

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With A National Circulation

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions, and Bible Doctrines

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

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

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WHOLE NO. 330

Unionism Paralyzes The Spiritual Life Of Any Baptist Church

By Lee Rector, Ardmore, Okla.

Satan knows that unionizing worship adulterates the church's message, produces spiritual weakness, jelly-izes spiritual backbones, and destroys cardinal doctrines. He knows that spiritual weakness comes from shallow, vacillating, and loose beliefs. Knowing these things, he practices the arts of deceit, and poor, silly, shallow saints "love to have it that way."

Unionism is an insult to horse-sense, as well as an insult to the intelligence of the race. By Amos, the Lord enquires, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:2. To assume unity when the churches hold many divergent beliefs is ominously hypocritical.

Unionism can do nothing less than abort the ministry of the Holy Spirit in burning souls into the family of God, because it adulterates the gospel and the Word. How can sprinklers of babies and practitioners of immersion be agreed? How can baptismal regenerationists and Orthodox Baptists stand together on the plan of salvation? How can Catholic hierarchs and Baptists individualists find common grounds upon which to stand? How can deniers of the Virgin birth and Baptists extollers of said miracle be agreed? How can cultists and Baptists find fellowship together? Unity rests upon the common acceptance of the Faith.

Unionism in worship can produce organizational strength, but never spiritual strength. It would set up human controls in the place of the Holy Spirit's supervision and endowment. It would outlaw every cardinal of the Scriptures, every divine tradition of the church of the loving God, and every spiritual right of the individual in order to show a common front.

The movement of Unionism paves the way for Satan's coming international religious organization, Rev. 13:11-18. He will realize it one day through the application of his seductive arts.

Ex-County Judge J. R. Shepherd of Greencup County, Kentucky who has been a real friend to this editor through the years that have passed by, even though he is not a Baptist, sends us \$5.00 for our radio broadcast. This gift is deeply appreciated.

Rules For Bible Reading

1. Read and study the Bible. God gave us the Bible to read and also to study.
2. Every person should read the Bible through at least once every year. To do this, read three chapters every weekday and five on Sunday. If this kept up daily, you will get through about three days before the year is up.
3. Spend at least fifteen minutes to

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A CONTRAST BETWEEN BAPTISTS AND CATHOLICS

BAPTISTS

1. Congregational church.
2. Christ the head.
3. Salvation in Christ.
4. Total depravity.
5. Salvation by grace.
6. Christ forgives sins.
7. Imputed righteousness.
8. Salvation.
9. Security.
10. Bible for all.
11. Private interpretation.
12. Bible the guide.
13. Infallible Bible.
14. Separation of Church and State.
15. Church democracy.
16. Congregational church.
17. Freedom of conscience.
18. Ministerial equality.
19. Obedience to Christ.
20. Two ordinances.
21. Baptism a symbol.
22. Immersion — baptism.
23. Baptism for believers.
24. Lord's Supper memorial.
25. Consists of bread and wine.
26. Refuse state aid.
27. Separation of church and state.
28. Religious liberty.
29. Confess to God.
30. Pray to God by Christ.
31. One mediator — Christ.
32. A poor Jesus.
33. Jesus in a manger.
34. Jesus in swaddling clothes.
35. Baptist preachers marry.
36. Ask forgiveness of God.

CATHOLICS

1. Universal church.
2. Pope the head.
3. Salvation in the church.
4. Inherent good.
5. Salvation by works.
6. Priest forgives sins.
7. Self Righteousness.
8. Probation.
9. Apostasy.
10. Bible for officials.
11. Pope interpretation.
12. Church the guide.
13. Infallible pope.
14. State church.
15. Church autocracy.
16. Hierarchy.
17. Mental and spiritual bondage.
18. Grades in ministry.
19. Obedience to pope.
20. Seven sacraments.
21. Baptismal regeneration.
22. Affusion baptism.
23. Baptism for unbelievers.
24. Sacramental.
25. Real body and blood of God.
26. Catholics seek it.
27. Union of church and state.
28. Religious persecution.
29. Confess to the priest.
30. Pray to Virgin Mary.
31. Many, the dead saints.
32. A rich pope.
33. Pope in the Vatican.
34. Pope decorated with gold.
35. Catholics do not.
36. Catholics go to mass.

