

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. 178

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1941

VOL. 10, NO. 20

## "What I Think Of The Bible" ---- A Sermon By Elder D. B. Eastep

(A message delivered over Radio Station WCPO, Cincinnati, Ohio, Bible Sunday, December 8, 1940 by D. B. Eastep, Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, Covington, Kentucky).

It is a joy to comply with the request of the American Bible Society to bring a message this morning over the radio. We call to your attention two passages of Scripture as follows: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the men of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." I Timothy 3: 16-17. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11). This last mentioned passage we shall use as a text. Studying it carefully we see three things, namely, the greatest things, in the greatest place, for the greatest purpose. Since we are confining our remarks this morning to the Bible we merely mention in a passing way these last two thoughts by saying that the HEART is the best place to store the Word of God, and the best purpose in storing it there is that we might not sin against God. If the Bible is all it claims for itself, and we believe it to be, then these last two truths are self-evident and need no further elaboration.

Therefore, we believe the Bible is the best thing in the world for the following reasons:

1. It teaches us about the greatest person — the Lord Jesus Christ. No honest person would put the Bible above Jesus Christ, but how can we know about Him if we have no Bible? The theme of the Bible is Christ. In the beginning of it we see Him as the Seed of the woman and at the close of it we read a prayer by John for His return. In between these two references every page, chapter, and book speaks of Him. For this reason

(Continued on Page Two)

## America Guzzles

A decree some months ago established partial prohibition throughout that part of France unoccupied by the Germans. It was accompanied by the announcement that alcoholism among the French soldiers played a large part in the rout and defeat of the French army. This is a partial explanation of the collapse over which we have marveled. Germany and Italy have both taken decisive steps to reduce drinking on the ground that it is demoralizing their people. They are making national campaigns on patriotic grounds. While these pagan nations are fighting for prohibition, America continues to guzzle strong drink as the world burns. — The United Presbyterian.

## CRITICISM!

It is easy enough to pick out flaws,  
In the work that others have done;  
To point out errors that others made,  
When your own task you haven't begun.  
It's easy enough to fuss and find fault,  
When others are doing their best;  
To sneer at the little they have achieved  
When you have done nothing but rest.  
It's easy enough to cavil and carp,  
To criticize, scoff and deride;  
For few of us ever have done perfect work  
No matter how hard we have tried.  
It is easy enough not to speak of the best  
And to dwell all the time on the worst;  
And perhaps it is proper sometimes to find fault,  
But be sure that you've done something first.

—Author Unknown

A friend sent us this poem weeks ago and it so completely answers some of those who attack this editor and the Baptist Examiner that we gladly print it.

## BAPTISTS AND EASTER

(Editorial Note: This article appeared in the April, 1940, issue of the Baptist Training Union Magazine, a monthly publication of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The article was written by Pastor Roy S. Hollomon, Immanuel Baptist Church, El Paso, Texas, and presents the viewpoint of those Baptists who do not observe Easter).

Among our Baptist people there is a growing custom of the observance of Easter. It is well that we examine this matter and that our young people have the information as to the origin of the custom and what is involved in the observance of Easter.

The season we call Easter is a combination of the old Jewish Feast of the Passover and of a heathen festival to Eostre, who was the heathen goddess of spring. The heathen elements, as is customary in such cases, predominated; practically all the

things that have to do with Easter are heathen in their origin. The Roman Catholic Church in its early beginning used the same practices that it uses today. When it finds a heathen festival, instead of winning its people away from that festival it attempts to make a Christian festival out of that which is heathen in origin.

