

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)

WHOLE NO. 176

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1941

VOL. 10, NO. 18

Fourteen Good Resolutions Every Christian Should Make Right Now!!

Resolved: That I will make a practice of going to church regularly every Sunday, and let my unfailing attendance become a constant stimulus to the minister and the choir, a source of inspiration to other worshippers, and a helpful influence to the youth of the community.

Resolved: That I will go to church on time, arrive a few minutes before the beginning of the service, and silently bow in prayer to ask the divine blessing upon the services of the day and upon all who gather anywhere for worship of Almighty God.

Resolved: That I will not be afraid to follow the usher to one of the front pews, and so encourage the congregation to sit nearer the pulpit and thus make it easier for the minister to preach.

Resolved: That I will, when possible, take my seat in the far end of the pew, leaving room for other people to come in without being forced to crowd past me or stumble over my outstretched feet.

Resolved: That I will keep an eager and open mind, will lay aside my prejudices and willingly listen to the message which God has put into the minister's heart to deliver.

Resolved: That I will maintain a reverent silence while in the House of God; will refrain from whispering to my neighbor, from nervously rustling the leaves of the hymnal, and from looking at my watch in the middle of the sermon.

Resolved: That I will take an active part in the service, and, instead of sitting listlessly back in the pew or merely watching what others are doing, will join heartily in the singing and responsive reading and will be an at-

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Alcohol As A Remover

Some one has said alcohol will remove stains from summer clothes.

This may be true, but stains from summer clothes are not the only things alcohol will remove.

Alcohol will remove the stain all right, but it will remove the summer clothes as well, and also the spring clothes, and the autumn clothes, and the winter clothes.

Alcohol will not only do this for the man who drinks it, but it will do it for all those for whom he is responsible.

Alcohol will remove good food from the dinner table, and shoes from the baby's feet.

It will remove happiness from the home, and then remove the possibility of its ever returning.

It will remove smiles from the face, and laughter from the lips of innocent children.

It will remove school books from the arms and hopes from the hearts of

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"Great Is His Faithfulness"

ANNE C. WHITE

While Hatred fills the earth with grief and woe,
And sinful Prejudice makes many a foe,
God's Own find refuge in one constant fact:
- - - The faithfulness of God!

Jostled and buffeted in all the surge of life,
With baying Hounds of War engendering strife,
We plant our feet upon one solid rock;
- - - The faithfulness of God!

Through all the welter of men's brutal lust;
With nations in the Maelstrom of Distrust,
Our souls rejoice in one eternal truth:
- - - The faithfulness of God!

Forever in the past it thus hath been;
Forever it shall be in coming scene;
Nothing in earth nor sea can change
- - - The faithfulness of God!

—Prophecy

Minorities And Majorities!

"I have just read with mingled amusement and indignation, your tirade against Pres. Sampey. I think, Brother Gilpin, that it would do you good if you were to realize that you represent a very small part of the Southern Baptist opinion, while Dr. Sampey represents the vast majority."

I am quite ready to agree that I in the minority. But he won. When Joshua crumbled the walls of Jericho, with the blasts from a handful of ram's horns, he was in the minority. But he won.

When Gideon and his 300 followers, with their broken pitchers and smoky lamps put the Midianite hosts to flight they were an insignificant minority. But they won.

When Elijah brought down fire from heaven, and put the prophets of Baal to shame, he was in a notable minority. But he won.

When Sampson crushed the temple

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Another Interesting Letter From Bro. Dickerson Relative To Brazil Labors

Belem, Para.,
May 12, 1941

Dear Brother Gilpin:

Though I have written to you twice since your last letter without any word from you, I will drop you a few lines anyway. Yet, I know you may not have received my letters.

Hope you all are well, and that the work goes well in the church. As to the "Examiner" it is certainly living up to its name. It is not at all difficult to imagine that lots of people get hot under the collar when they read some of those articles. What a pity each Baptist State paper doesn't give the plain unvarnished facts as you are doing. I mean in denouncing heresy and in explaining and defending Baptist doctrines.

