

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. 206

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1942

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A Ky. Baptist Layman's Experience In Florida Baptist Church

A Baptist layman from Kentucky, on a visit to the east coast of Florida, has written us about an unusual service that he and his wife attended at the First Baptist Church in one of the leading cities of that section.

It happened on the Sunday before Christmas in the First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale, of which Robert E. Lee is pastor. The service consisted of a Christmas concert presented unionistically by both Methodists and Baptists.

When the pastor of the Baptist church gave the welcome, he stated in substance, that he was so glad that Methodists and Baptists could get together in Ft. Lauderdale. And all this in spite of

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." — 2 Cor. 6:14-17.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." — Rom. 16:17.

"Can two walk together, except they agreed?" — Amos 3:2.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

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Bibles For Soldier Boys

Of recent date we announced that we would send a Bible and personal letter to every soldier boy whose address could be procured, and a good supply of these Bibles and letters have been mailed. New requests are coming in every day.

Since mailing the first of these Bibles, we have received messages of appreciation from several nearby to whom these were mailed. We share two of these with you.

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Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The Lord

The following lines come from an unknown minister of England, setting forth the condition of England at this time:

We have been a pleasure-loving people, dishonoring God's day, picnicking and bathing—

Now the seashores are barred; no picnics, no bathing.

We have preferred motor travel to churchgoing—

Now there is a shortage of motor fuel.

We have ignored the ringing of the church bells calling us to worship—

Now the bells cannot ring except to warn of invasion.

We have left the churches half empty when they should have been filled with worshipers—

Now they are in ruins.

We would not listen to the way of peace—

Now we are forced to listen to the way of war.

The money we would not give to the Lord's work—

Now is taken from us in taxes and higher prices.

The food for which we forgot to say thanks—

Now is unobtainable.

The service we refused to give to God—

Now is conscripted for the country.

Lives we refused to live under God's control—

Now are under the nation's control.

Nights we would not spend in "Watching unto prayer"—

Now are spent in anxious air raid precautions.

The evils of modernism we would not fight—

Now — see what Germany, the seat of this teaching, has produced!

—Courtesy The Commission.

SOME GOOD NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, that I will be punctual in my attendance upon all services of the church (the Sunday services, Wednesday evening, and special meetings) throughout the year.

RESOLVED, that I will bring at least one-tenth of my income into the treasury of the church beginning with my next pay day.

RESOLVED, that I will pray for my pastor, my church, the fellow members of the church, and especially for the lost.

RESOLVED, that I will conform my life to the standards of the Bible, thus living above the things of the world, and thereby bringing no reproach upon my church.

RESOLVED, that I will bring at least one soul to Jesus during 1942. (What a pity each does not resolve to win a hundred!)

RESOLVED, that I will guard my tongue and abstain from criticism of my pastor and other members of my church.

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The First Baptist Pulpit

"CHRIST'S UNFINISHED WORK"

"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." — John 4:34.

One of the most familiar expressions used by intelligent Scriptural believers is "the finished work of Christ." In fact, most Biblical students are familiar with this expression. Quite often both preachers and laymen refer to Christ's redemptive work as the "finished work of Christ."

Today, I wish to discuss with you His unfinished work. This may be new terminology and an unfamiliar statement. However, there are certain things which relate themselves to the work and ministry of Jesus which are unfinished, and which He must yet accomplish.

(Continued on Page Three)

How The Holy Spirit Guides Local Churches In Mission Work

(Lee Rector, Ardmore, Okla.)

Churches and the Lord's Way of Work

In every truth honoring Church, the mind of the Holy Spirit is the mind of the body. I so assume in this article.

In presenting this study, I assume that the Lord in His Word has supplied us all needful information on the character and the conduct of His Church-witness. I assume, as well as believe, that the Word of God alone can settle the way the Lord's Church does its work. I further assume that all genuine Baptists want our Churches to carry on the way the Lord indicates they should.