Baptists and Catholics hold nothing in common. The above contrast will convey the difference. Which do you accept? or do you take part of one and part of the other? I am glad to claim one side only.

Jewish Rabbi, Converted from Judaism, Spiritism and Christian Science

By MAX WERTHEIMER

I was born of German-speaking, orthodox Jewish parents, who raised me as a Jew. I was taught to always turn my back upon any picture or figure of Jesus Christ and to spit at the very mention of His name.

After I graduated from college I decided to become a Rabbi. The course offered was an eight-year course. In June, 1889, after the eight years' course was completed, nine of us in the class were ordained in the presence of a number of visiting Ra-

bis.

The first call I received was to become the administering rabbi at the Bnei Yeshurun Temple at Dayton, Ohio. I was there for ten years. I had a lecture on Friday evening and a sermon on Saturday morning.

One day, in conversation with a Jewish official, I was told that I should join a lodge. So I joined the Masonic lodge. I became a Master Mason and chaplain of the lodge. I was happily married to a woman who

was a concert pianist and organist, and we often went to the theatre. I was getting a fine salary, had a ten-room house and a nice baby boy. That theatre visitation became a mania to us, and sometimes I would hurry through my Friday night services in the Jewish Temple to go to the theatre.

Then something happened. My wife took sick and died, leaving me with a boy two and a half years old and

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The First Baptist Pulpit

"WHEN FOUNDATIONS CRUMBLE"

Text: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3).

Everybody knows that the foundation is the most important part of a structure. Regardless of its cost, no house is any better than the foundation upon which it rests. As a good example of this fact, in the city of Philadelphia, opposite the Eastern Theological Seminary, there is a two

million dollar hotel building which has never been used. Just before it was completed, a building inspector found that improper materials had been used in the foundation and, thereby, condemned it before it was ever completed. There it stands, practically completed — the very finest of workmanship, excepting that the foundation is faulty — and, thereby, is worthless.

In view of the fact that this is true, then how much more so is this true spiritually! Since the foundation of a material house is of utmost importance, then it is even more true that our spiritual foundations are of the utmost importance.

The foundations of society and civilization are being destroyed. When

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An Experience In Looking For The Perfect Church

"Well, Margaret, I'm through with our church," said Uncle Dave to his wife on Sunday, after they had returned from the morning service. "Well, what's happened now?" asked Aunt Margaret; "I haven't heard of any new trouble, and the old ones are just the usual things you find in any church."

"Now, Margaret, I cannot believe that. Do you mean to infer that there is backbiting, jealousy and gossip in every church; that there is no church without them? Tut! tut! there must be a church somewhere where there is no quarrelling and fighting, and I am going to visit all the churches until I find one where all the people love each other." Uncle Dave leaned back in his chair with an air of determination, as he continued: "What do you think I heard just this morning? One of our officials is not so honest in his business, and if everything they told me is true, he is a little shady in his church dealings, too."

"And so, David MacIntosh is going to join the 'Wandering Saints' and begin looking for the 'Perfect Church,'" said Aunt Margaret.

"'Wandering Saints,' what do you mean? I never heard of them."

"Well, they are people just like yourself, who have

TAKEN THEIR EYES OFF THE LORD

and are looking at the faults and failings of poor human beings. They are looking for perfection in everybody but themselves. Instead of staying in their own church and being a blessing, and showing the others what a perfect Christian looks like (this with a little touch of sarcasm), they wander from church to church; and from one revival to another. They become a curse to every church they visit, for they not only wander themselves, but like wandering sheep they influence others to wander with them. They fail to find the 'Perfect Church,' for the others are just like the one they left. They decide now to be 'freelancers,' 'sermon tasters.' You can see them in every revival meeting. They come; and, like the tramps, they have the 'give me' spirit but rarely have anything to give themselves."

"But Margaret," protested Uncle Dave, for he seldom had seen his

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Hearsay

The late Mr. William McLean tells how he was rebuked, and humbled, and how he learned a good lesson. On a certain occasion he repeated a grave matter that he had heard to the late Dr. Maslean, of Bath, who, having listened quietly, referred him to Deuteronomy 13:14, and asked him:

"Have you, dear brother, enquired?"