The Pope paid me a good turn the other day. And not to me only, but the people of Belem. The leading daily came out with great headlines relating the fact that in addressing a group of priests, the Pope had said that men needed to know God—that Christ was too little known and loved. Well, because many of the people here have been destroying our tracts, refusing to read them, I thought here is something they will read. Too, I am informed that the priests have forbidden the people to read our tracts. So I wrote another tract entitled, "Papal Testimony On Knowing God", and quoted his words as reported in the aforesaid daily. I agreed with the Pope, so you may have heard that I have turned Catholic. I said the Pope is right. And I gave quotations from the Latin Vulgate and the Portuguese translation of the Vulgate by a Romish priest to show that the

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The First Baptist Pulpit

"IS GOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOULS THAT GO TO HELL?"

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (Ezk. 33:11).

At the very outset, permit me to say that I believe most strongly in the doctrine of election—that is, that God chooses men unto salvation. In view of the many, many scriptures in the Bible which teach this doctrine, of necessity I am compelled to believe it.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you" (Jn. 15:16). "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Rom. 8:29,30).

Recently, I was holding a revival meeting for one of our country Baptist Churches about 40 miles from Russell. After preaching on "Election", one

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A Church, 15,000 Members

The largest Protestant congregation in America, if not in the world, is a Negro church in New York City. It is called the Abyssinian Baptist Church. It makes tithing essential. It has 15,000 members, with more than 5,000 worshipers each Sunday, divided into two or three groups. Three pastors have charge. Each Monday night 151 Sunday School teachers are required to take training courses to properly fit them for the work. The church has six large choirs. Two thousand people attend midweek economic and social classes. They have a church building which cost \$400,000, a home for the aged which cost \$40,000. Their operating budget is \$41,000 a year. There is no debt and they always have money left over at the end of the year. Among its members are many educated Negroes with university degrees, many whose names are listed in *Who's Who in America*. —The United Presbyterian.

The Baptist Examiner

JORN R. GILPIN, Editor

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ALCOHOL AS A REMOVER

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boys and girls, and then remove the shoes from their feet, and the warm clothing from their bodies.

Yes, alcohol is a great remover! As a remover of things, alcohol has no equal competitor.

But removing things is not all that alcohol will do.

It will remove the stains from your summer clothes all right, but it will leave stains of a far worse character on your manhood.

It will remove stains from your summer clothes, but it will leave pains a million times deeper in your heart.

Yes, alcohol is a great remover.

It will remove stains and leave pains.

It will remove fame and leave shame.

It will remove plenty and leave poverty.

It will remove honor and leave humiliation.

It will remove fine homes and leave hovels.

In fact, alcohol will remove anything from stains on summer clothes to the greatest fortunes ever amassed by intelligent man.

It will remove everything, great or small, that makes life worthwhile.

—The Christian Herald

"I Should Like To Know—"

1. Please explain Deut. 23:2.

We fully discussed this in a previous issue. A bastard could not enter into the Jewish tabernacle. This had nothing whatsoever to do with his salvation. Cf. Mark 3:28; 1 Tim. 1:15. It was merely a Jewish restriction as to worship.

2. In Greenup Association, twenty two churches failed to observe the Lord's Supper during the past year. Is this right? Since I am a woman, what can I do? "Jump on the preacher, or what?"

Certainly the Lord's Supper ought to be observed in every church. It is a specific command from God. Cf. Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:24. If internal conditions are proper and Scriptural, the supper should be observed. If not, the condition of the church should be looked into. I suggest that you talk the matter over with your pastor and see if you can't get your church to observe this ordinance.

3. Explain I Peter 3:19.

This we do by asking and answering four questions: (1) To whom did he preach? Ante-deluvians. (2) When? When they were disobedient in the days of Noah. (3) How did he preach? By the Holy Spirit. (4) Where are they now? Dead - in prison - shut up unto judgment.