The Local Church, God's Lighthouse

The local Church is God's Lighthouse, Matt. 5:14 and John 8:12 and John 9:5, being founded by the Lord in person, Mark 3:13-14 and Luke 6:12-13, and being headed by Him, the Founder, Eph. 1:21-23.

The local Church, God's Lighthouse, is the only agency the Lord has ever authorized to speak for heaven and to spread His Light, Matt. 16:19 and Matt. 18:18 and Matt. 28:19-20. Human agencies or assemblies look in vain in the Word for divine authorization to "preach the Word" and to administrate the Lord's will for His Churches.

The Holy Spirit, The Keeper Of The Church

The local Church was promised the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, Teacher, Testifier, Preacher, and Guide, to stand in it in the stead of our ascended Lord, John 14:16, 17; John 14:26 John 15:26; and John 16:7-13.

The Holy Spirit came according to promise, and baptized the Church, (Continued on Page Two)

Some Recent Weddings

Nineteen young couples, in the presence of the editor, during recent days, pledged to "bear one another's burdens." To each of these we extend our heartiest congratulations, and wish for each of them a long and happy married life together.

1. Kenneth Stitt, 22, Pottery Worker, and Dorothy Stottsberry, 21, Zanesville, Ohio.

2. James I. Bowling, 28, U. S. Army, and Dorothy Potter, 23, Camp (Continued on Page Two)

The Baptist Examiner

JOHN R. GILPIN EDITOR

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KY. BAPTIST LAYMAN'S EXPERIENCE IN FLORIDA BAPTIST CHURCH

(Continued from Page One)

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." — 2 Thess. 3:6, 14.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." — 2 Tim. 3:5.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath the Father and the Son.

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." — 2 John 1:9-11.

Not only was this Christmas concert a unionistic abortion, — it also took place on Sunday night. The Bible wasn't opened. Not a Scripture was read, and yet the Lord expressly says, "Preach the word."

When the offering was taken, the pastor stated that one-half the offering would go to the Methodists and the other half to the Baptists. How perfectly marvelous! If this had taken place in Moscow, we would not think anything about it. Or if it had been in the jungles of Africa, or among the heathen of India, we would not feel so badly about it. However, for Baptists to thus compromise our position, and in their own church building, surely it is enough to cause Baptists elsewhere to hang their heads in shame.

It might be well to mention in this connection that the pastor of the Baptist church, Robert E. Lee, is a product of the Louisville Seminary. Of course, that would be expected. Like school, like student. When will Kentucky Baptists and Baptists of the South wake up to the fact that every penny given to the Seminary is being spent to produce unionists, modernists, feminists, and Arminians? May God help us!

SOME RECENT WEDDINGS

(Continued from Page One)

Custer, Michigan.

3. Glen Milton Lykins, 37, Bus driver, and Phyllis Marie Kennedy, 23, Lexington, Ky.

4. Harold Robinson, 26, Glass worker, and Willa Adkins, 21, Huntington, West Virginia.

5. William Priest, Jr., 21, Truck driver, and Mable Louise Boor, 21, Hanover, Ohio.

6. Clinton Moore, 21, Snapper, and Helen Pauley, 21, Sumerco, West Va.

1. William Burgess, 21, Factory worker, and Marjorie Newman, 21, Greenfield, Ohio.

2. Clarence Mercer, 21, Inspector, and Bettie Crane, 21, Newark, Ohio.

3. Herbert V. Wilson, 29, Welder, and Maxine Campbell, 21, Clendenin, West Va.

4. Milton McCarthy, 21, Salesman, and Rose Mary Wood, 21, Ironton, Ohio.

5. James Glen Bradley, 27, Shipping clerk, and Ivory Glen Hayes, 21, Yatesville, Ky.

6. Warren Edward Lewis, 21, Machinist, and Norman Irene Powell, 21, Marion, Ohio.

7. Howard Boster, 23, Machinist, and Bettie Willoughby, 21, Huntington, W. Va.

8. Lawrence Edward Dixon, 21, Foundry worker, and Margie Marie Adkins, 21, Ashland, Ky.

9. Donald McCloud, 22, Engineer, and Louise Sagraves, 21, Holden, West Va.

10. Bernard B. Nourse, 23, Ship fitter, and Thelma L. Delph, 24, Portsmouth, Ohio.

11. Ray Dunham, 21, Parts Mgr., and Lora Parsons, 21, Proctor, West Va.

12., mechanic, and, Shadiville, Ohio.