It is impossible to say just when or where the observance of Easter began. Many of the Jewish converts to Christianity desired to continue the celebration of the Passover festival, and the converts from Northern Europe and the British Isles desired to continue their celebration of the beginning of the new life as the spring symbolizes. Over a period of time there has been a compromise between these two. We have the so-called Christian festival of Easter, making it to celebrate the resurrection of Christ as symbolical of the beginning anew of all life. For some

(Continued on Page Four)

## The First Baptist Pulpit

### DOES IT PAY TO PRAY?

"When they had prayed." (Acts 4:31)

This is a startling text. What happened then? What took place? Did any results follow? Were any changes wrought? What happened? If nothing took place, I should not wonder if those early Christians ceased to pray. What man would waste his time praying if no value were derived therefrom. This is a busy age. We are hurried in our work. If prayer is of no value, then we should not be expected to pray.

This leads me to say that I believe in prayer. It was a great day when Elijah, the prophet, met Ahab, the king, on Mt. Carmel. Ahab put on a prayer meeting look, and with a sanctimonious whine, said, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" Elijah straightened out like a fire ladder, and with a look that pierced the old king through and through as an x-ray, thundered, "I have not troubled Israel, but thou and thy father's house." Then Elijah, speaking for God, challenged Baal and the worshippers of Baal that whichever God sent fire should be the God of Israel. When the prophets of Baal

(Continued on Page Three)

## God's Message To A Sin-Sick And Weary World Sadly Needing God

How manifest are the forces of iniquity and the powers of injustice today! Enmity between nations. Every nation distrusts every other. Alliances that were formed yesterday are broken today. National boundaries are picketed by the slaves of ruthless monarchs. Kidnapping is increasing. Marriage is a mere experiment. The greed of gamblers is protected by the laws of the state. The devilry of drunkenness is demanded by the budget-balancers of our nation. We ask, "What is this world coming to?" Surely there is a message for such an hour.

What is this message? Is it the policy of polluted politicians? Is it the cry of crafty capitalists? Is it the summons of social elites? Is it the demands of devilish dictators? Is it the message of militant modernists? Is it the absurd advice of the atheists of America? No, it is none of these things. They only add to our confusion, and increase our troubles.

We need a positive message today. Negative abstractions will not give hope for the future or power for the present. When did the denial of the divinity of Christ ever save a lost soul? When did a scornful objection to the virgin birth ever bring peace to a troubled heart? What comfort ever came in the rejection of Christ's personal, visible return? When did the doctrine of "no hell to shun" ever bring life out of death, or bring purity and righteousness out of sin and shame?

Have we not almost lost consciousness of the place and importance of religion today? I mean the "oldtime religion". God has a message for the saved and also for the sinner today. It is the gospel of repentance and faith and hope and peace. We need to turn from the things that offer no peace and give no strength and have no power to save, to the things that have to do with eternity. The

(Continued on Page Four)

## Blessed Are My Enemies

Blessed are my enemies, for they prevent all men speaking well of me.

Blessed are my enemies for they tell me the truth when my friends flatter me.

Blessed are my enemies, for they provide an object of love outside the small circle of my selfishness.

Blessed are my enemies, for their mirror or biting sarcasm and scathing rebukes reveal me to myself.

Blessed are my enemies, for they tell me what they don't like in me rather than the things they do like.

Blessed are my enemies, for they rub off the artificial varnish and make me see my natural complexion.

(Continued on Page Four)



## The Baptist Examiner

JOHN R. GILPIN, ..... Editor

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Editorial Department: RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, where communications should be sent for publication.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE  
Per Year in Advance .....50c  
(Domestic and Foreign)  
Send Remittances to Russell, Ky.

Paid circulation in about forty states and four foreign countries.

Subscriptions are stopped at expiration unless renewed or special arrangements are made for their continuance.

Entered as Second Class matter, May 31, 1941, at the post office at Russell, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879.

# "WHAT I THINK OF THE BIBLE" — A SERMON BY ELDER D. B. EASTEP

(Continued from Page One)

we believe the Bible is the greatest blessing that has come to the human race. God Himself exalts His Book in a most remarkable way when He speaks through David in Psalm 138:2, saying, "For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." What can be greater than that which exalts Christ!

