

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions, and Bible Doctrines.

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With a National Circulation

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel."

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20)

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Whole No. 135

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1940

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Whole Family Risks Life On A Magazine Article; A Message To The Lost

The interest of an entire household was aroused recently, when the head of the house placed some strange looking things on his kitchen table. He had gathered them on his way home from work.

"Are they mushrooms or toadstools?" was asked. Opinion was divided: some said that they were mushrooms while others claimed they were toadstools. The finder of them insisted that they were edible, but the cook entertained and expressed fears that they were poisonous. A third member of the family was very anxious to clean and taste some of them.

Someone remembered seeing a copy of the National Geographic Magazine which was devoted to the subject of mushrooms. After a little searching the monthly was found and its pages were eagerly scanned for information which would decide the matter. All were willing to accept that magazine as an authority on the subject. Its statements would be an end of all controversy.

Upon perusing it, two pictures were discovered which revealed to the satisfaction of all concerned that the strange things were "Shaggy-Mane" mushrooms. And the description of that species contained the definite statement that they were "edible."

One of the family immediately proceeded to prepare and eat some of them. All fears of suffering and death were removed by her faith

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Suggested Good Books

Several of our ministerial readers (these number over two thousand), have asked for a list of books which we might personally recommend that every preacher own. We do not mean by this list that there are not many other outstanding books, but we do believe that these are the first books which every preacher should have in his library.

- "All About The Bible"—Collett.
- "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible"—Pink.
- "Ben Hur"—Lew Wallace.
- "How Christ Came to Church"—A. J. Gordon.
- "Why Be A Baptist"—H. Boyce Taylor.
- "The Church That Jesus Built"—Roy Mason.
- "The Four-fold State"—Thomas Boston.
- "The Sovereignty of God"—Pink.
- "The Seven Dispensations."—J. R. Graves.
- "Exposition of the Parables"—J. R. Graves.
- "Israel, My Glory"—Wilkinson.
- "The Church and the Kingdom"—Thomas.

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AS MOTHER USED TO DO

If you're feeling sort of rocky and disgusted with yourself,
You haven't got the orders and the goods are on the shelf;
You've tried your best at smiling, but only a grin will come,
And your temper's short and snappy in the love-nest you call home;
You'll get a lot of help from it and keep from getting blue
If you go to CHURCH on Sunday, as Mother used to do.

When you sit beside the sick-bed of your darling little boy,
And the doctor's diagnosis has dispersed your hope and joy;
When your bills are multiplying and your bank account is low;
And wifey needs a little change, about a week or so;
You'll get a boost and blessing that will surely pull you through,
If you go to CHURCH on Sunday, as Mother used to do.

—WM. BARNES LOWER.

PASTOR GILPIN'S MARRIAGE CEREMONY AS REPORTED BY HIS OFFICE SECRETARY

One phase of the work which gives our editor a great deal of joy is that of sharing in the marriage joys of many young men and women who come to Russell to be married.

During the past year, from July 1, 1939, to June 30, 1940, although the editor has been out of town for eight full weeks, he has married 381 couples. These have come from Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, Virginia, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, California, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington, D. C.

Once each month we print in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER the names of the individuals whose weddings have been solemnized in the preceding month. In view of this fact, a number of ministers have asked for the marriage ceremony which the editor uses. Therefore, we take great pleasure in printing herewith

the following which is the ceremony that has united 381 couples in the last year:

The parties standing before Bro. Gilpin, the man at the woman's right hand, and after reading Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-9, Eph. 5:22-25, 28, 33, and after prayer, Bro. Gilpin says:

"Divine revelation hath declared marriage to be honorable in all. It is an institution of Divine appointment given under the wisdom of God in order to promote human happiness on earth. Apparently our Lord was thinking of this blessed institution in the day that He created our mother Eve, for He said, 'I will make man an help-meet for him.' From the story of this original creation of Eve, we get a hint as to the proper relationship that should exist between husband and wife. She was not taken from

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How A Dead Undertaker Came To Life And Was Gloriously Saved

In the beautiful little city of C—, there was a home filled with sorrow. The mother had been called away by the Lord, leaving a grief-torn family and many sorrowing friends who loved her dearly.