13. Fred E. Wright, Jr., 21, and Laura Mae James, 21, Huntington, West Va.

BIBLES FOR SOLDIER BOYS

(Continued from Page One)

Dec. 28, 1941

Dear Bro. Gilpin:

I received your fine gift today, and was very much surprised. I will take good care of it. I have never read much of the Bible, although I know I should. I don't claim to be a Christian, but I do believe in the good Book and its teachings.

I expect to read more now as I have the Book. I will try to read it through during the coming year and try harder to live closer to its teachings. This will be one of my resolutions for the new year.

Thanking you again, I remain
Your friend,
Sgt. Delbert Puckett
Co. K, 166th Inf.
Camp Shelby, Miss.

Dec. 28, 1941

Dear Sir:

Please accept my sincere thanks for the New Testament that I received from you today.

It is indeed encouraging to know that the folk at home are remembering us men in the service. I am quite sure that a prayer at home will do as much to preserve the freedom of religion and worship that we know, as a machine gun on the battlefield.

Thanking you again, and may God bless you, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,
Herbert B. Perdue
Savannah Air Base
Savannah, Georgia.

Remember, we will send a Bible and personal letter to any of your friends anywhere who are in the service, free of charge, if you will only send us their name and address.

Above all else, pray for the soldier boys!

SOME GOOD NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page One)

church.

RESOLVED, as a teacher of the Sunday School, that I shall be faithful both to the teacher's meeting and the Sunday teaching services, and that I shall strive for the salvation of each member of my Sunday School class.

RESOLVED, as a member of the choir, that I shall be present on all occasions humanly possible, and will take my place willingly, and humbly sing for God's glory.

RESOLVED, that I will absent myself from all union services, and shall never be found compromising our Baptist heritage with heretics during the new year.

RESOLVED, that I will seek to be missionary in deed as in thought, and that I shall give as liberally as God permits to all missionary causes fostered by the church.

And all this, I shall do, so help me God!

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES LOCAL CHURCHES IN MISSION WORK

(Continued from Page One)

and endowed its members, and became its Superintendent, Acts 2:1-4. He is personally in charge of the release of the Church's light. He has endowed and superintended all of the Lord's Churches from the Jerusalem Church down to the present. Thus, the gates of hell have not prevailed against it, Matt. 16:18 and Matt. 28:19-20.

It is thus clear from the Scriptures that the Lord committed the ministry of His Churches to the leadership, endowment, instruction, and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the Holy Spirit keeps the Lord's Churches. They do their work in and through Him. None should lose sight of this stupendous fact.

The Holy Spirit Guides The Lord's Churches At Work

The Church truth that concerns us is set by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. The object lesson on the ministry of the Lord's Churches is set in the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 2:4 to Acts 13:1 deals primarily with the initiation and furtherance of the Church's evangelistic and benevolent labors in regions roundabout under the Holy Spirit's charge. The sending of Barnabas to Antioch by the Church at Jerusalem, Acts 11:22-26, to be an attempt to verify the genuineness of the revival going on there. Acts 13:1 to Acts 28:31 deals primarily with the initiation and furtherance of the Church's mission program in regions abroad under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. No where in the Acts of the Apostles do we find human agencies or assemblies having anything to do with fostering the Lord's evangelistic and mission program through His Church. The Jerusalem council, Acts the 15th chapter, was not a missionary one, but a Church council to settle a doctrinal issue presented to it by the Church at Antioch. A survey of the Epistles of the New Testament re-

veals not one word contrary to the evangelistic and missionary examples set by the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts of the Apostles. No Scripture, either by precept or example, gives authorization to human agencies or assemblies to make programs for the Churches. If we are not willing to accept the import of this, we had better quit quoting "The thus saith the Lord."