2. It keeps us from sin. Whether men are willing to face the fact or not, sin is the worst thing in the universe. It is responsible for every sickness, every pain, every death, every grave, every heartache, every tear, everything that has ever brought grief to the human race. The only remedy for sin is the Bible remedy — the blood of Jesus Christ. Sin is the greatest issue before us today, but if men will come honestly to the Word of God they can find the remedy for sin. The wisdom of all men of all ages is nothing unless it is based upon this Book.

3. Because it is true. This statement may seem rather trite to many of my listeners, but I am sorry to say that there are multitudes of unfair, prejudiced, and unlearned men who deny the authority of the Bible. They attack it even though they have never read it. I believe I can say, without a single exception, I have never personally known a man to attack the Bible who ever read it completely through. There may be exceptions to this experience, but I know of none personally. I have had this experience many times: Someone in my presence would attack the Bible stating that it is not true. Then I would ask, "What part of it is not true? Will you take the Bible and read to me something in it you believe to be untrue?" I have never had one person to comply with my request. We stated that we believe, the Bible is true. It is true! It is true in a number of ways:

(1) It is true historically. Until about the beginning of the twentieth century the higher critic who attacked the Bible enjoyed a rather prominent place. Usually his arguments were that it was not true to the writings of the historians. But during the last forty or fifty years a comparatively new branch of study called Archaeology has appeared. As a result of this new study, ancient civilizations such as Babylon, Assyria, Greece, Rome, etc. have been uncovered by the spade of the archaeologist. The ancient monuments, tablets, and other writings of these people have been deciphered. As a result of these discoveries many things which the

higher critics have attacked in the Bible have been found to be true. Therefore you hear less of the higher critic and he does not enjoy such a prominent place as he did a few decades ago. Any honest person who wants the facts can go to any city library and obtain good books on this subject and see for himself. If he is not honest enough to do this his mouth should be stopped, and his word discredited. A person who is mentally dishonest should never be followed and people who follow and listen to a mentally dishonest person are dishonest themselves. No, my friends, history does not contradict the Bible; it supplements it, and any person who denies the Bible shows himself to be a poor student of history.

(2) It is true psychologically. Psychology is a study of the mind. The Bible is the best book in the world on the study of the mind. Paul in his second letter to Timothy tells us that God gives us a sound mind. The same writer writing to the church at Philippi tells them that the peace of God shall guard or keep their minds. In the letter to the Romans he speaks of renewing our minds.

Then when we come to the book of Proverbs we find the best book in the world on applied psychology. What better psychology can we find than in these words in 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." Try it some time! And consider 16:32, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Many a person could have avoided defeat if had read and taken seriously these words. What better psychology can be found than in Christ's advice to love our enemies? One may read the best books on psychology written by men, but if he does not know the Bible he will not know psychology.

(3) It is true scientifically. We do not claim that the Bible was written as a text-book on science, but we do claim that it is scientifically true. As another has wisely said, "The Bible was not written so much to tell us how the heavens go as to tell us how to go to Heaven. It was not written so much to tell us the age of the rocks as to tell us the Rock of Ages." Though God is the Author of this Book of books, it has thirty human authors consisting of soldiers, statesmen, kings, herdsmen, musicians, poets, philosophers, politicians, preachers, and doctors written over a period of sixteen hundred years. In spite of the variety of men and the difference of time in which they wrote, and the prevailing circumstances under which they wrote, **THEY ALL AGREE: That is more than the so-called scientists (?) do who attack this Book! ! !**

When we think of the Bible as being scientifically true we think of the following:

First, the METEOROLOGY of the Bible. One passage will suffice. Let us read Ecclesiastes 1:6, 7: "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again." When Solomon wrote these words such scientific facts were generally known. How did Solomon know? There is but one answer—he wrote as he was moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21). He was inspired of God!