Through the radio in this home, the Lord had spoken to their hearts, and in the hour of their distress they requested me to come and conduct the funeral service—the invitation coming through a relative who was a close friend of mine.

A cold rain was falling on the day of the funeral, and the road to the cemetery was not paved. Because of the deep mud on the road, I decided to leave my car in the town; and so I asked permission of the undertaker to ride with him in the hearse to the cemetery. This request he readily granted.

As we drove along slowly through the mire, I said to him—he was a young man of about thirty, "What do you suppose the Bible means by saying, 'Let the dead bury their dead'?" (Matt. 8:22.)

"There isn't any Scripture like that in the Bible," he very promptly replied.

"Yes, there is," I assured him.

"Well," he answered, "it must be a wrong translation, because it doesn't make any sense. How could a dead person bury a dead person?"

"No, it is not a wrong translation," I said.

"These words were spoken by the

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An Appreciated Letter

The following letter was received from one of the former members of the First Baptist church of Russell. The name and address is omitted for obvious reasons, but the letter is printed herewith because of the message which it contains.

Dear Brother Gilpin: I failed to see you relative to transferring my church letter, and also my paper, so will ask that you please take care of this for me.

I am going to miss you all. Our pastor is a fine man, and a strong premillennialist, but he teaches so many other things which I believe to be contrary to the Word of God. I will always thank God for leading me to the First Baptist Church in Russell. My stay was brief, but I am sure I was grounded in the faith.

I attend regularly, but I can't enjoy the messages as I used to, for now I do not believe many of the things they teach. I am not going to be very popular here, but I must seek to please God, and let the people think what they wish.

I would like to know what you think about attending prayer meet-

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The First Baptist Pulpit

"The Believer's Blessings In Christ"

(Read Ephesians 1:1-14.)

As I read this Scripture, I am reminded that some men are confirmed pessimists. In fact, great numbers of people pessimistically look on the dark side of life. Perhaps the best definition of a pessimist I have ever heard is this, "He is a man who wears belt and suspenders, and carries a pocketfull of nails for fear a button will pull off."

In contrast, there are those who are determined optimists. The apostle Paul was in the latter group. He was an optimist of first rank. We are convinced of that by this letter which he wrote to the church at Ephesus. He wrote this letter when he was in prison, and when he was a prisoner at Rome. Yet, his surroundings did not cast a shadow over the letter, nor did they dim Paul's faith. It is a letter of great joy and pronounced optimism. Instead of gloomily writing in a pessimistic tone, we have in the book of Ephesians one of Paul's richest letters.

Verses one and two is Paul's salutation. Then he launches into the longest sentence of New Testament Greek known. Verses three to fourteen inclusive, in our English 264 words, is one complete sentence. In this the longest sentence of New Testament Greek known, Paul describes the blessings which the believer has in Christ Jesus. There are seven of these blessings thus innumerable.

I

The first blessing which Paul mentions, is that of election. Listen: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world." (Eph. 1:4). Here then is a statement that God hath chosen

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The Baptist Examiner

JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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MISSION REPORTS

Brazilian Missions

Amount previously reported	\$36.05
J. W. Schmidt, Boron, Cal.	3.00
Just-Our-Club, Russell, Ky.	1.00
Paul Rece, Russell, Ky.	1.00
Lon Bellamy, North Kenova, Ohio	5.00
Wayne Jordan, Russell, Ky.	1.00
Mrs. A. T. Moore, Russell, Ky.	10.00
John Lambert, Pontotoc, Miss.	1.25
1924 Bible Class, Russell, Ky.	5.00
Anonymously	2.00
J. H. Lowe, Raceland, Ky.	1.00
Total	\$66.30

Radio Fund

Amount previously reported	\$155.19
Paul Patton, Russell, Ky.	1.00
J. W. Schmidt, Boron, Cal.	1.00
Paul Rece, Russell, Ky.	1.00
Lon Bellamy, North Kenova, Ohio	5.00
Audra Lester, Ft. Gay, W. Va.	.50
Wayne Jordan, Russell, Ky.	1.00
Mrs. A. T. Moore, Russell, Ky.	5.00
John Lambert, Pontotoc, Miss.	.25
Anonymously	2.00
A. Friend, Russell, Ky.	2.50
J. H. Lowe, Raceland, Ky.	1.00
Total	\$175.44

This completes the payment of our bill to W. C. M. I. for the month of June, and leaves us a balance of \$9.34 to apply on our bill for July, which means that we need about \$45.00 immediately to take care of this radio expense for the month of July.