Our first major concern is — How the Lord carried on His work in His Churches during the past. The Scriptures show that He carried on under the presence and superintendency of the Holy Spirit. To honor the Master's command, Matt. 28:19-20, the Holy Spirit took the following steps:

A. Preparatory steps —

1. First, He baptized the Jerusalem Church, Acts 2:2. This is the only Holy Ghost baptism recorded in the Scriptures. Every true Church has the Holy Ghost baptism of the first Church of Jerusalem.

2. Second, He signified His miraculous power and approval, Acts 2:3.

3. Third, He endowed the Church for work and it obeyed, Acts 2:4-17.

4. Fourth, He initiated and manifested miracles by certain of the Apostles and disciples, Acts 3:4-9. See also Acts 6:8; Acts 9:33-34; Acts 14:8-10; and Acts 16:16-18.

5. Fifth, He purged the Church of the covetous and the corrupt, Acts 5:1-11. Discipline is essential to spiritual health and power.

B. Evangelistic and missionary steps —

1. Without official Church action, He evangelized from and through the Church at Jerusalem, Acts 2:15-17; Acts 4:4; Acts 4:32 ect. In this role, He prevailingly moved certain Church members to witness for the Church in "regions roundabout" without specific Church action.

(1) He so used Stephen, Acts 6:8 to Acts 7:60.

(2) He so used persecuted Church members scattered to regions "roundabout," Acts 8:1-4. By them, the Holy Spirit preached the gospel.

(3) He so used Phillip, sending him into Samaria to preach, and that he did so very fruitfully is disclosed in Acts 8:5-8. After this, He sends Phillip to join up with the Ethiopian Eunuch to make plain the way of salvation. He led him to accept Christ, and baptized him, and was caught away by the Holy Spirit, Acts 8:26-39. Then, the Holy Spirit sent Phillip to preach in the cities of Azotus, Acts 8:40.

Now, he did all of this "in regions roundabout" as a member of the Church at Jerusalem, he being personally led by the Holy Spirit. Through him and others, the Church was witnessing and founding other Churches, Acts 9:31, the which were comforted by the Holy Spirit.

Please note that while we have no record of official Church action touching the evangelistic labors of the above named brethren, we do find the Holy Spirit of the Jerusalem Church using them as members of the Church.

(4) He so used Peter throughout all of the quarters, comforting, heal-

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"CHRIST'S UNFINISHED WORK"

(Continued from Page One)

I

There is, first of all, His unfinished work with the believer. It is true that each believer is today saved, a child of God, and is already fully redeemed by grace. Yet, the Divine purpose is perfect conformity to the image of Christ. God's purpose and plan for each believer is that of entire conformity to Christ Himself. Listen:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." (Rom. 8:29).

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (I Cor. 15:49).

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil. 3:20, 21).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (I Jn. 3:2).

I say then that God's plan for each of His children is an entire conformity to Christ. It is His purpose that each of us be transformed from the world so that we resemble Himself entirely, and even today, Christ is effecting this transformation of the believer through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor. 3:16).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

However, God's plan is not yet complete, nor are His purposes in this respect fulfilled. There isn't a believer living who perfectly shows forth the image of Christ in his life. There is in each of us, entirely too much of the world. Yet, we do rejoice that some day this transformation will be complete, that each of God's children will ultimately be perfectly conformed to the image of Christ, and throughout eternity will look like the Lord Jesus Himself.

All this will be completed at the time when Christ raptures His saints out of this world. Listen: "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (I Cor. 15:51-53).

What a day it shall be when all liv-

ing believers and all dead saints shall be caught up at the time of Christ's coming, to be with Him. Then we shall all be changed. In that day when mortal shall put on immortality, we shall be completely transformed according to the image of Jesus Himself, and then this phase of Christ's work in the believer will be as complete as is His redemptive work now for the children of God.

