organist, but the organ. Over the years, churches replace worn-out organs with rebuilt theater organs or parts of several organs, and the resulting sounds are disastrous!

The letter continued with an appeal for understanding on the part of a congregation, toward the organist's role. Abigail Van Buren responded with a letter from another reader which said, in part:

DEAR ABBY: ...I too, had the same problem... (I was) pointed toward the Church of Christ... that doesn't believe in instrumental music, and believe me it is heavenly to go to church and not have to hear all that loud instrumental music. For true salvation in a quiet and spiritual atmosphere, try the church of Christ.

This exchange sounds very much like the historic controversies that raged when organs were first introduced. Adam Clark, a noted commentator, said: "Away with such portentous baubles from the worship of the infinite Spirit who requires his followers to worship Him in spirit and truth." (Vol. II, p. 690-691). John Calvin said, "Musical instruments would be no more suited in celebrating the praises of God than the burning of incense, the lighting
of lamps, and the restorations of other shadows of the law." John Wesley said he had "no objections to instruments of music in the chapels so long as they are neither seen or heard." Charles Spurgeon noted: "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

A Christian of the past century voiced the judgment that "any aid to the spiritually minded Christian would be like a cowbell at a concert." The apostle Paul said: "Sing and make melody in your heart." Churches of Christ affirm this contention as not only Biblical, but better.

(VIA Bethel Church of Christ, Athens, Alabama bulletin)

-80-
Remove Not The Ancient Landmarks

Robert R. Taylor

The Sinaitic lawgiver incorporated the sacredness of landmarks as boundary dividers into the Mosaic Covenant. "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it" (Deut. 19:14). "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmark" (Deut. 27:17). The patient patriarch of Uz said, "Some remove the landmarks;..." (Job 24:2). Solomon, the Sage of Israelite monarchs, declared, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Prov. 22:28). The foregoing scriptures make it crystal clear that the landmark was sacred, binding and one with which no law abiding Hebrew would dare tamper. Even heathen nations recognized the binding nature of landmarks. They even had a god, Terminus, who presided over this realm of human activity. Hence a Hebrew who removed an ancient landmark deeper into his neighbor's property to increase his own land holdings committed an act of signal dishonesty and even fell far beneath the level maintained by honest heathens. Even today in the Holy Land the old stone landmarks are seen in abundance acting as boundary dividers. The writer observed many of them in his recent study tour of the Holy Land and thought of these Old Testament passages as they came into view from time to time.

Jehovah has established some landmarks in his Word. These landmarks are clearly discernable and man sins grievously when he begins to tamper with them. The landmarks found in Holy Writ should be even more sacred than property landmarks were and are among the Jews.

THE LANDMARKS OF THE BIBLE

Remove not the ancient landmark of Biblical inspiration. Inspiration, as
taught in the sacred scriptures, does not mean mere human genius in the literary field such as Shakespeare, Milton or Browning possessed. Biblical inspiration is not just planting a thought or idea in the scribe's mind and granting him complete freedom in the choice of language terms. Only verbal inspiration will meet the demands of Paul's clear pronouncement in 1 Corinthians 2:13. Jesus said both the how (manner of presentation) and the what (content of material) would be supplied the apostles when needed (Matt. 10:19-20). Plenary or complete inspiration is affirmed by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Paul affirmed his writings to be the commandments of God (1 Cor. 14:37). Peter said holy men of God spoke as they were moved by God's Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). Thousands of times Hebrew prophets and New Testament penmen affirmed their messages originated with God. They were but the human conveyors - Jehovah's human mouthpieces and penmen. Let us never tamper with the landmark of Biblical inspiration.

Remove not the ancient landmark of supreme Biblical authority. The holy scriptures will fully equip God's man in the performance of all good works (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus possesses all authority in the Christian Age and that authority is expressed in the Bible (Matt. 28:18). The Spirit guided the apostles unto all truth (John 16:13). All things pertaining to life and godliness have been supplied us through the knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 1:3). The gospel constitutes God's power to save all, both Jew and Gentile (Rom. 1:16-17). Spiritual completion is found in Christ, the one in whom are found the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3, 10). There is such a ring of final authority and all sufficient guidance in God's Word that Inspiration placed a warning near the front of the Book, in the middle of the Bible and at its very conclusion that God's Word was not to be tampered with in any fashion (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19). Let us not remove the ancient landmark of the all sufficient and final authority of the Heavenly Volume.

Remove not the ancient landmark of Biblical miracles. The miracle of creation is not to be set aside by the blatant atheist (Gen. 1:1). The story of Jonah and the great fish is not to be removed by the infidel. We strongly suspect that Jonah had more "inside" information on this three day fish experience than unbelievers living thousands of years later. Jesus placed his stamp of approval likewise on this incident and it cannot be denied without impeaching his veracity. (Matt. 12:40). The miracles of Jesus by which he substantiated his Messianic claims and the stupendous signs wrought by his apostles to demonstrate that heaven approved of their message are to be left intact. If we cannot trust the Bible about miracles, how can we manifest confidence in its message of morality? If the Book is inaccurate touching the creation, who can be sure of its reliability concerning conversion? If it is wrong about the resurrection, how can we be sure of its accuracy in the realm of righteousness? Let us not remove the landmark of the supernatural events in the Bible.

THE LANDMARKS ABOUT JESUS

Remove not the ancient landmark of his eternal nature. Both testaments affirm his pre-existence before he became the Babe of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; John 1:1-3; 8:58; Col. 1:15-17).

Remove not the ancient landmark of his virgin birth. Jehovah God promised it in Genesis 3:15 even though the rendering of the New English Bible has removed any Messianic connection from this passage. (Too many of these modern versions freely tamper with God's ancient landmarks of eternal
truth). Isaiah spoke of the virgin birth in Isaiah 7:14 despite the fact that the Revised Standard Version removed virgin from this passage and injected "young woman". Angels spoke of this in Matthew 1 and Luke 1. Paul alludes to it in Galatians 4:4. Religious infidels (even in so-called Bible translating) who tamper with this landmark are seeding the whole collapse of Christianity for with this event the whole concept of the Christian cause either stands or falls.

Remove not the ancient landmark of this blood being shed for our sins
John 1:29; Matt. 26:28; I John 1:7; I Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5). Jehovah bound remission of sins, the church, the Lord's Supper and baptism with the blood of Jesus Christ. Do not tamper with the blood and that with which heavenly authority has linked it.

Remove not the ancient landmark of his resurrection, ascension, current kingship, second coming and all other events belonging to the great "Bible Doctrine of Final Things". Let us not remove the ancient landmarks about Jesus.

TO BE CONCLUDED
**OUR RECORD**

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**HOW WE GAVE**

CHECKS: 5/11/80: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (4) $20.00; (3) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $31.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (4) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (5) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $84.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $150.00. CURRENCY: (39) $1.00; (1) $2.00; (5) $5.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $7.03. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2093.03.

CHECKS: 5/18/80: (2) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (2) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (1) $25.00; (1) $27.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $75.00; (1) $85.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $109.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (41) $1.00; (3) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.76. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1993.76.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Malcolm and Helen Pierce placed membership here at Bellview on Sunday, May 18th. They live at Rt. 8, Box 617, Pensacola, 32506 and their phone number is 478-6147. Please be sure and add them to your directory.

**Our Sick**

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in. It was good to see Vera and Jimmy Fleetwood back in services after being sick for a few weeks.
Remove Not The Ancient Landmarks

Robert R. Taylor

Among Jehovah's people during the Old Testament era there was danger that ancient landmarks which served to establish property boundaries might be removed. A number of the sacred penmen warned against any deviations in this ever present problem. Honesty demanded sacred respect for these well established landmarks.

Concerning God's Word there is constant danger that his clearly established landmarks of divine truth will be removed. While many have sought to remove the ancient landmarks of Biblical inspiration, the scriptures' all sufficiency, the supernatural events portrayed in Holy Writ and the unique features of Jesus Christ and his deity, it is absolutely imperative that we keep all these safely intact. Let us now list two other landmarks under great attack currently.

THE LANDMARK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

Remove not the ancient landmarks concerning the church of Jesus Christ. Some would remove him as builder or founder and extend this honor to some man (Matt. 16:18). Others would remove Jerusalem as the beginning place even in face of such a prophetically clear passage like Isaiah 2:2-3 and the crystal clear chapter which stands as its fulfillment (Acts 2). Some have sought to remove the time of its establishment from that memorable Pentecost just after his resurrection and ascension to another date. The number indeed is Legion who have removed the entrance requirements for church membership in this blood bought body of the saved. Nearly all the religious world balks at the full set of conditions leading to salvation as set forth in such simple verses as Romans 10:17, Acts 16:31; 17:30, Romans 10:9-10 and Mark 16:16. The ancient landmarks establishing approved designations for
God's people both collectively and individually have been removed and humanly devised appellations take their place. Calling the church by terms which glorify the Godhead and wearing that royal name which so fitly and appropriately honors the author of our salvation offer little appeal to religious people at large. They are more interested in honoring self rather than the Saviour. If doubtful of this point, please explain why the Saviour has such little influence in their thinking, upon their speech or within their daily activities.

The church at work, in worship and in its organization should adhere to the inspired blueprint which has been left. The church has the threefold mission of preaching the gospel to the lost, keeping the saints saved by diligent edification and rendering help to those in distress both members and non-members (I Tim. 3:15, Jude 20-21, James 1:27, Gal. 6:10, 2 Cor. 8:12-14). Some of our own brethren evidently think these threefold tasks are insufficient to keep the church busy and thus clamor for social involvement, the formation of political connections and wholesale ventures into the entertainment business. Getting involved in the social gospel, becoming a political power or majoring in entertainment are departures from the ancient landmarks of scriptural activities for God's church. Let us never become dissatisfied with the landmarks of vocal singing, prayer, preaching, and teaching, the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day and the weekly contribution of our means. Jehovah did not establish these landmarks for man to remove. Let us never remove the ancient landmark of elders and deacons as constituting God's approved manner of church organization (Phil. 1:1). They tried this in the early centuries of this era and Roman Catholicism was the end result.

Let us not remove the ancient landmark of the church's ultimate destiny if she continues in faithful service to the Lord (John 14:3, Matt. 25:46, Eph. 5:23). Neither let us remove hell as a place of punishment for the unfaithful in the church and all those who die without the Lord (Matt. 13:42; 25:41, John 15:6, Rev. 20:14-15).

THE LANDMARK OF BIBLICAL MORALITY

Remove not the ancient landmark of God's system of morals and ethics. Advocates for the "new morality" and supporters of "situation ethics" have been enjoying tremendous success in their Satanic efforts to uproot completely our long established, time tested and God approved methods of human relationships. They seek freedom to do as passion and opportunity provide. With them there are no such expressions in human relationships as "no", "off limits" and "restricted".

What answer does the "new morality" have for venereal disease which strikes a young person in our country at the rate of every two minutes and has already reached epidemic proportions? What solution does this system provide for the unwanted baby that faces a young couple who barely knows each other but became lovers in the very framework of uncurbed passion advocated by this devilish system? What contribution does the system of "situation ethics" offer to the greatest crime wave ever faced by any American generation? This devilish system is a large part of the highly permissive society in which we live. Being a very prominent part of the problem in no sense can it ever be a part of the answer for a return to Biblical morality. It is a malicious movement. It creates problems which have to be solved by the very people who strongly object to the whole system of the "playboy" philosophy. Those who remove the ancient landmark of Biblical morality are
digging a pit into which they and their deceived followers will ultimately land.

Let us protect all of God's ancient landmarks. We are in the business of supporting them, not removing them. "Remove not the ancient landmark, which their fathers have set".

"The Bible And The TV Guide"

On the table, side by side,
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide,
One is well worn but cherished with pride,
But that one is not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

One is used daily to help folks decide.
No, It isn't the Bible; it's the TV Guide.

As the pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh! It doesn't matter; just turn on the TV.

Then confusion is started, for they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old TV.
So they refer to the book on which they all relied.
But it isn't the Bible; it's the TV Guide.

The word of God is seldom read,
Maybe a verse before they fall into bed,
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but from watching TV.

Then back to the table side by side,
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer,
No time for the word,
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and so free
We find in the Bible and not on TV.

---Author Unknown
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 177
Worship : 207
Evening : 191
Wednesday : 170
Contribution : $1930

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (2) $15.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (3) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $75.00; (3) $90.00; (1) $120.00.
CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (10) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.43. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1930.43.

NEW MEMBER

Mrs. Yvita L. Jones of 1670 West Roberts Road, Cantonment, Florida, 32533, placed her membership here at Bellview this past Sunday. Her phone number is 968-6538 and she will be in ZONE 6. Be sure and put her name, address, and phone number in your directory.

GRADUATING CLASS of 1980

We wish to congratulate the following members who are graduating from high school this week, the largest number in the history of Bellview.

ESCAMBIA
Larry Crowsen Darrell Maxey
PINE FOREST
Randy Brantley Jeff Orr
Cathy Cline Dawn Singletary
Lori Johnson Cheryl Stancliff
April Worley
TATE
Debbie Howland Spencer Ledford
Steve Thompson
WOODHAM
David Faison
My long time friend Bobby Key of Miami, Ok. has some timely things to say on the above subject. In this day of gimmicry and high pressure tactics to entice folk into the church in great numbers, and just for numbers sake, his is a welcome voice crying out against the perversions of the gospel and the work of the Lord's church. Hear him!

"Many pulpits are no longer used to impart information. Some freely admit they do not spend their pulpit time teaching and instructing, but rather promoting. Such preaching more and more takes on the spirit of an old time high school pep rally which inflamed school spirit to a white heat and assured victory over the opposing team. This type of preaching appeals to the emotions and feelings of the hearers.

We are not one to rule emotion out of religion; however, a steady diet of subjective and experimental sermonettes is breeding an entire generation of Bible ignorant, apostasy-bound church members. Too much commercialism and gimmicry and too little gospel preaching has produced members who don't know the difference between the church that Jesus built and the one Joe Smith built!

Those who advocate and practice promotional preaching reason that their hearers will gain Biblical knowledge through Cottage meetings, Bible classes (Bible Bowls, Rap Sessions, Lock-In's, Retreats, "church" camps, Serendipidy's - whatever that is -, Youth rallies, etc. wzc). But do they? Are we wiser than Paul who told preachers to "PREACH the Word"? I was told in a
meeting I was beginning, "Bible preaching, book, chapter, and verse, will not be received in this church. If you want to keep peoples interest you must relate more personal experiences." Those folk had been brought into the church through "sharing sessions" and the like. Thus, they found Bible preaching dull and uninteresting!

I am frankly alarmed at the testifying that goes on in many of our churches. I thought our denominational friends had wrung every tear out of personal testimonies years ago. We have little confidence in men's testimony, but maintain an unerring confidence in the writings of inspired men.

True Gospel preaching will reprove, rebuke, and exhort. Saving Bible knowledge will be imparted and loving exhortation will incite the hearer's response. Blessed is the preacher capable of both instructing in righteousness and moving folk to respond to God's call.

Preaching has played a vital part in the history of the world. It had always pleased God that men come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved by means of faithful preaching. When God wanted to call His people out of sin, He called for His preachers to do the job. Jesus sent preachers into all the world to preach His gospel to every creature. It was this preaching that brought men to salvation. These men preached the word with fervor and distinctiveness! Oh, how the world needs such preaching today!

The church today needs to sit at the feet of the likes of such pioneer preachers as Hardeman, Lipscomb, Wallace, Nichol, Freed, Elam, Sewell, and such earlier men as Campbell, Stone, and others. "As these early preachers went out, they relied solely upon their Bibles. Their preaching was almost entirely expository...In their presentation of the gospel their phraseology was charged with scripture quotations and references. Oratory was the order of the day, and sermons less than an hour long were never heard of—most of them running longer." Search for Ancient Order, Vol. 1, Pg. 128.

If preachers are not careful they tend to give people what they want to hear and not what they need to hear. Paul warned the time would come when people would not endure sound doctrine. From the beginning people have disliked hearing the truth when it convicted them of their sins. For some strange reason some members of the church have decided that sound preaching and teaching is not needed. Some will embrace any kind of false doctrine and not give truth a second glance. Most of the denominations preach more Bible than some "well known" (gimmick promoting) so called gospel preachers. Billy Graham has far more doctrine in his programs than some of "our" national TV programs! It is little wonder we are seeing members (and even preachers) from prominent denominational bodies place membership with churches of Christ without conversion!!

Brethren, it is time to quit promoting and start to again preach the doctrine of Christ and that only in all of our churches. wrc

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-90-
Atheist's Son Offers Apology

BALTIMORE (AP) - William J. Murray III, who through his atheist mother was part of a Supreme Court case that succeeded in having prayer banned from public schools, has apologized to the city where the case started.

Murray, the son of Madalyn Murray O'Hair, says in a letter to the Baltimore Sun that he wants "to apologize to the people of the City of Baltimore" for his part in removing "Bible reading and prayer from the public schools of the city."

Murray was a 17-year-old high school junior at Baltimore's Poly Western High School in 1963 when his mother won a victory in the Supreme Court banning the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and Bible readings from public school classrooms.

Murray, who now lives in Houston, said the court case was a mistake.

"At least, I as an individual know it was a mistake," said Murray.

He wrote a similar letter of apology which was published in Texas in the Austin American-Statesman. His mother operates the American Atheist Center in Austin.

Murray said he was no longer an atheist and probably never was one.

"It is only with a return to our traditional values and our faith in God that we will be able to survive as a people," he wrote. "If it were within my personal power to help return this nation to its rightful place by placing God back in the classroom, I would do so."

His mother called her son's reaction "pretty strange."

"I think this is what this is: He's after his mother again," she said. "But don't ask me why."

Asked about the letter, Murray said his beliefs began to change during public disputes with his mother in 1974 and 1975.

"It was then that I got the surprise of my life. Atheism is a completely negative philosophy. There is nothing associated with that type of belief that is constructive in any form whatsoever," he said.

'(this interesting article was in the Birmingham paper the week of May 11th)

(VIA THE EXHORTER, Arab, Alabama)
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 186
Worship: 212
Evening: 187
Wednesday: 160
Contribution: $2454

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (6) $20.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (1) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (2) $62.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $73.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (2) $120.00; (1) $200.00.

CURRENCY: (48) $1.00; (9) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $11.03.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,454.03.

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RESPONSES

Peggy Crowe came forward Wednesday evening May 21st requesting the prayers of the church.

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Our Sick

Our sick and shut-ins remain the same. Let us remember them in our prayers.
Digression Is Now Fact!

W. R. CRAIG

Preachers who hold for the old paths and the ancient landmarks of "Thus saith the Lord" for all that is believed, taught, and practiced have been warning of a drift toward digression in churches of Christ. In many places it is no longer a drift but a fact! One has only to read the bulletins from these congregations or the newspaper advertisements that they buy to ascertain this fact.

Two bulletins crossed my desk in recent days that will evidence the digression from the truth that is already among us. From the bulletin of the Weatherford, Ok. church dated May 1, 1980, note the following:

"The elders would like to invite all of the ladies of the congregation to the regular monthly business meetings. These are held the first Wednesday evening each month after services. We really hope that you will attend. Traditionally, women have not attended business meetings of the church in many places. The only reason for them not to attend, however, is just that---tradition."

The Weatherford church has evidently forgotten Paul, inspired of the Holy Spirit, in I Cor. 14:34 said, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law." That's scripture, not just tradition! Perhaps they dismiss Paul with the declaration of a young Dallas, Texas area preacher who said, "Silence doesn't mean silence here." Remember the great apostasy was brought on by tampering with God's system of church government. Are we seeing the first steps of another departure that will lead the church again into the dark ages?
The second bulletin is from the Allen Park, Mich. church and is dated March 5th, 1980. Weldon Howard is the preacher. He announces:

"Lord willing, I will be leaving for Hammond, Ind. on Sunday afternoon March 16, to attend a "Pastors School." It is put on by the staff of First Baptist Church in Hammond. First Baptist is the largest church in the world. They regularly run 250 buses weekly. They have had a total crowd of either 100,000 or 200,000 on a single Sunday! This is the 17th annual school. I understand it is a rather grueling program--12 hours a day. Hopefully, I'll be able to learn some things that will be helpful to us here. The following areas will be covered: Sunday School, Soul-Winning, Finances, Church building, Bus Ministry, Promotion, Youth Program, Nursery Program. Please pray that the time spent will be worthwhile. I will be going with David Fox from Vinewood and Larry Acuff from Highland."

Now we know where all of the denominational PROMOTIONS in the church are coming from. "Our" preachers are going to the denominations to learn how to execute them! Here are three Detroit area preachers going to a "Pastors School" in the Baptist Denomination to learn how to do the Lord's Work. The only place one can learn that which will "be helpful" to the Lord's work is from the Bible taught by Bible loving, Bible believing, and Bible practicing teachers. Not denominational teachers! Denominational teachers will teach DENOMINATIONAL doctrines and practices and methods without regard for the scriptures, whether a "grueling 12 hours per day" or just one hour: The supreme authority of the scriptures is a secondary thing with them.

How long, brethren, before like the denominations, until we have women Elders, Preachers, etc. in our churches? Come to think of it, for all practical purposes we already have women preachers running around the country preaching in seminars, retreats, workshops (which we also borrowed from the denominations) to not only women, but in many instances to both men and women. I rather suspect that some of the classes in the "Pastors School" in Hammond were taught by women. It is the practice among the Baptists. As long as "our" preachers and leaders go to the denominations for their training, we'll keep moving "our" churches into denominationalism. We are no longer drifting, brethren, we are about to drown in Apostasy:

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What If We Did Not Have The Bible?

CLIFFORD DIXON

I have heard people say that they planned to walk in certain ways regardless of what the Bible said about it. I have heard of others that say that they could not trust the Bible to be the word of God. Like Jesus' attitude on the cross, may God forgive them for they know not what they say nor what they do. Think with me for a little on what the world would be like without the Bible.

1. We would not know the One Lord God if we did not have the Bible. We
could look into the heavens and say something caused all these things and we could search for that something through all our wisdom but we would not find Him. Paul stated, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). The people of the world in their wisdom have tried to figure out this universe for all these thousands of years but have been miserable failures. Think of the millions of gods that have been invented and worshipped by men. It is because God has revealed himself that man is without excuse for not knowing him. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." (Rom. 1:19). The heavens declare the Glory of God (Psalms 19:1), but the Bible reveals God and his characteristics. It doesn't set about to prove that He exists but it shows us what He says, what He has done and does, His characteristics, and what He wants us to do. We would certainly all be without God and without hope in the world if we did not have the Bible.

2. We would not know the enormity of sin nor the doom of sinners if we did not have the Bible. In all races of men there are standards of right and wrong. All recognize this because of the very nature of man, but the Bible shows us wrong doing is sin which separates us from God. Paul said, "Nay I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7). He went on to say that he was alive without the law once: (that is in the state of innocence of childhood) but that when the commandment came, sin revived, and he died. He said the law was holy, just, and good but that sin worked death in him, "that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Rom. 7:13). What Paul is stating in this chapter is that the law showed the enormity of sin but without Christ there would be no forgiveness of sin. That is one purpose of the Bible to show the terribleness of sin and what will happen to an that dies in sin. They cannot go to where Jesus is but according to the Scriptures there is a lake of fire and brimstone where they will be cast (John 8:21; Revelation 21:8).

3. Without the Bible we would not have that wonderful story of the love of God in providing us a Savior who died for our sins. Just as soon as man sinned God began to reveal a scheme for his redemption. The statement to the serpent of the seed of the woman bruising his head was a promise of Christ's atoning sacrifice (Gen. 3:15). Through death Christ destroyed the devil who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14). The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8). Without the Bible we would not know that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

4. Without the Bible we would not know what to do to be saved. The plan of salvation is revealed therein that we must believe (John 3:16), repent (Luke 13:3), confess Christ (Matt. 10:32), and be baptized (Mark 16:16). We would not know to worship in spirit and truth if we did not have the Bible (John 4:24). We would not know the items of worship without the Bible, nor how to organize congregations of His church.

In conclusion, the Bible is so important to our lives that without it we would be groping in darkness and despair. Why not read it, study it, believe it, and obey its commands. Here you find God, Christ, and how to serve them.

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-95-
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 188
Worship: 209
Evening: 175
Wednesday: 167
Contribution: $2078

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $18.00; (4) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (2) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (6) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $89.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $175.00. CURRENCY: (40) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.12. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,078.12.

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NEW MEMBERS

Gerald and Geneva Miles and their two sons, Grant and Glen placed membership at Bellview Sunday, June 8th. Their address will be 4852 Saufley Road, Pensacola, 32506. At present their phone number is 944-0607. We welcome them into the fellowship here at Bellview. They will be in ZONE 1.

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Our Sick

Sister Eddie Hardin is in the hospital in Dothan, Alabama. She is very ill.

Sister Ada Belle Coe still remains shut-in.

Let us remember these and others in our prayers.

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OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 188
Worship: 209
Evening: 175
Wednesday: 167
Contribution: $2078

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $18.00; (4) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (2) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (6) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $89.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $175.00. CURRENCY: (40) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.12. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,078.12.

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THIS WEEK'S RIDDLE

陸約瑟

基督	會	民	生	社	区	传	道	士

ANSWER

WILL BE

IN

NEXT WEEK'S

BULLETIN

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Thoughtful people realize that the church of our Lord is facing troubled waters. There is nothing unusual about this as the church has always had its troubles both external and internal. The real task before the church is to face up to its problems, find their cause and eliminate them. Some are being misled due to the growth of the church in numbers. This does not mean anything unless there is spiritual growth in keeping with numerical growth. The early church grew faster after the seeds of apostasy were planted than it did before. Constantine multiplied the numbers of the church, but contributed to its spiritual decline and complete apostasy.