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN—EDITOR

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RAMBLING WITH THE EDITOR

One of our most faithful friends is Mrs. William L. Stephens of Whiteley City, Kentucky. It was a joy to have her recently to worship with us in our Sunday services. It is a joy from Sunday to Sunday to have various friends in our Sunday services. In spite of all efforts of enemies and Satan, I am still pastor of the same church that I have been pastor of for the past fifteen years. Am now in my sixteenth year and God is wonderfully blessing us. Please accept this as an invitation to worship with us any Sunday, with the understanding that you take dinner in my home afterwards. We love to have our friends visit us.

Another faithful friend and contributor to this paper is Brother Charles Burns of Buchanan, Ky. As the years have passed by, he has been a real helper in sending out God's Word. Blessings on him! May his tribe increase!

Although we never mention the matter of money, nor make appeals for it, nor acknowledge contributions over the air, our friends are not lax in their support of the programs which we conduct. We acknowledge herewith a contribution from Elder and Mrs. E. W. Lambert of Louisa, Kentucky for our radio work.

"Did I preach too long?" asked a preacher after finishing his message. "No," his friend answered, "You did not preach too long, but you talked too long after you stopped preaching."

Brother Levi Bontrager of Greenwood, Delaware echoes the very sentiments within the soul of this editor when he says, "I contend that the Sermon on the Mount is for our day. Therefore, in the light of Mt. 5:39, is the Christian required to sacrifice these Gospel principles and go to war when the government calls? Is not the conscientious objector taking a true stand when he refuses to participate in the carnal conflict of war and blood-shed?" Amen, my brother, I agree with you!

It is just impossible to say how much we do appreciate the letters which this editor receives daily, yet they always do us good. Particularly is that true of the recent letter, with contribution, and new "subs" from Mrs. Anna Barker, of Boston, Massachusetts. She is matron of a home

for young married men who are studying for the ministry in Boston University. She says, "Thus you see I have ample opportunity to preach to them. Did I say 'preach?' You do not approve of women preachers and neither do I, yet I do have here a great opportunity in witnessing to these men."

Elder E. Pitt Woodroof, of Memphis, Tennessee, asked recently for sample copies of this paper, which we sent him. He said he had read our paper when in the Seminary. After receiving these samples, he replied saying, "Enclosed is \$1.00 for a two years subscription. After looking over these copies I know that you are still sticking to the Word. It truly gets first place in your paper."

One of the editor's nephews, and his name ask incidentally, John Claire Alexander, has recently been called of God into the ministry. Of course he is a Missionary Baptist, and if the editor has his way, he'll be a truly Scriptural one. May God bless him as he begins his ministry for our Lord!

In South America there are regions 25 times the size of England without a single witness for Christ.

JEWISH RABBI, CONVERTED FROM JUDAISM

(Continued from page one)

a baby three months old. My wife was buried in her wedding garments at the age of 23. I took charge of the little boy, and her grandmother took charge of the little girl. A lady about sixty years old came to my house as a housekeeper so I could keep my little boy with me. The silence, sadness, and monotony of such a home is known to all who have passed through such a trial.

I ATTEND A SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCE

One day while I was out walking a tall old gentleman stopped me and, putting his hands on my shoulders, said that was very sorry for the affliction that had befallen me. This man used to be a judge. He took me to a spiritualistic seance. He had been going to such places for twenty years, ever since he had lost a baby girl. I went there with him time and time again while I was officiating as a rabbi. At the first seance I heard voices through trumpets and all the rest of it. I returned home in a state of conflicting emotions. Letting myself in with my key, I locked the door after me and went to my room, locking that door also. My little boy slept on a couch in my room, and after kissing him good-night, I retired. Then I heard rappings all around my bed. This was the beginning of noises and disturbances which continued for days, weeks and months and made my days miserable and my nights horrible.

Then ten years of my rabbinical administration were drawing to a close, and I resigned to do some private thinking. The thought came to me every morning: Where is the one who was your inspiration? Where is her music? Where is her loving advice and counsel and companionship?

I ACCEPT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

One morning my housekeeper gave me a copy of Science and Health. As I began to read, and wade through the metaphysical terms I became aware of the Scientists' desire to do

something for the sick. That appealed to me, and, to make a long story short, I accepted Christian Science. I received letters of condemnation and approbation. One letter came from Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy herself, and at her expense I went to Chicago as a student of Christian Science. After two weeks' instruction I went back to Dayton and practised Christian Science. Then she asked me to come to Boston for instruction in a college for a few specially chosen people. When I went back to Dayton I became first the first reader of the Second Church of Christ Scientist, and then the first reader of the first Church. On one occasion a young lady came to one of those meetings and introduced herself to me. She was very kind and amiable, and later, five years after the death of my first wife, she became Mrs. Wertheimer.