II

In the second place, there is Christ's unfinished work with the Jews. Through the ages, Jesus' purpose for the Jews has remained unchanged. It has always been his desire that they shall be for Him a kingdom of priests. Listen: "Now therefore, if we will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." (Ex. 19:5,6).

Everyone knows today how far short the Jews of the world are from God's ideal. Even those of Jewish descent who may be listening to this broadcast, realize that this purpose has never been fulfilled except in a small measure, because of their unfaithfulness to Christ and their disobedience to the commands of God.

That you might see that the Jews are far from God's ideal, and that His work with them is far from finished, we will note this Scripture: "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! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Matt. 23:37-39). You will notice in this Scripture, among other things, that He declares to the Jews, "Your house is left unto you desolate."

In fact, at present the Jews are spiritually blind. Listen: "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Rom. 11:25). This accounts for their rejection of the Lord Jesus. This accounts for their complete refusal to accept Him as a Saviour. In His Word, God Himself thus declares that they are spiritually blind. Certainly this would indicate that His work with them is unfinished, and that it will not be complete until their blindness is removed.

However, there is a day coming when the Jews are going to be regathered. Eventually they are going to all be saved, "A nation be born at once." (Isa. 66:8).

There are many promises which tell us that Israel, as a nation, is yet to be saved.

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Rom.

11:26).

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land." (Jer. 23:7, 8).

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." (Zech. 13:8,9).

I grant you that this is yet in the future. However, there is a day when after two-thirds of the Jews fall in battle, that the remaining one-third shall receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour—all in one day's time—yea, even in a moment's time.

And then, God's purpose for the Jews will be complete. His work which today is unfinished, will then be finished.

They shall go forth as missionaries to the Gentiles. Listen: "And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles." (Isa. 66:19).

Thus, ultimately His purpose of making the Jews a kingdom of priests, shall be finished, whereas it remains unfinished today.

III

In the third place, there is His unfinished work with false churches. When the Lord Jesus was here in the days of His flesh, He established His own church. Listen: "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." (Matt. 16:18). The word "my", being singular itself, indicates that He was to build but one. From whence then has come all the so-called churches and the confusion which exists in Christendom to day?

Irrespective of the origin of this confusion, the fact remains that Christ built His church, and that churches just like the pattern which He gave us at Jerusalem, are still existing and bearing witness and testimony for Him here within this world.

Yet, along side these true churches, are these false churches built by man and Satan. Christ has not finished with these as yet. He has told us what He expects to do, and, of course, He will ultimately do that which He has said. Listen: "But he answered, and said, Every plant, which my Heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (Matt. 15:13). In the light of this Scripture, all churches which He has not built,

shall be rooted up.

Listen again: "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." (Rev. 17:16). The old "whore" of this chapter and her harlot daughters represent the false churches of the world. You will note that the prophecy is that they are to be completely destroyed. I say then that His dealings with these false churches is part of His unfinished work which ultimately He will complete and finally bring to pass.

IV

Then, in the fourth place, there is His unfinished work with the world of mankind. Christ has a purpose so far as this world is concerned—namely, to reign over it. That purpose is expressed by the Psalmist, David: "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psa. 2:6-9).

However, though this is His purpose, and will ultimately be accomplished, He is not doing so at present. Listen: "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (Psa. 110:1). You will notice that this text says that He is to sit and wait until his enemies are made His footstool. I think that He is waiting for three reasons:

First of all, He is waiting to allow man to demonstrate his inability to order his own course. Listen: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23). Man, from beginning to end has been a failure. This is true in every phase of life. Every form of government has been tried by man, from absolute monarchy to absolute socialism. Every kind of religion has been tried. Every kind of philosophical schemes have been tried, and yet man is, and has always been, a failure from beginning to end. I say then that God is waiting for man to realize his inability in ordering his own course.