4. Explain I Tim. 2:12-15.

Here are two of woman's prohibitions. She is not to teach men publicly nor usurp authority over them. While woman is thus prohibited, there is a specific compensation for her—namely, the joys of motherhood. She is prohibited from taking a public place in worship, but she can bear a son who may do so. Thus she shall be compensated through childbearing.

5. Please explain Deut. 14:21.

This was purely a Jewish restriction. While no Jew could eat anything which died of itself, he could give it or even sell it to one who was not a Jew.

6. Is any meat fit for human consumption if it dies of itself?

Yes, as an example a cow breaks her neck and a farmer finds her before she is fully dead. There is no reason to waste the entire animal. She should be killed and dressed. While no Jew could eat thus and still worship, there is no reason why Gentiles shouldn't do so. Furthermore all these restrictions on the Jews have been removed even from them by God today. Cf. I Tim. 4:3,4.

7. Should Heb. 2:3 be used as a text when preaching to the unsaved?

No. It is a perversion, an abuse, and a misapplication of God's Word. The Arminians are all guilty of doing thus with this text. No real Scriptural preacher could ever use it as referring to the lost, and harmonize it with the rest of the Bible.

8. Does Ezekiel 37:12 speak of the resurrection?

No! This is a reference to the conversion of the Jews, which will take place at the Second Coming. That it refers to the Jews is clearly seen from Ezek. 37:11. That the Jews are to some day be saved—a nation in a day, read Isa. 66:8; Rom. 11:26.

9. Does Psalm 37:28 mean that an infant born of wicked people will be lost if it dies in infancy?

Most certainly not. Such an interpretation would be an absurd interpretation of this Scripture, and a per-

version of many other Scriptures in the Word.

10. Did Adam and Eve have any children born while they were under the blessing of God?

I do not know. It is an evident fact that Cain and Abel were not their first children. The birth of these two is recorded in Gen. 4:1,2. However, prior to this, Eve was already recognized as mother. Cf. Gen. 3:20. I do not know whether she was a mother before she and Adam sinned, or whether Gen. 3:20 should be placed in between the time of their sin and the birth of Cain and Abel. I, personally, believe this is true.

11. What do you think of Spiritualism?

I think it is of the devil! God's word condemns spiritualism, witchcraft, those with familiar spirits, sorcerers, etc. Read Deut. 18:9-14; Lev. 19:31; Lev. 20:6; Rev. 21:8. He actually killed Saul for seeking a spiritualist medium's advice, rather than asking counsel of God. Read I Chron. 10:14.

12. Can a believer in Christian Science get to heaven?

Christian Science denies the reality of sin; the efficacy of the blood atonement; the reality of punishment and every other fundamental doctrine in God's Word. Of all the heresies that have arisen, "Christian Science" is the most dangerous; besides it's a misnomer; it's neither Christian nor Scientific.

13. Can a person be saved without belonging to a church?

Yes. In fact, a person should not join a church until he is saved. This is the Bible order. Cf. Acts 2:47.

14. State your objections to Open Communion.

The Bible teaches restricted Communion. Therefore, Open Communion or unrestricted Communion, is unscriptural. In I Cor. 5:13, we read that even church members are to be refused the Lord's Supper when guilty of certain sins. The supper is to be restricted to baptized, orderly walking members of the church that sets the table. The Lord's Supper is not a denominational affair, nor an associational, nor conventional ordinance; but it is a church ordinance. The church has the right to judge of one's fitness to partake of the Supper. Cf. I Cor. 5:12. This epistle was written to a church. Cf. I Cor. 1:2.

15. Did Christ abolish the Ten Commandments when He suffered on the cross?

No. The Ten Commandments are much in effect as ever. It is just as much wrong to steal, lie, murder, commit adultery today as ever. Christ fulfilled the ceremonial laws. We are no longer to offer sacrifices of bulls and sheep; for Christ is our sacrifice, offered once forever.

16. Does a man believe in order to be saved, or does he believe because he is saved?

Belief is in order to be saved, or unto salvation. Cf. Lu. 7:50; Acts 16:30, 31.