TWO INTERESTING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BROTHER DICKERSON

In the same mail this past week, we received gifts from children relative to our Brazilian mission work.

Mrs. Howard Wilson, who is a teacher of a junior class in the Sunday School of the Sandy Valley Baptist Church, sent twenty-five cents which her class of juniors had gotten together for Brother Dickerson.

The second of these letters came from Mrs. Dawn Pack of Chillicothe, Ohio. She stated, "I am sending \$1.50 which my little boys saved for Brother Dickerson."

These contributions are not big, but the spirit back of them is indeed gratifying. I pray God's blessings upon the junior class of Sandy Valley Church, and I pray God's blessings upon Mrs. Pack's boys. It certainly makes me happy to receive these contributions from youthful lovers of our Lord and His work. I certainly pray that God will reach down in mercy and touch each of their young hearts for Jesus, and that if it please Him, some day if He tarries, He might call some of these lads into the service of our Lord.

How I trust that this might be the means of stirring up many others who are more able financially to make contributions toward this

AN APPRECIATED LETTER

(Continued from Page One)

ings led by the women, with men present. We have prayer meeting every evening before church, men and women together, but the women lead. I have attended only one.

In view of the fact that before I came to Russell, I was always willing to lead prayer meetings, cook dinners, quilt, and do anything I was called upon to do, thinking that I was pleasing the Lord, I am afraid everyone will think that I lost all my religion while I was in Russell; but I do not care what the people think, I am only trying to please the Lord.

Last Wednesday night our pastor did not preach, but we had a testimony meeting instead. There were three times as many women testified as men. I want to ask that you will pray for me as I try to do His will.

I am going to miss those wonderful Sunday School lessons. Am sending two dollars—one for Brother Dickerson and the other for the radio fund.—Your friend in Christ.

work. The month of July is closing with one of the smallest mission offerings of the entire past year. Of course, we realize that funds are always slower in the summer, and that many folk have been taking vacations, yet we say: DO NOT FORGET YOUR MISSION WORK.

TWO LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS

This past week in one day, we received two life subscriptions from friends in West Virginia.

Needless to say, this thrilled our souls. A life subscription to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER costs you but five dollars. It means that the paper comes to you every week for the duration of your life. It surely means much to us to have these two friends in West Virginia separated miles apart, to send us these subscriptions.

About twenty of these subscriptions would be a tremendous help to us just now.

APPRECIATED COMMENTS

"I have read every issue of the Examiner for the past year, and enjoy the articles very much. Believing your teaching is in harmony with the Word of God, I do not want to miss a single copy of the paper."—Claude Creech, Campton, Kentucky.

"You will never know how much we enjoy your Sunday morning radio messages, for my wife is a shut-in, and I can't go to church since I work at night. I thank God for a preacher like you to explain the true Word."—Ewell Hines, Kenova, West Virginia.

"I surely enjoy reading your paper, and I don't want to miss a single copy. You have explained so many things that I never understood before."—Thurman Sego, Upton, Kentucky.

"You have a splendid paper. I like it next to my Bible. I take great pleasure in supporting it with my prayers and subscriptions because of the great truth it propagates."—S. S. Graybeal, Creston, North Carolina.

"I will drop a few lines out of my thankfulness for the many blessings I have gotten out of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. I want you to know that I am a hundred percent with

SUGGESTED GOOD BOOKS

(Continued from Page One)

"The Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Offerings"—Haldeman.

"God's Prophecies for Plain People"—Pettingill.

"King Saul"—Ridout.

"Gleanings in Genesis"—Pink.

"Exposition of John's Gospel"—Pink.

"A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine"—T. P. Simmons.

"What the Bible Teaches"—R. A. Torey.

"Christian Doctrines"—Pendleton.

"Grace"—Chafer.

"Satan"—Chafer.

"Baptist History"—Orchard.

"The Seven Sayings of the Saviour On the Cross"—Pink.

"Lectures on the Apocalypse"—Seiss.