We are living in changing times, some are good and some are not. In the midst of change there are some things that do not change. It is necessary for us to distinguish between the changes that may be for good and those things which we cannot change except at the price of ruin. It is my firm conviction that as we have moved forward in some ways, we have left behind some things that are necessary for our survival as the people of God and unless we are willing to turn back again to these principles the church will wreck itself on the shoals of disgression and apostasy.

It seems to be characteristic of all of us to want to shift responsibility. This is the easy way out. In Galatians 6:5 Paul said, "For every man shall bear his own burden." While Paul was speaking of responsibility in a particular area, this principle is of wide application. Responsibility has been partitioned out by God in many areas of life and these cannot be shifted without dire consequences. I think that in some ways we have left behind responsibility that God does not allow shifted and thus have become the victims of our own plans. In most instances this shifting of responsibility was not by deliberate design and purpose, but the result of our progress in
certain areas that caused us to neglect to emphasize some "unshiftable responsibility."

In the years past there was the time the church had very little and sometimes no organized Bible study. There was room for progress in this direction. There came the day when some saw the need and opportunity for the church to add to Bible knowledge by forming classes with good teachers. In some ways this was a trying time for the church. Some opposed classes and it was necessary to defend the right of the church to have classes if it wanted to. Many who were not opposed to Bible classes were not interested in attending classes (some still feel the same way) and this led to emphasizing the Bible classes. Gradually, with this emphasis on the classes more and more parents and children attended. While we have emphasized the importance of attendance at Bible study and increasing the numbers of classes, there has been a general decline in Bible knowledge. I think the reason is evident if we will but stop and think. Generally, the more our attendance for Bible study has increased, the more parents have shifted responsibility for teaching to the church. This is a responsibility that cannot be shifted.

The home continues to neglect more of this responsibility and the church tries to take up more of the slack but it is not working. Some responsibilities belong to parents. The church may help, but it cannot accept the full responsibility. We need to balance our preaching by encouraging attendance in Bible study, but let parents know that these classes are not designed, nor planned as a substitute for their God-given responsibility.

In the past, there was the time when the church made very few plans. In most instances not a great amount of organization characterized the efforts of the church. While there was not much organized and planned efforts, there was a great deal of individual activity on the part of the majority of Christians. They visited the sick, comforted the bereaved, gave to the needy, and talked with their friends and neighbors about the Bible and their souls. It was good that there came the day of better planning and organization. There was room for improvement but again we left behind some things that needed to keep - individual effort and responsibility. We have to organize visitation programs, personal work programs and a multitude of other things. A small percentage of the church engages in these while the rest sit back and do nothing.

It is good for the church to encourage and enlist members in organized work of various kinds, but it is a sad day in the church when members feel no responsibility until the church plans and pushes every move they make. Real Christianity brings about personal initiative. We have spent so much time pushing organized efforts that we have not had any time to get Christians to realize there were things that they could and should do on their own. Why should it take a super-organized effort to get Christians to visit the sick, talk with their neighbors and friends about the Bible or invite people to the services? While we have profited in one way, we have lost some vital features and principles of New Testament Christianity. We would do well to back up and catch up some of the things we have left behind.

Several years back, our buildings were in bad locations and many times poorly built and arranged. There came the day when we realized that better locations and facilities could help us reach the lost and build up the church. Better buildings in good locations came into being. This was good except we shifted the responsibility of preaching the gospel to convert
people to letting our building attract people. When the church was across the tracks it had nothing but the gospel to draw people. We can build a nice building, become respectable in the community and grow in numbers without a thimble full of Gospel being preached. It is time we reached back and picked up the gospel we left behind.

I CHALLENGE YOU...

W. R. Craig

1. DO NOT MISS A SINGLE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH. Please! No excuses. Give up those material things which you have neglected your duty to enjoy. Make a few sacrifices. Really put Christ First!

2. STUDY YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY... Even if it means letting some other important things go--like turning off your T.V.

3. BRING AT LEAST ONE FRIEND, NEIGHBOR OR RELATIVE to Bible study and worship.

4. GO VISITING AT LEAST ONE NIGHT PER WEEK and not just the ones you know and like best! This time, visit those you do not know too well or that you don't know at all.

5. PRAY EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE... When you feel the slightest need, pray! Pray when you don't feel a need! And while you are at it, pray for your enemies and for those who hinder the truth by their gossip and laziness! Oh, yes, pray for those who "murmur."

6. ALSO MAKE IT A POINT TO PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO THE WORSHIP SERVICE. Purge your minds of everything temporal and concentrate on the spiritual!

7. DO ALL THIS FOR JUST ONE MONTH... and you will not want to return to your former state! That is, if you are really in earnest about going to heaven and your professed love for Christ!

You will also be surprised at the results... both in others as well as in yourself! Try it! You have nothing to lose and your soul to gain!
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 187
Worship: 211
Evening: 172
Wednesday: 163
Contribution: $1980

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $19.00; (7) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (2) $25.00; (1) $28.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $65.00; (1) $73.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $128.00.

CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (3) $20.00. CHANGE: $8.00.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,980.00.

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HERE IS THE ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE:

Joseph A. Ruiz
EVANGELIST, CHURCH OF CHRIST

RESIDENCE:
WO-LUNG STREET
LANE 17 NO. 101-4TH FLOOR
TAIPEI 105, TAIWAN
PHONE: 772-8356

CHURCH ADDRESS:
MIN-SHENG EAST ROAD
LANE 99 NO. 51-LC MANSION, SEC. B
3RD FL. NO. 3-7 TAIPEI
PHONE: 707-9500

"That was really bright! When he said our children should be reared in a Christian home you screamed, 'You're not taking our kids away from us!'"
"Josiah, We Need Thee Now"

Hezekiah was a noble king of Judah; also a reformer. His son Manasseh succeeded him, becoming one of the most infamous kings, undoing all of his father's work of reformation. He established iniquities and abominations shocking and degrading as not before known in Judah (2 Chron. 33). Amon his son continued the wicked practices and was assassinated after two years (2 Chron. 33:22). Josiah, Amon's son began to reign when he was eight years old, inheriting a spiritually degenerate kingdom.

1. Josiah's character. In spite of the fact Josiah was son and grandson of wicked kings, "He did that which was right in the sight of Jehovah." He walked in the ways of his father David. There is a great difference between doing that which is right in the eyes of the Lord and that which is right in the eyes of men. "There is a way that seemeth right, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). The law of Moses forbade one to do that which was right in his own eyes (Deut. 12:8).

Josiah "turned not to the right hand nor to the left" (2 Chron. 34:2). He was a middle-of-the-roader. He pursued a straight course, allowing nothing to swerve him. In this we should follow Josiah. God forbids addition to or subtraction from his word (Deut. 4:2; 5:32; Rev. 22:18-19). God's people today should strive to know his will and not be turned from it (Eph. 5:17; Gal. 1:6-12). If everyone in the brotherhood would abide by this principle there would be righteousness instead of sin, truth unmixed with error, and unity would displace strife and discord. Thus would the name of Jehovah be glorified. To walk uprightly before God should also be the ruling principle in our lives.

2. The book of the law is found. Repairing the temple was begun in the
eighteenth year of Josiah's reign. In the process Hilkiah the priest found "a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses" (2 Chron. 34:14). The Lord required the people to be taught the law and remember it. In view of God's great works, extraordinary manifestations of divine power and unusual blessings upon Israel, it seems strange that the law should be lost, especially in his house.

With millions of copies of the word of God flowing from our national presses annually it is even more a wonder today. With one or more Bibles in nearly every home, the law of God today is lost among those who profess to believe in Christ and worship God. While many claim to believe the Bible, yet they ignore its contents and "every man does that which is right in his own eyes." The Bible condemns such (Prov. 28:26; 30:6).

Among the Lord's people is heard the cry: "Back to the Bible." Our slogan has been, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent." Our motto: "Do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names." These are all noble statements. This is as it should be, and will be with those who really love the Lord. It is high time we laid aside our shallowness, liberal leanings, spirit of innovation and dug out the law of Christ and dug into it (Rom. 8:2; Col. 2:3).

3. A covenant is made. When Josiah learned the book found was really the law of God he summoned to the temple a great company of priests, prophets and people, and "read in their ears all the words of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord." He desired them to be instructed in the Lord's ways and obey the law that had been lost and forgotten. Not only did the king read the law, but "made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after~

This same pattern should be followed today, and we are better equipped than ever to do it. A few years ago, in an interview with the beloved N. B. Hardeman, Willard Collins asked him how Bible knowledge compared between Christians now and fifty years ago. The answer was that there is less. Indeed, this is a sad commentary. We have more preachers, more Bible teachers, more colleges in which the Bible is supposed to be taught, greater church buildings and finer facilities of every kind, more avenues and opportunities of teaching God's word than ever before, and greater ignorance of the Bible than before. What is the problem? The word of God has been buried under the debris of sectarianism within the church! We need to cleanse the temple today. Pray for more Josiahs that we may find again the word of God, and teach it to the people as did our noble brethren in generations past.

4. The cleansing. "Josiah did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah" (2 Chron. 34:2). He had priests and other helpers to remove from the temple all vessels made for Baal. They were burned to ashes and carried away. Josiah purged Judah of images, breaking them in pieces and grinding them to dust. (Read 2 Chronicles 34 and 35, and 2 Kings 22 through 24). Note the destruction of things unauthorized and objectionable to God. The measures taken seem strong to us perhaps, but Jehovah was pleased. Josiah's reformation was thorough and effective for them. He was a great example of loyalty to God.

Jehovah is no less displeased today with innovations, sin, false worship among professed believers. The temple was a type of the church. Just as abuses were corrected by Josiah, so ought they to be in the Lord's church.
today. As Josiah ground to powder the objectionable things that buried the law of God, so ought we, so must we grind to powder and use the sword of the Spirit to cut to pieces every false move designed to lead the church into digression. If Josiah had had the indifferent and compromising spirit that characterizes so many in the church today he would never have brought the reforms that so pleased the Lord.

The apostle Paul saw the coming of the apostasy of the church and gave solemn warning to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:28-32). Those who love the truth and appreciate the simplicity of the Lord's church are now deeply concerned with the possibility of apostasy facing us now. History is repeating itself. A number of young "intellectuals" along with some not so young are banded together, it seems, to lead the Lord's people back into the labyrinth of denominationalism from which great men led us. Let us not be deterred by those liberals who complain.

One of the greatest needs in the church today is to "rediscover the law" and wield the sword of the Spirit in cleaning up the church. We need to read again in the Bible about the great men and methods as approved by the Lord, such men as Gideon, Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist, Stephen and Paul, and follow their examples. The Lord will be pleased. The gospel is to be used to tear down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4). Faithful elders and preachers should follow Josiah's good example and use the gospel to that end. God will be well pleased. Josiah, we need thee now!

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Begin Today

Dream not too much of what you'll do tomorrow,
How well you'll work perhaps another year;
Tomorrow's chance you do not need to borrow —
Today is here.

Boast not too much of mountains you will master,
The while you linger in the vale below;
To dream is well, but plodding brings us faster
To where we go.

Talk not too much about some new endeavor
You mean to make a little later on;
Who idles now will idle on
Till life is gone.

Swear not some day to break some habit's fetter,
When this old year is dead and passed away;
If you have need of living wiser, better,
Begin today.

-Selected-

-103-
Our Record

Bible Classes: 171
Worship: 199
Evening: 165
Wednesday: 172
Contribution: $1861

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $18.00; (2) $20.00; (3) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (6) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $65.00; (1) $69.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $112.00; (1) $120.00.

CURRENCY: (42) $1.00; (2) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00.

CHANGE: $6.05.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,861.05.

Directory Info.

Frank and Erin Scharff have moved to Louisiana. Emory and Cynthia Meier and girls have moved to Texas.

Sick

Eddie Hardin is still in a hospital in Alabama. She is some improved.

Inez Brantley is in West Florida Hospital, Room 403. At the present time she is having tests done.

Ada Belle Coe is still shut-in.

Let us remember these in our prayers.

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THEOPHILUS

GO GET THE TICKETS, SON

TWO TICKETS PLEASE

WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE PLACE YOU WANT TICKETS TO?

I FORGOT, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER JUST GIVE ME THE ONE OF YOUR CHOICE.

THERE'S NOTHING IN A NAME
THE IMAGE OF THE CHURCH
Johnny Ramsey

In the past decade a completely new emphasis has developed among brethren. It is the inordinate affection for the praise of men. Time was when we were content to just preach the old Jerusalem gospel and let the truth of God's word fall where it might. Since Jehovah promised centuries ago that the word would not return void of proper impact we should have been content with just proclaiming it (Isaiah 55:11; I Corinthians 15:58). The New Testament church certainly succeeded mightily without "beautiful, commodious buildings in strategic locations." They even circled the earth with the message of salvation without a single "star" of the Amphitheater Drama Corps. They didn't even have a public relations firm to produce their Campaigns or a University to stage their Lectureships annually. Forsooth, alas and alak - one even searches in vain for the Youth Rally headquarters. It is true, of course, that over in the Apocrypha book of Heylookatus one can read the following dynamic message of urgency.

"Attention all Youth Directors, Ministers of Music, Welfare Captains and Church Kitchen Brigades (Educational Directors and Associate Ministers and Retreat Personnel Have Their Own Conferences):

Do not forget - we repeat - do not forget - On March 10, 58 A.D. at 4

-105-
p.m. (we must wait until the chariot races are over) in the Fellowship Hall of the Pride and Glory Church of Christ in Laodicea we will have the largest Youth Rally in the history of our movement. The song director will be the famous Olympic hammerthrower Titus Geshem. The preacher will be the esteemed actor from Athens, Dr. Humble Meeker. Noted for his bright colored clothing, he has promised to wear his orange coat and green trousers. Dr. Meeker will share with our young people twenty of the latest jokes from Mar's Hill. There will also be a surprise mystery guest to make the afternoon complete. We can only promise you that she is very important and famous. The program will close with a light's out silent prayer testimonial. Of course, this full program of deep spiritual purpose will prohibit many of you from attending evening services but we have cleared this with the Lectureship Director and he assures us that everything will be AOK. Be sure to post this in the Jr. and Sr. Intermediate Educational Wing and in the Boy Scout room of the church edifice. The youth of the church are on the march and we must make them strong for soon they will be the church of yesterday. Always remember: Young people are problems. Stress this to them. Tell it far and wide. Let the whole sisterhood be aware of this monumental task. We need more puppet shows, better sand-tables and above all else Youth Directors and Youth Rallies. This we know is the heart of the Great Commission. We, in Laodicea, wish to go down in Innovation History as the church that cares for young people. At the conclusion of our Mammoth Youth Rally Campaign we shall proudly announce plans for our kindergarten retreat this summer. We now have the latest skits, finger plays, action songs and minstrel shows - acquired from the Epicureans and now printed in our own literature - for all ages. After all, give us a child until he's 7 and he will never want the Scriptures!

Be sure to paint your local church banners for the opening parade which Dr. Meeker always leads prior to the Rally. He furnishes the balloons.

We look forward to a spiritual feast of good things. If the weather is bad and the roads icy you may need to miss Sunday morning worship also to get here on time. We just must have a big crowd for the Youth Rally as the newspaper reporters will be here. We will meet all of the Eastern guests in front of the Unwed Mother's Unit and the Western guests in front of the Dope Addicts Rehabilitation Center. We hope those from North and South can find the Sanctuary by themselves as we have not finished the alcoholics hospital and the carpenter shop section of our compound. What an image our church will soon have in this community! I just know Jesus is proud of us for our visionary zeal. Truly, the end justifies the means. Our Youth Rally will illustrate that point beautifully."

Brethren, you don't need a satire on a make-believe Apocrypha book to startle you on these points. Just open your eyes in 1968 and watch the church of Christ, U S A, go marching by! It is much later than we think. Or, are we thinking?
Pass The Torch

Bob Howton

Several years ago, our nation witnessed the inauguration of a new president who was a young man. During one of his addresses to the nation, he made the statement, "The torch has been passed to a new generation." Although we might miss some of the implications in this statement by President Kennedy, we readily see many others.

In the Olympic games where nations compete against each other for gold medals, a symbolic torch is lit and a runner begins the long trek to the central structure in the Olympic complex. He carries in his hand the lighted torch which furnishes the igniting spark for the flame which burns continually throughout the entire olympiad. What a thrill it must be to be chosen to carry the torch and light the fire! All the nations of earth witness the run and the lighting ceremony. From this point on, the fierce competition begins.

Our Christian lives should reflect the light of Christ into a world of darkness. When the torch is passed to us (at baptism), we should be filled with thanksgiving and sober contemplation of the race which is then before us. Our hearts should thrill every time we have the opportunity to share God's Word with a fellow traveler. We should show our gratitude by the way we conduct ourselves and by our apparent thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve and to share.

Sad though it is, some have allowed the torch to burn low, flicker, and barely remain lit. Then, almost beyond understanding are those who have either laid the torch down or allowed it to completely go out. As the runner in the Olympiad performs his task before the eyes of the world, just so, each Christian performs daily before God and man. How about your torch? Does it need some attention? Dear brethren, let's take it and run with it as if everything depended upon it -- for indeed it does!

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 162
Worship: 210
Evening: 184
Wednesday: 159
Contribution: $2044

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (3) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $65.00; (1) $73.00; (2) $90.00; (2) $120.00.

CURRENCY: (46) $1.00; (2) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00.

CHANGE: $6.35.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,044.35.

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RESPONSES

Kandy Brantley came forward Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the church.

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Sick

Inez Brantley
Ada Belle Coe
Eddie Hardin

New Members

Greg Anderson came forward Sunday asking for the prayers of the church and to place membership with the Bellview congregation. He lives at 1104 Medford Avenue, Pensacola, 32505 and his phone number is 432-2686. He will be in ZONE 4. Be sure and add this information to your directory.

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Church Chuckles by CART WRIGHT

"Notice you only looked at your watch twice! Glad to see you getting involved."
IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

H. A. Dobbs

We are living in a time when even those who profess to be members of the body of the Lord and who represent themselves to be "a guide of the blind, a light to them that are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of babes" cast slurs and disparaging insinuations against that sacred institution purchased at the awful cost of the blood of God.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of the church. It is the body of Christ and Jesus is its head (Ephesians 2:22-23); in the one body, the church, is to be found redemption as sons, redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, and EVERY spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3-14). God binds every person to the church, therefore there are no saved persons outside the church (Acts 2:47). Jesus is the Savior of the church and the church is his Savior (Ephesians 5:23-25). When Paul persecuted the church he was accused of persecuting Jesus (Acts 9:4). There is one body (Ephesians 2:16). The church is the household of God, the bride of Christ, the church is his wife, the vineyard of the Lord and the temple of God. We dare not think of the church with contempt or do anything that would inflict a wound upon the precious body.

It is somewhat startling to hear teachers who ought to know better talking about being loyal to Christ instead of the church, and complaining that the brethren are afflicted with the disease of "Churchanity" (whatever that means) whereas they ought to be practicing Christianity. Is it not strange to see the great division that some would make between Jesus and his body? We suppose one could separate one's head from one's body, but it isn't ad-
visable. Spiritual death will surely be the result of cutting the head (Jesus) from the body (his church).

The church has grown remarkably in the past decade - the fastest growing religious institution, according to a United Press release. The reason for this rapid increase has been our loyalty to God's Word. We have fearlessly proclaimed the truth of the law of the Lord and have refused to make compromise with error. We have held the church forth to a desperate world - desperate for salvation from sin - and have demonstrated the distinctiveness of the true church as over against denominational bodies. We have not been arrogant, but we have been truthful. The church, being the pillar and ground of the truth (I Timothy 3:15), and the truth being an irresistible force, has increased in a marvelous way. If we continue to preach the word of God and refuse to be neutralized by the world, we will continue to grow. If not, we cannot long survive.

We are told that the rising generation is tired of hypocrisy and wants us to "tell it like it is." In this issue we declare, on the authority of the Bible, the real mission, work and nature of the church of the New Testament - the unvarnished truth of God is our only aim. Whether the world receives the truth or hates the light should not govern our actions; we are not men pleasers because we are servants of Christ; the Lord has told us that some seed will fall on hard ground; we have no election - our charge is to "preach the word." God being our helper, we will indeed TELL IT LIKE IT IS. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

In this modern day, many are saying that the church needs to be changed from the divine pattern to conform to the wishes of the sons of the kingdom of darkness. Men are not only liberalizing the holy scriptures, but are forsaking the divine writing entirely.

Some have abandoned the ranks of the army of the Lord and have joined the forces of Satan and others are taking pot-shots at the stalwarts of the faith as they stand on the firing line and others are merely wavering - not knowing and not caring whether Jehovah or Baal is God. False teachers are calling upon disciples to withdraw from the assembly of the saints and the watchful eye of the shepherds of the flock and meet in small groups - called by some "cell meetings" and by others "house churches" but, called by any name, it amounts to a denial of the New Testament organization of the church and an open invitation for false doctrine to find currency.

In such meetings may be found women usurping the place of men (one meeting featured a barefoot woman under the delusion she had the power to cast out demons), the so-called ecstatic menace - misnamed "speaking in tongues," the attempt to move the church away from evangelism into areas of "social concern," and many other perversions of the gospel. An occasional seminar pumps young people with misdirected zeal and stirs their emotions with death-bed stories, resulting in immature persons sneering at godly elders, referring to faithful preachers as "legalists," and branding the church for which the Master died as "tacky" and nineteenth-century (their aim, we are told, is to drag us, screaming and kicking into the twentieth century). Secret groups, it has been reported, meet in what has been called "underground churches" for more grotesque "services" - like trying to resurrect a dead cat (feline mammal), for instance.

Under the guise of love, these teachers of suspicion, mistrust, fear and hate are out to destroy the restored church, it seems, and to brand everyone
who is dedicated to New Testament principles as an ignoramus or mentally im-
potent. They are doing their thing. And their thing is to wreck the
church, if they can. If what has been told and written is only half true,
the remaining half is enough to justify apostolic warnings being pressed a-
new "Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the con-
cision" (Philippians 3:2); "But there arose false prophets also among the
people as among you also there shall be false teachers" (II Peter 2:1);
"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are
of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:
1), "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that
were heard, lest haply we drift away from them. Abhor that which is evil,
cleave to that which is good" (Rom. 12:9).

The one faith and the one church are under fire. It is time for soldiers
of the Lord to unsheath the sword of the Spirit and make the enemies of
spiritual Israel yield. Make no mistake, the battle is unto death; and the
victory goes to the active, the vigilant, the strong and the brave. The
final reward belongs to those who are faithful to God and his law. The
pleading cry of the old song continues, "Soldiers of Christ, arise and put
your armor on; strong in the strength which God supplies through his beloved
Son."

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THEOPHILUS

I HEAR YOU'RE LIVING IN THE SIN OF ADULTERY

YES -- AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

YOU GAVE ME A ROD AND REEL FOR MY BIRTHDAY WHICH CAUSED ME TO GO FISHING
WHERE I MET A MAN WHO INSISTED I HAVE A FEW DRINKS IN A PLACE WHERE I MET
THIS BARE IN A BIKINI WHO MADE ME DANCE WITH HER AND FORCED ME TO TAKE HER
AWAY FROM HER HUSBAND....

COME TO THINK OF IT -- I'M JUST A VICTIM OF MY ENVIRONMENT

SOCIETY MUST BEAR THE GUILT OF MY SINS!

THEOPHILUS

IT'S NOT WHAT HE'S DONE THAT'S SO TERRIBLE -- IT'S WHY!

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY WE'VE FAILED HIM

YES -- SOCIETY MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY!

AREN'T YOU A PART OF SOCIETY?
Our Record

Bible Classes: 156
Worship : 178
Evening : 175
Wednesday : 150
Contribution : $2385

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $15.00; (6) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (3) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (1) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $65.00; (2) $90.00; (2) $120.00; (1) $133.00; (1) $175.00; (1) $200.00. CURRENCY: (27) $1.00; (4) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (2) $20.00.

CHANGE: $8.36. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,385.36.

Sick

Sister Inez Brantley is still in West Florida Hospital.

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in.

Brother Bill Crowe entered the Navy Hospital (NARMC) Monday for surgery on Tuesday.

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Brethren, We Are In Trouble

JOHN G PRIOLA

Why such a pessimistic title for a bulletin article? The answer: it is a realistic title.

For years, faithful brethren such as Ira Y. Rice Jr., Charles Pledge, Robert Taylor, William Cline, W. L. Totty, G. K. Wallace and a host of others have been warning us that unless we reversed the trend that is prevalent in our brotherhood, we would drift and apostatize from truth. Needless to say, little if any reversing has been done and indications are that many seem to be going "full steam ahead" in leaving the old paths. Some, because they have not been exposed to the old paths, simply do not have any idea at all what we mean by the old paths. And then some, who do know, react as if they could not care less when shown that some brethren are leaving the truth.

I don't profess to have the answer to all of our problems, but I do believe that I can see why some of these problems have developed.

First, these problems have developed because our preaching has not been what it should have. Some of us have not proclaimed God's Word like we should have. Just recently, I noticed an article in one of our brotherhood publications that mentioned a certain brother preaching on the subject of "Boldness." The article talked about how this particular preacher called "a spade a spade."

He said divorce is a sin, remarriage without a scriptural cause is a sin, abortion is a sin, homosexuality is a sin, alcoholism is a sin, religious division is a sin and denominationalism is sin. But what caught my eye was that in preaching like this the article said he was in "rare" form. Person-
ally, brethren I believe that a preacher should not have to get in rare form to call a spade a spade.

I don't believe he needs to be in rare form to say that divorce, remarriage without a scriptural cause, abortion, homosexuality and such like are sins. Maybe that has been some of our problem. We have not had enough preachers in rare form who are willing to call a spade a spade. Hopefully, we can change the trend. If those who are in positions of influence will speak out boldly, if they will call a spade a spade, it will not hurt the cause of Christ.