Then there is a second reason why that God is waiting. He is today, through the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity, convicting the world. Listen: "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." (John 16:8-11).

Then, there is a third reason for His waiting—namely, that He is withholding judgment until the elect shall be saved. God has elected a certain group unto Himself. He is not willing that any of these should perish. He remembers His promise concerning each of these elect, and there-

fore He is with-holding judgment until each of them can be saved. Listen: "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).

Though He is waiting, yet some day He is going to rule over this world. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Rev. 20:4-6).

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10, 11).

I repeat then that His purpose of reigning over this world of mankind, which is as yet unfinished, will one day be complete, and that every one of this world, whether saved or lost, willingly or unwillingly, shall bow their knee and confess that Christ is Lord to the praise of God the Father.

V

Then finally, there is Christ's unfinished work with Satan. Christ's purpose with the Devil is to destroy him. He is to bring him to naught. Listen: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." (Heb. 2:14).

It was prophesied in Eden's Garden that Christ would bruise Satan's head. In His death and resurrection, Jesus did this, so that Satan stands now as one who has already been judged and condemned. "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." (Jn. 12:31).

Though Satan stands judged and condemned today, and though Christ's purpose is to destroy him, yet He allows the Devil to try the children of God. This gives added glory to each believer in Heaven. "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 1:6,7).

It likewise reveals the power of His grace in the believer. Listen: "My

grace is sufficient for thee." (2 Cor. 12:9).

When Christ comes to reign here in this world during the millennium, the Devil will be bound. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Rev. 20:1-3).

After this millennium of a thousand years of peace and prosperity during which time Satan is bound, he will then be loosed or a little season. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." (Rev. 20:7).

Eventually, Satan shall be cast into the lake of fire. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev. 20:10).

Thus Christ's purpose for the Devil will be finally and gloriously fulfilled.

This then, is Christ's unfinished work. He wants each believer to be perfect. He wants each Jew to be a priest to Him. He expects to destroy all false churches. He will ultimately reign over this world. He will some day destroy Satan. These purposes shall finally be complete, and this work ultimately be finished.

This being true, if you wish to be at peace with Him both here and hereafter, then you need to be definitely aligned with Jesus and with the church which He came to build.

May it please our Heavenly Father to grant to some unsaved one today the gifts of repentance and faith, that you might now become a child of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12).

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES LOCAL CHURCHES IN MISSION WORK

(Continued from page two)

ing, witnessing, and doing marvelous things, Acts 9:22 to Acts 10:48, and upon his return to the Church at Jerusalem, Peter vindicated the Church's ministry among the Gentiles, Acts, 11:18. Later when the persecution was renewed, Peter was arrested and put in stocks, and the Lord delivered him by His angel from his bonds and restored him to a praying group of the Jerusalem Church, Acts 12:1-19. Peter was directed by the Holy Spirit of the Church, Acts 10:19.

2. With official Church action, He instituted His mission program in "regions abroad" through the Antioch Church. He had the Church there to set forth Paul and Barnabas to do mission work "abroad," Acts 13:1-4. Thus, missionary endeavor was officially instituted by a local

Church. These brethren went forth preaching, founding Churches in Asia Minor, and later ordained Elders in every Church, Acts 14:23. These victories were wrought by the Church at Antioch under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Through this Church, He initiated and personally superintended their labors.

By this example, we can but conclude that missionaries of the New Testament Churches were sent forth by the Holy Spirit. Moreover, we can but conclude that the "messengers of the Churches," 2 Cor. 9:19-23, were chosen by the local Churches individually without "messenger assembly" recommendations. According to the light the Scriptures throw, the work of the Lord is changelessly centered in His Churches under the supervision and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Rebel Christians are not Spirit led. I think that professed witnesses for Christ, who move independent of Church authority, are actually apostate. We can't persist in ignoring the Holy Spirit of our Churches and preserve the faith in so doing. The Church is the pillar and the ground of the truth, 1 Tim. 3:15. When apostasy sets in, we can't hope to save all for the faith. Unity can not be preserved by maintaining compromise as a principle of procedure. God forbids such, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it," Isa. 30:21.