"Jesus Is Coming"—W. E. B.

"Alien Baptism and the Baptists"—Nevins.

"With Christ After the Lost"—Scarborough.

"Let Us Go On"—Thomas.

"Lectures On Daniel"—Ironside.

These thirty books will give any preacher a doctrinal, Biblical, spiritual and prophetic insight into the Word of God. They ought to be in the library of every preacher.

In addition, every preacher should possess books of sermons by other preachers, particularly Spurgeon's sermons. While we do not agree with Mr. Carroll's interpretation of Revelation and Daniel, we believe that every preacher should own B. H. Carroll's "Interpretation of the English Bible." For one's own spiritual benefit, he should read all the books on missions, and lives of missionaries that is published.

We take great pleasure in publishing this list of books, hoping to thereby be of some help to some of our brethren who constantly ask as to which books to buy. While this list is primarily recommended for preachers, there isn't one of this group that is too difficult for the mastery of a layman. In fact, we would suggest that this is a list of books which should be in the home of every Christian within the land.

In the event any of our readers desire to order one or all of this set of books, we shall be glad to furnish them to you at a greatly reduced price over that which you would have to pay if you ordered them elsewhere.

you so far as the doctrinal stand of your paper goes. I don't see how anybody can read the Bible and be anything but a Baptist. I wish I were a member of your church because there isn't one Baptist church in Jacksonville that sticks to the doctrine of the Bible as I believe your church does."—G. A. Bray, South Jacksonville, Florida.

"I am an unsaved man, but I like your paper, and I like what you preach. Please pray for me and my wife that we may get right with our Lord."—David Johnson, Kenova, W. Va.

"I think THE BAPTIST EXAMINER a wonder of the age, and can find only one fault, and that is this: I am like the Irishman who cut his trousers off twice, and they were too short yet. If you could add enough to your paper to keep me reading two or three days, I would appreciate the paper all the more."—R. E. Pinson, Ferguson, West Va.

Little sins are the pioneers of hell.

PASTOR GILPIN'S MARRIAGE CEREMONY AS REPORTED BY HIS OFFICE CEREMONY

(Continued from Page One)

his head to rule over him, nor yet from his feet to be trampled upon by him; but from his side in order to walk equal with him, from under his arm to be protected by him, and from near to his heart to be beloved by him. We learn from the story of our Master that He once blessed a marriage ceremony by His presence, and thus wrought His beginning of miracles—the turning of water into wine. And now as you two appear before me for the purpose of being joined in the bonds of Holy Matrimony, you will please signify it by the joining of your right hands.

"And now my brother, do you take this one whom you hold by the hand to be your lawful and wedded wife, and do you promise to love, honor, cherish, and protect her until God by death shall separate you?"

"And do you my sister, take this one who holds you by the hand to be your lawful and wedded husband, and do you promise to love, honor, cherish, and obey him until God by death shall separate you?"

(Then if a ring is used)

"This is the part of the ceremony which always appeals the most to me, for I like to see in this little band what you already know to be true—namely, that it is endless. You can't tell me where it begins nor where it ends—it is simply without end, and I like to imagine it as a type of the vows which you have exchanged. It is my sincere prayer, my brother, that as you shall give this ring, and (to the woman) that as you shall receive and wear it, that it shall ever be a sign to each of you whereby that you shall strive to make your wedding vows just as unending and as endless as the ring itself.

"And now having taken these pledges of your affection, and these vows of your fidelity, I do by the power invested in me as a minister of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, under the laws of this state, pronounce you duly wedded—husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And may I add this parting injunction: What God may have joined together, may you, and may you, never, never, never let man put asunder."

The intensity with which the liquor people are seeking to fix the ruinous habit upon the American public is evidenced by the following which we quote from The United Presbyterian: "A speaker at the recent institute of brewing said, 'Concentrate all your advertising on young men and young women. Draw your customers up through light beer to stronger beer.' 'Unless you can attract the younger generation to take the place of the older men,' said the brewing magnate, 'there is no doubt that we shall have to face a steadily falling consumption of beer. We want to get the beer-drinking habit instilled into thousands, almost millions, of our young people who do not know its taste.' Another said, 'A new campaign has been directed towards the women's market. We must convince them that beer is non-fattening, by pictures of slim young women. We are also sending private and confidential letters to wives intimating that beer is the most easily served drink in entertaining visitors.'"