But it needs to be done continuously. Once a year is not enough. If those men who have access to national radio and television will call a spade a spade we will, like the early church grow considerably. We must call a spade a spade on the subject of the church. We must call a spade a spade concerning the use of the mechanical instrument of music in worship to God. We must not only be bold in speaking out against "social" sins, but we must also lay the axe to the root against any who seek to undermine the distinctive nature of the Lord's Church.

Another problem is that we are losing the distinctive nature referred to above. But why? Brethren, we can't hob-nob with others and remain distinct. When we have preachers who will go teach the Methodist Church how to grow, then we can't remain distinct for long. When we have brethren who defend such actions, how can we possibly hope to be distinct? But when Lynn Anderson did that, few brethren were alarmed or concerned. Now it is being done again. This time it is not Lynn Anderson, but Chuck Lucas. He is scheduled to be at Kingsway Christian Church, located in Indianapolis, Indiana. He will be motivating them to do more for Christ according to the ad. How can we teach people that the Church of Christ is distinct, when we are motivating others to do more for Christ and they are outside the body of Christ? He will be appearing on a program that over the space of nine weeks will have ministers from the Christian Church, Peoples Church, Assembly of God, and Lucas. My question is this: How many will now come to his defense? How many will think it O.K.? I hope not a one. But if the trend remains the same, many will. That simply shows, brethren, we are in trouble.

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THEOPHILUS

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. (Matthew 19:9)

GOOD NEWS, DEAR! I FOUND A PREACHER WHO SAYS OUR MARRIAGE IS OKAY!

I DON'T LIKE THIS PREACHER
Apparently some these days feel that the gospel has lost its drawing power to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness and hence are disposed to use every gimmick and trick available to seduce the world into hearing the truth preached. This is the age of promotionalism. The devices used to attract the public's attention are legion. Some of these are questionable to say the least, others exhibit exceedingly poor judgment, and a few are outright sinful.

This unholy desire to court the favor of the world is clearly seen in the emphasis given to certain areas of preaching. To get along well with some, the successful preacher must be a specialist in psychology, philosophy, "theology" and the like. His soundness in the faith, dedication to the Lord and ability to preach the plain gospel command precious little respect among those who regard themselves as the brotherhood's "brain trust."

In the first century a "clergy and laity" were unknown in the church. There were no "Reverend Peters" or "Doctor Pauls." Those who accept the Bible as the final source of authority in word and deed reject titles of distinction which tend to elevate those who publicly preach the word from those who do not. There are indications, however, that caution along these lines is being thrown to the wind.

Every preacher of the Bible ought to be educated. His education may be formal in a university or he may, like many intellectual giants of the past, be privately educated by the light of the midnight lamp, surrounded by the ancient volumes of dedicated scholars and steeped in a knowledge of The Ancient Volume. Whatever be his advantages of education, he ought to walk humbly and be thankful that he may simply be known by his brethren as a proclaimer of the gospel.

A considerable number of brethren are obtaining the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.), and such is a compliment to many of them. They are justly proud of the work accomplished and have the perfect right to wear the title in certain circles, but we suggest that the calling of attention to that degree in connection with their work as preachers is out of place. What do we mean advertising our preachers as "Dr.-----, of the Church of Christ," as some are doing? In academic areas they may be Doctors, but as preachers of the New Testament, they are not: this is a clear violation of the principles enunciated by Christ in Matthew 23:8-12.

N. B. Hardeman once said, "And now it has come about that you are discourteous unto any preacher if you just address him as, for instance, 'Brother Srygley.' The world wants to say 'Dr. Srygley,' 'Reverend Srygley,' and even 'Parson Srygley.' Now, their objective is to do the man a favor and an honor, but in doing so they go beyond anything in the Bible. I have had people call me 'Dr. Hardeman.' I am not a doctor. I am not 'Reverend Hardeman.'...I am N. B. Hardeman, and if I can manage to live so that my brethren can conscientiously extend their hand and call me 'Brother Hardeman,' I want no greater title."

Let it be emphasized that it is not our mission to call attention to ourselves. As Paul said, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (II Cor. 4:5)
Our Record

Bible Classes: 191
Worship: 216
Evening: 195
Wednesday: 166
Contribution: $2121

How We Gave

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (6) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (1) $25.00; (1) $27.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (7) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $46.00; (2) $50.00; (2) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $80.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (9) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $8.97. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,121.97.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Harold Maxey whose brother died this past weekend. The funeral was held on Monday in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

THEOPHILUS

That narrow-minded preaching gets me! Just wear the name of Christ! Just wear the name of Christ! There's nothing in a name!

DO NOT CALL MY BABY BY A...

A NAME LIKE FIDO

DON'T YOU CALL MY BABY...

...A NAME LIKE FIDO

Sick

Inez Brantley
Ada Belle Coe
Bill Crowe
Eddie Hardin

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." (II Kings 18:17-18) That fearless prophet (in whose spirit and power came John the baptist) refused to be branded as the trouble maker in Israel for he was God's spokesman trying to call troubled Israel back to peace with God. Had Israel not been led in the wrong direction by their wicked king, perhaps Elijah could have swayed more to hear the plea of righteousness and truth. However, Elijah had to do battle, not only with Ahab, but also Jezebel and all the prophets of Baal. In the end God was vindicated - when the Assyrians swept down on Israel and carried her captive.

Must we learn from experience (as did Israel) rather than from God's word? Must we learn the hard way that the real troublemakers of Israel are those who lead in the wrong direction; who encourage toward evil, and not those who cry out against wrong practices and false doctrine?

Impassioned pleas are made for the body of Christ while often, those from whose lips fall these pleas do and say things contrary to peace and right. It is true that the body of Christ is being mangled and torn asunder: but by whom? Is the peace disrupted by a strong stand for righteousness; or by those who are loose and compromising in spirit and practice? When a man, or a group of men, set themselves in the wrong direction and lead others into error, is it sinful to oppose them? If it is then every warning against error found in the Bible should be ripped out and forgotten. Why warn against and exhort to oppose if by such opposition one is violating the spirit and tenor of Scripture which so exhorts?
Obviously, peace will not come from ignoring error and winking at sin. The church has tried that in general, for the last many years and it has failed. That practice not only failed, but contributed to the problems we now face. Because false teachers were cuddled in our bosoms rather than marked (Romans 16:17); because those who have fellowshipped and upheld teachers of error have been praised rather than reprimanded; because compromisers have been allowed to take the lead in determining works and policies of churches; because faithful men have held their peace, the body of Christ - the church - is rent asunder and must suffer the shame and spectacle of widespread, public confrontation in different ways among ourselves. What could at one time been handled very quietly, swiftly and Scripturally, must now be drawn out painfully, agonizingly, and with tears of sorrow. Brethren will spend much precious time with internal strife or else watch spiritual Israel be carried captive into denominationalism.

When Pentecostalism; instrumental music in worship; Calvinism; fellowshipping of non-Christians in worship and work (in the same manner fellowshipping of brethren is observed); and various other doctrinal errors too numerous to detail are not only defended, but openly taught and practiced; and those who do thus are upheld by others, it is time to take a stand. Yea, past time!

Truth is generally considered by those who do not love it, as being radical and extreme. Those who take a clear, definite, and firm stand for the truth are usually classified as bigots, extremists, and radicals (among other things) and accused of being "troublers of Israel." Be that as it may, we must either take our stand and stand, or else be swept away captive by error.

This editor stands in doctrine and practice where he has stood from the beginning of his preaching days. Some disciples of the Lord taught by this preacher, both before and after their conversion, have separated themselves. The separation took place, not because of any change in this preacher but because of a change of convictions in those taught. Some churches where this preacher preached in the past (in meetings) would not allow us in the pulpit even if we offered to pay the church, not because the preacher has changed, but because the congregations have changed. Today, when this preacher preaches against certain practices (just as he did in years past) he is charged with being a troubler in Israel. This charge, he leaves for God and right thinking brethren to judge.

Let it be! With the word of God we are determined to remain faithful. We will stand where the prophets of old and the apostles of our Lord stood. Even though every earthly friend depart, we believe we shall be able to say with Paul, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." (II Cor. 4:8-9)

We plead with all brethren: examine issues and doctrine objectively, with the word of God and take a stand for truth for the sake of truth. Do not allow the personalities involved determine your stand. Stand with God in truth and oppose all wrong. Otherwise, be it known that you are among the "troublers of Israel."
THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

Ray Peters

The Magi (wise men) (Matt. 2:1,2,11) were the first to give to the Lord. Our giving today is to the Saviour. All that we do in the church is centered in Him and is done for Him. Can't talk about the Christ and His kingdom without talking about giving. Yet, so many who claim to be Christians give so little to promote the cause of Christ. There are some lessons one can learn from the Magi and their giving.

THEY MADE READY FOR THEIR OFFERING

This was an offering to the Son of God, a King, so it wasn't left to chance. They didn't give scraps, left-overs, or what they didn't need. (Read Malachi 1:8) They planned, (purposed) their gifts. We likewise must purpose (pledge) (II Cor. 9:7) and prepare our offering.

THEY GUARDED THEIR OFFERING

It was a long journey for them and many robbers on the way and they no doubt guarded the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today, it is a long journey from payday till the Lord's Day. There are many robbers along the way:

1. Robber called "pleasure." Nothing wrong with fun, recreation, or vacation, but not to use the money promised to the Lord.

2. Robber called "need." Many say, "I need a car, TV., new house, furniture, etc." Again, these are not sinful, but don't take from the gift of the Lord!

3. Robber called "carelessness." Not intending to do so, people carelessly take a dollar here, a dollar there, and the gift of the Lord is gone or greatly diminished in amount.

4. Robber called "good cause." There are many funds, causes, etc. that call, knock the door, etc., soliciting. Some of these may be good and nothing wrong in giving, but don't allow these to keep your gift to the Lord from being generous and ever increasing in amount.

THEY PRESENTED THEIR OFFERING TO CHRIST

Their personal devotion was manifested. Went in, kneeling, honored, paid homage. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we developed the same spirit!

THEY PROVIDED FOR CHRIST'S NEEDS IN THEIR OFFERING

We today give to provide for the needs of His cause. In order for the gospel to be sent (Rom. 10:13-16) and to carry on evangelizing the world, each must give liberally and sacrificially of our means. It is a reflection, a bad reflection, that missionaries, preachers, etc. have to beg for money.

Therefore, let us learn and imitate those Magi in their giving that God may be glorified and the cause for which His Son died will go forward.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 161
Worship: 181
Evening: 185
Wednesday: 164
Contribution: $1899

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (2) $15.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (1) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (2) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $106.00; (1) $153.00; (1) $160.00.

CURRENCY: (35) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.68. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,899.68.

SICK LIST

Sister Inez Brantley is home from the hospital and was well enough to attend services this past Lord's Day. Sister Ada Belle Coe is still shut-in. Sister Eddie Hardin remains in a hospital in Alabama. Brother Bill Crowe is now at home from the hospital.

Let us remember these and others in our prayers.

Enlisted

April Worley has enlisted in the Army and leaves for Ft. McClellan Tuesday, July 22nd for Basic Training. We will publish her address as soon as we are given it.

BEING FAITHFUL TO THE LORD

A converted cowboy is quoted as having a very sensible idea of what it means to be faithful: "Lots of folks think that bein' faithful means shoutin' themselves hoarse praisin' His name. I'll tell you how I look at that. I'm workin' here for Mr. Jim. Now if'n I sit around the house talkin' what a good fellow Mr. Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up far into the night to ser'nade him, I'd be doing just what some Christians do. But I wouldn't suit Mr. Jim. But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Mr. Jim's herd is alright, and not sufferin' for water and feed, or bein' branded by cattle thieves, then I'm servin' him the way he wants to be served. That's what I call bein' faithful."
The Cause And Cure Of Emptiness
Franklin Camp

One of the complaints made against religion today is that it is empty. This has led many to completely reject Christianity and turn to various forms of pagan religions. Even in the church are found people that have become disillusioned and decide that it is empty and needs restructuring. I am ready to admit that there is emptiness in the lives of multitudes, including many in the church. What is the cause of all of this? Is it because there is something wrong in Christianity? Is our plea for a return to the New Testament an outdated thing? I do not believe so. The cause is somewhere else.

EMPTY PULPITS

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain" (I Cor. 15:14). The word "vain" means empty, hollow, lacking in reality. It is possible for preaching to be just an empty form. Paul's statement to the Corinthians states this. What makes empty preaching? Paul said to the Corinthians that if Christ was not raised from the dead, then the preaching of the apostles is empty. This strikes at the very heart of Modernism. Modernism rejects the resurrection of Christ along with all other supernatural teaching of the Bible. Rejection of the supernatural -- the inspiration of the Bible, miracles, the virgin birth as well as the resurrection leaves only empty preaching. In view of this, just think how much empty preaching is being done today.

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The Bible is a revelation from God containing the mind of God (I Cor. 2:10-13). It contains the thoughts and ways of God (Isa. 55:8). The purpose of preaching is to proclaim the Bible. When the great fundamental truths of the Bible are ignored and the wisdom of men is substituted for the wisdom of God, preaching is empty. The very word for preaching in this verse refers not to the delivery of the sermon, but to its content. Preaching that does not deal with what the Bible says about sin, faith, repentance, confession, baptism, love, hope, the church, worship, Christian living, falsehood and error is just an empty form. A great amount of the emptiness in religion can be traced to empty preaching. We can never cure the empty hearts and lives until we fill the pulpit with Bible preaching again.

EMPTY FAITH

"And your faith is also vain" (I Cor. 15:14). Empty preaching produces an empty faith. "Faith comes from hearing God's word" (Rom. 10:17). Paul refused to use "excellency of speech or wisdom, declaring the testimony of God." He preached Christ and him crucified. He did not use "enticing words of man's wisdom" and the reason was that he did not want the faith of the Corinthians to "stand in the wisdom of men" (I Cor. 2:1-4). The wisdom of man is but an empty shell and can produce only an empty faith. Much that goes for faith today is only a shell, empty of all contents, for it is without any Bible basis. Paul uses the word "vain" again in verse 17 of this same chapter. "Your faith is vain." But the word "vain" here does not come from the same Greek word as the one in verse 14. The word used here means "wanting in results, fruitless, futile." Empty preaching can only produce a faith that lacks results, fruitless and without works; one that is futile. How much of what is called faith today is described by this word? Read Hebrews 11 and see the reality of their faith. It was not empty and therefore the results are described in that chapter. This kind of faith will not make empty lives.

EMPTY WORSHIP

Empty preaching leaves an empty faith and empty faith makes worship empty. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." The word "vain" here is not the same word as the one in I Corinthians 15:14 but it is a form of the word "vain" in I Corinthians 15:17. Empty preaching makes empty faith. Empty faith makes empty worship. Gimmicks are not the solution to the problem. Preachers are in the lead in trying to think up something new to try to make "worship meaningful." It is strange that it has not occurred to them that the place to begin is in the pulpit. Holding hands, turning out the lights, chain prayers with women leading will not produce faith and no worship will ever be anything but empty that is not worship "in faith." One cannot get "nigh to God with his mouth, nor honor God with his lips, while his heart is far from God." The doctrines of men, substitutes for Bible preaching, will not create a faith that is necessary for spiritual worship. Faith is not magic. It is Bible based and only a Bible based faith gives meaning to worship.

EMPTY LIVES

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20). Empty preaching results in empty faith; empty faith results in empty worship; empty worship ends in empty lives. A faith that is only
a shell cannot make a life that is full. A dead faith does not bring about fullness of life. Here is the answer to so many empty lives today. To expect satisfaction in living from a dead faith is to expect the impossible. One hour sitting on a pew on Sunday morning is the outcome of empty faith and this in turn leaves the life empty while people watch T.V. on Sunday night. It leaves life empty on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The round starts over again if one happens to feel like making it for the one hour on Sunday. Such lives will be empty in time and eternity. This is the root of empty lives.

EMPTY RELIGION

"If any man among you seemeth to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1: 26). Empty preaching leaves empty faith, empty faith means empty worship; empty worship ends in empty lives and empty lives ends in empty religion. Listen to all the complaints about the church today. "I just do not get anything out of the services." James says that religion that is all talk and no practice is empty. Religion that if full is found in the next verse. "Visit the fatherless and widows in their affection, and keep unspotted from the world." Bible preaching makes Bible faith, Bible faith produces real worship, real worship produces full lives and full lives are active in serving the needs of others. Widows and orphans are terms that are intended to suggest the whole area of Christian service.

EMPTY BIBLE STUDY

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9). The study of the Bible ought to be profitable. Too many of our classes are unprofitable and empty. Instead of seeking out the meat of the word as food for the soul, too many times the discussion is about trivial things or questions that will never be answered. I sometimes have the feeling we are having classes, not because we are hungry for the truth of God, but simply having classes for classes sake. It is something that we have been doing a long time and we just keep going through with it. Such empty Bible study is of no value.

THE BIBLE IS NOT EMPTY

"Do you think the scripture saith in vain?" (James 4:6). Our talk may be empty but the scriptures never speak in vain. We can make it empty in various ways but that is our doing and not the Bible.

I sincerely believe that in this article we have God's prescription for the cure of the emptiness of our day. Why not give it a try and watch the results.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 171
Worship : 203
Evening : 176
Wednesday : 177
Contribution : $2013

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (2) $15.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (3) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $240.00.
CURRENCY: (29) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.36.
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,013.36.

Using One's Talent

I have no voice for singing.
I cannot make a speech.
I have no gift for music,
I know I cannot teach.
I am no good at leading,
I cannot "organize,"
And anything I write
Would never win a prize.
But at roll call in Bible class
I always answer "here,"
When others are teaching
I lend a listening ear.
After the class is over
I praise its ever part;
My words are not to flatter,
I mean them from my heart.
It seems my only talent
Is neither big nor rare,
Just to listen and encourage
And to fill a vacant chair.
But all the gifted people
Could not so brightly shine,
Were it not for those who use
A talent such as mine!

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Sister Ada Belle Coe is still shut-in.

Sister Eddy Hardin is still in a hospital in Dothan, Alabama.
God's Word Will Not Return Unto Him Void

W. L. TOTTY

The prophet Jeremiah said, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Because the Israelites had turned from the commands of God and were walking in their own light, Jeremiah pleaded with them to come back to the old paths (Jer. 6:16). But they said, "We will not walk therein." They were tired of the law of God as given by Moses and wanted to do as they pleased. Solomon said, "All the ways of man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits" (Prov. 16:2). But when we consider the history of the people of God from the time Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt until now, we can see that there have always been periods when the people of God have departed from his teaching. Now, the liberal preachers and teachers today are disturbing the church and are threatening to lead it into total apostasy.

When we consider how God has helped his people who stood for the truth in such periods of departure, we can take courage and march ahead. God's people have always been a minority. Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14). So, we may expect a minority to be saved in judgment.

We are living in a period when people are seeking to change the law of God. Many in the church have taken the denominational concept that if God
does not specifically condemn a thing, it may be used in worship to him. Upon that hypothesis, some preachers and elders today are trying to excuse the use of instrumental music in the worship of God. It may not be used in the congregations where they are, but they are criticizing those of us who condemn it and defending those who use it. Such logic as that would approve infant membership in the church.

The time has come when every soldier of the cross should step out and fight the good fight of faith. The liberalists among us need to be marked and avoided, and we can do that only by naming them and pointing out what they are teaching. The apostle Paul said, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me..." (II Tim. 1:13). He also said to Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:2-3). Paul let Timothy know that in obeying that command it would not be easy. Today, when a person has the courage to point out the trends away from sound doctrine, he is going to be criticized severely.

In the latter half of the 19th century, when men who were not satisfied with God's way organized the Missionary Society in the church and put instrumental music into the worship, the faithful gospel preachers of that age unsheathed the sword of the Spirit and met the false teachers and exposed them. Now, there are many among us who do not believe in that sort of preaching. They say they are ready for "dialogue" but not for debating. When they speak of "dialogue" they mean they are ready to enter into a compromise with the false teacher. Jesus described such people when he said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:19-21). The apostle Paul said, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). John said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

There is a reason for the sudden surge of liberalism in the church of the Lord for there can be no effect without a cause. One of the great causes, if not the greatest cause, is that families have failed to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Children, for a great part, have not had the law of God instilled in their minds. They have been left to other people to teach them.

Paul, writing to Titus, said to teach the aged women, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5). Among the other things that Paul outlined for the young women to do was to be housekeepers. In this age, to a great degree, the younger women have left the home and gone into secular work; and their children have grown up without the guidance of a godly mother. Many people still pitch their tents toward Sodom and lose their children.
And many of the young people are sent to some of "our" schools which are dominated by extreme liberalists who instill into the minds of the boys and girls the idea that it is not good to criticize any religious order. The children come back from those schools with their minds saturated with liberalism; and because they are taught by some person who displayed a high degree of education, they think he cannot be wrong. I am not opposed to Bible colleges; in fact, I have always defended their right to exist; but I am completely disappointed with the worldliness and denominationalism that exists in some of the schools today.

Even some of the churches, whose task it has been to give all the spiritual training that some children have gotten or are getting, seem to put more emphasis on worldly entertainment than on instilling in the minds of the congregation the all-importance of holding faithfully to God's word.

Young people should be encouraged to work in the church, but they should be grounded in the truth also. They should not be made to believe that the church is an institution of recreation. The home is obligated to furnish recreation for the children. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth; therefore, its business is to serve the Lord in teaching the truth as God commanded. Jesus said to go preach the gospel to every creature. He did not segregate them. Sometimes someone will ask me: What is the church where you preach doing for the young folk? I reply: The same that we are doing for the older folk; we are preaching the gospel of Christ to them.

The question might be asked: What shall we do to stem the tide of liberalism? We must preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, condemning false teaching without fear or favor, just as the old pioneer preachers did. If we faithfully sow the seed of the kingdom, God will bring forth the increase. Though the increase be large or small, if we have faithfully served God in proclaiming his word, which includes marking false teachers, we shall receive our reward; for it is our job to sow the seed and leave it to God to bring the increase. God said, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it" (Isa. 55:11).

MY INFLUENCE

My life shall touch a dozen lives
   Before this day is done,
Leave countless marks of good or ill
   Ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
   The prayer I always pray,
Lord, help my life help other lives,
   It touches by the way.

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 159
Worship: 187
Evening: 170
Wednesday: 147
Contribution: $2721

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $19.00; (6) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $75.00; (1) $80.00; (3) $90.00; (2) $120.00; (1) $138.00; (39) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (3) $20.00. CURRENCY: $175.00; (1) $200.00. CHANGE: $5.22. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,721.22.

SICK

Sister Ada Belle Coe is still at home. Sister Eddie Hardin remains in a hospital in Dothan, Alabama.

It was good to see sister Frances Buchanan back in services after being out sick.

Brother Bennie Vickers is home from the hospital after undergoing surgery on his elbow.

BUILDING OR KNOCKER

"Don't knock the church, it may have improved since you were there." It is easier to knock and to criticize if we don't know what we are talking about. That inside knock from a member of the church is a little like the knock that comes from the inside of an automobile engine. It is usually the defective part that does the knocking.

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THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Life's greatest value is spending it for something which will outlast it.

Glass, China and reputation are easily cracked and never well mended...

Let God have your life. He can do more with it than you can.......... Christian are expected to make GOOD -- not make EXCUSES..................

It is better to STUMBLE toward a better life than to RUN in any other direction........................
Semi-Infant Baptism--A Problem in the Church

WAYNE JACKSON

Recent years have witnessed a rekindled interest in evangelism in the Lord's church. In many places, congregational membership roles are soaring. And this is tremendous. All spiritual people are desirous of seeing the church grow. However, there are signs that this interest may not be wisely directed in some cases. Occasionally, a keen spirit of competition develops between congregations, or between highpowered preachers to see who can baptize the greatest number of people. Thus, quality is sacrificed for quantity. Out of this atmosphere, which is frequently charged with high emotionalism, is a growing phenomenon. More and more, youngsters are being baptized at increasingly earlier ages. Really, in many instances, we are practicing what might be appropriately called semi-infant baptism. This is a most dangerous trend and it needs to be given some serious thought.

Exactly when does a person become accountable to God for his conduct? This question, of course, is impossible to answer with chronological precision. Children mature at different rates. Genetics, environment, education -- all of these are contributing factors. Certainly our youth should be taught the Word of God from their earliest days of comprehension; they ought to be encouraged to walk with the Lord and to ever be submissive to his holy will. But they must be allowed to sufficiently mature so that any decision to surrender to Christ will be solely their decision, not their parents'. Sometimes fathers and mothers, who are otherwise theologically opposed to infant baptism, nevertheless practice semi-infant immersion by pushing their children into decisions that they are far too tender to make. Remember this: the choice to become a Christian is the most serious decision that one will ever have to make in this life! Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful in this connection.

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First, no one is in need of being baptized who is not lost and thus in danger of eternal hell. One of the most influential arguments that an atheist could make would be to point to some of the little children that our brethren are baptizing and then assert, "The kind of God that these people believe in is the type of God who sends young children to hell." Do we actually believe that thousands of youngsters who have died unbaptized in their pre-teen years have gone to hell? How does this practice of immersing young children reflect upon the holiness and justice of God? Think about it. Secondly, no one is in need of baptism who is as yet incapable of assuming the responsibilities connected with the rite. Jesus taught, for instance, that all who follow him must, if such should become necessary, forsake parents, or even forfeit his life for the Christian cause (cf. Matt. 10:34-39). Is a tender child physically, mentally, or emotionally qualified to submit to this strong requirement?

Moreover, the Bible symbolically represents our union with the Lord as a marriage (Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:22ff). The fact of the matter is, our spiritual connection with Christ is absolutely the most important relationship into which one can enter upon this earth. Why is it that some parents, who would not dream of allowing their little ones to enter physical marriage, will, nevertheless, permit them to "get baptized," though they are far too immature to understand the gravity of such a commitment? Some argue that if children are refused baptism, it will turn them against the church. I do not believe that any more than I believe that forbidding them to date at too young an age will turn them against marriage.