17. If a sinner is of the elect, how did he come to be lost?

He was born lost, a child of wrath, just like any other sinner. He was elected from before the foundation of the earth, but he is not saved until he hears the gospel and is called by the gospel, and repents and trusts in Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 2:13, 14.

18. Is it right to keep drinking, danc-

MINORITIES AND MAJORITIES

(Continued from Page One)

and destroyed his enemies, he was very much in the minority. But he won.

When David, ridiculed and laughed at by his brothers, went out to meet the giant, Goliath, in size he was in a decided minority. But he won.

When Jesus Christ was crucified by the Roman soldiers, He was a conspicuous minority. But He won.

Concerning the brother who has written me as quoted above, it would perhaps do him good if he were to remember that he and Dr. Sampey may be in the majority today, and I may be in the minority; but the battle isn't over, the fight isn't ended, the race isn't completed, the course isn't finished—yet.

Remember the words of the poet!

"However the battle is ended,
Though proudly the victor comes
With fluttering flags and prancing
nags
And echoing roll of drums,
Still truth proclaims this motto
In letters of living light —
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Though the heel of the strong oppressor,

May grind the weak in the dust,
And the voices of fame with one acclaim

May call him great and just,
Let those who applaud take warning,
And keep this motto in sight —
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Let those who have failed take courage;
Tho' the enemy seems to have won,
Tho' his ranks are strong, if he be
in the wrong

The battle is not yet done;
For, sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of the night,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

ing, church members who go to beer gardens, on the church roll of a New Testament church?

No, they ought to be excluded. Cf. 1 Cor. 5:11, 13; 2 Thess. 3:6,7.

19. Did not Moses mention several Sabbaths that were not on the seventh day?

Yes, the first and last days of some feasts were special Sabbaths. But the Scripture usually makes it very plain, when a special Sabbath other than the Seventh day is meant.

20. What is meant by "Gates of Hell?"

The organized forces of evil.

21. What weapons did Paul refer to when he said, "Our weapons are not carnal, but mighty for tearing down the strongholds of Satan?"

The Bible, prayer, faith, etc.

22. Of what officers was the first Church composed?

Pastors or bishops and deacons. Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13. That reminds me to say that Junior deacons are not only unscriptural, but anti-scriptural. They do not fulfill a single requirement laid down for deacons in the New Testament. They certainly disobey the plain command of the Scriptures: "Let them first be proved." (I Tim. 3:10) Junior deacons and deaconesses are modern innovations that Baptists have borrowed from some worldlings, who cared nothing about the Bible. Trustees are not a Scriptural office, neither are they an anti-scriptural office. That is an extra-scriptural office that was made necessary by Baptist churches buying property and having to have some one designated, to whom it could be deeded. Trustees have only one thing to do, unless a church votes them other duties. They are the custodians of the church property and have no authority over it, except what

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"IS GOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOULS THAT GO TO HELL?"

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evening, one of the elderly members of the church declared that though he believed it, he had never heard a Missionary Baptist preacher preach "election" before. Said he, "I have heard lots of Hardshell Baptist preachers preach election, and all of them declared that God was responsible if a lost soul went to hell". Growing out of this conversation with this aged Christian, came a firm resolution on my part to preach it more, and explain it further.

I

A sinner must either be converted or be condemned. This is the teaching of all the Word of God. "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3,5). "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jn. 3:3, 18).

You could put it out of your mind, you may forget this sermon, but you could not put it out of the Bible. You must either be converted or condemned. "Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Mt. 7:13,14). Two possible highways stretch out before you. One is broad, while the other is narrow. The broad road leads to destruction, while the narrow road leads to eternal life in Christ Jesus. You must travel one or the other of these roads.

A good long while, I went to visit an old gentleman back in the hills, to talk to him about his soul. He was working in his tobacco field, and I sat down and waited until he got out to the end of his row. He sat down with me, and after we had talked for a while, he said, "If I understand you correctly, there are just two roads that one can travel—the road to heaven or the road to hell." Then with his finger, he drew two lines on the ground to indicate those two roads. I said to him, "And which road are you on?" Reluctantly he said, "I guess I will have to admit that I am on the road to hell". Beloved, you will have to admit the same if you have never been converted.