Second, the MEDICINE of the Bi-

ble. Did the men who wrote the Bible say anything about disease and the human body? They did. We mention just one or two incidents. Something like one hundred years ago people began to believe in the germ origin of disease. Hence, during epidemics doctors began to quarantine people to keep disease from spreading. But thirty-five hundred years ago the people of Israel knew disease could be spread, and God through Moses ordered quarantine. If anyone doubts this let him read Leviticus 13:45, 46, "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be."

We mention another example. It is generally known that James Simpson, a great Scotch doctor and Christian gentleman, is the father of modern surgery as we know it today. That was little more than a hundred years ago. Medical men believed surgery, if practiced, could and would be successful. But they did not know how to perform operations without intense suffering and pain to the patients. This great medical man believed that if the patient could be put to sleep he would not suffer during the operation. He experimented by putting a patient to sleep, and his operation was successful. This was the beginning of modern surgery using an anaesthetic. But the Bible tells us of the first operation in Genesis 2:21, "And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh thereof." Notice, God put Adam to sleep when He performed that operation. This was not only the first operation performed on a human body, but it was the first anaesthetic administered. What it took the worldly wise five thousand years to learn, God taught from the beginning. So we are not so smart and fast after all.

Third, the ASTRONOMY of the Bible. Astronomers tell us that when the great telescopes are pointed in the direction of the northern heavens they reveal great open spaces where there are no heavenly bodies. But thousands of years ago the patriarch Job said, "He stretched out the north over the empty place." Who told Job this secret which it has taken astronomers centuries to learn? GOD! ! If astronomers had read their Bibles they would have known this secret centuries before they did. How little we really know! How much we think we know! Poor fallen man, his knowledge is very limited.

Every school boy knows that the ancients believed the earth rested upon four pillars, an elephant, or some great giant. But blind man had not enough reason to ask on what these rested. Had the ancients known this holy Book they could have read Job as he wrote, "and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). Would that men would turn to this book for true knowledge.

The modern world learned for the first time in 1492 that the earth is round. Christopher Columbus believed he could discover a new trade route to India, and that he could go east by sailing west. Many thought he was crazy and did not hesitate to say so. But he proved what all men know to be true—the earth is a large ball. Yet if men had been fair

enough to read the Bible they could have learned from the prophet Isaiah this truth which Columbus discovered two thousand years later. Isaiah said in his prophecy (Isaiah 40:22) "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." There is only one thing that can be said about such language: These men of God knew things ahead of time, and their writing prove that the Bible is scientifically true. A man who denies these truths shows his gross ignorance, and that applies whether he is a college professor or a tramp begging bread at a back door.

We could go on indefinitely and show from the Bible that when it speaks on scientific subjects it speaks correctly and authoritatively. If there is some boy or girl listening in who has teachers in school, high school, or college, do not let these teachers poison your mind concerning the Bible. Don't you believe them when they say it is not true. If they say such things they lie and do not the truth. Long after these small minds pass away the Word of God will abide. Even on this it needs no defense, but speaks for itself: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The unknown writer of the following lines uttered this same truth when he said:

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the Anvil of God's Word,  
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The Anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone!

So this morning I call you back to this Book, this Book of our fathers and mothers, this Book of the Pilgrims, this Book of the martyrs, this Book which will show you the way to Heaven, this Book of God. It will thoroughly furnish you unto all good works (II Timothy 3:17). To furnish all good works is a picture phrase. It is the picture of an ancient vessel getting ready to put out into the open seas. In the days of long ago before a vessel sailed it was loaded with food, water, and every necessity for the voyage which required weeks and months. Every provision was made for the long journey, and when the vessel was made ready the people said it was thoroughly furnished for the voyage. My unseen friends, are you furnished for the journey of life? If not, the Word of God will do that very thing for you. It is your chart and compass, your meat and drink. It is ALL you need to show you the way from earth to Heaven, and enable you to travel that road until you enter the city through the gates. In closing I

(Continued on Page Four)



## DOES IT PAY TO PRAY?

(Continued from Page One)

were unable to call down fire through their God, Elijah petitioned the God of Heaven. It was only a brief prayer of sixty-three words, yet God heard it and the fire of God fell to consume the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust and the water that was in the trench round about the altar. We are sometimes prone to think of Elijah as a different personage to ourselves, but not so. Listen: "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." (James 5:17, 18) I say in the light of this experience, I believe in prayer.