Brother Gus Nichols used to point out that belief in Jesus as the virgin-born Son of God was essential to being scripturally immersed. He would observe, however, that one cannot endorse the doctrine of the virgin birth until he is old enough to comprehend the process of a natural birth. Good point!

The Judgment Day
JOHNNY RAMSEY

When we stand before God, the Judge of all (Heb. 12:23), what will our sentence be? When life's journey shall have ended, will we regret our poor decisions that caused us to be lost (Gal. 6:7)? Or shall we rejoice to know that our sojourn was meaningful (I Jno. 4:17)? "Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what is done for Christ will last." How very true those sentiments! When the clock of life no longer ticks because eternity has been ushered in what will our destiny hold? What kind of day will judgment disclose?

IT WILL BE A DAY OF RECKONING

Will it be reward or remorse when we stand before our Maker? Will there be a hand writing on the wall of our record that proclaims our doom (Dan. 5)? Shall we reap the whirlwind of shameful activity (Hos. 8:7) or the joy of our salvation? When God's "book of remembrance" is opened (Mal. 3), what will be the contents? Can we say what Nehemiah did? "Remember me, O my God, for good." (Neh. 13:31).
IT WILL BE A DAY OF REST

Yes, rest from a wicked world and a sinful environment awaits the faithful child of God (Heb. 4:9). In Rev. 21:3-5 we see the fruition of godliness in a realm that knows no sickness, sadness or separation. Earthly corruption never enters and the toils of life are gone (2 Cor. 5:1). Fleshly lusts forsaken (I Pet. 2:11) and even death shall have been turned into victory! We will be glad we obeyed: "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:16).

IT WILL BE A DAY OF REUNION

Christ will take us to be with Him (Jno. 14:3). According to Matt. 8, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob will be there. David spoke of his dead son in 2 Sam. 12:23, "I shall go to him." Loved ones will be together again! I believe Heb. 12:23 gives us a hint of the same. What joy it will be to see the redeemed of all the ages. There has never been a family reunion like that one will be!

IT WILL BE A DAY OF REVELATION

The One who knows us as we really are, and not as we pretend to be, will reveal our eternal destiny (Rom. 2:16). The sins we were forgiven of by the Redeemer shall not be remembered (Heb. 8:12; Psa. 32:1; I Jno. 1:7), for which we should praise God. But hypocrisies and insincerities we tried to hide will be exposed, and those things we knew we should have done will haunt us: "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (Jas. 4:17).

We are given this life to prepare for eternity, but many pervert this purpose and waste their moments upon earth. On that notable Day, the infidel will confess the Lord (Phil. 2:9-11) and the disobedient will try to hide from the wrath of the Almighty (Rev. 6:12). May we be wise enough, now, to search our ways and return to the Lord (Lam. 3:40). Let us use our days wisely: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psa. 90:12). And let us never "follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2). Heaven is too precious to miss!

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PUTTING EMPHASIS IN THE WRONG PLACE?

Birds build their nests, rear their young, and make their annual flights to other climates. But, so far as is known, no bird ever tried to build more nests than its neighbors; and no fox ever fretted because he had only one hole in the earth in which to hide; and no squirrel ever died in anxiety lest he had not laid up enough nuts for two winters instead of one; and no dog ever lost sleep over the fact he did not have enough bones buried in the ground for his declining years. ARE WE PUTTING EMPHASIS ON THE WRONG THINGS?

--Selected

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NO DEBATE NECESSARY

A preacher of a certain denomination registered at a St. Louis hotel. As he signed the register, he noticed the name, Robert G. Ingersoll, on the line above. He inquired if this was the Ingersoll of skepticism. Being assured that he was, he asked for his room number and rushed up to see him. On arriving he quizzed the old colonel:

"I wrote you several months ago and challenged you for a debate. Why didn't you answer my letter?"

The colonel replied, "I did not answer your challenge because I knew that you did not believe the Bible any more than I did." The preacher was insulted and asked for proof.

Ingersoll picked up the Bible and turned to Mark 16:16 and read, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Then he asked the preacher, "Do you believe that a person must be baptized in order to be saved?" The preacher stammered, stuttered, and trembled, but finally answered, "No." The colonel then said in triumph, "See, I knew you didn't believe the Bible!!! Why should we debate?"

My friends, can you see what a predicament a preacher can get himself into when he denies what the Bible teaches?

How many of you would like to live in a nation made up of infidels? People are turning away from religion and losing their faith in the Bible. How can we expect anything different as long as preachers flatly deny that the Bible means what it says?

I personally admire an infidel such as Robert G. Ingersoll more than most denominational preachers. At least Mr. Ingersoll was consistent in his beliefs.
Contradictions and Consequences of Evolution

J. F. Camp

Evolution is not a fact. It is a silly theory accepted by people that refuse to even consider the Bible account of creation. Here is the real basis of evolution being accepted. It is accepted because men want to deny God and his revelation. If science had no more basis for other things than it has for evolution we would still be living in the horse and buggy days. There are those who try to make people believe that if evolution is rejected it would set the whole scientific world back hundreds of years. But suppose every single book that contains evolution was destroyed and new books written without one reference to evolution what scientific advancement would be lost? Not a single one. This is how much evolution has contributed to science. Suppose the men that went to the moon had attempted it on the same kind of science (?) that evolution rests on, where would they have ended up? I challenge evolutionists to lay aside the means used by men to plan their way to the moon and let the evolutionist use the same kind of data that he has for evolution and let them set sail for the moon. They would not dare try it. Yet they expect us to believe that evolution is scientific.

Contradicts Science and the Bible

Evolution contradicts science as well as the Bible. Science teaches that life came from life. Evolution states that life came from dead matter. One of my sons was studying science in high school. When he came to the chapter on evolution I sat down to study it with him. On the first page it said that evolution was a theory and then on the next page it began to talk about evolution as a fact. Finally on the last page it said, "A living cell can only come from a living cell. Life can only come from life." This was a
plain denial of every claim that the book had made for evolution. I have an article where an evolutionist objected to the Bible account of creation being included in the books in California. He stated that the Bible account of creation was not empirical and therefore did not belong in a science book. Is evolution empirical? Where has it been demonstrated? Here is a statement made by one that is opposing the Bible account being included in science books. "I have faith the probability of their correctness is high." Why does he say he has faith? Why does he not say that he has empirical proof. Is his faith in evolution any more empirical than my faith which rests on the scriptures? Why didn't he say he had it in the laboratory? He didn't say it because he knew he did not have it there. Watch him do what all evolutionists do -- contradict himself. Just a few lines above the one already quoted is this statement: "I maintain my right to teach material that is verifiable, repeatable, and in short, science, must not be dictated to by non-science laymen." Notice that he mentions material that is verifiable. If evolution is verifiable why did he almost in the next stroke of the typewriter say "I have faith"? Which way is it? It is not by faith if it is verifiable. That would be by demonstration, not faith. This is the crux of the whole matter. He admits that evolution is based on his faith in it and then turns right around and talks about it being verifiable. It is not both. Evolutionists know it is not verifiable just as he admits when he uses the word faith but they will not leave it there. They teach it as a fact as indicated when he talked about it being verifiable.

EVOLUTION NOT EVEN FAITH

"We can imagine the primitive life stuff being developed in the shallow water of the first seas as naturally as the earth previously evolved by physical laws from a wisp of stellar gas" GUIDE TO EARTH'S HISTORY, p. 70

The faith of the other evolutionist mentioned previously is described accurately here. This one faced the facts and said, "We imagine". That is telling it like it is. Evolution is nothing but the brain child of Darwin's fertile imagination. If evolutionists want to include it in the science books let them state that it is based on imagination and I will not object. Just how scientific is imagination? Does some evolutionist say it is not based on imagination? Let me see him prove it is not. If he switches to the word faith it is still imaginary faith.

In order to prove that it is imagination just consider the statement. Note the words "primitive life stuff." Let me see him or any other evolutionist get his "primitive life stuff" without his imagination. Then he mentions "the shallow waters of the first sea." Let him produce this shallow water and the first seas without his imagination. He also mentions "physical laws." Let some evolutionist find his physical laws without his imagination. Finally he refers to a "wisp of stellar gas." Would some evolutionist be kind enough to lay aside his imagination long enough to explain where this "wisp of stellar gas" came from.

Lest someone say I just found one evolutionist that says it comes from imagination, I will quote another one. "Darwin's theory of descent has no a single fact to confirm it in the realm of nature. It is not the result of scientific research but purely the PROBLEM OF IMAGINATION." Fleishman. I did not put words into their mouths. They used the word imagination.

Dr. John Howett of London says, "I would like to point out that the theory of evolution is accepted by faith alone -- for three-fourths of the
THE REAL REASON WHY EVOLUTION IS ACCEPTED

"Evolution is unproved and unproveable. WE BELIEVE IT BECAUSE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS SPECIAL CREATION, AND THAT IS UNTHINKABLE." Sir Arthur Keith.

"Evolution is accepted by Zoologists, NOT BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED TO OCCUR OR CAN BE PROVED BY LOGICAL COHERENT EVIDENCE TO BE TRUE, BUT BECAUSE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE, SPECIAL CREATION, IS CLEARLY INCREDIBLE." Watson University of London.

Here you have it stated in clear unmistakeable language why men accept evolution. The other alternative would be to accept the Bible account of creation and men are determined they are not going to have that. Evolution begins with the prior judgment that there is no such thing as a miracle; therefore, anything that involves the miraculous must be rejected. On the other hand, everything whether there is any proof or not must be accepted.

These men that I have quoted from were honest enough to face up to what the real question is. You either believe the Bible or you do not. They state in plain language that the alternative to evolution is special creation. They also say that special creation is unbelievable and incredible.

Now let some brethren that think they believe the Bible and evolution prove that these men were wrong. One does not believe the Bible and evolution; he either believes the one or the other. The attempt to reconcile evolution with the Bible has been futile. The one that accepts evolution must reject the scriptures. It makes no difference whether it is materialistic evolution or theistic evolution, neither one can be reconciled with the Bible. The Bible account of creation demands the miraculous. Evolution rejects the miraculous. Where is the full-blooded evolutionist that believes the Bible? Yet brethren are willing to allow atheists to help them explain the first chapter of the Bible. How foolish can we get? Some of these same brethren would not let "a sprinkler" explain what the Bible teaches about baptism, nor would they accept what a demoninationalist says about the church, but they are willing to let evolutionists water down Genesis one until it is no nearer to a correct exegesis than a sprinkler's explanation of baptism.

MISSING LINKS JUST AN ILLUSION

"There are great gaps of millions of years from which we do not possess a single complete monkey skeleton, let alone the skeleton of a human fore-runner...For the whole Tertiary Period which involves something like 60 to 80 million years, we have to read the story of Primate evolution from a few handfuls of broken bones and teeth...In the end we may shake our heads baffled...It is as though we stood at the heart of a maze and no longer remembered how we came there...Until further discoveries accumulate, each student will perhaps inevitably read a little of his own temperament into the record...They will catch glimpses of an elfin human figure which will mock
an ancestor like ourselves" (Eiseley: Scientific American, June, 1956). Thus he puts evolution in the same category with elves. Webster defines elves as follows: "In folklore, a diminutive, wandering spirit or fairy; an imaginary being supposed to exercise magic powers and haunt woods and hills." Here is an anthropologist that puts evolution with elves. Webster says elves belong to the realm of fairies. If you want an apt description of evolution here it is -- a fairy tale. Evolution does not belong in a science book; it belongs in a book of fairy tales. I had just as soon allow a fairy tale to be the basis of my understanding of the scriptures as evolution. Yet brethren under the guide of "intellectual learning" will parade around evolution as though it is the key to all knowledge. Evolution is the key to unbelief.

THE BIBLE VERSUS EVOLUTION

The Bible was not written to be explained by science. It does not contradict any scientific fact. Evolution is not a fact. Consider what will happen to the Bible if science is allowed to interpret it. In the letter I quoted from at the beginning of the article, Mr. Dodge says, "Material that is verifiable and repeatable." Now put the Virgin Birth to a test by science. Is it verifiable in the laboratory today? Is it repeatable? No. Shall we reject the Virgin Birth because science cannot explain it. This is exactly what is happening with people that have allowed evolution to explain Genesis one. When evolution is accepted out goes special creation. This is science's explanation of Genesis one. But one cannot stop there. The rest of the Bible must be explained by science and out goes the Virgin Birth.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

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Contradictions And Consequences Of Evolution

J. F. CAMP

THE BIBLE VERSUS EVOLUTION

What about the resurrection? Shall we let science explain it? Is it verifiable in the laboratory today? Is it repeatable day by day? Science cannot verify it nor explain it. Shall we reject the resurrection because science has no explanation? This is where the evolutionist finally winds up. How can we let science explain Genesis one and refuse to allow science to explain the resurrection?

What about miracles? Are they verifiable in the laboratory? Are they repeatable day by day? But if evolution explains Genesis one, which involves the rejection of a miraculous creation, why not let science explain miracles? When science gets through explaining miracles they are gone. Yes, I know there are some that claim to let evolutionists interpret Genesis one that have not rejected the Virgin Birth, the resurrection and miracles, but it is only because they refuse to allow science to interpret these as they have allowed it to try to interpret Genesis one. This group is simply inconsistent. They need to accept the whole package and then they will see where evolution has carried them. Will brethren that allow evolutionists to interpret Genesis one please explain to me why they do not allow science to interpret the Virgin Birth, the resurrection and miracles. If science can explain the origin of the universe and man, then it ought to be able to explain a little thing like the Virgin Birth or the resurrection. If science can get the universe going without a miracle, it ought to be able to handle a little thing like the resurrection of Christ without any trouble. Multitudes in the Protestant world allowed evolutionists to interpret Genesis one for them, but they could not stop with Genesis one. They have now gone all the way and Modernism is eating the very vitals out of Protestants.
our evolutionist brethren time and they will catch up with them. They have nowhere else to go.

The problem of Genesis one is not understanding it, it is unwillingness to believe it. No one would have ever had any trouble with Genesis one if it had not been for evolution. No one would have tried to find anything in it except special creation.

If Genesis one cannot be understood as a basis for our faith, where is the proof that any other part of the Bible can be understood? If Genesis one can be interpreted in various ways, why cannot Matthew 1 or Acts 2? If the first page of the Bible is subject to various interpretations, where is the evidence that every other page may not be treated the same way?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF EVOLUTION

1. Evolution repudiates the inspiration of the Bible. No man can reconcile evolution and inspiration.

2. Evolution rejects the first chapters of Genesis as historical. But if Genesis is not historical, what part of the Bible is? Who is going to determine what is historical and what is not? Evolution has been a major contributor to the claim that the Bible is full of myths.

3. The moral consequences of evolution. Evolution, like any other teaching, produces a philosophy of life. There are some that do not follow the consequences but it is not because of evolution but in spite of it. Evolution teaches that man is just a produce of his environment. If this is the case then man is not responsible as an individual. His environment produces his character. Is there no relationship between this philosophy and the idea that society is responsible for criminals? I do not deny that environment is important, but I deny that environment leaves the individual without any responsibility for his actions.

4. One of the main doctrines of evolution is the survival of the fittest. Evolution says that the strongest made it, and this allowed for development. This is not only the doctrine of evolution, but it is also the doctrine of communism. Both are materialistic atheism. Is there no connection between these philosophies? May it not be the relationship between these two that have led so many of our higher intellecturals past left field and into the very folds of communism? When we teach our young people evolution, with the heart of its philosophy the survival of the fittest, why be surprised when they join up with the communists who practice this philosophy?

Compare this doctrine with the Bible teaching of concern for the weak and unfortunate. The Bible and evolution are as far apart as the north pole from the south pole.

5. Evolution teaches that man came from lower animals and the only difference between man and animals is that man belongs to a higher order. If man came from lower animal, why should he not live like an animal? Animals mate, they do not marry. What is happening to marriage and the home today?

Consider the following: "It is not hard to reproduce in our minds the picture of the first marriage."

"A savage woman, half human, half ape, with rough, matted locks hanging around her face, sits holding her newborn baby, protecting it from wind and..."
"It is a queer baby covered perhaps with reddish hair, its brow no higher than a rat's. Its jaw protrudes, its tiny, grimy hands clutch with monkey power all things within reach."

"Along comes the father, full of plans to kill a mammoth or cave bear; interested in his stone-tipped club, but caring nothing for the mother, who has been for some time only a whining nuisance."

"He stops for a second look at the small creature which he has added to earth's animal life."

"Something about it reminds him of his royal self as studied in the pool. He stoops to look closer. His bristly hairs are grabbed, and a weird, insane, toothless grin lights up the little monkey face."

"Then the savage takes a new view of life; there the marriage institution and marriage problems are born simultaneously."

"Says the mammoth-hunter, with whistling words and hoarse throat sounds half-articulated, 'I like this baby. He's like me. Let me hold him. Don't you go out looking for food and don't leave him alone while I am gone. I've got a bear located. No one can beat me killing bears. I'll bring the bear back to you this evening. You can give the baby some of the blood. It will do him good. Don't have anything to say to that mammoth-hunter in the next swamp. I want you to stick to me. I'll look after you. I have taken a fancy to that baby. He looks very much like me.'"

"Off goes the father, and the savage mother in a primitive way is a wife. . .Society takes a new turn and the red-haired baby has done it."

Now you have the origin of marriage. Yes, I know I gave it as pictured in the raw, but if some evolutionist that rejects the Bible wants to try his hand at telling how marriage started, let him try it. Why should marriage, if it originated as evolutionists claim, be binding? Listen to a radical Sociologist.

"Monogamy, with its lifelong hold on both parties, is incompatible with personal freedom." Another says, "The demand for greater sexual freedom seems sometimes as strong as to threaten the permanency of the family union; yet it is not without its favorable aspects. . .The marital relationship itself might be improved by making it, so far as possible, the expression of voluntary action resulting from mutual attraction of the sexes." One more, "The endeavor to institutionalize a thing so intimate and personal as mating. . .will be abandoned as mankind becomes more enlightened." Does this sound like the morning paper and the evening T.V. news? Rather up-to-date, is it not? These quotations were taken from a book printed in 1935. This is what evolutionists were teaching then. What we are reading and seeing today is just their eggs hatched.

I cannot leave this without one final reference to Mr. Dodge's statement of his claim to teach "material that is verifiable and repeatable." This is what he says is scientific. He then claims that evolution is scientific and explains the origin of things. Now let us test his evolution by what he says is scientific.
THE TEST

1. Is the origin of the universe verifiable and repeatable? Has he seen a universe come into being in his laboratory? Has he or any other scientist seen a universe originate? He has if his theory of evolution is true science. He says, it must be verifiable and repeatable. Will he tell us how many times the universe has repeated its origin? According to him, if it is not repeatable it is not scientific. Now let him repeat the origin of things. Unless he can, then his evolution is sunk on his own statement.

2. Evolution says that matter came from nothing. Can Mr. Dodge verify this? Will he be kind enough to take a little of nothing into his laboratory and verify it as it becomes matter? Then will he repeat this so we all can see it? Remember he says it must be verifiable and repeatable. I want to see him repeat nothing becoming dead matter.

3. Evolution says that life came from dead matter. Will Mr. Dodge verify this? Has he seen dead matter change into life? Then he also must repeat this. How many times has he repeated the experiment of just watching dead matter become live? He can't make it do it since there was no intelligence that did it at first. He will have to let it be spontaneous generation. Has he verified this? How many times has he repeated it?

If he cannot verify and repeat dead matter becoming live then according to him it is not scientific. Now let him prove that evolution is scientific.

4. Evolution claims that man came from monkeys or apes. Will Mr. Dodge verify this? When has he seen an ape become a man? Then it also must be repeatable. Will he explain why apes are not repeating this and becoming men today? If he will practice what he preaches that is science, he won't have to dig among bones to try to find his ape man, he can let us see one become a man as evolution repeats itself. He won't even have to take a jaw bone and a few teeth with two bags of plaster of paris to make his man.

When some evolutionist verifies and repeats either one of the four things mentioned, I will be ready to accept evolution as scientific. But until then I will just accept the statement that to be scientific, it must be verifiable and repeatable. Evolution will not fit either one.

It is no wonder that Mr. Eiseley said evolution is life's elves. It is just a fairy tale. When will men that claim to believe the Bible cease to swallow this foolish fairy tale?
WOMAN, HER WORK, AND THE CHURCH

Max R. Miller

Generally extreme views are held in regard to the woman's work in the church. One extreme would place no restrictions on the woman or her work and the other extreme limits and penalizes the devout woman in that it denies her a work to do.

Women definitely have a work to do. It is just as essential for the woman (and the church) that she do her work as it is for the man to do his work. Both works are commanded of God. Woman is to perform the work of a servant of the church (Romans 16:1,2), to labor in the gospel (Philippians 4:2,3), to be a follower of every good work (I Timothy 5:9,10), train young women (Titus 2:3,4), teach (Titus 2:3), to learn (I Timothy 2:10), to pray (I Corinthians 11:5), and to prophesy (Joel 2:28; Acts 21:9).

It would seem that the woman's work is as varied and unbounded as is the man's. However this is not true. The Scripture places a limitation on the woman's work in that she is forbidden to teach (I Timothy 2:12), or to speak (I Corinthians 14:34), she is to keep silence (I Corinthians 14:34) and she is not to learn (I Corinthians 14:35). Seeing that the woman is told not to the very things she is commanded to do, we naturally inquire of the restrictions that are placed upon the woman. This restriction infer a limitation of her service either as to (1) the place of her work, or to (2) the people with whom her work involves her, or because of (3) the nature of the woman herself. We find from a Scriptural study that all three of the reasons here mentioned determine the conditions under which the woman is to render her work in the church.

The nature and role of woman is one of subordination (Genesis 1:27,28; 2:18). God made man lord of earth and then made woman to be man's helpmeet.
Man was not made for the woman but woman was made for the man (I Corinthians 11:8,9). Woman is an auxiliary of man. Paul emphasized the order of man and woman when he states, "the head of the woman is the man" (I Corinthians 11:3). This order is not limited simply to the marriage relationship of husband and wife as Ephesians 5:22-25, neither is it limited to relationships in the church, but is all inclusive in every interaction of the sexes. It is the world-order for man and woman. Genesis 3:16 reveals the divine wisdom and justice which dictates this subordinate position of woman, "thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." This desire (or yearning) is deepseated in woman and is not merely sexual desire, but a part of woman which cannot be rooted from her system. Woman played the leading role in the fall of man in Eden (Genesis 3). She forsook the guidance and influence of the man and fell prey to the Devil. Paul alludes to this terrible fact in I Timothy 2:13,14, and so binds "silence" and "subjection" upon the woman.

The New Testament reveals the subordinate role of the woman in the church. She is to keep silence "in the churches: for it is not permitted for them to speak; but to be under obedience, as also saith the law" (I Corinthians 14:34). In Adam's day it was unseemly and improper for the woman to put herself forward thus causing shame and confusion to come to the race of man. In Moses' day woman was to occupy a subordinate position to man. The Holy Spirit seeks to preserve the church from such confusion and disorder and so binds a limitation in the sphere of woman's work in the church. The New Testament sets forth no qualifications for women elders, women deacons or women evangelists. I Timothy 2:12 and I Corinthians 14:34 are harmonious passages teaching the same thing, viz., the subordination of the woman in the church. Neither passage prohibits the woman from teaching. Woman can teach and have Scriptural approval of her work (Acts 21:9; 18:26; Titus 2:3,4). Woman can teach other women and children and in careful situations where there is no usurpation of authority over the man, she may also teach a man.

However, one should not conclude that woman is inferior to man simply because she is to be in subjection to man. Her dependancy and subjection only indicates a difference of function rather than inferiority. Men and women are equally endowed in mental and spiritual capacities and, in many ways, mutually interdependent. Life has often proved the woman to be superior to man in moral courage and possessed a greater willingness and ability to endure ill-treatment, sorrow and pain. Nevertheless, the woman's role in life is subordinate, yet a role which if not played, and played properly, man himself would utterly fail.

Some of the most faithful and dedicated workers in the early church were women. A number of women were assembled with the disciples and exemplified faith and prayer as they awaited the coming of the promised kingdom (Acts 1:4). Dorcas, a Christian woman at Joppa, performed good deeds in sewing and making clothes for widows in her city. Whether she was on the "benevolence committee" does not matter in the least. Priscilla, with her husband Acquila, was an able expositor of the Scripture and taught the eloquent Apollos and "expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 28:26-28). Her teaching was not done with forwardness nor was it publicly. The first convert in Europe was a woman named Lydia. Immediately after her conversion she extended the hospitality of her home to provide a place for those who preached the gospel in Philippi (Acts 16:14,15). These women illustrate aptly the woman at work in the early New Testament church.
Christian women today should be as involved in the work of the church as were their sisters of some nineteen hundred years ago. Consider some of the work for woman in today's church.

Woman is subject to the Great Commission. Therefore, she must "go." She must be in a visitation and teaching program. This program may be a coordinated effort involving the entire congregation. Often such a program is lacking in the church. She may then alone, with her husband, or with other women carry on her work. The work of visiting the sick, shut-ins and the aged cannot be done better by those other than women. An informal coffee now and then for newcomers may do what several preacher-visits fail to do.

One of the greatest works for the woman is in the field of teaching. There is a great need for the older, pious women of the church to teach the younger women. Their curriculum has been set by the Holy Spirit. They are to be teachers of "good things, to teach young women to be sober, to love their husbands...children, to be chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands" (Titus 2:3-5). Society reflects this great need that women be taught those things which are basic to their function in life. Women were not created for the purpose of ruling the world and mastering the world operation but to "marry, bear children, guide the house" (I Timothy 5:14). We, the church today, have almost totally ignored the Word of the Lord in regard to the older women teaching the younger women their role in life. Teenagers and young married women need to be told, taught and exhorted -- by the older woman. This teaching may be done in the class room or privately. Certainly every Christian mother must teach her own daughter.