There is positively no middle ground. You have either let Jesus into your heart and life, or you have locked the door and are keeping Him out of your heart and life. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 10:32,33). You can only be on one side or the other. You must either confess, or deny as this text declares. Yet listen to Jesus as He would state it more emphatically: "He that is not with me is against me" (Mt. 12:30). If you are not with Christ, you are against Christ.

When Noah built the ark, only eight persons were saved. All others perished. It is thus today, you must either be converted or be condemned. It was a great night in Egypt—the

night of the first passover, with the blood sprinkled upon the door-posts and the lintel above the door. Wherever the blood was sprinkled, all those sheltered within that home were saved. Wherever there was a home without blood sprinkled upon it, the first born died. Today you are safe, if sheltered with the blood, yet lost if the blood of Jesus Christ has never cleansed your soul. I repeat it beloved—there is no middle ground—no point of neutrality, you are either converted or condemned right now.

II

In view of this fact, the question arises: Is God to blame for those who are condemned—is He responsible for those who go to hell?

FIRST: God states that His desire is for the lost to be saved. Note the words of my text again. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel" (Ezk. 33:11). Listen also to these New Testament Scriptures: "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). Since it is His desire that the lost be saved, surely no one could declare that God is responsible for those who will not be saved.

SECOND: God has abundantly offered salvation to all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (Jn. 6:37). "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). God has said "whosoever will". If one goes to hell, it is because he deliberately wills to do so. Perhaps the saddest words that ever fell from the lips of Jesus, were those which we read in Jn. 5:40: "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life". Jesus literally said, "You have definitely willed not to come to Me." In view of the salvation which He offers freely and abundantly to all, God could never be held responsible for those who deliberately will against Him.

THIRD: God's blessings should lead anyone and everyone to salvation. "Despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Rom. 2:4).

Several years ago, there used to be an old gentleman in this community who was a Presbyterian, but since there was no Presbyterian organization in town, he always attended services with us. He told me one day of his conversion. He said that when he and his wife started out in life, that they had nothing financially, and that from a material point of view, life did not hold much in store for either of them. Then accumulated sickness and apparently bad luck, caused debts and obligations to multiply against them. Later on, a season of material prosperity came so that all the old obligations were paid and a comfortable bank account was laid aside. He had been attending services for a long while, though he had never yet been saved. One day as he sat at home meditating, he said to his wife, "I

have just been thinking how good God has been to us. I think we ought to trust Him." She rather surprised him, by telling him that she was thinking the same thing before he spoke, and in the quietness of their home, each yielded to the Lord Jesus Christ, and there came into the heart of each the assurance that their sins were washed away in the blood of the Lamb. Thus, the blessings of God had led this husband and wife to repentance. Why should not everyone love God, when we consider what He has done for us, and what He has given to us, and the way in which He blesses us daily? Surely all of these blessings should definitely lead us to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. When we consider that the blessings which have abundantly been showered upon us, and which should have brought all of us to conviction and conversion, no one could declare that God is responsible for those who deliberately go on to hell.

FOURTH: God has given us His Church as a witness against sin. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Every church spire which pierces the blue of the etherial spaces is a witness against sin. The ringing of every church bell, and every church service which is conducted, should be considered God's witness against sin. The radio message which goes out from this church Sunday evening after Sunday evening, is a witness from God against the sin of your life.

I used to visit the rifle range of the soldier boys at Ft. Thomas, Ky., the rifle range being located 15 miles from Ft. Thomas on the Licking River. It is a long narrow valley with targets at one end of the valley, and a mountain immediately behind, which served as a barrier to stop the bullets that no one's life might be endangered. I have often looked at it and thought of the picture of the true church of Jesus Christ which it presented. It stands as a barrier against sin.