"THE BELIEVER'S BLESSINGS IN CHRIST"

(Continued from Page One)

us. I hear many believers talk about their conversion as to the time when they chose the Lord. Yet, beloved, long before any believer ever turned from Satan and chose Christ, God had already chosen that believer. This verse would even tell us that God chose us before the foundation of the world. Before the rocks, the hills, and the mountains were laid down, God definitely chose us unto Himself. This would tell us then that each of us are older than creation. Before God created the world and placed Adam and Eve here, He chose out of the descendants of Adam and Eve a group unto Himself.

Of this we are also given definite assurance in the book of the Thessalonians. "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." (2 Thess. 2:13). I say then, beloved, that God's elective grace is no after-thought with God. Salvation is no hurry-up first-aid after man's fall. It is no hurry-up remedy which God got together after sin became a reality.

I heard a preacher sometime ago say that God was very much surprised when He looked down on this earth and saw man in sin, and that He immediately put forth every effort to provide a plan for man's redemption. If ignorance is bliss, then what a blissful creature this afore-said preacher must have been, for beloved, long before the world was, everyone who has ever been saved, or who shall ever be saved, was chosen of God in Christ Jesus.

Our text also reveals the purpose for which Christ chose us, for it declares, "That we should be holy and without blame." Knowing that sin was to wreck the world, God chose a remnant even before the foundation of the world that He might have a group who would be holy and without blame before him in love.

Oh, what a tremendous blessing this is just to know that God chose us—just to remember that God thought about us and chose us unto Himself, for if God had not elected us, not one of us would have ever been saved.

I realize that there are those who do not believe in election, and who object to it by saying that God would be unjust. May I remind you that salvation isn't a matter of justice, but of grace: "For by grace are ye saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8). If we received justice, we would all spend eternity in hell. It is best that God should elect some than that all should perish.

It is also objected, "Why preach the gospel since God has elected some to be saved." We are to preach it because God commanded us to do so. "And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15). Preaching is the means God uses for the saving of His elect. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I. Cor. 1:21). Since I do not know who the elect are, it is my duty to preach the gospel to all as though each man were one of God's elect and then wait on God to do the saving.

Then there is another objection:

Men speak about man being a free moral agent, and declare that the Scriptural invitation is, "Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." To answer this objection, I can imagine a door. On the outside as I look at it, I note above the door these words, "Whosoever will." When I walk through the door and look back over the door on the inside, I note these words, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God." I therefore conclude beloved, that no man will ever definitely will to come to God unless he be one of God's elect, and that no man will ever chose the Lord unless God has first chosen him.

I say then, beloved, that this is a tremendous blessing—the fact that God elected and chose us unto Himself.

II

The second blessing which the believer has in Christ to which Paul refers in this long text, is that of predestination. "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." (Eph. 1:5). There is a difference between election and predestination. Election marks off the manner of one's salvation. Or to put it personally, election marked off the fact that I was to be saved, while predestination marked off the fact that I would be hoeing tobacco on a hillside farm in Boone County, Kentucky, and that about 10:30 one morning, I would receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

I realize that there are so many who do not understand the Bible, and therefore do not believe these great doctrines. It is because of this that I want to read you a few verses of Scripture that you may see this truth that God predestinates our salvation. Listen to Jesus' own words: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." (Jn. 15:16). Hear the words of the writer of the book of the Acts: "And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48). These words indicate that only those who were ordained to eternal life believed and received Jesus.

Elsewhere in the Scripture this same great teaching stands out: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be confirmed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Rom. 8:29).

What a mighty blessing is this the doctrine of predestination. Not only is it a blessing that God chose us, but it is also a blessing that He predestinated the time and the manner whereby salvation should come to each of us.

III

The third blessing which Paul enumerates as belonging to the believer in Christ, is the blessing of adoption. "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." (Eph. 1:5). Adoption is a legal term. Through it we become children and heirs of God. It is just as though you were to go to an orphan's home and adopt a child. When you give that child your name, that child will inherit the same as any child which might have been born into your home. In view of the fact that not one of Adam's race has been born a child of God, but that all of us are born depraved sinners, and sons and daughters of Satan; it became necessary in order that God

might have a family, that He adopt us unto Himself through Jesus Christ.