There are those in the church today who want to re-do woman's role in the church. They would have her in a forward role as minister of the gospel, prayer leader and director of the affairs of the church. Men, all along, have sought to improve on God's will and way. Such people may change woman's place in the church but do so in violation of the sacred Scriptures.

The church of today needs the woman very badly. Her work is essential to the success of the church. She can offer no greater service than that which is given her by God.

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R. W. Emerson: "Men are what their mothers made them."

John Quincy Adams: "All that I am my mother made me."

Abraham Lincoln: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

De Beaufort: "The future of society is in the hands of the mothers."

W. S. Ross: "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

Henry Ward Beecher: "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom."

Proverbs 31:28-29: "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."
Withdrawal Of Fellowship

We regret that the Bellview congregation has had to withdraw fellowship from sister Dorothy Lambert. We pray that something will be said or done and she will return to the Lord's church in the near future.

Sick

Brother George Williams, sisters Shirley Bailey, Margie Williams, and Darlene Howland are all home from the hospital and are improving.

Brother Bill Crowe is in the Navy Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland where he will undergo eye surgery. He will be there a couple of weeks. Cards can be sent to him at the following address:

Capt. Wm. J. Crowe USMC/RET
N. N. M. C.
Tower 8, Room 1128
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Our Record

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How We Gave

8/31/80 - CHECKS: (1) $3.00; (1) $5.00; (6) $10.00; (7) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $80.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (48) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.70. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,289.70.

8/10/80 - CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $17.00; (1) $18.00; (1) $19.00; (7) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $56.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (25) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (2) $10.00. CHANGE: $5.13. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,756.13.
THE METHODS MANIA

Dean Buchannan

VOL. 9
SEPTEMBER 11, 1980
NO. 37

When to - How to - Where to! Call in a specialist! Let's have a workshop! A mission forum is what we need! It seems the emphasis among the Lord's people has shifted from preaching the gospel to a mania for methods. To a large measure we have turned our attention inward instead of outward. All of our time is consumed learning how to do something; we never get around to doing - preaching the gospel.

Have we misunderstood Mark 16:15 all these years? Did Christ actually say "go ye into all the world and conduct a workshop? He that believes and comes up with a new method shall be saved?"

Could it be we are more concerned with getting others to jump on our bandwagon and go ga-ga over our method than we are with preaching Christ?

From the tone of some well known methodologists one would think that unless their method is accepted, Hell is the only other alternative. This sort of attitude smacks of anti-ism. Those who have opposed church cooperation and support of orphan homes have sought to impose their method of benevolence on others. Inspiration has left the "how to" of preaching the gospel, for the most part, in the realm of expediency. Therefore, it is not surprising to find workshop lectures almost entirely barren of Scripture. As a rule speeches of this sort consist of one or two verses of Scripture (sometimes wrested out of context) and a parade of jokes, cute remarks, shocking statements, funny (?) stories, along with a lot of brow-beating and belittling those who haven't as yet jumped on that particular bandwagon.

After listening to some of our present day methodology specialists one wonders how the early church ever preached the gospel to the whole world.

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RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE

Max R. Miller

Seldom ever, in the age of man, has the word of God occupied its duly supreme position in the affairs of man. Man has appreciated the Bible for its wisdom, its poetic beauty, its unique prophetic utterances, its story of love and sacrifice, and for all that has failed to appreciate and respect the Bible as God's absolute and final will for man. To speak of its beauty and meaning yet not holding it dearly as God's personal revelation to man is to speak with hypocrisy. The Bible is far more than a work of literature, a rare book to be had; it is a book by which our lives are to be ruled. God intends for His people to fashion their lives, their thinking, their speech, their whole being according to the teachings of that divine Book.

The Bible is a sacred book. Its revelations cannot be found in any other source. Its message is unique: the message of Salvation. Not only is its message for the sinner, lost in the muck and despair of sin, but also, and just as much so, for the child of God, the saved, who must continue to shape their lives more in the likeness of His divine Son. Those who come to love God's word and give it God's place in their life come to know a love like none other in all the world. They learn of the power of that word. They know the assurance and assistance of the faith that not only can but often does move mountains of obstacles which could be moved in no other way. Those who give His word the supreme place in their lives have an affection for it much like that of Jacob Creth, Jr., a restoration preacher of the last century, who in death wanted his head pillowed on a copy of the sacred text. But death does not separate one from that book of glory. There are three things of eternal nature abiding in this perishing world today: the church of our Lord, the soul of man, and God's eternal truth, the Bible. In death the word continues on, it is to be faced in the judgment, it continues through eternity because it is eternal. Shun it, despise it, reject it -- none of these things effect the imperishable word of God. Love it, live it and die by it and find its greatest treasure.

Many of the world, even those who think of themselves as the redeemed, pay only lip service to that grand revelation. Almost all men everywhere possess copies of the Bible. It is to be found in the homes, schools, offices, the libraries of a nation, but, too few people hold it in their hearts. The admonition is: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col. 3:16): "Thou desirest truth in the inward parts" (Psa. 51:6). David knew the power of that word and consequently said; "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11).

The impiety of ancient Israel was in that their way of religious life was more important to them than was the word of God. In time they departed from the truth and rather than be the people of God, the children of Israel, they became the Pharisees, the Saducees, et al. We, the church of God today, may well learn Israel's lesson. We are drifting away from the word of God. This is because we have not loved His revelation; we have not stored it up in our hearts. Too much of the confusion and disorder (to say little of the doctrinal error taught among us) is resolved on the basis of human opinion, a pragmatic response of what (according to our judgments) seems to be the best solution for the present time, and not what God has to say about the
(Col. 1:23) in less than one century without so much as a film strip projector, 55 passenger bus, or church plant to their name!

Methods are fine as long as they are kept where they belong -- in the realm of expediency, and as means to an end -- preaching the gospel. Methods are to preaching the gospel as scaffolding is to the construction of a building. Imagine a builder who becomes so infatuated with his scaffolding he forgets that a building is to be erected. How foolish you say? Then how much more foolish the preacher who becomes so infatuated with his method, he forgets to preach the gospel!

When Christ gave the great commission he did not specify how it should be done (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46, 47). This left the apostles free to travel any way they wished. They could preach orally and they could write the gospel (Acts 17; I Cor. 1). They could preach on a river bank (Acts 16:13), in the synagogue (Acts 14:1), in a private home (Acts 10), and anywhere else they found people to listen.

These were different methods used by the apostles, all of which were expedient. But we do not find Paul conducting workshops all over Asia Minor on how to preach on the river bank to sellers of purple. Or Philip brow-beating all of the churches in Judea into buying at least two chariots and starting a chariot ministry to teach treasures of Candace, Queen of Egypt.

We find different methods working and being used in different places in the New Testament. The method that best fits the locality and situation was the one used by the apostles. We today would do well to imitate the wisdom of the apostles of old.

The mission of the church is to preach the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 3:10; I Timothy 3:15). But every church does not have to fulfill this mission through a bus ministry, organized personal work program, visitation program, etc., etc., etc!

Thus for anyone to try to tell congregations hundreds of miles from them with vastly different local situations, the only method for them is the one we use back home is presumptuous indeed!

The Lord's people need to be trained to work in His kingdom. The methods of which we speak can be used to a great advantage in training ourselves, but we need to keep our proper perspective. Let us not allow the how-to-do, where-to-do, and when-to-do make us forget the what-to-do!

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ANSWER TO RIDDLE IN JANUARY 10, 1980 BULLETIN:

THE WHALE

-146-
matter. More and more decision among the brethren of Christ are being determined by popular sentiment, fear of response, or partyism, rather than by the inerrant council of God. Such a course is in essence a rejection of divine revelation and progression in this course leads to complete apostasy.

"The Bible has made us what we are," an often quoted remark of brother Foy E. Wallace, Jr. The Bible has made us Christians, the children of God with eternal life (Jas. 1:18,21). When we depart from the Bible we depart from the realm of God's saving grace. We are then no longer what we once were. This is easily seen and understood in an individual child of God who apostatizes. Cannot it also be seen to be true of His church? Why can't we see it?

It is only when the word of God, the Bible, is first in our lives that we may have the Kingdom first and Christ first, last, and always.

Our Record

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How We Gave

9/7/80 - CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $90.00; (2) $120.00; (1) $134.00; (1) $248.00. CURRENCY: $4.40. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1770.40.

8/17/80 - CHECKS: (2) $6.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $19.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (5) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (2) $53.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $138.00; (1) $180.00. CURRENCY: (24) $1.00; (4) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.40. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,225.82.
WHY NOT AT HOME?

Dean Buchannan

In the last ten years or so there has been a dramatic increase in the number and frequency of various sorts of seminars, workshops, youth forums, etc., many of which have done much good for the cause of Christ. This type of activity is usually designed to attract people from outside the local church. The size of the area to which these events appeal is usually determined by the size of the budget available to the sponsoring church.

Not infrequently people return from attending one of these area wide workshops talking of the great "spiritual uplift" or experience they received while at the workshop. This is usually contrasted to what is viewed as a rather dull, lukewarm condition in the local church at home. For this reason some have become regulars at such events in order to receive what they are not able to get at home.

We do not question whether or not something of benefit may be received at events such as the ones mentioned. But we would like to raise the question, why can not people be "spiritually uplifted" at home with the local church? Why do they have to leave home to receive spiritual life, or at least what they think is spiritual life? There are a number of possibilities, some of which we would do well to consider.

First, the most obvious possibility. It is entirely possible that the church at home is like Laodicia of Revelation three -- lukewarm and indifferent, concerned only with the affairs of this world. Maybe it is the case the eldership is not taking the oversight as they should, providing spiritual food for the flock (I Pet. 5:1-4). It might be that good works are hindered rather than encouraged at home. (We speak here of cases where the things mentioned are characteristic of a local church as a whole. Almost
every church has a few who are lukewarm and indifferent. If these things are true of a church, obviously one who is faithful at all will be spiritually uplifted if he associates with zealous Christians.

Secondly, it may be the one attending such an event has mistaken the stimulation of change in daily routine, new faces, new scenery, etc., for a "spiritual uplift." Change is most always stimulating, after a fashion, regardless how brief or small that change might be. While benefit can be derived from changes such as this we must not mistake the effect produced by the change as being obtainable only away from the home congregation.

Third, it may be the case that one is "spiritually uplifted" only by things of a highly emotional nature. The daily life of a Christian simply does not "turn him on." While it might be desirable to constantly be at the mountaintop of joy and ecstasy with everything going our way, it is unrealistic. Christ never promised this to his disciples, and His apostles never preached it. Christ did say that He would divide families (Matt. 10:34-36). He did say His disciples would be persecuted (Matt. 5:10,11). The apostle did write that if any should live godly they would suffer persecution (II Tim. 3:12). Paul's instructions to Timothy were to preach the gospel regardless of the circumstances (II Tim. 4:2). One's love for the lost and desire to see the church hard at work is going to bring disappointment when things aren't what they ought to be. This is only natural. However, if our faith is in Christ we will never fail even though we might be disappointed. It is easy to be a Christian when being a Christian is easy. If everything is going our way all is well, but if the road becomes rocky we may begin to falter. The test of Christianity is not when everything is easy but when the going gets tough. Christ can sustain us through the valley of despair as well as lift us to the mountaintop of joy.

Fourth, it may be that some are looking for something other than the narrow way of Christ (Matt. 7:13,14). In the last few years we have seen the rise and demise of the "Jesus Freaks" which seems to have been a fad among the younger people. Among this group there seemed to be little regard for a knowledge of the will of God and obedience to that will. But the concept of Christianity fostered by them was to press Christ into the mold of a hippie through their going about in public holding a Bible aloft and saying "we love everybody!" In addition to the "Jesus Freaks" there has also come to the forefront in recent years the "ghetto preacher." This is a young man, usually, with a Pentecostal background who plants himself in the middle of the inner city and associates himself with street gangs and the like in order to "witness to them for Christ." He boasts of his social martyrdom and sacrifice while hurling barbs at the "organized church" because they do not realize as he does that the only true witnessing for Christ can be done only in the ghetto.

In conjunction with the two movements mentioned above, there has also been a rise in emphasis on possession of the spiritual gifts today -- especially the speaking in tongues. Also accompanying this is the emphasis on subjective experience, of having a "personal confrontation" with Jesus in the denominational or miraculous use of that term.

Now if one is looking for the sort of things just described and he can find them at a workshop or youth seminar, it is only natural he will become a regular at these affairs. This may be what he defines as a "spiritual
uplift." Some members and preachers of the Lord's church have been attracted to this sort of thing. For this reason elders need to be careful what seminar or workshop they encourage their people to attend.

If one has truly been converted to Christ by the gospel of Christ, he will find joy in doing the will of God whether or not it is of a spectacular nature. The joy will come through the knowledge that he is doing the will of Christ. Therefore, his faith will not "tumble in" when everyone back home does not jump up and down and clap their hands over the new "method" he has brought back. He will continue to work in the kingdom regardless of whether or not he can be the "kingpin" in the work. Unlike Elijah, he will not seat himself under the juniper tree and bemoan the fact he is the only one that is faithful.

If one truly is faithful to Christ he will get "spiritual uplifts" at home as well as other places. In fact he will be helping to give others at home a "spiritual uplift." These spiritual uplifts will come through even such things as regular worship services, visiting the sick and erring, and studying and meditating on God's word. We should say then that spiritual uplifts must come at home, else something is wrong somewhere.

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The Shadow of Influence

EVERY PERSON casts a shadow of influence! How many lives will your life touch and influence during your stay on earth? You can't know! YOUR influence does not even stop after your death!

ONE KIND deed may inspire many kind deeds. One sweet and sound saying may be passed on to many, many ears and hearts. One short visit may brighten the desire of a patient to visit others when he is well. One sincere smile may ignite another smile until a hundred hearts have enjoyed a happy moment of thought.

NO LIFE is insignificant! Your influence has its own individuality. YOU cast your own shadow called, "Individual Influence." Why have you been given an existence? What will people remember about you? Someone has said: "What a man is should be greater than what he does."

DOES YOUR LIFE tell men that God is the Greatest and First Being to be honored; that the Bible is the INSPIRED WORD OF GOD and the best Book by which to live; that the church is the most important religious body in existence; that worshipping God simply in spirit and in truth is sufficient; and that keeping oneself UNSPOTTED from worldly living is the only way to live safe before God?

WHEN THEY LAY your cold corpse under the clods of earth, what kind of influence will continue to cast its shadow across the memories of those still living? Will it be a bickering, backbiting being they REMEMBER? Will it be a compassionate person whose love reached out to everyone without respect of persons?

CAST SHADOWS OF GOOD INFLUENCE! So live that when you have done your last good deed, you will be sure of the silent power of a good influence working. --Olin Warmack
Published Weekly By The Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla. 32506 2nd Class Postage Paid

Our Record

Bible Classes: 189
Worship: 209
Evening: 177
Wednesday: 159
Contribution: $1884

How We Gave

9/14/80 - CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (9) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (9) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (3) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (2) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (1) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $65.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $89.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (36) $1.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $5.32. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,884.00.

8/24/80 - CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (5) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (1) $24.00; (1) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (1) $44.00; (3) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (2) $53.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $73.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $112.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $126.00. CURRENCY: (34) $1.00; (1) $2.00; (3) $5.00; (4) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $8.32. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,945.32.

New Members

Allen, Diana and Gina Brazell placed their membership with us on August 10th. Their address is 9318 North Palafox, Pensacola, 32504 and their phone number is 477-1722. They are in ZONE 2. Allen and Diana also have a son, Scott. We welcome them to Bellview.

Tom and Pam Snyder placed their membership with us on August 24th. Their address is Rt. 8, Box 678-G. They are in ZONE 1. Tom is a student in the Bellview Preacher Training School. We welcome them to Bellview.

Directory Info.

Ross and Teresa Gallagher have a telephone now. The number is 477-8309. Please be sure and put this number in your directory.

Sick

Sister Eddie Hardin is now at home.
Brother Bill Crowe is now at home.

Let us remember to keep these and others in our prayers.
"Churches are having trouble hanging on, just like sororities and lodges are having hanging on. They're all going down the drain." So states a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. Such is also evident from the reports in newspapers as they detail the declining membership of some of the larger denominations of our land. There is a decline in the active religious life of most Americans and many are wondering just what should be done to stop such a decline.

But wait a minute, the same article tells of how many churches in the Bible-belt are solving the problem. It states, "Preacher Townsend looks positively bewitching in the pulpit this evening. He is wearing a red evening jacket with velvet lapels, ruffled shirt, red bow tie and two-toned shoes. A small embroidered rabbit is popping out of a small embroidered hat on his right lapel.

"His sermon is enchanting, too. 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,' he says, and his Bible bursts into flame."

It seems that churches are facing up to the problem and by hiring touring magicians or by taking up magic themselves they are again filling their buildings. One preacher reported, "When a magician occupies the pulpit, people who haven't attended in months show up for the services." Nationwide over 1,000 people are preaching with the assistance of magic and a summer convention attended by nearly 800 people is held where individuals can learn new tricks. The problem is being solved.

But is it really? Can we not take a long look again at the appeal of the gospel and God's plan for reaching lost mankind? Have these modern theolo-
gians discovered something that works far better than that which God in His wisdom has planned? Did Christ overlook something long ago when He spoke of the fact that the lifting up of Himself would be that which would draw all men to Him? Perhaps the Bible itself should be rewritten to allow such "wisdom" to be included!

Is it possible that Paul should have said, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save the latest tricks to draw crowds..." (I Cor. 2:2, NVM)? Should his instructions to Timothy not have read, "Till I come give attendance to reading, practice and magic..." (I Tim. 4:13, NVM)? "For the time will come when they will... turn away their ears from the truth... watch in all things, endure afflictions, practice magic, do the work of a magician and be ever diligent in devising new ways to attract such..." (II Tim. 4: 3-5, NVM).

Is it possible that advertizing in the first century was wrong? Could you imagine the front page of the Roman Times reading, "Marvelous Miracle Worker Arrives, Performance Planned For Coliseum"? Surely with the powers of heaven behind them the early church could have attracted any and all who would come! If Jesus had only had a modern promoter those who were only interested in the sensational, those only interested in seeing loaves and fishes multiply before their eyes, those who could only be appealed to through human means could have been attracted to Him in multitudes without numbers! What opportunities the first century church missed!

The truth of the matter is that such was not used for such never has been the plan of God to reach lost man. The appeal of the cross is to the inner man and never has God used the fleshly appetites to bring men to Him. It has never been God's plan for such appeals to the flesh to be used, for the glorious spiritual nature of the church could not exist unless those interested in the spiritual were brought into it.

Men seemingly have lost sight of God's desire for men's hearts to be won by the story of a crucified Christ, they have lost faith in the power of the gospel to win men to Him, they have lost sight of the spiritual nature of the church and, with a world uninterested in the spiritual, they have turned to the carnal aspect of man and appealed to him through carnal things.

The tragedy is that some in the Lord's church are losing sight of this very thing!

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A Mini-Priesthood

G. K. Wallace

There is, in some places, the development of a mini-Catholic priesthood. To teach that a "guardian" must be appointed over a young Christian to whom he or she must confess sins -- even the most intimate thoughts and actions -- is a form of Catholicism. The Catholics call such "auricular confession"--whispered in the ear. Catholics are taught to go to their priest and "whisper in the ear of the priest" their sins. The requirement of James 5:16 to "confess therefore your sins one to another" is not to an elder, preacher, priest or "prayer partner". This confession is public and general and not personal and private.
There is one mediator between God and man and that mediator is Christ (2 Tim. 2:5). The only time private confession is required by the Bible is to correct a private wrong. (See Matthew 18:15-19; 5:23). The so-called "prayer partner" concept is Catholicism in its rankest form. To repeat a sordid tale of life's misconduct before a young Christian in unscriptural and could be personally harmful. How in reason's name can one confess sins if they have been pardoned? When one is forgiven, God forgets. When one is baptized or restored, he or she has no past sins to confess. To repeat a vulgar life to a young Christian could cause the Christian to feel that sin after all is not so bad. The whole system places Christians in human bondage. A "personal guardian" or prayer partner is appointed and the convert must follow his partner. The follower must "obey what the leader says". Thus one Christian is placed in bondage to another. The Lord sent out the twelve and the seventy two by two, but no one was over the other. The disciples got into an argument as to "who was the senior prayer partner", or "who was the greatest", and Jesus rebuked them (Luke 9:46). These "soul talks" are not harmless "Bible studies", but training groups for subversive movements in the church. The Master Plan of Evangelism, so widely used in Seminars, and classes, says, "It is not necessary to broadcast what is being done, or even, at first to tell the group what our ultimate plan is." This sounds like hypocrisy and deception; you call it what you like. They, the groups, are taught that if they cannot get control of the elders or leaders, they should start a faction. They say, "Before much can be done with the church, something will have to be done with the church leader." What do you think they propose to do? If you do not know, just look at the trail of tears and church division where these trained workers have gone. Then it is said, "If the risk seems too great (taking over the leaders), then we will have to start like Jesus did, by getting a few chosen ones and instilling into them the meaning of obedience."7

**FALSE PIETY AMONG US**

There is developing among us a false standard of piety almost equal to the Pharisees.

No one is opposed to total commitment, but one should be committed to Christ and not to a human being. Commitment to a "guardian" or "prayer partner" is not commitment to Christ. To pretend that others who do not accept this human system are not dedicated and committed is naive. We should all be dedicated to mission work, but to call the sending of trained agents to subvert congregations "mission work" is a misnomer. Do they go into the highways and byways to build churches? Do they go into school houses and build churches? When they go abroad do they develop new churches? No, a thousand times, no. They go into churches to get control of the leaders or start a faction among them. Who do they think built all the fine churches across the country? Young people, to refuse to join this new movement is not a lack of commitment, but rather it shows that you are committed to Christ and not to man.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


3. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 50, "obey what his leader says."
4. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 50, "obey what his leader says."
5. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 60.
6. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 60.
7. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 60.
8. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Page 60.

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 190
Worship  : 217
Evening : 181
Wednesday : 154
Contribution : $2015

How We Gave

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (10) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $19.00; (7) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (1) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (2) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $106.00; (1) $120.00. CURRENCY: (62) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00.

CHANGE: $7.08. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,015.08.

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Our congratulations to Paul and Phyllis Brantley on the birth of Teliisha Michelle on Monday, September 22nd. She weighed in at 8½ lbs.

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Directory Info.

Gerald and Geneva Miles have a new telephone number: 456-6576.

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HUMANIST LIES IN THE NEWSPAPER

James W. Boyd

The JACKSON SUN carries a column by Ellen Goodman, who just loves to cast aspersions against traditional views and who propagates the humanist philosophy as if there just is no other way among intelligent people. To her, any opposition to evolution is "absurd." She deplores efforts being made to teach the Biblical account of origins alongside the evolutionist position. She, like most liberals and humanists, cries long and loud about free speech and fair play, except for those who believe the Bible. She would have the public schools indoctrinate the young with the anti-God doctrines but disallow equal time for God's Word. This is one of the reasons our public schools are rapidly becoming one of the most potent enemies of God in this nation.

In a recent column, she scoffed at Genesis as being "good metaphor and bad biology." She simply asserts Genesis to be a metaphor, which is a false charge. Neither she nor any other evolutionist can show one biological fact that the Bible contradicts. Evolution contradicts the proven truth that each reproduces after its kind. But evolutionists ignore that fact.

She makes the ridiculous lie that, "They (scientists) all support the notion of evolution as Darwin suggested. This is a blatant lie, and surelyne as accessible to facts as she is knows it to be false.

She is one of these people who think teachers, not parents, ought to determine what a child is to be taught. She denies the influence of "man from animal" to have any adverse effect on behavior. She totally ignores the moral influence of the Bible. She just comes right out and asserts that "we are animals." Well, let Ellen Goodman and those who think like her not assign their claimed ancestry on us all!"
With the characteristic snobbery of humanists she says, "Creationists don't want them (our children) to know our heritage." That is another lie, the favorite weapon in the arsenal of humanists. The very opposite is true. We DO want our children to know their heritage. And we do not want them to swallow the philosophies of atheists which destroy the dignity of man and the sanctity of human life. Alas! Humanists lie, but what of it, according to their doctrines? Humanism allows it if it accomplishes what they want. Truth has no place in their vocabulary anyway. Everything is relative and evolving.

She contradicts herself in her own article, another characteristic of humanists, when she admits science cannot explain origins. Yet, she bandstands for the schools to teach evolution as fact and would deny any other view being taught.

She closes, but not soon enough, with the statement, "They (creationists) would leave a chill wind for our children to inherit." What a lie! Evolutionists would have us come from nowhere, here for nothing, and going nowhere. And creationists "leave a chill?" Only God offers us an inheritance. Evolutionists offer nothing but despair.

But such are the lies pouring into the minds of Americans today in papers, schools, books, TV, etc. But truth will not die!!

"WE KNOW THEE"
Franklin Camp

"Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee" (Hosea 8:2).

The day would soon come when Israel would find herself in trouble. In the midst of trouble she would cry out unto God, "We know thee." But they did not know God and their cry would be in vain. Hosea points out some of the reasons that their claim to know God was false: "Because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law" (Hosea 8:1). Israel did not know God or they would have realized that he does not overlook violations of his commandments. He did not give his word to be ignored or transgressed. He intended for Israel to obey his will. For them to think that they could pay no attention to what he had said and have his approval, was evidence that they did not know God.