Men in their impenitence may curse the church, may ridicule the Christians, and may cast reflections at the preacher, and may slanderously speak evil against all those affiliated with the church of God. Yet in times of sickness and death, the first one called for will be the same preacher or Christian worker which has been slanderously spoken against. I once knew of an old infidel who declared there was no God. When the doctor had him on the operating table, just about ready to make the incision, he said, "Wait a minute doctor, I want you to call a preacher". Knowing that he had been an infidel all his life, the doctor asked in amazement "What do you want with a preacher?" To this the old man replied, "I would like to be opened with prayer". Yes, in spite of all that men say against God's Church, and against Christian people, the church does stand as a witness, and as such, by its services, declares that God is not responsible for those who persistently go to hell.

FIFTH: God has given the Bible as a warning. Every leaf of the Bible is a voice saying, "Turn or burn". Listen to these Scriptures: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezk. 18:4). "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). "The way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15). "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12). "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and be-

lieveth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (Jn. 5:24), "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:30,31).

A man in his anger, picked up his wife's Bible and threw it in the fire. The next morning as he started to build a fire, he found a charred leaf. Somehow the Holy Spirit caused him to read it. All that he could make out were these words, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35). This became a warning to his soul, brought conviction and ultimately led him to conversion. Many thousands of sinners have been converted as a result of reading God's merciful warning in the Bible. How could one accuse God of being responsible for the souls that go to hell when He has repeatedly given warning after warning in His book, which mercifully entreats and graciously implores all sinners to turn from sin to the Saviour.

SIXTH: God has likewise warned every sinner through the sermons heard. If a man never went to church except to funeral services, he should eventually hear enough gospel to lead him to a saving knowledge of Jesus. It is by the preaching of the gospel that God has ordained salvation. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 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" (1 Cor. 1:18,21). It really is marvelous the way God warns sinners through the sermons that He gives.

A ten year old boy heard John Farrel preach one day on 1 Cor. 16:22. "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed". He wasn't saved that day, but 86 years later, when he was an old man of 96 years of age, he sat on the front porch of his home and meditated over the past, this text came back to him. "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed" (1 Cor. 16:22). As he sat there, he mused, "I do not love God, therefore I must be cursed." Thus thinking of this text, he came to a saving knowledge of Jesus as a result of a sermon which he had heard preached 86 years before.

One night when I first became pastor here in Russell, nearly 12 years ago, I was preaching in Raceland, in a tent, on the subject "Sowing and Reaping" using as a text Gal. 6:7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap". This text got hold of a young woman who was present, who had just casually come to the services that night, having never been there before, and having never heard me preach before. We moved the tent from Raceland up here in town, and started preaching the next week. It so happened that this girl worked in Ashland, and it was impossible for her to get to the services every night. In fact, it was well toward the end of the first week of our meeting here in Russell, before she got back again. Then she was saved, and after her conversion she told me that from the time she had heard my first sermon—"Sowing and Reaping", that she had been hounded by it, and that it had rung in her ears for the entire time. Every wakeful moment of the three weeks between the time conviction began and conversion was consummated,

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"IS GOD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOULS THAT GO TO HELL?"

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she declared this sermon had subconsciously been weighing upon her mind.

As I stand here tonight, I think how good God is to lost sinners in giving them sermon after sermon as a merciful reminder of their sins. How good God is to the lost who are listening to this program tonight, and who listen to it Sunday night after Sunday night. How wonderful it is that God has given you the opportunity to hear the truth of God. In view of the many sermons which you have heard, and you are hearing now, and remembering that God is giving this privilege to you now, no one of common sense could declare that God is responsible for the souls that go to hell.

SEVENTH: God has warned men through afflictions. Look at the experience of the Apostle Paul. Do you not remember how God afflicted him when he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there. "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus; and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven; And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:3-5). Over and over again, God has poured out His blessings upon unsaved folk, but when they receive these blessings and continue to spurn His grace, then often God turns those blessings into seeming afflictions in order to bring hardened stubborn souls to repentance.