This adoption takes place the very hour we believe on Him and receive Him as our Saviour. Listen: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:14-18).

I can imagine a wealthy man driving down a street in a high-powered costly automobile. For some reason known only to himself, he pulls his car to the curb and accosts a little ragged, dirty-faced, tousled-headed street urchin. He asks, "What's your name?" and to this receives the answer, "I don't know." When asked as to where he lives, he learns that this lad sleeps under stairways and in doorways and wherever he can find an empty goods box. The only wardrobe he has is that which he has on his back. Soap and water, as well as a balanced diet of food, are unknown qualities in his life.

This wealthy man by adroit questioning and skillful maneuvering leads the child to a desire to become his own adopted child, and he therefore leads him into the court room and before all, legally adopts this street waif as his son. He is then cleaned up, he eats at this rich man's table, he rides in the rich man's automobile, and when the rich man dies, he will inherit the latter's fortune.

What a similarity as to our spiritual experience, for each of us before salvation were children of Satan. We were clothed with the rags of self-righteousness, and the filth of our iniquity. No little street urchin was ever more detestable in appearance than each of us are spiritually and morally to a thrice-holy God. Yet, God for Christ's sake, skillfully maneuvered with us until He made us willing to become His children and then adopted us into His family. Now we bear the name of God, for we are God's children. We eat at God's table, and when we come to Heaven, we are going to have an inheritance.

What a mighty blessing then that God adopts us, for without His adoption, we would all remain children of Satan and die and go to a Devil's Hell; but through the adoption we become children of God, and we spend our eternity in Heaven.

I remember visiting the Louisville Baptist Orphans Home a few years ago for my first time, and I will never forget how those little lads and lassies climbed up my leg into my arms and begged to be adopted. They wanted to come home with me. To them adoption meant a new home and new possibilities which they did not have confined to an orphanage. To us adoption into the family of God means that similar great blessing. What a blessing that any orphan child has someone to adopt it, and what a mighty blessing it is that God adopts us into His family. Surely nothing could be more wonderful, and in eternity we

will ever sing His praises for this blessing we have in Christ.

IV

The fourth great blessing which Paul lists as belonging to the believer in Christ, is the blessing of forgiveness which grows out of our redemption. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." (Eph. 1:7). We have forgiveness because we have redemption. And what is redemption? Literally, to be redeemed means to be bought back, and that's exactly what each of us as unsaved sinners stand in need of. Through the sin of Adam and Eve in Eden, we all became Satan's property. It therefore became necessary that God buy us back to Himself in order that we might become His child.

And what a price was paid for our redemption! Our text tells us that it was Christ's blood. Yet, beloved, this is no more than what we are told in all the Scriptures. Listen: "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself." (Col. 1:20). "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (I Pet. 1:18, 19). "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:13, 14).

Each of God's children thus has forgiveness because of redemption, and that redemption was at the cost of the death and the blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I would remind you, beloved, that there never was a soul forgiven apart from redemption. God does not forgive men because they are sorry for their sins, nor does He forgive them for their goodness, nor because they turn over a new leaf, nor does He forgive them for joining the church nor for being baptized;—God only forgives on the basis of redemption. "And without shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22).

What a mighty blessing then is this—this blessing of forgiveness through redemption. Each of us as children of Adam stand before God as sinners who have a tremendous debt of sin piled up against us. We are unable to atone for that sin, but Jesus Christ went to Calvary, and at the cross suffered and bled and died that we might be forgiven; and now today we have our forgiveness through this death of Christ at Calvary.

I can imagine a man who is kidnapped, and who is redeemed or ransomed from the kidnappers at a great price. When he is returned safely to his home, there is tremendous rejoicing on the part of his family. They care not for the cost, their only thought is over his safe return. How similar to us. When the fact that God has redeemed us through His Son becomes a known reality to us, and we realize that our sins are forgiven, there is a joy that floods the soul the like of which that individual has never known before in life.

(Continued on Page Four)

"THE BELIEVER'S BLESSINGS IN CHRIST"*(Continued from Page Three)*

V

The next blessing Paul mentions which we experience in Christ Jesus is that of an heavenly inheritance. "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." (Eph. 1:10, 11). This is the Christian's prospect. Every Christian has a heavenly inheritance in prospect.