Long years ago Eleazar was sent by Abraham to procure a bride for Isaac, Abraham's son. As he went on his way, he made it a matter of prayer. Listen: "And he said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that than the Lord gave the answer. I Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder." (Gen. 24:12-15) No sooner had he prayed than the Lord gave the answer. I declare again that I believe in prayer.

Long ago there was a prophet who loved the Lord, but who was very disobedient to Him. God told him to go to Nineveh to preach, but instead, Jonah ran away from God in the opposite direction. As punishment to him for his disobedience, he was swallowed by a great fish, and for three days and three nights lodged in the belly thereof. And beloved, he never got out of the fish until he prayed. Listen: "Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly. And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." (Jonah 2:1, 10). I say again beloved that I believe in prayer.

One day King Hezekiah became sick—in fact, sick unto death. He thought he was going to die. Actually God sent him word through the prophet that he was going to die. However, in the midst of his sickness, Hezekiah prayed. Listen: "Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord." (2 Kings 20:2). As a result of his praying, God told Isaiah the prophet to go back into Hezekiah's sick room and tell him that he would get well. Listen to God as He spoke to Isaiah: "Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add

unto thy days fifteen years." (2 Kings 20:2) Thus we see that God heard a man pray when he was sick and healed him of his illness. This should lead us then to petition the Father more relative to those that are ill. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." (James 5:14, 15). Surely I cannot read the experience of Hezekiah as to his praying, without saying, "I believe in prayer."

In Old Testament days, it was a disgrace for a woman to be childless. Hannah was one of these childless wives. In the bitterness of her soul, she prayed and asked God for a babe. Hear her as she voiced this petition; "And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head." (1 Sam. 1:11) In the course of time, a child was born. She realized that the child was in answer to prayer, so she named him "Samuel", which means "ask of God". I cannot read this experience except I say, "I believe in prayer."

During the days when Hezekiah was king over Judah, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, encamped against Judah. It was a most threatening, vicious letter which Sennacherib sent to king Hezekiah. In this he referred to our God as on the same plane as the gods of the nations—the idols and the images which he had destroyed. He not only defied the God of Hezekiah,—he actually challenged him, for he said in this letter, "Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Thelassar? Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?" (2 Kings 19:12, 13). All Hezekiah could do about it was pray. Hence, we read that he went unto the house of the Lord and petitioned God. Listen to his prayer: "Of a truth, Lord, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their gods into the fire; for they were no gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only." (2 Kings 19:17-18). God heard Hezekiah when he prayed, and in the night's time sent forth an angel of death who destroyed the Assyrian army. In the morning, of that great Assyrian host, there were found 185,000 corpses which the angel of God had slain in the night's time. But let the poet tell the story:

"The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,  
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold,  
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,  
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,  
That host with their banners at sunset were seen;  
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn has blown,

That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the angel of death spread his wings on the blast  
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;  
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill  
And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still.

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide  
And through it there rolled not the breath of his pride,  
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf  
And the cold as the spray on the rock—beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,  
With the dew on his brow and the rust on his mail  
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone  
The lances uplifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail  
And the idols are broken in the temple of Baal;  
And the might of the Gentile, unsmeared by the sword  
Hath melted like snow at the glance of the Lord."

I say in view of this experience, "I believe in prayer."

All this is just my introduction to my text. I have recounted the experience of Elijah, Eleazar, Jonah, Hezekiah, and Hannah in order that I might say again and again: I believe in prayer. Now to come to our text: "When they had prayed." (Acts 4:31) Now what happened when this early church prayed?