I followed a little casket to the cemetery one day, and after the mound was made, the broken-hearted father turned to me and said, "Pastor, tell me, will I ever see my darling babe again?" There beside the grave, I presented to him God's plan of salvation. God had given this little grave a voice, and it was thus calling this hardened man to salvation. The affliction did for him what the blessings of God had never done. It touched his soul, convicted him of his sins, and brought him to conversion. Have you not had many afflictions like this, which were purely blessings in disguise? Has not God warned you over and over again, by these afflictions that you might be saved? This is the universal lot of each of us, and each of us in turn, must say that God is not responsible for those who go to hell.

EIGHTH: God has given many of my invisible audience a Christian home with sacred memories clustering about and clinging to that old home. You may have left it; it may be that you are miles and miles removed from that old home, but you have never gotten away from its influence. It may be that back here in the hills of Kentucky or some place in Ohio, W. Va., or N. C. that you were born, and tonight in your imagination you can travel back to that old home. It may not have been much of a house, but it was home just the same. It may be tonight, that you can recall the Bible being read, and family prayer being offered. It may be that you can remember hearing your own name called to a God of grace. That Mother may have prayed her last time for you 20 years ago; that father may long since have been with God in the glory land; and you tonight, may be miles removed from that home; but you have never been able, and shall never be able to get away from its influence.

In Washington, D. C., eight law students left their boarding house one morning to go down to the river to carouse all day on Sunday. Being ten o'clock in the morning, the church bells in various places of the city were ringing. One of them remembered that his mother had said that she would always be in prayer for him at that hour day by day. She was now long since gone to glory, but somehow that impression that his mother might even be praying for him, in the glory land, fastened itself upon him with the result that the entire party was broken up, and this young man as well as the balance, went to services that day in God's house.

Isn't it wonderful that God speaks to us through our homes, and that the influence of a Christian home stands out in one's mind to keep one from sinning. Surely if you came out of a home where the Lord Jesus was known, and honored, and revered, you can never tell that God is responsible if you go to hell.

NINTH: God has given the Holy Spirit to convict of sin. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of Judgment, because the prince of this world is judged" (Jn. 16:7-11). There is never a sinner, but what at some time in his life, he is convicted of his sins. "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (Jn. 1:9). In view of this conviction, God could never be charged with responsibility for those who go to hell.

TENTH: God has Himself provided a sin bearer. Rev. 13:8 speaks of "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". In Matt. 4, we find Jesus feasting; in Luke 6:12, we find Him spending a whole night in prayer. Look at Him in Gethsemane: "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground". (Lk. 22:44). See Him as He wept over the city of Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Mt. 23:37). When He was crucified, the first words He spoke from the cross were, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do". These beloved, are not signs of one who delights in the death of the wicked. In view of the fact that God has provided this sin bearer, we are able to confidently affirm that God is not responsible for the souls who go to hell.

I read sometime ago of a bridge built over the Severn River. A farmer was driving a flock of fat lambs over this bridge; when one of them leaped over a rail into the water below, all the sheep followed in swift succession; each of them leaping to his death. So it is with the unconverted, carnal man. God is not responsible for the souls that go to hell, but rather each sinner is personally responsible, in that he follows other sinners, and each of them goes into the depths of hell, in spite of the word of God.

A physician comes to your home and says you are far gone; "take this medicine, and you will live, if not, you are a dead man". It is thus that I speak

ANOTHER INTERESTING LETTER FROM BRO. DICKERSON RELATIVE TO BRAZIL LABORS

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Scriptures also taught the necessity of knowing the Lord. Endeavored to show that observing the Sabbath as do some Protestants, neither talking to spirits which is of the devil, nor being baptized, giving alms, etc. — none of these nor all of these would substitute for personal knowledge of Christ. Then I gave some results of "knowing" the Lord, some Gospel references, etc. Although I agreed with the Pope, I am sure neither he nor his satellites would agree with all I said. But his words may cause some to read the Truth who would not have otherwise. The people are receiving them.

Two requests for tracts have come from other states this week. One professor in English in some colleges in the South. A Finn, recently arriving here from Finland, says he is a Christian, independent, and that he is trying to establish a Bible House in his city. A friend of his gave him my name. Said he gave out over 20,000 tracts in March. As he reads English, I am sending him a copy of your book of sermons, Brother Taylor's book, and some tracts. Let us pray for him. Another request from a Seminary pastor at Recife.