What a contrast between the children of God and the unsaved sinner, for though the child of God has a heavenly inheritance awaiting him, each unsaved sinner has only the fires of hell facing him. Listen to these words: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thess. 1: 7-9). "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Rev. 14:10, 11). Surely there is a decided contrast between the prospect of the child of God and the prospect of that individual who knows not Jesus Christ.

On a chilly November day, a Christian gentleman spoke to a shivering Italian who could only speak in broken English. Thinking to sympathize with the Italian who had only been in this country a short while, this Christian remarked concerning the cold dreary November weather. And then the Italian's face lighted up, for he remembered the sunny skies of Italy, and with a thought that some day he might return, he said, "But bye and bye tink of that." This thought often blesses my soul. When the load gets tough and the road gets rough, when I see the things I have stood for trampled beneath the feet of those who do not believe the Word of God, when I see spiritual conditions getting worse and worse, it almost chills the spiritual fervor from us; but then I like to look beyond this veil of tears, and disappointments, and heartaches, and remember that there is a better land, a better home, and a happier fellowship awaiting me. It isn't what we have now, but what we as God's children are going to have after while that appeals to me. Therefore, beloved, our heavenly inheritance which we have in Christ Jesus is a tremendous blessing.

VI

Yet, the apostle Paul does not stop with these blessings. He enumerates a sixth in that he declares we are sealed. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy spirit of promise." (Eph. 1:13). Most of our radio audience know that Russell is a railroad

town, and all railroaders must in turn remember the sealing of each car. It is just a little piece of tin, but it carries back of it the influence of the railroad and the backing of the federal government. It isn't that the seal itself is important, but the power and authority back of the seal is important.

So it is with those of us who are Christians. When we are saved, we are sealed by the Lord Jesus Himself. That seal indicates first of all ownership. It tells everyone to whom we belong, and that God is our owner. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His." (2 Tim. 2:19).

That seal also indicates security. No one would dare break a seal on a railroad car, and the contents of that car are thus secure. I can imagine an object placed inside a keg, and that keg in turn placed inside a barrel, and that sealed barrel in turn placed inside a sealed hogshead. I ask you "How would you get to that object that has been sealed inside the keg?" Of course, it is very apparent that in order to destroy it you must first break open the sealed hogshead, and then the sealed barrel, and lastly the sealed keg in order to get to the object which you wish to destroy. I would remind you, beloved, that each of us as children of God are sealed in the power of the triune God, and that for the Devil to take one of us out of the hands of God and to destroy us, or in other words, for one of us who have been redeemed to be lost and go to Hell, the Devil would have to destroy the power of a triune God—he would have to break the seal of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I thank God that the Devil can never do this, and that each of the redeemed are saved and kept by the power of God.

VII

The last of these great blessings is what Paul calls an "earnest." "Which is an earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Eph. 1:14). The word "earnest" means a "pledge." You remember that when the children of Israel went into the land of Canaan, they came back with a great bunch of grapes hanging on a stick between two individuals who bore them. These grapes of Eschol were a pledge of what the children of Israel would find when they got into the land of Canaan. They were merely a sample of a pledge or an earnest of what the children of Israel would expect to find after while. And you know, beloved, God gives us that today in Christ. In a revival meeting we often get so happy and lots of times even in our regular services here we get so happy that we have a little taste of heaven here on earth. That's only a sample of what we are going to have. That is the earnest concerning which Paul speaks.

What mighty blessings, beloved, are these which we have in Christ. We are elected, predestinated, adopted, redeemed, we have an inheritance in prospect, we are sealed, and we have an earnest of what we are going to have after while right now as children of God.

These blessings are bestowed upon Christ. Verse three of this chapter says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in

HOW A DEAD UNDERTAKER CAME TO LIFE AND WAS SAVED*(Continued from Page One)*

Lord Jesus Himself. He always spoke words of truth, and did not play with the feelings nor the imaginations of His hearers."

The young undertaker flipped the cigarette he was smoking out of the window, and said, "Do you know anything about me, doctor? Has anyone told you about my life?"