## I

First of all, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 4:31) The Holy Spirit has always been in the world. Of this we are assured in the first chapter of Genesis. "And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Gen. 1:2). Through the ages, whenever one was saved, the Holy Spirit took up His residence within that life. He came to dwell in the church as a body, and took up His place of residence in the church during Jesus' post-resurrection ministry,—that is, between the resurrection and the ascension, the Holy Spirit took up His residence in the church. "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit." (Jn. 20:22) Then on the day of the first Pentecost following Christ's ascension, the members of that early church were filled with the Holy Spirit. "And they were filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4) Prior to this, they had possessed the Holy Spirit first as individuals, and also as a body. Yet, there is a tremendous difference in having the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit. And now when this church prayed, we read that they were "all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Yes, it pays to pray, for this church who possesses the Holy Spirit was now completely dominated and filled with the Holy Spirit when they prayed.

## II

Furthermore, when they prayed, this church preached with boldness. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31) Seemingly, that which emboldened them was their praying. They had just been threatened by the chief priests and the elders of Jerusalem, yet when they prayed, they went out to preach the Word

with greater boldness than ever before. Why should one be afraid of the face of man after he has seen the face of God? This apparently was the attitude of this early church. They had seen God's face in prayer, and now there was no reason for them to fear the face of man. Hence, they preached with boldness.

## III

It paid this church to pray, for as a result of their praying, they became united in their purpose. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 4:32) Note the expression, when the Scriptures, say, they "Were of one heart and of one soul." There is nothing in this world that will unite Christians, stop warring factions in a church, and put an end to strife among church members, more effectively than prayer. It paid this church to pray, for it resulted in uniting them in one purpose.

In mythology we are told how that Cadmus slew a dragon. Taking a handful of his teeth, he walked across the field and scattered them broadcast. When he arrived at the other side of the field, he looked back, and each of those teeth had sprouted and grown into an ill-natured giant. Cadmus picked up a pebble and hit one of these giants in the ear with it. Blaming his neighbor for throwing the pebble, a fight ensued between the first giant and the one next to him. As a result, all joined in, and soon each killed the other as Cadmus looked on.

How many times I have beheld similar experiences in churches. With what tragedy and pathos it is that our churches are so often wrecked and torn asunder as a result of difficulties which have no more pretext and cause for existence than this story from mythology.

It was their praying which united this early church and caused them to be one in purpose, heart, and soul. The surest way in this world to end a church "fuss" is to get all the belligerents engaged in prayer. I remember very distinctly sometime ago of two individuals who had fallen out among themselves. Both were members of the same church. I got them together, and the first woman started talking about the second. The second one couldn't wait until the first finished to tell me all she knew about her accuser. Finally, I said to both of them, "Let's pray about the matter, and tell God the things you have been telling me." And beloved, when I got them down on their knees to pray, neither one of them could tell God a single thing they had said to me. Soon each was pouring out her heart to God for forgiveness, and was asking God to bless the other. When they arose from their knees with their faces bathed in tears, it was to embrace one another with joy. It was their experience in prayer which united them in heart and soul for the one purpose of living to win the lost to Jesus.

## IV

When this early church prayed, a sense of stewardship also came over them. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 4:32) It is a beautiful picture which we read

(Continued on Page Four)



## DOES IT PAY TO PRAY?

(Continued from Page Three)

of this church at Jerusalem when they had all things in common. Especially does it appeal to me when I read how that Barnabas sold his property and brought the money, laying it down at the Apostles' feet that it might be used in behalf of this early church. This unusual sense of stewardship grew out of this prayer meeting.

I am definitely convinced today that one reason that we are such poor stewards of our service, and time, and talents, and conversation, and lives, and money, is that we pray so little. I have a definite conviction that if we could get every church member to pray, that it would result in a sense of stewardship such as this church experienced at Jerusalem. The anti-missionary crowd and the penny-givers, are usually those who are on very poor speaking terms with God in prayer. When one learns how to pray, and has a rich experience daily with God in his prayer life, this leads him step by step, and gives him a greater sense of stewardship than ever before.