All over this nation I am told is a vast dearth of writings on subjects such as those in which we are interested. This is the greatest need right now as I see it. And how we can multiply our influence! Some of the Catholics send their children ahead to receive the tracts now. It is the time of sowing. May God help us to use the opportunity.

Outside of a little "flu" we are well.
In Christ's name,
C. W. Dickerson

FOURTEEN GOOD RESOLUTIONS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE RIGHT NOW ! !

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tentive listener while the choir sings and the minister preaches.

Resolved: That I will regularly bring my tithe to the church, not neglecting its benevolences; that I will give willingly and cheerfully, out of the deep conviction that the church is an indispensable asset in my own life, an uplifting influence in the community, and a saving force in the civilization of the world; that I will realize that I am paying for value received, and not handing out a dole to charity.

Resolved: That I will find joy in the sense of belonging to a world-wide fellowship and of participating in a world-wide religious enterprise.

Resolved: That I will have a cheery greeting for my fellow worshippers at the close of the service, that I will help give the church an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness.

Resolved: That I will take special pains to speak to the lonely stranger and give him a cordial invitation to come again, that he may go away with a greater belief in the brotherhood of man.

Resolved: That I will have a word of appreciation for the minister; that

to you tonight, I present the Lord Jesus Christ, and say in the words of the Scripture, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). If you fail to trust Him, it means eternal damnation. "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16).

I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW

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the church authorizes.

23. When are infants saved?

I do not know. God does not reveal that. He does reveal that they are saved as a comfort to all who lose children in the age of unaccountability. But as we have no message for infants and God saves them without our help in any way, He does not reveal to us when or how He does it. That is His business and it is not ours. It is sufficient for us to know that He does it. Just when and where and how the blood is applied and they are given a new nature and pass from death unto life, I do not know. Neither does any one else. I am content not to be wise above what is written; but to rejoice in the assurance from Him that all unconscious babes go to heaven. I can wait about all the other questions touching their salvation until I get there and "known even as I am known".

24. I have always believed and practiced "total abstinence" from drinking of every kind. I have tried to teach this to my own sons, but in reading, it seems that God approved the drinking of wine. King Solomon, who wrote the wonderful Proverbs, would have you believe in the book of Ecclesiastes that eating and drinking was the best of life.

Since our questioner does not cite any particular verse in Ecclesiastes, we will choose two samples from the book—namely, Eccl. 3:13; Eccl. 5:18.

Nowhere in the Bible is "total abstinence" taught. Everything that this world affords may be received as God's gift, and when used for God's glory, the things of this life are to be enjoyed. Cf. Acts 2:46; I Cor. 10:31; I Tim. 4:34. However, we must remember that we are not to abuse, but to use the things of this world. Cf. I Cor. 7:31; I Tim. 5:23.

25. In the book of Job, why did God seem to cooperate with Satan in chastising Job?

The Devil challenged God as to His ability in keeping Job saved. This is apparent from Job 1:9-11. Therefore, in order to prove to the Devil that He lied when he said that Job would "fall from grace," God allowed the Devil to bring one heartache after another upon Job. Thus, that which God allowed in behalf of Job, was part of his permissive degrees. In this case, Job was just God's sample man and was used as an experiment to prove to the Devil how he had lied concerning the matter of the security of the saved.

The devil will promise you the whole world, but he doesn't own a grain of sand.

Choose between the world and the Word. No heart can mature two crops.

I will thank him for the help and comfort which the sermon gives me, and so encourage him to prepare an even better sermon for the following Sunday.

Resolved: That I will regard going to church as a privilege and not an obligation, a pleasure and not a burden, an opportunity and not a responsibility, a paying investment instead of a mortgage on my time and money.

Resolved: That when I go away from church I will carry my religion into my home and my place of business, my pleasures and my social relationships, and that I will endeavor to make my life a living witness for Christ.