"No," I replied, "Why do you ask?"

"Because I have been burying many people lately, and it has caused me to think about my own case. Last night after supper, I got out the Bible and read until two o'clock this morning, trying to find out how to become a Christian."

"Did you find out how to be one?" I inquired.

"No," he said, "when I finished I was just as much in the dark as before: but tell me, what did Jesus mean by those words?"

The peculiar passage was so suited to this man's mind, that it was an easy matter now to tell him about the Saviour. I said to him: "You are a dead undertaker in the front of this hearse, driving out to the cemetery to bury the dead friend in the back of the hearse. That friend is dead to her family, and you are dead to God. She does not respond to their caresses, their calls, their commands; neither do you respond to the call and the love of God."

"You are right about that," he said; "I cannot find God; I cannot talk to Him, for I do not know where He is, nor how to reach Him. Christ is right; I certainly need some kind of a change in my life to make me a real Christian."

The auto was moving slowly, for the road was difficult, and we had plenty of time for conversation. Opening my Bible, I read to him John 10:10—"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Explaining the verse, I asserted that Christ Jesus had come to give the dead sinner—dead in his trespasses and sins—the gift of eternal life. This life is the life that is in the heart of the Lord Himself. It is a new nature imparted to the soul, so that the person naturally lives a godly life and loves the One who gave him the life.

"May I obtain that life?" he said, "and when may I have it?"

"Just now, right here in this hearse you may accept Jesus Christ," and I assured him that by trusting the Saviour, believing in His precious blood shed for Him at Calvary, he, too, would receive everlasting life immediately. "Here is the Scripture; let me read it to you slowly, as you drive the car. 'He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life' (I John 5:12). This Saviour is on the throne waiting to give you this life the moment you believe in Him and trust the work that He did for you at Calvary when He died for your sins."

"I'll take Him," he said; "I never did know what the Saviour did when

Christ." (Eph. 1:3). We therefore get these blessings by getting into Christ. If you are not in Christ, you don't have these blessings. If you are in Christ, these blessings are yours now.

If you are not in Christ, may God grant that you shall receive Him now as your personal Saviour, and thus enjoy these blessings of the saved.

WHOLE FAMILY RISKS LIFE ON A MAGAZINE ARTICLE*(Continued from Page One)*

in the magazine. The next day found her alive and well. Her experiment verified the statement of the periodical.

The incident is an every day illustration of the fact that we "receive the witness of men." Just because the magazine article said so, that young woman believed that those strange looking things were "good for food," and she was perfectly willing to risk health and life to prove it so.

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater" (I John 5:9). The Bible is infinitely better than the best magazine. Its word-pictures and statements are authoritative. Men and women have their opinions about spiritual things, just as they have about mushrooms and other subjects, but a "Thus saith the Lord," should be an end of all controversy.

If the readers of the Holy Scriptures would believe and act upon its statements as readily as they do the magazines and text-books, unspeakable blessings would be theirs. A verse like the following should be sufficient to convince the reader of his sinful condition before God; "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). And the statement "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3), should be enough to reveal God's way of salvation to every sin-burdened soul. The blessed assurance of the actual possession of eternal life is imparted by such portions as John 20:31, "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name," and I John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

Dear reader, to stake your soul and its eternal welfare on the naked Word of the living God is far safer than the risking of life and health on a magazine article. Will you "receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your soul?" (Jas. 1:21.)

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He died, nor why He did it. It never entered my mind that it was for me. Of course it must have been for me, for I know there is no other Saviour and no one that even claims to be. He must have suffered for my sins and I believe it."

We arrived at the cemetery with a live undertaker, though we had started on the journey with a dead one. He who was "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1) was now alive in Christ having trusted Him who gave His life for his salvation. We turned to the city after the burial, and along the slow journey home I had the privilege of telling him further of God's imputed righteousness, the divine gift of pardon, and the blessed forgiveness in grace which is made possible by the shed blood of the Saviour.

Examine your own heart, my friend, and see whether you, too, are "dead" in pleasures and in sins. Christ will give you "life" if you come to Him by faith and trust in Him for your soul's salvation.

From "The Romance of a Doctor's Visits" by Dr. Walter L. Wilson. Used by permission of the Bible Institute Colportage Association.