Some six or seven weeks after this I received an invitation to dinner from a lady who lived in the suburbs of Cincinnati. This lady had been an Episcopalian, but had lapsed into Science. After dinner my hostess said she had never been able to heal a single person. That startled me, because there were many others who were not as well liked or of as good a character as this lady. I said to myself that there was a screw loose somewhere, and I determined to discover it. As I knelt down in the privacy of my study room thinking of these things, a line from Mrs. Eddy's writing came to my mind — "The blood of Christ as it was shed on the cursed tree had no more power to forgive sins than it did while it was coursing through His veins while He was going about His Father's business." Then an Old Testament scene came to my mind. In spite of the plagues, the children of Israel remained slaves until the time of the Passover and the blood. That secured the emancipation and the liberty that Israel was to get. I said to myself: "God makes something of the blood."

Then there came a second scene before me. It was this: When the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:23) there were criminal, civil and social laws. In spite of all these four chapters of laws, Jehovah God had never entered into covenant relationship with Israel. In Exodus 24 the directions for sprinkling the blood of the oxen on the pillars and on the people were given, and after this was done Jehovah God entered into covenant relationship with Israel. God does make something of the blood.

Then came a third scene. On the day of Atonement, only the High Priest was permitted to go into the Holy of Holies after he had put his hands on the bullock and when he brought the blood of the animal as a testimonial that he had died in the person of that sacrifice. After the sprinkling of the blood, he heard the words of Jehovah in pardon and forgiveness. Mrs. Eddy says that the blood is a belief of mortal mind, an error, a delusion.

Then there came to my mind a scene that I tried to dismiss from my consciousness. As a Christian Scientist and a Jew, I had no relation to the Cross. It says in the Scriptures, "Cursed is he that trusts in a man." I went to the Old Testament and found in Isaiah 53:11, "By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities." In the seminary we were taught that this had reference to the Jews, who were to bear the

sins of the Gentiles. Strange that this should be in Isaiah 53, from which the Jews were not allowed to preach.

MY EYES ARE OPENED

After studying the Scriptures thoroughly I discovered that Jesus was Jehovah and the Jewish Messiah. When I found that out I fell on my knees and said: "Thou hast opened my eyes, and now I know that it was Thou who was wounded for my transgressions and bruised for my iniquity. I know it—now give me the grace to believe it and the courage to confess it."

When I had acknowledged that and prayed for grace and ability so to say in public, instantly there fell a burden on my heart. I took a sheet of foolscap paper and divided it into two columns. In one column I wrote what Mrs. Eddy says on Christian Science, and in the other column I write what the Word of God says on the same subject. Instantly I was made aware that Mrs. Eddy had a false conception of Jesus.

Then I decided to talk to my wife. I brought the foolscap paper and the Bible to her and told her that I had found that Christian Science was a masterpiece of the devil and that we must get out of it and take a public stand. She said "No," so I did not talk further. I thought I had better not make any kind of an argument with my wife, but prayed that the Lord would open her eyes to the truth. Several weeks passed, and one day she said, "I should like to see the black and white of this question on Christian Science." She took the paper and Bible and studied it for several days. She then said, "If what you say is true, and I do not say it is not, why do you not have it published?" I asked her how I could do that if we did not make a concerted stand. Then the Holy Spirit wonderfully entered her heart and changed her entire life. She used to be very fond of dancing and would rather dance than eat. When the Holy Spirit came into her heart and she received Jesus Christ as her Saviour and Lord, she lost all desire to dance. When she studied the Word of God, she suddenly saw herself lost and undone and cried to God. The Holy Spirit flooded her soul, and she became one of the sweetest Christians.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE RENOUNCED

I listened to my wife and took the foolscap paper with its fourteen points and rewrote, revised and amplified it and had it published in "The Evening News" of Dayton, Ohio. When I went into Christian Science they made a big scene about it, so I thought that if I had been deceiving some people I ought to come out and tell them I had changed my mind. It created quite an uproar in Dayton.

One summer, thirteen years later, I revised and amplified that tract and had it published as a sixty-page booklet. The Lord has been using that book to bring scores and scores out of Christian Science. This material was like a bombshell. The Word of God is the standard by which all teaching should be weighed.