Does not the religious world cry out today, "My God, we know thee," and then follow in the steps of Israel? If this is not true what is the meaning of all the babble of "non-essential commands." The general attitude today is, "Oh I know that it is in the Bible, but we do not have to do it." From every pulpit goes forth the cry, "My God, we know thee" but in these very pulpits are men who insist that we need not do what God says. How much time and effort is spent in the pulpits of our land today trying to prove you do not have to obey the word of the Lord. The majority of preaching that is done today in reference to salvation is to try to prove we are saved by faith alone. This is a direct contradiction of James 2:24. Does one really know God that reads James 2:24 and then insists that we are saved by faith only? Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"
I would be willing to hazard the guess that ninety nine percent of the preaching that is done on baptism is to try to show one can be saved without it. The one who has tried to be saved without baptism or who teaches that baptism is not a condition of salvation, has transgressed his covenant.

If when Israel transgressed God's covenant they did not know him, what of those today who follow in their steps? Why have men written creeds and confessions of faith if they have not transgressed his covenant? If they do not contain commandments of men and leave out some of the commandments of God of what use are they? If they contain only what is in the Bible why write them? Why not just use the Bible?

Lest some one should say, "But the passage you have quoted is in the Old Testament," let me give one from the New Testament: "And hereby we do know that we know him, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. He that saith, I KNOW HIM, AND KEEPETH NOT HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM. But whoso KEEPETH HIS WORD, in him verily is the love of God perfected: Hereby know we that they are in Him" [1 Jn. 2:3-5].

"They have set up kings, but not by me, they have made princes, and I knew it not: (did not approve or authorize). Of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off" [Hosea 8:4]. Israel had done the things specified in this verse and yet claimed "MY God, We know thee." But they did not know God. This has its application today. Men have set up Popes but not by God. They have set up Cardinals, Presiding Elders, preachers as Pastors, but not by God. Where does one read of such in the Bible? Since one does not read of these in the Bible, it is evident that God did not set them up. To claim to know God while setting up Kings, princes, Popes, Reverends and other like offices unknown to the Bible, is to be like Israel. Those who follow such do not know God.

Men have also set up denominations so that a man may have "the church of his choice" but they are not by God. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." He built but one. All others have been set up by men. All make the claim to know God but it cannot be for they are without any authority from God. Denominationalism is founded upon departures from the Bible and contrary to its plea for unity. How can anything built upon departures from God and in violation of its teaching on unity have the approval of God? As of old God will say, "I knew it not," that is I do not approve such.

"Israel is swallowed up: Now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure" [Hosea 8:8]. Israel was to remain a separate and distinct people but they thought they had to be like the Gentile nations. When they became such they were of no use to God. Oh yes, they would cry out, "My God, we know thee," but it was a hollow plea. Congregations can be swallowed up by the world also. Many congregations are already being "chewed on" and soon will be swallowed. They like Israel say, "My God, we know thee," but it is a vain cry.
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 182
Worship : 203
Evening : 190
Wednesday : 166
Contribution : $2089

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (4) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (3) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (4) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (3) $50.00; (2) $53.00; (2) $55.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $90.00; (2) $120.00. CURRENCY: (50) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00.
CHANGE: $5.36. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,089.36.

Sick

Brother Malcolm Pierce is to enter Sacred Heart Hospital on Wednesday for surgery on Friday. He has asked us to remember him in our prayers.

Sisters Eddie Hardin and Ada Belle Coe are still shut-in.

Cards, telephone calls, and our prayers are always appreciated. So is anything we can do for them or their families.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING
WITH ANDREW CONNALLY
IS FOUR WEEKS AWAY
OCTOBER 26 - 30

LET'S BEGIN NOW TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS!

New Members

Richard and Gloria Tippett placed their membership with us on September 7th. They have two daughters, Lori Ann and Elizabeth. They live at 4850 Saufley Road, Lot 00B and their phone number is 455-3818. Richard is a student in the Bellview Preacher Training School. We welcome them to Bellview.

James Alan Brown placed his membership here at Bellview on September 14th. He resides at Rt. 10, Box 315, Pensacola, 32506 (Midland Trailer Park, Lot #315). He is a student in the Bellview Preacher Training School. We welcome him to Bellview.
THE BEACON

Vol. 9  October 9, 1980  No. 41

GOSPEL MEETING

OCTOBER 26 - 30, 1980

With

Andrew Connally

7:30 Nightly

Sunday Through Thursday

-161-
Meet Our Speaker

After working for the church in Springtown, Texas, for eleven and one-half years, the Connallys have moved to Cookeville, Tennessee, where he serves as Assistant to the President of the Tennessee Bible College. During the time the Connallys worked for Springtown, they established their third mission point in Africa at Arusha, Tanzania, which is now under the oversight of the Springtown eldership. Their first mission work was done at Lubgsha in the little country of Malawi.

Brother Connally worked as a teacher in the Brown Trail School of Preaching for some eleven years and preached extensively in gospel meetings and lectureships throughout the south. He holds some ten meetings a year plus numerous lectureships and workshops. His most recent debate on divorce and remarriage has been published.

Brother Connally has attended Abilene Christian College, Florida College, College of the Bible and National Christian University. He has a BA in Bible, MA in Missions and PHD in Philosophy. He has written several tracts and some eleven books in Swahili and English.

Andrew married Claudene Franklin in 1952. They have four children, Chuck, Marianne and twins, Carol and Holly. The two older children are married. The twins are nine years old. Claudene has been a constant help in his thirty years of preaching and twenty years of mission work.
The ABC'S Of A Good Meeting

A - ttend every service. (Heb. 10:25).

B - ring others with you to every service. (Jno. 1:40-42).

C - ooperate in every capacity. (Titus 3:1).

D - evote yourself fully to the success of this evangelistic endeavor. (Matt. 6:33).

E - xamine yourself in the light of each lesson presented. (II Cor. 13:5).

F - aithfully receive every lesson presented as the word of God and not the word of men. (I Thess. 2:13).


H - ear with the view of believing and obeying. (Rom. 10:13-15).


J - oyfully blend your voice with other Christians. (Jas. 5:13).

K - indly greet every person present and make him welcome. (Prov. 18:24).

L - end encouragement for others to accompany you to worship the great God of heaven. (Psa. 122:1; Isa. 2:2-3).

M - eet with Jesus and his people at each service.

N - eglect no opportunity to support the meeting. (Jas. 4:17).

O - bey the gospel if you are not already a Christian.

P - romptly be present every service. (Rom. 12:11).

Q - uench not the Spirit's message from the Bible.

R - everently participate in all phases of every service. (Psa. 89:7).

S - et your mind on things above for this meeting and continue that profitable habit onward. (Col. 3:1-2).

T - reasure up the nuggets of God's truth which shall be spoken.

U - tter a daily prayer for the meeting's success. (Col. 4:2; I Thess. 5:17).

V - ow to build up yourself in the faith that is most holy. (Jude 20).

W - orship the Lord your God at each service in the beauty of holiness.

X - cuse yourself from none of these services. (Luke 14:17-21).
Y - yield yourself with selfless consecration and total dedication to this great effort. (Rom. 6:13).

Z - zealously promote this good work. (Gal. 4:18).

...Robert R. Taylor, Jr....

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OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 161
Worship : 182
Evening : 154
Wednesday : 153
Contribution : $2360

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (6) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (2) $15.00; (6) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $53.00; (3) $55.00; (3) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $89.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $125.00; (1) $200.00; (1) $248.00. CURRENCY: (38) $1.00; (1) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.10. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,360.10.

Sick

Vera Fleetwood will enter Baptist Hospital on Wednesday, October 8th for surgery.

Malcolm Pierce is doing well after surgery on Friday, October 3rd. He may be home by the time you read this.

Fred Stancliff entered Baptist Hospital Sunday morning, October 5th with kidney stones. He will have surgery on Tuesday. He hopes to be home in 2 or 3 days.

Confined at home: Eddie Hardin and Ada Belle Coe.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

Our deepest sympathy is extended to James Alan Brown whose grandfather passed away Monday, October 6th. Alan has gone to Tennessee for the funeral. Alan is a student in the Bellview Preacher Training School.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Howard Johnson whose grandmother passed away last week.

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THE BEACON

BISHOPS
Harriston Brantley
Harold Cozad
Bill Gallaher
Don Orr
Fred Stancuff
Eugene Walp

DEACONS
Henry Born
Elward Brantley
Ervin Brantley
Paul Brantley
Jerry Caine
Charles Garrett
James Loy
Richard Parker
W. R. Thornhill
Charles Williams

SERVICES
SUNDAY
Bible Class ........ 9:00 A.M.
Worship ........... 10:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
TUESDAY
Ladies' Class ....... 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study .......... 7:00 P.M

EVANGELISTS
William S. Cline
John G. Priola

MISSIONARY
Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

Vol. 9 October 16, 1980 No. 42

BELLEVIEW CHURCH of CHRIST
IS HAVING A GOSPEL MEETING

With: Andrew Connally

What dates: October 26 - 30, 1980

What days: Sunday Through Thursday

What time: 7:30 Nightly

-165-
LEST WE HINDER

THIS GOSPEL MEETING

Robert Taylor

The peerless Paul makes mention of a precious principle in the latter part of I Corinthians 9:12 which states, "...lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ." I propose that we take this Pauline principle and allow it to serve as a godly guideline in our gospel meeting that begins October 26th. This article is directed to every member of this congregation. We are not aiming at toes; we are aiming at hearts.

Lest we hinder this gospel meeting let's attend every single service with no deliberate absence by any member. Deliberately forsaking one's own gospel meeting is a serious sin; it has deep ramifications that something is definitely wrong. Inspiration warns us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in Hebrews 10:25. If each service of this gospel meeting is not an assembling together, wherein lies the deficiency? Members who "lay out" of their own gospel meetings are not helpers of the gospel meeting; they are hinderers. If a gospel meeting is a good thing, and it most assuredly is, then James 4:17 defines as, sin our refusal to hold up with solid support an evangelistic endeavor like a great gospel meeting.

Lest we hinder this gospel meeting let's be on time for each service. Some people are always prompt because they plan always to be prompt. Others are never on time because they never plan to be on time. The first song is just as much a matter of worship as is the final song or any in-between. The Godhead is always on time both in providence and in redemption. Nature is never a split second slow in its precise functionings.

Lest we hinder this gospel meeting let's enter enthusiastically into all facets of each service. We need to sing in holy harmony with such sentiments as are expressed in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19. We need to enter wholeheartedly into the public prayers and do much private prayer in the closet for the rich success of our meeting. Let's be the finest audience of listeners that Brother Connally has ever addressed. A blessing or a benediction is showered upon the one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness. (Matt. 5:6) Let's allow a warm spirit of fellowship to pervade all our services. This was one of the earliest and noblest of manifested fruits among Jerusalem disciples in Acts 2:42ff. Let's be extra friendly to all our guests and make them feel welcome and wanted. They honor us by coming; let's honor them in their coming.

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Lest we hinder this gospel meeting let's invite others to come and reason with us as Isaiah did in Isaiah 1:18. Let us be an Andrew and a Philip and direct others to the Messiah. (John 1:40ff). Let us be like John the Baptist and direct people to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29) Revelation 22:17 mentions both the Spirit and the bride (the church) and each says come. The one you invite, the one I invite, might come and later become a Christian. One of the finest ways we can help a meeting is by inviting others to attend.

Lest we hinder this gospel meeting let's place into practice what we learn from lesson to lesson. This is the acid test of every gospel sermon in its overall effectiveness.

Let's do all we can to help-never harm-a great gospel meeting and let's begin with this one!

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article was written by Robert Taylor for a gospel meeting that Ripley Church of Christ had in 1979. It was well written and we thought it worthy of reprinting. JGP

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Let's break a record!
High attendance means people care about Bible Study

STEP FORWARD IN FAITH:
By attending every week
By inviting others to attend

"Walk Worthy of the Lord." Col. 1:10

250 In Bible Study
Sunday October 26

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Published Weekly By The Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla. 32506 2nd Class Postage Paid

Our Record
Bible Classes: 182
Worship : 196
Evening : 157
Wednesday : 156
Contribution : $2006

How We Gave
CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (5) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (1) $27.00; (1) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (5) $40.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $53.00; (3) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $80.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $89.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $125.00
CURRENCY: (41) $1.00; (5) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00
CHANGE: $4.72. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,006.72

Sick
Shut-in: Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin.

Home from the hospital: Brothers Malcolm Pierce and Fred Stancliff.

Vera Fleetwood is still in Baptist Hospital at this writing, after undergoing surgery on Wednesday, October 8th.

Brother Louis Herrington's father is in the hospital in Milton. He suffered third degree burns over 50% of his body in an explosion at his trailer home on Wednesday, October 8th.

Let's remember to do what we can for those who are sick and in the hospitals. Phone calls, cards, and visits mean so much when you can't get out.

Correction
In the September 18th bulletin on page 152 under the heading NEW MEMBERS, we forgot to mention that Scott Brazell is also a member of the Lord's church.
DEACONS
Henry Born
Edward Brantley
Ervin Brantley
Paul Brantley
Jerry Caine
Charles Garrett
James Loy
Richard Parker
W. R. Thornhill
Charles Williams

EVANGELISTS
William S. Cline
John G. Priola

MISSIONARY
Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

SERVICES
SUNDAY
Bible Class ........... 9:00 A.M.
Worship .............. 10:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
TUESDAY
Ladies' Class ........ 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study .......... 7:00 P.M

You're Invited To A
GOSPEL MEETING
At The
BELLVIEW CHURCH of CHRIST
With: Andrew Connally

October 26 - 30, 1980
7:30 Nightly
HOW LONG?

Ernest S. Underwood

In his complaint concerning the wickedness of his people the prophet Habakkuk cried unto Jehovah and asked, "How long shall I cry and thou wilt not hear?" The Almighty God let the prophet know that there were things in the making which would answer his question.

The church of the Lord is in the midst of some trying times. (This is not negative-ism, it is just plain fact.) There are false teachers who have "crept in privily" into our schools and colleges which were at one time dependable. No longer is biblical soundness emitting from these schools. Publications now seem to exist more for commercial purposes than for instruction in the sound doctrine. Discipline of erring and rebellious members of the local congregation has in many places become a forgotten commandment.

Concerning these problems one is made to ask as did the prophet, "How Long?" How long will we coddle, pamper, and tolerate these kinds of actions? Another question is: "How long will Jehovah God tolerate us if we continue to tolerate and fellowship sin?"

This writer recently conversed with brother Clifton Ganus, president of Harding University. We were deeply concerned over reports that two of the faculty, and a singing group from that school were to appear on the "Soul Saving Workshop" at Hot Springs, Arkansas. The brochures sent out by the group in Hot Springs advertised that many of the speakers on the program were either from the apostate Crossroads church in Gainesville, Florida, or were in complete sympathy with the apostasy of that group. Although brother Ganus emphatically denied endorsement of the Crossroads philosophy, he finally admitted that in appearing on the program with them there would be fellowship with them. However, he let us know in no uncertain terms that they were going to appear anyway. He further stated that although they were not going to commend any false teaching done by that group, neither were they going to accuse any who so taught. How different is the spirit expressed by brother Ganus from that expressed by Paul. This apostle both accused and rebuked those who sinned. The church at Corinth, and Peter would serve as examples.

We now ask the question: How long will we continue to send our innocent youth to Harding University to be indoctrinated with such policies? When this school is already a hot-bed of doctrinal error concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage, and now openly and brazenly associates itself with known apostates and church-splitters, can we any longer lend our support to it? Will God be pleased with us as parents and/or the church leaders when we allow our youth to be contaminated by such attitudes toward His word as emanates from this school? Yea, how long, O Lord, shall faithful brethren remain silent?
How long will brethren commend, fellowship, and use as speakers on lectureships, etc., those who still openly fellowship the Fifth and Highland church with its Herald Of Truth program? Brethren have known that at least since 1972 this church and its programs have neither loved nor defended the precious truth of God. When such men as Batsell Baxter, Harold Hazelip, Joe Barnett, and Landon Saunders still embrace and condone this mass departure from the truth can we any longer fellowship them, or support any institution with which they are connected? How can we any longer consider Freed-Hardeman College a bastion of the sound doctrine when its administrators insist in commending and using these men on its programs? Would not our children be safer in a state school where their enemies are known to them, and which enemies make no pretense at piety?

Are we suggesting that we close down such schools? Absolutely not! We are suggesting, however, that in the interest of our children's spiritual welfare we should clean up the doctrinal and moral problems which exists in these places.

How long shall we continue to subscribe to and support those publications whose editors apparently have no censorship policy? If one can advertise a workshop where known false teachers will be appearing to poison the minds to brethren, can not a Billy Graham Crusade be advertised by the same policy? "Oh," says someone, "Billy Graham is a Baptist, thus a false teacher." How true! However, which will do the most harm to the church, a Billy Graham crusade or a workshop permeated with Crossroadism? Not too many of our people will give Graham and his doctrines a second thought. On the other hand, when one of "our" papers advertizes a pro-Crossroads workshop many unsuspecting brethren will accept such as sound assuming that the editors would not advertise it if such were not the case.

It seems to us that it is time for editors, schools, etc., to again return to the purpose of their existence; i.e., promoting biblical truth by word and example. If they are unwilling to do so then let them cease to call upon faithful brethren to endorse and support them.

How long will we as a congregation continue to ignore God's command to discipline unruly members? Brethren, there are those in this church whose souls are lost. Some are lost due to neglect, others because of rebellion. If we have the proper love for these souls, the church, and for God we will begin disciplinary action designed to regain these souls for the Lord. If such action fails to regain them, then the leaven needs to be purged for the sake of the rest. We can no more disobey this command of God than we can His command to be baptized for the remission of sins. How long before we please God rather than men?

The church faces a crisis. It is time for brethren to come to the realization that sin, false doctrines, and ungodly practices cannot build up the church. It is time for those of us who still love the truth to rise up and speak out.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" 1 Cor. 16:13.

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 189
Worship: 210
Evening: 164
Wednesday: 155
Contribution: $1989

How We Gave

CHECKS: (3) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (7)
$10.00; (7) $20.00; (2) $22.00; (1)
$23.00; (4) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1)
$33.00; (2) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3)
$40.00; (2) $45.00; (2) $53.00; (1)
$55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1)
$63.00; (1) $64.00; (2) $73.00; (1)
$82.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (1)
$125.00. CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (8)
$5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00.
CHANGE: $6.11. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:
$1,989.11.

NOTICE

Bill, Dorothy, and Dorris Furlong have placed membership at the
Myrtle Grove Church of Christ.

Sick

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie
Hardin are still shut-in.
FELLOWSHIP

Charles A. Pledge

One area of grave concern before the Lord's people is that of fellowship. Perhaps as much error is taught regarding fellowship as any other two doctrines; and probably more error is practiced in the realm of fellowship than in any other half dozen matters combined.

Fellowship is a precious word; a word pregnant with meaning and vibrant with emotion. Fellowship is a doctrine, the practice of which binds man to God; man to man, and God to man. Fellowship may be, on the one hand, that which implies favor with God, while on the other hand it may prove one to be the object of God's wrath. The determining factor is WHO or WHAT it is that we fellowship.

When this preacher became a Christian a little more than twenty-eight years ago, fellowship was such a blessing; seldom ever was it a problem such as it often is today. Christians, generally, were pretty much aware of certain limitations and restrictions concerning fellowship; and then, the church was not laden with so much doctrinal error within as she is today. Moral standards were much higher in the community and in the church and the evil works of the flesh did not prevail then as now--especially among the people of God. We knew we could not fellowship the denominations and their practices and doctrines were shunned by the vast majority of congregations. Preachers were usually prompt to point up any departure from the faith and brethren, for the most part, listened to their warnings and avoided those who were marked according to the instructions of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 16:17).

Great changes have occurred over these few years, however, and today the situation is far removed from that of a quarter century ago. Changes in
attitudes transpired and many brethren who once were firm in their convictions have grown soft; even compromising in attitude. Practices once relegated strictly to denominations were experimented with; then gradually approved; and then wholesale acceptance came.

Schools which once were heralded for their soundness in the faith added faculty members who worked the leaven of doubt and unsoundness quietly, but effectively, into the atmosphere of the campus. Today, so many of these schools are recognized, not for their soundness in the faith, but for being the propogator of one or more previous doctrinal errors.

Papers which at one time were a joy to read because of the strength derived from the strong scriptural teaching and warnings in many instances have done a reversal. Humanistic positivism is more the order of the day with some pragmatic editors than a firm, unyielding, uncompromising devotion to the truth. It appears that some papers (through their editors) are more concerned with circulation increase and book sales than in printing the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

National and international efforts such as the Herald of Truth have left the distinct impression that they are more concerned with adding new stations, getting good ratings, making "news", and not offending listeners and viewers than they are in "snatching souls from the fire" with a bold, straightforward, clear proclamation of the whole gospel. Plaititudes, soft-soaping lectures designed so as to offend no one--except those who know and love the truth--are the order of the day. Lessons are delivered which could be delivered from nearly any denominational pulpit without an eyebrow being raised in question. One need only compare the present day efforts along this line with those in the early years when the truth presented challenged the thoughts and doctrines of those in denominational error.

Congregations which once stood ready to defend the truth; and were aggressive in the preaching of the truth, have, in many instances, contented themselves with a plastrum presentation of watered-down messages that have no distinction from those messages of Billy Graham and countless other sectarian preachers (except in some instances they are not as strong) have been spoken by too many preachers who have labored under the command to call no names and be inoffensive until many think that is the way gospel preaching is supposed to be done. Far too many congregations have been obsessed with programs patterned after the denominational programs that attract more of the flesh than of the spirit. Numerical growth has, for many, been the all-consuming passion; even to the point of forsaking the truth.

In all this, fellowship has taken on new (and unscriptural) connotations and the overtones are causing complications for those who still stand on the same scriptural ground they occupied a quarter of a century ago. With all the changes having occurred and bringing to bear the many pressures of false doctrines and erroneous practices upon the many in the church, we desperately need to restudy the Biblical doctrine of fellowship, and conform more closely to apostolic teaching relative to it.

Fellowship is a doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures. If this is a true statement (and it is), then we must heed what the Bible teaches concerning it. What the Bible teaches on this (or any other subject) is not subject to change by the desire, practices, or teaching of men. We are NOT authorized by God to put His doctrine to a vote by men!
Fellowship is a doctrine of God which must be practiced in harmony with ALL that is taught about it by God in His word. We are no more free to choose a passage that suits our particular purpose in this matter and reject any or all others than the "faith only" teachers of error are so authorize in connection with their doctrine. It takes ALL that God says about a subject to comprise the truth on that subject (Psalms 119:160, ASV).

Fellowship, as taught in the Bible, must have a cohesive principle; agreement (Amos 3:3). Without this principle, fellowship will not; yea, cannot, last. Fellowship, to be lasting, must have prior agreement. We will study later in other articles more about this "agreement".

Fellowship, as set forth in the scriptures, must have a foundation. That foundation is the word of God (II John 9). Present truth, as set forth by the New Testament, is the only ground upon which two may stand in the fellowship described by God's word.

Fellowship, as set forth by divine revelation, must have a location--a sphere--in which to be practiced and enjoyed. That location, or sphere, is in Christ where "...there is neither Jew nor Greek; bond nor free; male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Fellowship, as set forth in the Bible, must have a cause. God, who created man in his likeness, is that cause. His character is to be imitated by His children, and fellowship is that great opportunity to grow in His likeness. All acceptable fellowship (to God) has as a part of it, a relationship with God. That fellowship which fails to take into consideration that God is an essential part of it and the great cause of all right fellowship will doom to damnation.

Fellowship, as described by the scriptures, has participants. Fellowship is not a mere word that may be bandied about as if we could pay our responsibilities to it in lip service. We have no right to consider it apart from the truth of God concerning it. The participants in Biblical fellowship (the fellowship taught us by the word of God) are those who have come to an agreement in their obedience to the gospel of Christ; whose minds and lives are moulded by divine judgment (I Cor. 1:10); who are located in Christ Jesus and who rest their case upon God--the great final Cause in all right.

Fellowship, in light of the scriptures, is a serious matter which plays no small part in our eternal salvation. Woe unto that man who treats fellowship lightly; either in extending or withholding it. Vain indeed is the character who acts apart from regard for the truth in any act of fellowship, and presumptuous is he who thinks to practice fellowship according to his own rules.

Truth is found only in divine revelation; and truth must be our guide in fellowship. We hope to focus attention on many specifics of truth regarding fellowship in future articles. We trust that reader response will help all of us instigate a deeper study of this important subject and may we all find the grace and strength to practice it in the way God wills.
Published Weekly By The Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla. 32506 2nd Class Postage Paid Pensacola, Fla. 32508

Our Record

Bible Classes: 209
Worship: 214
Evening: 193
Wednesday: 144
Contribution: $1857

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $14.08; (1) $15.00; (4) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (4) $23.00; (5) $25.00; (1) $26.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (3) $45.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (1) $57.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (4) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $82.00; (1) $89.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $125.00. CURRENCY: (32) $1.00; (8) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $3.84. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,857.42.

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Sick

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in.

Jeremy Caine and Dawn Davis are to enter the hospital this week.

Sister Vera Fleetwood is at home recovering from surgery.

Sister Pat Opachick's father is now home from the hospital.

Brother Louis Terrington's father is still in the hospital in Milton.

Let us remember these and any others we may know of in our prayers, and visit those we can.

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Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy to Bill Groce and his family in the death of his mother last week.

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YOU MEN TRY TO SPOT WHO'S BEEN PUTTING IN GREEN STAMPS!
"TELL THE GENERATION FOLLOWING!"

It is required of man that he teach of God to each rising generation. His commendation of Abraham was: "For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken unto him." (Gen. 18:19). But if God's people are not taught of His concern and providence, then chaos and disaster follows! This abrupt, but definitive, statement is made of Israel's enslavement: "And Joseph died,...and there arose a new king over Egypt which knew not Joseph." (Exo. 1:6, 8). Joseph had made great provisions for Egypt, and as long as this was published abroad, Israel was highly favored. But after Joseph died, it was no longer published; and Israel was soon subjected to bondage: Israel failed to tell the generation following!