V

When this early church prayed, great grace rested upon them. "And great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33) It means something for the grace of God to rest upon a believer. It really means that the world sees something of God in that individual's life. Look at the experience of the Apostle Paul if you would see how the grace of God rested upon him. He wasn't a great orator. In fact, it is said concerning him that his speech was contemptible. He wasn't anything to look at, for the Word of God has declared concerning his bodily presence that he was weak. "For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak." (2 Cor. 10:10) Yet beloved, there was something about the Apostle Paul that caused those who loved the Lord to love him. They forgot all about his contemptible speech and his weak bodily presence. The grace of God so completely over-shadowed Paul that both of these difficulties were blotted out and forgotten. Look at his experience with the elders of Ephesus. "And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him." (Acts 20:37) Why was it that they wept with him and kissed him? It was because the grace of God rested so richly upon him, and as a result thereof, the people loved him.

Well, this is what happened to the church at Jerusalem. When they prayed they got so close to God that the grace of God in a rich manner came to rest upon them so that the world could not see the disciples as such, but rather, saw in them the richness and fullness of the grace of God.

VI

Furthermore, when this early church prayed, the place was shaken. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken when they were assembled together." (Acts 4:31) Many times we read the motto: "Prayer changes things." In this instance, we can say: "Prayer shakes things." When this church prayed, God manifested His approval and presence in such a mighty manner that the building in which they were assembled, was shaken by the power of God.

I have a conviction that if we prayed more today that we would see more things shaken today under the power of God. We would doubtlessly see sinners shaken in their sins;

## BAPTISTS AND EASTER

(Continued from Page One)

time there was quite a bit of discussion as to the exact day for the observance of Easter, and many sections of the world observed different days until finally the Council of Nicaea in 325 decreed that Easter should be the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or after the twenty-first of March. If the full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after. This decree of that council is the date that is universally carried out wherever Easter is observed.

By many, Easter is now regarded as the culmination and finish of the Lenten season. This was not originally so, for Lent was added some hundreds of years later to the Easter observance. Lent has no proper relationship to Easter, for Lent presupposes to show forth the forty days of fasting by our Lord, which has no connection whatever with His death and resurrection.

Again, all of the New Testament teachings are greatly against the observance of special days and seasons as though setting them apart. In the New Testament the Lord has reminded us that all time is His and is sacred unto Him and ought to be so used and observed. Grave errors that we have not time here to go into have grown out of the observance of special times and seasons.

Finally, all of the symbolism of the times of Easter is either Jewish or heathen in its origin. So far as any of the Jewish elements of the Passover are concerned, Christ has fulfilled them and has become our Passover. It ill befits any professing Christian to use any of the symbols or trappings of heathen origin. I sometimes think that if any of our Baptist forefathers who died at the stake for the preservation of a simple New Testament worship could come to life and visit some of our Baptist churches at Easter or Christmas time, they would wonder if they had not died in vain. Unless we are willing altogether to throw off the simplicity that is in Christ and in the New Testament order of worship, we must reject Easter and its observance in our churches and remember that every Lord's Day with us is what the world calls Easter time.

—The Messenger of Faith

thieving covetous church members shaken from their covetousness; back-slidden, cold, indifferent church members shaken loose from their back-sliding.

I say again beloved that I believe in prayer, and especially when I observe that which happened when this early church prayed, in that they were filled with the Holy Spirit; and that they preached with boldness; and they were united in purpose; and that a sense of stewardship came over them; and the great grace of God rested upon them; and that the place was shaken — in view of these facts, I say beloved that it pays to pray. Oh, that the church of which I am pastor might make much of this privilege of prayer, and that each of you in the churches of which you may be a member, might likewise make much of this privilege of prayer.