Our second major concern is — How does the Lord carry on His Church work today? Since the Lord changes not, Heb. 13:8, and since the Holy Spirit came to the Church to abide in it and with it forever, John 14:16-17, and since He alone has divine authority to speak for Christ, the Church's Founder and Head, John 16:3, we must conclude that the Lord carries on His work in His Churches today as at the beginning. Churches moving today as Apostolic Churches moved can't be going wrong. Accordingly, we should follow the example set by the Apostolic Churches. The Lord shows us by example how to do His work. His program today, as yesterday, is a Church-centered and Holy Spirit-guided program.

The Lord's Way Summarized

The Father founded His Church-witness through His Son, Mark 3:13-14 and Luke 6:12-13.

The Son carries on His work through the local Churches only, and in this work He moves in two ways:

(1) In regions roundabout, He evangelizes by using local Church members without securing official Church actions for every move — Workers apparently being known roundabout, do not need Church recommendation.

(2) In regions abroad, He does missionary work by having local Churches officially commend certain of its members for such work, or workers of other Churches Acts 13:1-4 and 2 Cor. 19:23. Workers being unknown abroad, need official Church action to strengthen and commend them.

In this connection, the burden of three divine ministries should never be overlooked. 'Twas the work of the Son to sell the heavenly Father to

the sons of men as a friend of man, Matt. 6:9 and Matt. 25:34. 'Tis the work of the Holy Spirit to sell the Son to the sons of men as the Saviour from sin, John 15:26 and John 16:13. And 'Tis the work of the Church, Christ's body, to sell the Holy Spirit to the sons of men as the vice-gerent of Christ in the Churches, Rev. 2:7 and 11 and 17 and 29; and Rev. 3:6 and 12 and 22. To do this, Churches most look to Him for guidance and direction in the Lord's work. We must look to Him, not to Boards or Assemblies unrecognized or authorized by the Scriptures as agents of divine on-go.

Let's Beware

Baptists can't consistently stand for the redelegation of Church authority. To do so condemns us of inconsistency. Upon this false assumption, Catholics have erected their hierarchy; Pseudo-Baptists have erected their episcopal organizations; and modern Baptists are erecting their unscriptural man-made machines. I have just as much spiritual respect for hierarchies and episcopacies, as I have for the Baptist machines, humanly motivated and guided. No Baptist has a Scriptural right to assume that a state or a national Association has authority to transact business for our Churches. To be consistent, all Baptists practicing the redelegation of Church authority should quit "laying it on the acre backs" of Catholics and Episcopacies because such Baptists, in their method of procedure, stand upon the same false assumption that Catholics and Pseudo-Baptists stand upon. The redelegation of Church authority now used by some Baptists to make a program for our Churches is the same authority that Pseudo-Baptists used to legislate sprinkling and pouring for baptism. Such is presumptuous sin. God forbid that we Baptists should perpetuate it.

Now, until some one is able to show by the Scriptures another method of doing the Lord's work, we shall have to accept the method exemplified by the Scriptures in this study, as well as the conclusions drawn therefrom. No one can gainsay this.

Some one might contend that such a program followed would be inefficient. But is such an argument an argument of faith? I believe the Holy Spirit qualifies to bring our Churches to keep step together in missions and benevolence if we'll just look to Him. To look to Him is to honor Him. To look to Boards and Committees is to shame Him. He is the Superintendent of evangelism and missions — Let's let Him do it. The Apostolic Churches did so, and who among us could do other than hang our heads in shame upon seeing our labors set up by the side of the labors of the Apostolic Churches.

I believe with all of my heart in Churches keeping step together in missions. I believe we shall do so Scripturally, only when we subtract all human wisdom and expediency from our program, and lean trustingly on the Holy Spirit for absolute initiation, guidance, and control.