"Tell the Generation Following"

Long before Jerusalem was plundered, and the temple ravaged, God made provision for later restoration! He gave order to those in Jerusalem: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." (Psa. 48:12-14). Israel was to look intently on the beauty, strength and safety God had afforded. They were to view the glory of the temple. They were to look upon the resplendence of the towers and bulwarks, as yet not scarred nor defaced. They were to behold the beauty of the palaces, as yet unblemished by marauders. They were to walk around the city for a panoramic view of Jerusalem, the city of their God, in all her beauty! Then they were to tell it the generation following!
Tell the Generation Following of Zion!

Israel was soon taken into Babylonian captivity; but languishing in a strange land, Zion was not forgotten. Listen to the forlorn captives' lamentations for their beloved city: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." (Psa. 137:1-6).

Yea, that generation had been told, and they did not forget Zion! God moved heathen rulers to send devoted Jewish captives back to restore the city and the temple. Through the faithful work of Ezra, Nehemiah and thousands of others, the city, with its walls, was rebuilt, and the temple restored! They had been told - and remembered!

Look to Spiritual Zion -- the Church!

Last June I looked from the mount of Olives out over Gethsemane, the brook Kidron, and the walls of Jerusalem. I saw the imposing "Dome of the Rock," the Mosque of Omar, standing where Solomon's temple once stood. I walked about the temple area, noting the towers, marking the bulwarks, and considering her palaces. I was glad to visit places where Jesus taught in Zion:

But it is not the literal city of Jerusalem that is of such vital interest to Christians! "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." (Heb. 12:22-23). Zion of old was often in bondage, and faced siege more often: "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." (Gal. 4:26). A Christian's love and devotion is not to a literal city sitting among Judean hills, but to spiritual Jerusalem: the church of the Lord!

Walk About Zion, the Church of God!

The church of the Lord was established even as decreed by prophets (see Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:44). It was also promised by our Lord (Mt. 16:18). The day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection fulfilled these utterances, and saved men were added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). Christ was head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18), and Saviour of it (Eph. 5:23), for He gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25), purchasing it with His blood (Acts 20:28). Thus, God was glorified in the church by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:21). This institution for all saved people was not of human origin: it was by God's eternal purpose (Eph. 3:11). Having been purposed by Jehovah, purchased by Jesus Christ, and guided by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that church had not one flaw nor fault! "For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he had desired it for his habitation." (Psa. 132:13). How we should treasure this divine institution God has afforded us!

But as literal Zion had to be restored by those once held captive, so
spiritual Zion must be restored by those once enslaved in sin (Rom. 6:16-18)
To do this, we must again "Walk about Zion." We must look back to see the
church as it worked and worshipped under inspired surveillance! We must go
back to sit at the feet of inspired apostles and prophets, and accept the
gospel which they delivered to lost men! To use again phrases that were
once widely used and respected: we must "Call Bible things by Bible names;
and do Bible things in Bible ways:" We must challenge every false way with:
"No book but the Bible; No creed but the Christ; No name but His name; No
way but His way; and No church but His church!" To accomplish this we must
again assert: "We speak where the Bible speaks; we are silent where the
Bible is silent!" The test of every professed follower must be: "To the law
and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is be-
cause there is no life in them." (Isa. 8:20).

"Tell it to the Generation Following"

It was not enough for the early church to have the truth - they had to
share it with the world! Jesus had commanded: "Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature." They had to "tell the generation
following," and this they did! "They continued steadfastly in the apostles'
doctrine," and sent it forth unto all men! Their reason: "We cannot but
speak the things which we have seen and heard." "And daily in the temple,
and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the
word." (Mk. 16:15; Acts 2:42; 4:20; 5:42; 8:4). This obligation to tell
others was so pressing that Paul said: "For though I preach the gospel, I
have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto
me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Cor. 9:16). They were determined to
"tell the generation following."

We, too, must walk about Zion, to note the strength and beauty of the
church which Jesus built! That church has not been fully restored until
saints have spread this gospel throughout the world. The church portrayed
in Scripture is a triumphant, evangelistic church! In just one generation
Paul stated the gospel had come to all the world, being preached to every
creature (Col. 1:6, 23; Rom. 10:18). We must rekindle this zeal for spreading
the gospel to all! It is not enough for us to learn and know the
truth - we must tell the generation following! The church of the Lord is
never more than one generation removed from total apostasy! Each rising
generation must be instructed in the fundamentals of our faith, and taught
the absolute authority of God's word! The growth we have made is forfeited
if we do not instill these principles in the next generation. "Tell the
generation following!"

- - - - VIA GOSPEL MINUTES - - - -

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Our Record

Bible Classes: 190
Worship : 214
Evening : 178
Wednesday : 175
Contribution : $3598

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (6)
$10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $16.00; (7)
$20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (1)
$23.00; (2) $25.00; (1) $28.00; (2)
$30.00; (1) $33.00; (2) $35.00; (1)
$38.00; (2) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (2)
$45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (2)
$55.00; (4) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1)
$63.00; (2) $64.00; (1) $65.00; (1)
$66.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $90.00; (1)
$100.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $120.00;
(1) $125.00; (1) $200.00; (1)
$1,000.00. CURRENCY: (37) $1.00;
(7) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00.
CHANGE: $5.88. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:
$3,598.88.

Sick

Sisters Ada Belle Coe and Eddie
Hardin are still shut-in.

Brother Louis Herrington's father
is still in the hospital in Milton.

Jeremy Caine is in Sacred Heart
Children's Hospital, but will pro-

bably be at home by the time you
read this.

Let us remember to visit, send
cards, and pray for those who are
sick, physically and spiritually.

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THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Life's greatest value is spending
it for something which will outlast
it.

To a QUICK QUESTION, always give
a SLOW ANSWER.

The idler does not waste TIME,
he merely wastes HIMSELF.

The safest, surest way to destroy
an ENEMY is to make him your FRIEND.

HOME - The place where the great are
small and the small are great.

Truth is like the sun. All that
hides it is a passing cloud.

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"Make All Things According To The Pattern"

Dillard Thurman

"Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount." (Heb. 8:5). This verse refers back to the specific instructions God gave to Moses, as found in Exo. 25:9. Moses knew exactly how God wanted the tabernacle built, for he had an exact pattern, or blueprint given of God. If there came a time when Moses was in doubt, he had only to consult the divine pattern given him. So, if a blunder had been made, the mistake would have been on the part of Moses, either in ignoring the pattern, or in refusing to accept it as authoritative.

God has always demanded that His pattern, or blueprint, be followed in exactness! Noah had the pattern for the ark, as God gave it. He was not allowed to improvise on the plan. God specified the dimensions, the arrangement and the material. Noah was not permitted to add another story, another window or door, nor could he substitute for the gopher wood! Noah was approved of God, but notice why: "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." (Gen. 6:22). He understood he was to "make all things according to the pattern showed thee," and he obediently followed that pattern.

God's Divine Pattern For The Church

God also gave a pattern for the church. Jesus promised His apostles: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (Jno. 14:26). Jesus had promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18), and in the passage He assures us that the Holy Spirit would deliver the divine pattern! Again He promised, "Howbeit
when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (Jno. 16:13). The Holy Spirit delivered the gospel in such a way that no man or satanic agency could corrupt that divine pattern for the church! On Pentecost, when the full gospel was first delivered, we find that the apostles "spake as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4). Thus did the Spirit safeguard the divine pattern, and present it incorruptible.

Much later, in speaking of the revelation of the gospel, Paul asserted: "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." Then he said, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (I Cor. 2:10, 13). The divine pattern was delivered by the Spirit, and it was this which Paul spake. But notice how he referred back to the pattern: "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" pictures him consulting the pattern or blueprint as he was teaching.

Paul Warns All To Follow The Pattern

The apostle Paul also gave a sober warning: "For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:9-11). We (the saints in Christ) constitute the church (God's building). Paul as a masterbuilder (an apostle) laid the true foundation, Jesus Christ, according to the pattern or divine blueprint. He then warns any who would follow to build only upon that foundation (according to the blueprint or pattern). This insured the salvation of the building. "Ye are...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple of the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." (Eph. 2:19-22). Thus was the Lord's house built according to the divine pattern which Paul had received.

God's Pattern For Sound Doctrine

Paul wrote his young son in the gospel, Timothy: "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 1:13). Notice the emphasis he gave this: "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned." (Tit. 2:7-8). That sound speech is necessary to fulfill the pattern! Again Paul said, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." (Tit. 2:1). Paul further charged that an elder must be adept in "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." (Tit. 1:9). This sound doctrine is the blueprint, and it is to be kept pure.

Notice how zealously Paul guarded the pattern of the gospel: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of God unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have
preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:6-8). Paul had set forth the true pattern of sound words, and now he warns all against corrupting that pattern! Such a one is to be accursed! Why was Paul so firm about this? Listen to him: "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Gal. 1:11-12). Paul was set in defense of that pure pattern of sound doctrine (Phil. 1:7), for Jesus was the designer and architect. His blueprint had to be faithfully followed without addition, subtraction or alteration!

Attitude Toward All Who Refuse The Pattern

What then should be our attitude toward any who would change or alter this pattern and blueprint? "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God-speed: for he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (2 Jno. 9-11). Not only are we to follow the pattern of sound words which God has given, but we are also to withdraw from all who do not hold that pattern! If we condone their actions, we then become partakers of their evil deeds in opposing the pattern from God.

Ignoring or rejecting this divine pattern God gave for His church, its gospel, its organization, and its worship, has given rise to many pernicious and devious innovations. Many churches exist that, evidently, were built to a different pattern. Many practices in these churches do not conform to the pattern which the Lord gave. Many acts of worship are not found in the original pattern offered by inspired men. And many doctrines being widely spread today are in opposition to that which God revealed by His Spirit! Friend, in view of all the religious chaos and confusion, and the worth of your eternal soul, you owe it to yourself to do a little checking up on the original pattern to see if your religious house is in order! Can you find the "church of your choice" in that pattern? Can you find "infant membership" there? Can you locate the authorization for instruments of music? the counting of beads, lighting of candles, and wearing of robes? Do you read of the "mourners' bench," "saved by faith only," and "can't fall from grace" in the original blueprint given by the Spirit?

Even in our earthly home, we want to be sure the builder follows the pattern. If the blueprint calls for a two-by-four, we are not ready to accept a one-by-eight as a substitute. What the blueprint specifies is what we expect and demand. To the builder we say, "See that you make all things according to the pattern." Yet, if care and concern is given for a temporal building, lasting for only a few years, how careful and concerned should we be relative to an eternal home? Shall we permit religious leaders to ignore and reject the divine pattern which God has ordained?

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-183-
Our Record

Bible Classes: 174
Worship: 198
Evening: NC
Wednesday: 163
Contribution: $1949

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $3.00; (1) $5.00; (5)
$10.00; (1) $12.00; (3) $20.00; (1)
$22.00; (2) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (1)
$29.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1)
$35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (1)
$43.00; (1) $45.00; (2) $50.00; (1)
$53.00; (2) $55.00; (1) $60.00; (1)
$62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1)
$65.00; (1) $66.00; (1) $90.00; (1)
$95.00; (1) $125.00; (1) $175.00.
CURRENCY: (31) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (4)
$10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.14.

Our congratulations to Greg and Lisa Anderson on the birth of Marissa Kay. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 4 3/4 oz. Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

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Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy to Louis Herrington whose father passed away Thursday night, November 6th. The funeral was held Sunday at the Faith Chapel Funeral Home.

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Sick

Shut-in: Sister Ada Belle Coe and sister Eddie Hardin.

Among our sick: Sisters Mary Bailey, Vera Fleetwood, Lodema Lewis, Mary Matthey, Mabel Henderson, Linda Parker and brother Terrell Parker.

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When Compassion Can Be A Sin

D. GENE WEST

In a recent article in Christianity Today, there was a very interesting article on how ministers can be put "in the middle" on the matter of divorce and remarriage. Many ministers in the denominational world are wrestling with the matter of divorce and remarriage in their churches. The author pointed out that many ministers in the denominational world are caught between what they know the Bible teaches on the subject of who may obtain a divorce and have the right to remarry and who may not. Many people come to them to be married, who have unscriptural divorces, and they want the ministers to unite them in marriage to persons that they have no right to marry so far as the Bible is concerned. These ministers claim, and we do not doubt their claim, that they have great compassion for those who have suffered the pain and trauma of going through a divorce. And because of their compassion for those who suffer they are tempted to go ahead and perform these marriages in the hope that the people will find some happiness. Their compassion actually tempts the ministers to pick and choose which of God's laws they will honor and which ones they will ignore. What is true of these denominational preachers is also true of preachers of the gospel of the risen Saviour.

That true and loving compassion for the pain and misery of our fellow human beings is certainly a characteristic that God wants all of us to have. No person can be worthy of even professing to be a Christian and be void of compassion. Our Lord was the very epitome of compassion while he lived upon the earth, and in heaven he remains our compassionate Saviour. But we need to remember always that a compassion which is so great that we are willing to ignore or side-step the plain teaching of God's word in order to be "gracious" to those who desire to do that which is sinful in the sight of God is itself sinful. We can show compassion, concern, and sympathy for
anyone caught in the web of sin, but we must not ever assist them in being further engulfed in sin because of our feelings of compassion. Dear reader, it is never true compassion to aid someone in doing that which even has the possibility of damning an eternal soul to an endless hell.

The real crux of the issue is not just compassion, rather it is a matter of allegiance to the truth which is revealed in the Divine Word. Jesus has not given preachers of the gospel, or anyone else, the right to pick and choose which of God's laws we will honor and which we will violate, even if our motivation for violating God's will is a feeling of charity. If we love God with all our being, and this is the first great commandment, then we must follow his will for our lives and teach others to do so. In I John 2:4-5 we read, "He who says, 'I know Him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in him. He who says he abides in him ought himself also to walk as he walked." For us to do anything other than attempt to keep his commandments, is sin, even if it is done in the name of compassion. Let us stay with the Word thus accepting the authority of Christ, truly making him Lord of our lives.

Corrupt Seed & Hybrid Results

Luke 8:11; Jas. 1:21; Deut. 22:9; Lev. 19:19

and Bible Only Makes Christians Only

Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16

+ Catechism Makes Catholic Christians
+ Discipline Makes Methodist Christians
+ Baptist Manual Makes Baptist Christians
+ Conf. Faith Makes Presbyterian Christians
+ Prayer Book Makes Episcopalian Christians
+ S-H with Key Makes Christian-Scientists
+ Book of Mormons Makes Latter Day Saints
I Have Been To "Mecca"

ERNEST UNDERWOOD

Mecca is the chief holy city of the Moslem religion. The Great Mosque in Mecca is the center of worship for Moslems all over the world. It is the desire of every Moslem to make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in his life.

Now, I haven't been to that Mecca. However, I did have the privilege recently of visiting "little Jerusalem" and while there I actually visited what is billed as "the largest church of Christ in the world." Driving upon the parking lot was an experience within itself. The "plant" occupies a city block, give or take a little.

The real (?) thrill came as I entered the north entrance, (facing north, not a private entrance for a particular person), made a left turn and came to the gymnasium. How my heart leaped as I saw the inlaid floor of the gym. How pleased the Lord must be to know that His money is being used for such grand endeavors. The next thing to catch my eye was the Spiral wrought-iron stairway over in a corner of the gym. This stairway led to a jogging track suspended above the inlaid floor. Here, I suppose one can "jog to the glory of the Lord." Over in a little room adjacent to the gym was the equipment. In this room were assorted balls, hockey sticks, and other sporting equipment. Surely, these must play an important role in either the evangelistic thrust, the benevolent obligations, or the edification of the saints which this church is charged in the word of God to fulfill.

Although voices were heard in other rooms, I didn't investigate any farther. These could have been the slim-a-rama sessions, or the macrame classes in progress. I'm sure it would have been a meaningful experience to have participated in either of them. Surely, my spirituality would have been enhanced, and my ability to save souls would have been benefited.

Yes, I have been to "Mecca". What I observed caused me to come away in awe. Not in awe of the size of the "plant", nor all of its paraphernalia, but in complete wonderment as to where one would go to find Scriptural authority for such. Also, I came away amazed that many of the "somewhats" in the brotherhood not only condone this, but sing its high and lofty praises.

As for me, I prefer to do things in a biblical way. This may not gain the headlines, gather in large numbers, or cause a great upsurge of the praises and glory of men, but it will please God. When He is pleased, those who please Him are right.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 171
Worship: 196
Evening: 198
Wednesday: 165
Contribution: $1927

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (8) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (4) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (4) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (1) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (2) $64.00; (1) $66.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $90.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $125.00.

CURRENCY: (30) $1.00; (6) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $1.83.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,927.83.

Congratulations

Jerry and Floy Dell Lindesmith are the proud grandparents of a boy and a girl born Tuesday, November 11th to Dee and Meg, respectively. Dee lives here in Pensacola and Meg in Louisiana.

Restored

Mary Hughes came forward Sunday November 9th asking for the prayers of the saints.

Sick

Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in. Lantice Garrett and girls were at home today sick.
We all have weaknesses. But some of them seem to be deliberate. The one of which we now speak has been stated a number of ways, such as, talking out of both sides of the mouth, doing one thing and saying another, riding two horses going in opposite directions, etc.

There is a story about a man hired to teach geography at a certain school during the time when there still was a great debate about whether the earth was round or square. When asked by the board his views on the subject he replied, "I can teach it either way." Such conviction!

We heard a little story about a lad who lived during the days of the War Between the States and could play the flute. One day, during a lull in the fighting he began to play his flute. The strange phenomenon of men from both sides edge closer and closer to him until he had quite an audience. Some began making requests for him to play first one song then another. One rebel asked him to play "Dixie." That prompted a northerner to request "Yankee-Doodle."

Finding himself pressured by both sides, he wisely remarked, "No man can play 'Dixie' and 'Yankee-Doodle' at the same time and mean it." There is a moral thought there, that is very applicable in standing for the truth. Would we all could learn it.

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IS GENESIS 2
LITERAL HISTORY?

Wayne Jackson

In Exodus 20:11, Moses wrote: "...for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day..." Is the foregoing a factually historical statement that can be accepted unreservedly at face value? This writer believes that it is, but some religionists do not -- including a number of influential men in the church of the Lord. One writer has suggested that the acceptance of Exodus 20:11 as literal history is "a very shallow conclusion" which is "inconsistent with the Genesis record as well as other parts of the Bible." He went on to observe that "Exodus 20:11 is a quote of Genesis 2 and Genesis 2 is not a historical account."

To put the matter in perspective, an argument being developed in certain circles runs as follows:

1. There are many geological evidences which suggest that the earth and its living creatures have evolved over vast ages of time.

2. But Exodus 20:11 suggests that the entire creation was accomplished in six days.

3. Thus, Exodus 20:11 cannot be a literal, historical narrative.

4. Moreover, Exodus 20:11 is borrowed from Genesis 2 -- and (to use the quote above) "Genesis 2 is not a historical account."

5. Therefore, Exodus 20:11 does not represent literal history. The errors in this argument are so manifold, and so blatant, they simply must be dealt with.

First of all, the entire argument is based upon the unfounded assumption of evolution, and is motivated by an attempted harmony of the Bible with evolutionary concepts. Though it is beyond the scope of this article to deal with, we confidently declare that there are no evidences that absolutely preclude the creation of the universe and all of its creatures in six, consecutive, literal days! Let him who thinks there are produce them! The major premise of the argument is thus assumption and in fact erroneous.
Secondly, Exodus 20:11 is grounded primarily upon the historical record of Genesis 1 (the creation work of the six days), then, secondarily upon Genesis 2 -- the fact that God had "finished his work" and so "rested on the seventh day" (2,3). But the argument is being made that Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are not the same type of historical documents. Listen to what one brother has stated: "I believe Genesis 1 is a literal, historical account. Its purpose is to tell us the history of the earth." (Note: the brother, however, does not believe that the "days" of the creation week were necessarily literal days.) He further says: "But I do not believe that Genesis 2 is that kind of historical document." But why would he deny that Genesis 2 is the same type of historical record as Genesis 1? Simply for this reason -- he refuses to acknowledge that Exodus 20:11 is literal history. But it borrows from Genesis 2; thus, Genesis 2 is not literal history.

The fallacy of this spacious argument can be shown in two ways: (1) Exodus 20:11 contains an obvious reference to Genesis 1 (there is no specific reference to "six days" in chapter 2). Based upon his previous assumption, would our brother thus deny that Genesis 1 is a literal, historical narrative? To be consistent he would have to. (2) Our Lord Jesus Christ did not consider Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 as two different types of historical documents, for he quotes from Genesis 1 and then Genesis 2 in the same sentence, even joining them by the conjunction "and" (see Matt. 19:4,5) without giving the slightest hint that he was dealing with two different kinds of documents. He was not progressing from literal history to figurative history.

Now it is a fact that Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are not chronologically parallel. Genesis 1 is a chronological record of the six days of creation (though some are even denying this now; see the OT Living Word Commentary, "Genesis," p. 92), while Genesis 2 gives special emphasis to man and his world in a topical (not necessarily chronological) fashion. The fact, however, that an account is not chronological certainly does not negate its literal historicity! Consider, for example, the New Testament accounts of Christ's curse upon the fig tree (as an object lesson of Jerusalem's impending destruction) as recorded in Matthew and Mark. The incident actually took place in two parts -- on Monday and on Tuesday of the Lord's Passion week -- with the cleansing of the temple occurring in between (Mk. 11:11, 12,19,20). Mark thus presents the incident in a chronological fashion. Matthew, on the other hand, desiring to record the story all at once in an uninterrupted way, topically sets forth the account. But both narratives are literal history. Similarly, Luke's record of the case of Cornelius, as given in Acts 10 and 11, is more chronological in Acts 11 than in Acts 10 (cf. 11:4), but that hasn't a thing to do with the historicity or literalness of the record!

Thus, though there are different designs involved in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, both are literal and historical. And the reference in Exodus 20:11 is also historical. We simply must impress upon our people that it is not a proper method of Bible interpretation to force a harmonization between Scripture and current theories of infidelity.

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-191-
OUR RECORD

Bible Classes: 167
Worship: 190
Evening: 137
Wednesday: 166
Contribution: $1697

HOW WE GAVE

CHECKS: (1) $3.00; (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (5) $20.00; (1) $22.00; (2) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (2) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (1) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $66.00; (1) $70.00; (2) $90.00; (1) $125.00.
CURRENCY: (47) $1.00; (9) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $4.20.
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,697.20.

SICK

A number of our members were unable to be with us this past Lord's Day due to various illnesses. We hope all of them will be able to be in services with us soon. Our shut-ins remain the same.

DIRECTORY INFO

Mary Hughes and her sons, Byron and Bryan have moved to Lakeland, Florida.

THEOPHILUS

HOW INSULTING! YOU SAY THAT MY ANCESTORS WERE APES!
NO, I DIDN'T SAY THAT! YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME.

I SAID THAT BOTH MAN AND APES CAME FROM THE SLIME AT THE BOTTOM OF A STAGNANT POOL.
OH, THAT'S DIFFERENT. I JUST DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT MY PREDECESSOR WAS A NASTY APE!
The state of man is continual change. The psychological, technical, scientific and ethical changes of the twentieth century has brought forth a catastrophic turmoil of revolution. Our time is a time of upheaval and revolution.

Many and varied influences have brought about the revolution of our age. The upheavals of our society are not due to the thought of our decade but to festering years and decades now long past. Our age is the fruit of the past and the ominous shadow of the future. We have again entered into an Age of Reason and reminiscent of the times and philosophies of Voltaire, Descartes and Spinoza when denials and rejections of the most basic fundamentals of the order of man are advanced. The Age of Reason (1650 - 1815 A.D.) was fed on the fuel of ignorance and man's sense of insecurity. The truth of God frees men from ignorance and fear. That source of freedom and knowledge was denied by the gifted intellectuals of that day. Divine truth was perverted and subverted by an ignorant, cruel and shameless papacy. Perverted truth became an object of contempt and masses of men ceased their individual search for purity of truth.

The Protestant Reformation assisted in turning the mind of man inwardly to his own domain of thought. Its perversions of Christian doctrine laid the heavy clod of total human depravity and predestination to eternal doom upon the heart of man. Kings, princes, priest, popes and pious reformers had so abused and perverted the sacred rights of man and had so frustrated his quest for social, intellectual and spiritual security he despaired of the old order and sought a new one in its place. His tool of change was revolution.
Our age, though more complex, parallels the historical period of the Age of Reason. That was an age marked with great advances of man. New worlds were discovered, celestial space was investigated; the learning and culture of man was enhanced. While the race advanced in many quarters it deteriorated in others. Man sought to find all his answers to his quest, the why-and-how of life, in his own rational mind. The revolution of change in our present age follows the historical outline of the Age of Reason.

Man's trust in his own intellectualism has again caused him to close his mind to the intelligence of God. He assumes he is wiser than God! But, God has eternally spoken: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise?...Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world" (I Cor. 1:19, 20)? Man has reasoned that there is no God, religion is non-sense, and man is the intellectual crown of animal creation. Professions of faith in God and His word are sneeringly and contemptuously rejected in our modern Age of Reason. Religion, once a needed crutch for primitive man can now be cast aside in man's evolution and mastery of himself and his world. His crutch of faith is replaced by his wisdom and intelligence. Such philosophy is not only reminiscent of Voltaire and company, but, also of that ancient time when a generation of men "became vain in their imaginations (irrational thinkers) and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21, 22). The shades of depravity are again engulfing the society of man.