Yet, beloved, in order to pray in a way which will be acceptable to God, you have to be in a right relationship with Him. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will

GOD'S MESSAGE TO A SICK AND WEARY WORLD  
BY VIRTUS L. BUZBEE

(Continued from Page One)

gospel of Jesus Christ is the only remedy for the ills of a frustrated world. To reject that gospel means continued sorrows, disappointments, and trials to be followed by eternal separation from God. To accept that gospel and trust Jesus as a personal Saviour means peace, satisfaction and happiness both here and hereafter.

My friend, are you tired of sin and sick at heart? Are you tired searching here and there for peace? You say, "Oh if I could only go to someone and put my hand in his and plead for advice and help! Oh, if I had a sympathetic brother to listen to my story." My dear discouraged and troubled friend, I know of a man like that. You may go to him and tell him your story and he will hear. You will find radiated from his eyes the tender and sympathetic look you desire; yea, more than that, you will find unlimited compassion and unspeakable love. In Him you will find advice, wisdom, strength, courage, and most of all, salvation, peace and happiness.

You say, "I am tired of the load I am carrying. Oh, if I could only go to some deep chasm or pit and there unload my burdens! If I could only dump them all off and be free!" My poor, peace-seeking friend, I know of a place like that. It was first made manifest to the world just outside of the city of Jerusalem, not in a chasm or pit, but on a hill known as Golgotha. On that hill was a cross, and on that cross was a Saviour bleeding for a ruined world. You want to unload your burdens? Come to Calvary's Cross. You want peace with God? Come to Golgotha's Hill.

And now briefly, let me urge you to consider this Gospel of Christ. It is the gospel that has brought untold peace and joy to millions of weary vagabonds as they came trusting the atoning power of the blood of a crucified Saviour. It is the gospel with the person of Christ as its author; the love of Christ as its motive; the blood of Christ as its power; salvation in Christ as its glorious consummation and climax.

Oh, troubled friend, this is the gospel you need today. Many a broken heart has been healed and comforted under its power. Many a tired and weary soul has found rest in its presence. Many a lonely one has found fellowship and communion in its teachings, and many a lost soul has found salvation.

Here is God's message. Listen, "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). Here is God's message: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28). Here is God's message: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7).

God's message is the glorious gospel of a crucified, risen and ascended

not hear me." (Psa. 66:18) This means above everything else that you must be saved. I beg you then in Jesus' name to receive Him as a Saviour, and make much of the privilege of prayer.

## BLESSSED ARE MY ENEMIES

(Continued from Page One)

ion.

Blessed are my enemies, for they, like the true physician, will dare expose my inward shortcomings long hidden by the deceptive coddling of friends.

Blessed are my enemies, for they ruthlessly drag out to the noonday light my many weaknesses so long covered by my deceptive and deceiving friends.

Blessed are my enemies, for they cut to the heart of my self-deceit and probe to the marrow of my sinful life, and thus lead me, if I am wise, to cleanse the impure corners of my heart and to redeem myself from scorn and inferiority.

Blessed are my enemies when they revile me and persecute me and say all manner of evil against me truly for their own gratification. Let me rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for such will make a strong man out of me, if I am wise of understanding the philosophy of One who said: "Love your enemies."

—Copied

WHAT I THINK OF THE BIBLE —  
A SERMON BY ELDER  
D. B. EASTEP

(Continued from Page Two)

give you these good words of advice from another:

"This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, hell disclosed. Christ is its grand objective, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It shall fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a Paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the highest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

## AMEN! HURRAH FOR THE PIG

"One evening in October

When I was far from sober  
And dragging home a load of manly pride,

My feet began to stutter,  
So I laid down in the gutter  
And a pig came up and parked right by my side.

Then I warbled, 'It's fair weather  
When good fellows get together.'  
Till a lady passing by was heard to say,

'You can tell a man who boozes.  
By the company he chooses.'

Then the pig got up and slowly  
walked away."

Lord. Poor, lost, trembling soul, you are facing the judgment where you will hear your dreadful sentence. Why not consider this message and be saved today without money and without price.

VIRTUS L. BUZBEE,  
Jackson, Mich.