What is the fruit of man's reasoning in the new order of world revolution? The age old concept of home and family is being destroyed with the father-mother-child relationship abandoned. This has already been achieved in a large part of our society. Common law marriage is finding social acceptance. Communal living for many of the younger generation is "their thing." The communal "family" or "farm" is to live on the level of brute beast not recognizing the sacred bonds of marriage, bringing forth bastard children who have no family heritage, loyalty and respect. The glory of motherhood is that of the communal sow dropping her litter wherever she may farrow. A conglomeration of defiled, incestuous half-kin would roam the earth in a generation. No man would know his father. Discipline and responsibility would no longer be moral governors in life. An ungovernable, lustful, and depraved society is the fruit of man's reasoning; a society where God is not known and the race devolves to the brute.

When a nation of people are dependent on their own reasoning and ingenuity as a sufficient guide in the complexities of life they, after a time, fail and come to depths of despair. It is feared that our great nation is to come to the same sad fate of other great nations whose history now gathers the dust of the ages. Modern America, as a result of its cleverness and intellectualism, is burying God (they say God is dead!) denying Christ, and declaring the Bible to be a mouldy book of musty fables and folklore. Militant forces in America have caused our great government to virtually outlaw religious expression except in homes and churches, and suppress religious freedom in many places while at the same time extending the privileges of free speech and expression to Atheism.

Although running flank speed into moral, spiritual, intellectual, social and economic chaos -- we are beginning to see that things are not going to work out very well. Modernism has created a Frankenstein monster of destruction which now threatens its creator. A vast sense of insecurity and distrust is evidenced on every hand. While our Age of Reason plunges onward
and faster into the blackness of despair -- man clutches for a straw. In darkness, he looks for a gleam of light.

Increasing numbers of our Age of Reason are seeking security in pagan religions which long centuries past were proved to be vain, giving no security to those who claimed them. Mystic religions and cults of the Eastern world are becoming part of the civilization of the Western man. Astrology has become more than a comic prediction found among the funnies and crossword puzzles in the daily newspapers. Astrologers are sought out for their mystic wisdom and prophecy as in the day of Pharaoh. Transcendental meditation excuses the mind from the frantic environment and many seek its temporary rewards. Mystic religions are quaint, astrology is interesting, black and white magic is fascinating, TM occupies the mind with nothing (hence, it comforts), but none of them will give satisfying and lasting answers to man's questions. Only the Bible can answer man's most serious questions. But to deny the wisdom of God and His righteousness and fellowship Satan and his domain will never render a sense of security to the soul.

Millions of our frustrated fellows are seeking escape from our age in the false security of alcoholism and drug addiction. The "now generation" seeks to escape the responsibility of mature adulthood in a world of alcohol, pills, sex and protest. They shamefully seek escape and recognition, hiding in their own personal filth, behind their beards and shags of tousled hair, thus losing identity as responsible human characters and assuming the role of social jellybeans. Seeking security and happiness in false philosophies, welfare projects, pills, powders and passion drive frantic masses insane. There is little hope for those who flee from the world of reality and seek peace and security in the brooding depths of mental exhaustion. Irrational beings are the natural products of an irrational world that is ruled by human reason. An ever increasing number find their supposed escape from confusion in suicide. This too is to fail!

What is it all about? What does it mean -- this confused world in which we live? The problem of our age is great. The answer is simple. Man is his own problem. God is the answer. The chaotic world in which we live is the product of a race of man who endeavors to satisfy his lustful desires to the fullest. He seeks to destroy every righteous law and moral principle in order to claim independence in his tailormade world. Our Age of Reason is one in which man endeavors to over rule God, convincing himself that God is dead. Without God man cannot have true wisdom to guide him. It is only where man abides in the knowledge and wisdom of God that he can be truly happy and satisfied and able to rejoice in the work of his hands. Man with God can have his soul's delight for his God will give it to him.

Security, peace and happiness is in our God! Escape is in our God also; escape from fear, insecurity, panic and despair. When, and if, our age finds peace and security it will find it where all others have found it -- in the wisdom and knowledge of God.
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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*Sick*

Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin are still shut-in.

Let's remember them in our prayers.

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**Our Record**

**How We Gave**

CHECKS: (1) $3.00; (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (7) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (7) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (1) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (2) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (3) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (1) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (3) $55.00; (1) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (2) $64.00; (1) $66.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $125.00; (1) $165.00. CURRENCY: (9) $1.00; (2) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (2) $20.00. CHANGE: $3.67. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,206.67.

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**Weaned at Last!**
The church in Colossae was troubled by "philosophers" who espoused theosophy, gnosticism, mysticism and Judaism. Subtly they taught that Christ and the gospel were imperfect and insufficient, and that they must be supplemented with visions and the mediation of angels; that the law of Moses must be observed, at least in part; that life in general must be regulated according to human tradition; and that redemption was not a work of Christ alone, but also of angels. Many such doctrines are held today, and a church not properly indoctrinated is liable to be "tossed about with every kind of doctrine," led into error and lost for eternity.

A careful study of the Colossian letter reveals a power-packed epistle against all forms of error, by which warning is given to the church in all ages to come (Col. 2:8-12, 16-23).

General Warning

Our Lord launched his public ministry with warning against false teachers (Matt. 7:15). Nearly every book in the Bible warns against error, seeking to preserve the purity of the Lord's people. This is significant, and should be a warning to everyone, lest he should take liberties with God's word, and violate it by addition, subtraction or substitution, all of which are forbidden (Deut. 4:2; 5:32; Lev. 10:1-2; Gal. 1:6-9), and which draw the supreme penalty (Rev. 22:18-19).

The word "spoil" (Col. 2:8) means "to carry off booty" and suggests "to carry one off as a captive (and slave); to lead away from the truth and subject to one's way" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon). The New Testament is the re-
vealed will of God; it is truth; therefore, any variation from it is to be
led from the truth and "spoiled." The ones most likely to lead souls astray
are they who pose as good men -- as "angels of light," but are actually ser-
vants of Satan (II Cor. 11:13-15). No teacher should be accepted because of
outward appearances, but should be tried by the word of God (I John 4:1, 6).
"Truth plus error equals error" regardless who propagates such. Only the
truth can make free (John 8:32); hence, every effort possible to avoid error
and keep the church pure should be made.

Specific Warnings

1. Philosophy of men. The philosophy that Paul warns against is that
which rejects the word of God as being verbally inspired; rejects Christ as
the divine Son of God; denies the atonement, the resurrection, the all-suf-
ficiency of the Scriptures; in fact, every principle of revealed truth, that
does not measure up to human reason.

The ways of God are not the ways of man (Isa. 55:8-9). The plan of God
is not designed to appeal to human wisdom (I Cor. 1:18-31), but is a system
of faith (II Cor. 5:7), designed to prove man's confidence in God, and de-
mands implicit obedience without question or cavil.

"Vain deceit" carries the idea of leading away from the truth usually by
deliberate deception. This would include efforts of many religionists,
modernists, infidels, evolutionists. In secular schools and many religious
institutions instructors leave their subjects and purposefully seek to de-
stroy the students' faith in the Bible, Christ and God. Human philosophy is
vain deceit.

Paul showed that Christ is sufficient in that He is King (Col. 1:13,
3:1); that He created all things (Col. 1:16, 17): that in Him we are redeem-
ed, reconciled and made perfect (Col. 1:14, 20-22, 28).

2. Tradition of men. This would include all the doctrines of Catholic
and Protestant denominations, as well as other world religions. To follow
them is to make void the saving power of God's word (Mark 7:7-13). By im-
posing doctrines and practices unknown in the Bible, the sectarian world re-
jects the authority of Christ, and denies the New Testament is either bind-
ing or sufficient.

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit would come He would guide the apostles
into all truth (John 16:13). Paul said he held back nothing profitable, but
declared the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20, 27). Second Peter 1:3 af-
firms that we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness.
The New Testament is referred to as the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:
25), and Paul declares what is already revealed is sufficient to furnish us
completely (II Tim. 3:16-17). This being true, the claims of direct and
different revelations in any age past the apostle John are false. Catho-
lics, Adventists, Mormons and all denominations that claim direct opera-
tion of the Holy Spirit should take note.

In that day and this Paul dealt a death blow against the Gnostics and
mystics, the former claiming that emancipation comes through knowledge
(apart from, or in addition to the gospel); the latter believing that direct
knowledge of God and spiritual truth was obtained through immediate intui-
tion. Paul affirmed that "all the treasures and wisdom and knowledge" are
hid in Christ (Col. 2:2-3). He prayed that the Colossians might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom (Col. 1:9). Inasmuch, therefore, as all wisdom and knowledge are in Christ, only He can reveal them; hence, must be received in the manner that pleased Him. This is through a knowledge of His will.

A will becomes effective after the death of the will-maker (Heb. 9:16-17). When a will has been probated, being sealed by the death of the testator, the conditions of the will must thereafter be kept exactly as delivered. A man who dies will not come back and make alterations in his will, nor will he give "revelations" to the possible heirs that they may do otherwise than his will states, and no sensible human being would expect such in respect to a human will. Neither can we expect such from Christ.

The will of Christ has been sealed by His death, probated in the court of heaven, and its contents revealed by the Spirit through the apostles (John 16:13; I Cor. 2:10-12). We are now to stand fast in their written word (II Thess. 2:15). The only way God will bless anyone spiritually today is through provisions of His revealed will -- the New Testament. Christ will not, (He has not), give any further revelation, nor will He make any changes in His will, and will condemn all who try to do so (Rev. 22:18-19). To follow any other way in religion is error.

A Final Word

"Let no man rob you" by putting on a false front of piety and humility, and leading you to attempt to worship God through the invention of men, while they ignore the authority of the Head (Col. 2:18-19). Where does Christ authorize the worship of angels? the creeds of men? the aesthetic worship of Catholicism and Protestantism rather than the simplicity of that prescribed in the New Testament? "Handle not, nor taste" -- wholly abstain from the doctrines and commands of men (Col. 2:21-23). They make a show of wisdom, but are not acceptable to God, cannot save, and will condemn. Keep in mind that Paul wrote these warnings for the benefit of the church. In view of trends in the brotherhood today, continual warnings are necessary, lest we drift away from the truth.

They make a show of wisdom, but are not acceptable to God, cannot save, and will condemn. Keep in mind that Paul wrote these warnings for the benefit of the church. In view of trends in the brotherhood today, continual warnings are necessary, lest we drift away from the truth.

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SMOKERS ARE A DYING BREED

The way to break a bad habit is to drop it.
Our Record

Bible Classes: 172  
Worship : 189  
Evening : 172  
Wednesday : 169  
Contribution : $2407

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Sick

We still have some of our number out sick. Those that we know of are Mary Holderfield, Danny Davis, Pat Opachick, Cathy Goodman and Lee Ann Parker. Our shut-ins remain the same: Ada Belle Coe and Eddie Hardin.

Sister Viola Malone entered West Florida Hospital Sunday afternoon for tests.

Issac Watts, father of sisters Martha Wilcoxson and Mary Barr, is also in West Florida Hospital.

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Responses

Teresa Orr came forward Sunday morning asking for the prayers of the saints.

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How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $3.00; (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (2) $12.00; (8) $20.00; (3) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (2) $25.00; (1) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (2) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $53.00; (2) $55.00; (2) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (2) $63.00; (2) $70.00; (1) $83.00; (1) $92.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $120.00; (1) $125.00; (1) $175.00; (1) $200.00. CURRENCY: (31) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (2) $10.00; (3) $20.00. CHANGE: $8.24. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,407.24.

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Our Religious World

THE DEVIL'S BAIT
In the years gone by there has been much discussion among religious people about an "educated ministry." Some denominations have had certain educational requirements for their preachers. They would not ordain any man to the ministry who did not have a college education and a seminary course in addition to a divine call. Other denominations have insisted that if the man had a divine call he had the approval of Jehovah, and that was certainly satisfactory credentials. Men should not therefore, forbid his preaching the word of God. Some of these religious people believed that God would inspire the preacher and put the words in his mouth that he should utter. But all the denominations believed that preachers were specially, divinely, and miraculously called to preach. Preachers were then looked upon as a special class known as the clergy in contrast to the laity, and there were special functions that the clergy performed that no one else was allowed to do. Only the men who had the divine imprimatur and who had been specially ordained were allowed to baptize people, and they only were allowed to "officiate" at the Lord's table or give the emblems to Christians. Where there was no ordained minister, there could be no Lord's Supper and no baptism.

In the beginning of the Restoration Movement there was an especial attack made upon the idea of a distinction among Christians. The division of the church into clergy and laity was denounced as unscriptural and contrary both to the spirit and teaching of the New Testament. Preaching as a profession was condemned. Every Christian should be a preacher of the gospel and a campaigner for Christ. This was seen not only to be the duty of each Christian, but to be the natural consequence of his conversion to Christ. It is an instinct with the child of God. He needs no special call, no ordination ceremony, and no theological training to do the things that the word of the Lord authorizes all Christians to do. This was the cry of the
men who started the movement back to the New Testament simplicity, and this was the ground of many a hard-fought battle. The denominations recognized in this principle a power that would work for their undoing. It would make their rules and regulations, their denominational sanction and ordination, unnecessary. For this reason they fought the brethren of the Restoration, not by open debate upon the principle involved, but by indirect methods; by their organized power and by their political influence. They declared that these brethren could not administer baptism, could not officiate at the Lord's table and they would not permit them to join any "Pastors' Association," and they schemed to keep the State from allowing these men to say marriage ceremonies, etc.

The brethren of the Restoration Movement were neither timid nor mild in meeting this opposition. They were bold and fearless and aggressive in the belief that they were contending for the "ancient order" and against the corruptions of ecclesiasticism. Alexander Campbell was especially severe in his attack on the professional clergy. He said: "God made men, but the priests made laymen." He characterized them as "hireling priests," "textu-ary divines," our "scrap doctors," etc. Elijah at Mount Carmel was not more sarcastic. He charged them with ignorance, pride, self-seeking, and an anxiety to keep the people in darkness so that they might lord it over them. He scored them for their clerical dress, their sanctimonious speech, their long-faced piety, their devotion to party, and their claim to a special divine call. He denounced with special severity their love of titles - "Reverend," "Bishop," "Doctor," and "Father."

These brethren, however, were all strong advocates of education. Many of them were the leading educators of their day. Both Thomas and Alexander Campbell were college men, and many of their associates, like W. K. Pendleton, Philip Fall, James Challen, and D. S. Burnett, were finished and classical scholars. Campbell was the founder and president of Bethany College; Tolbert Fanning was the founder and president of Franklin College; then a little later J. W. McGarvey was president of the College of the Bible, University of Kentucky, and associated with him were those splendid scholars and giant minds, Charles Louis Loos, I. B. Grubbs, and Robert Milligan. Other men whose names are familiar to us as leaders in the movement back to the New Testament, such as James A. Harding, T. B. Larimore, David Lipscomb, and E. G. Sewell, were all college graduates and excellent scholars. None of these men, however, ever boasted of his scholarship, or wrote or printed degrees to his name, or ever scorned or even discouraged the uneducated men who attempted to preach the gospel. None of these men themselves ever took a seminary course or had a "divinity degree." They would have denounced the idea of taking such a course and would have been utterly shocked and chagrined had any one conferred upon them a "divinity degree." Men who are now living and who have high academic degrees can testify to the truthfulness of this. Brother J. W. Grant, who is a graduate of Bethany College and who has had his degree for more than fifty years, is called upon to bear witness to the truthfulness of what is here stated. Brother H. L. Calhoun, whose degrees are equal to any college president's, who was for many years an associate with J. W. McGarvey, is also called upon to testify in this case.

But now what have we? That we have given away to denominational influence on many points cannot be disputed by those who are informed. When we look at these things, we are tempted to say, in the language of Gregory the Great: "O times! O customs!" Our people have not only gone "degree crazy," but many of us are actually seeking "divinity degrees." Some of our young preachers are going to schools of divinity and theological seminaries, which
schools have one mission and one purpose - viz., to make "professional clergymen." While our fathers would not attend such schools even in their day, it is a thousandfold worse to attend them now than it was then, for in that day they did train their students to meet the assaults of infidels and atheists. They gave them a good course in Christian evidence and taught them respect and reverence for the word of God. But now these schools themselves are spawning beds of infidelity. They repudiate the inspiration of the Bible and the divinity of Christ, the vicarious atonement and the resurrection of the Lord from the tomb. And yet, we who want our preachers to speak as to the oracles of God, to contend for the simplicity of New Testament Christianity, to regard the Bible as final in all things, to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent," send our young men to these infidel divinity schools for preparation for that sort of work! Of all the inconsistencies and absurdities that we have ever been guilty of, this is the worst.

And a further lamentable fact is that our congregations do not use as much sound judgment in employing these preachers as do the denominations. It makes no difference how many degrees a preacher has, the denominational people will not place him in a responsible position until he has been proved in a place less responsible, or until he has demonstrated some ability. But with us the sound of the degrees and the stamp of the college is all a man needs to receive calls from the largest churches. "Brethren, these things ought not so to be."

If we continue to go at the rate we are going, how long will it be before a preacher of the gospel will have to have a seminary course and an ordination ceremony before he will be supported in the work of the Lord? How long will it be before an elder or a deacon or any other man except an ordained clergyman will be allowed to "wait on" the Lord's table? And then only the churches that have "pastors" will "celebrate the communion." How often now do we see elders or any member except a preacher baptize people or conduct a funeral service? Are these not already regarded more or less as professional functions? How often do we hear the gospel invitation urged upon sinners by any man who is not a "regular preacher?" Is the invitation "extended" in services where a preacher is not present to preach a sermon first? Have we not, then, in a sense, reduced this to a level with an "official opening of the doors of the church?" Let us begin to "think on these things."

This article is not intended as an attack upon any man who has been to a divinity school; and if we have young men who now have divinity degrees, we should not condemn them, but we should safeguard them (if it is not too late), and encourage them to forget the foolish and hurtful ideas that they learned in college, and to be filled with the spirit of Christ and of Paul. It is to be hoped that this article will be taken in that spirit, and that other brethren will take up this subject and discuss it in our papers; and let us stop this tendency to drift into the customs of the world, and, therefore, into the whirlpool of infidelity. - GOSPEL ADVOCATE - December 1, 1931. (Via - FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIAN - April, 1977)
Our Record

Bible Classes: 154
Worship: 180
Evening: 158
Wednesday: 147
Contribution: $2036

How We Gave

CHECKS: (2) $5.00; (2) $6.00; (5) $10.00; (1) $12.00; (1) $15.00; (1) $16.00; (7) $20.00; (3) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (4) $25.00; (2) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (1) $40.00; (1) $43.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (3) $55.00; (1) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (2) $63.00; (1) $64.00; (1) $70.00; (1) $73.00; (1) $83.00; (1) $100.00; (1) $118.00; (1) $125.00. CURRENCY: (36) $1.00; (7) $5.00; (1) $10.00; (1) $20.00.
CHANGE: $3.53. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $2,036.53.

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Sick

It was good to see sister Ada Belle Coe in services this past Lord's Day.

Sister Eddie Hardin remains shut-in.

Sister Viola Malone is now home from the hospital.

Issac Watts, father of Mary Barr and Martha Wilcoxson, is still in West Florida Hospital but out of Intensive Care.

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Smile

Grandpa was strong on practicality. As a young minister, he preached trial sermon in a village church, hoping to be called to that pulpit.

Later the elders met with him to question his abilities. Wanting to be sure they got an educated man, they, with the help of a school teacher, had worked up a few questions to test him. They asked him:

"Preacher, would you say a hen sets or sits?" The young sage from the hills said:

"I don't care whether she sits or sets. What I'm interested in is - When she cackles, is she laying or lying?"

He got the job!

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Dark Clouds

JOHN WADDEY

This scribe has always been a perennial optimist. When others were hanging crepe and prophesying doom he could see the sun shining through the clouds. Today, however, dark clouds are hanging heavy on the church's horizon. The forecast seems to indicate an imminent storm.

From numerous sources I hear of congregations with vocal elements boldly arguing for the rightness of "social drinking." In some cases "brethren" are openly engaging in the social use of alcoholic beverages and reflect no shame or inhibition in so doing. Elders and preachers are seen either tongue-tied and unable to resist or actually condoning the practice.

From many areas I am hearing of Christian girls' having abortions. It is commonly done with parental consent or even at their insistence. Some of these cases involve the daughters of elders and preachers.

Numerous congregations are frank to say they question no one's second or third marriage as to its scripturalness.

Most congregations have long since given up the struggle to curb such worldly practices as smoking, dancing, immodest clothing, mixed swimming and the like.

Is it not tragic that if a Christian lives above these worldly vices he has to do it in spite of and not because of his congregation, elders and preacher! One new preacher checking the congregation's records, found that not one sermon had been preached on worldliness and holy living in 9 years.

Doctrinally we are doing no better. It is appalling to see entire con-
gregations that are virtually illiterate as to the doctrine of Christ. Twenty years of jiffy-mix sermons have taken their toll. Much of the preaching is so watered down and meatless that it would be well received in most Protestant churches. We do not see a great deal of error's being taught; it is really 30 minutes of trivia that leaves a church suffering from malnutrition.

I see churches so weak and untaught that a smooth talking preacher could easily lead them into a Ketcherside type of fellowship with the Christian churches and possibly with the Methodists. The only reason they haven't gone that far yet is the false teacher hasn't found them.

One brother was rebuked for passing out evangelistic tracts on his congregation's parking lot. His method was too negative they said. Another elder was embarrassed by a preacher's opposing abortion on television. Evangelistic growth has declined drastically. Young people are being lost at an appalling rate. Many of our own families are disintegrating before our eyes and very little is done to save them.

Our society is rotting at the core and most Christians are not lifting a hand to save it. Many are upset if their preacher attempts to do so.

The prospects look dim. If the salt looses its saltiness it is cast out and trodden under the foot of men (Matt. 5:13). Candles that won't burn are tossed away.

The times demand strong Biblical preaching; the kind that proclaims God's grace but also condemns sins (II Tim. 4:1-2). The church needs to be taught again the first principles of the oracles of God (Heb. 5:12).

The twentieth century church can be destroyed for lack of knowledge as was Northern Israel (Hos. 4:6).

May the Lord raise up a stouthearted band of prophets who, like those of old, will proclaim his precepts to the people. It may be they will repent and judgment be averted.

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I Knew It Had To Happen Sooner Or Later

KEN WILLIS

Did you see the article in Friday, November 7th's St. Petersburg Times? The Lutheran Church of Peace in Rochester, N. Y. came up with a novel way to encourage attendance. "One Susan B. Anthony dollar will be given to every man, woman, and child, 'visitors and members alike,' who shows up for the service."

How about that? A dollar to go to church! (And our critics of bus programs can't say they are paying them to ride the bus either) -- just get there, and get a dollar!

We hope you will want to attend every service of the Lord's church here. You won't get a dollar for coming, but you can expect rewards "out of this world" if you come for the proper purpose.
Preaching The Gospel

F. B. SHEPHERD

(The following article appeared in the January 12, 1933 issue of the GOSPEL ADVOCATE. Truth so clearly stated is timeless and this article nearly fifty years old is as much needed in our day as when it was written. JP)

For some time I have been hearing a low undertone in the house of God that is pleasant to the ear and sweet to the taste, but I fear dangerously alluring, and will become destructive if we allow ourselves to be deceived into believing it. This is the claim of some that the gospel is almost entirely positive and contains little that is negative. It is really a complaint against, and a criticism of, any kind of negative preaching. A full gospel is both constructive and destructive. It is negative as well as positive. There are truths to be believed; but there is, nevertheless, a form to be obeyed (Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1-4; 1:18, 21; Rom. 6:17, 18; II Thess. 1:8, 9; I Peter 4:17). The gospel is a system of facts and promises, but also a system of commands. And these facts, promises and commands are coordinate, interdependent and inseparable. It is utterly impossible for any man, be he apostle, prophet, evangelist or simple gospel preacher of the twentieth century, to preach the gospel of Christ and leave all others alone. If we are correctly informed as to the root meaning of the Greek word translated "power" in Rom. 1:16, then the gospel is God's dynamite; and destructive. If the gospel is God's dynamite, then it is something used of God to do more than construct. It is something positive enough that it is not going to leave everything else alone. Certainly, if I fill men with the truth, it will crowd out the error. But truth and error are incompatible, and the entrance of truth is bound to produce disturbance in its routing out of error. Truth is both bitter and sweet. It cannot be preached in its fullness and faithfully without being decidedly and manifestly antagonistic to all perversions, substitutions and adulterations of itself.

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THEOPHILUS

WE SHOULD JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL AND LEAVE OTHERS ALONE.

WHAT WOULD YOU PREACH?

"RIGHTEOUSNESS!" BUT THAT WOULD OFFEND THE WORLDLY.

"OKAY, GOING TO CHURCH?" THAT OFFENDS ABSENTEES.

"THE PLAN OF SALVATION" THE MORALISTS.

"THE CHURCH" OFFENDS PROTESTANTS.

"BIBLE AUTHORITY" CATHOLICS.

"JESUS?" THE JEWS.

"THE THEISTS WOULD BE OFFENDED!"
Our Record

Bible Classes: 156
Worship: 175
Evening: 146
Wednesday: 151
Contribution: $1801

How We Gave

CHECKS: (1) $5.00; (1) $6.00; (4) $10.00; (1) $16.00; (8) $20.00; (1) $21.00; (2) $22.00; (1) $23.00; (3) $25.00; (3) $30.00; (1) $33.00; (1) $35.00; (1) $38.00; (1) $43.00; (2) $45.00; (1) $50.00; (1) $53.00; (2) $55.00; (1) $60.00; (1) $62.00; (1) $63.00; (1) $70.00; (2) $90.00; (2) $100.00; (1) $125.00. CURRENCY: (33) $1.00; (4) $5.00; (3) $10.00; (1) $20.00. CHANGE: $6.93. TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: $1,801.93.

Sick

Sister Eddie Hardin is still at home.

Issac Watts is out of the hospital. He is staying at the home of Looi and Mary Barr.