I was saved from Judaism. Every New Year's Day and every Day of Atonement we confess our sins, not personally but in a group. No one ever says, "I am a sinner." It takes the grace and power of God to say

that. We cannot be saved in a group. That is not the way God does it. I remember when I was at home my father used to take a rooster and swing it over his head and say, "This rooster goes to death, but I go free." God never said anything about a rooster. God does not take an exchange like that. Even as a child I rebelled against that, because I could not see any connection. Now if I make any mistakes I do not have to wait until Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) for forgiveness, but go to headquarters immediately. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." John 1:9.

I was also

SAVED FROM SPIRITUALISM

Those raps that came annoyed me and made life miserable. Even after I believed in Jesus Christ I could hear those raps coming in my room. I used to go to prayer meetings and believed in Jesus, but still the raps came. One day I said out loud: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I command you to leave this house." Since then twenty-nine years have come and gone without a single rap, because the Lord Jesus Christ is the Master of all those things. Why do they not leave before? Because I never made an out-and-out, complete stand for the Lord. I went to the devil's territory and the devil's forces walked home with me. They will do that for you. A lot of people go into spiritualism and play with ouija boards and the like, but it is at the peril of their souls. It was only the goodness and mercy and love of God that lifted that from my mind.

I was saved from the theatre and the pleasures of the world. No one stepped up to me and said he would shoot me if I did not quit going to the theatre. I was not converted in a church, but by the Holy Spirit in the privacy of my study room. AS on what ground did I leave the theatre and pleasures of the world? Because I had something better.

One day my wife heard from a neighbor that there was a preacher who was preaching on Christ's second coming. We walked about two miles to his church, and I heard for the first time a man speaking on that subject. The preacher had a wonderful way of presenting the Word of God. We went again and again. One Friday night the man said that every Christian had to make three confessions. The first was by word of mouth, the second by being buried with Christ in Baptism, and the third by living out the baptised life. That gave me food for thought for several weeks to come. I could not get over it and could not get around it. We came to the conclusion that we must come up to God's requirements and one evening took our first stand for the Jesus Christ and were baptised. That changed my life. I started to preach the gospel to the Jews and to the Gentiles. Some people said there must be something in it when a rabbi would leave his synagogue. To-day the Jewish synagogue would pay me a large sum if I would step out of the Christian ministry, but I have fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

I thank God for the privilege of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ, and for the experience which brought me through victorious to the praise and the glory of His grace.

JUNE 30, 1944

WHEAT FOUNDATIONS
CRUMBLE

(Continued from page one)
World War I was being fought, a committee from this country visited France and brought back a report of the civilization of France. They

NOT WORTH SAVING

in substance; "We are supposed to be fighting a war to save civilization, but we doubt seriously if the civilization that we have seen is worth saving." A slogan of World War I was, "Make the World Safe for Democracy." Today it would be well if our slogan might be, "Make the World Safe for Decency." Certainly the foundations upon which civilization rests today are being shaken. There is, first of all, the foundation of the home itself. Home is merely a word; it is not a symbol. It no longer symbolizes happiness, love, and fire-side contentment.

I expect there is a great deal of truth in the statement a young girl made to a realtor, telling him that she did not need to buy a house. She said, "I was born in a hospital, brought up in a nursery, and educated in a boarding school. I eat at the restaurant and am entertained at the movies. I am courted in a coupe, I will be married in a church, and will be buried from the undertaker's. I don't need a house. All I need is a garage with a bed-room over it."

Certainly with that attitude, home is a thing of the past. There used to be a cartoon entitled "The Great American Home," which appeared in one of the papers when I was a boy, whereby the author attempted to depict scenes of home life; but the great American home is a thing of the past. There is no sanctity there; there is no contentment; there is but little love. Homes are torn asunder by divorces for the merest pretext. I feel sorry for the children who grow up today with no recollection of a happy home.

When the shades of evening begin to gather, Fido is brought into the house for a bath and his supper, and is put to bed; while little Willie is permitted to stay on the streets and probably is given fifty cents to take in a theater. His mother is over next door playing bridge, while his father is gone to the club or lodge; so there really isn't any place for Willie, except in bed or out on the streets.

There is a very pertinent Scripture which has to do with our home:

"WORSE THAN INFIDELS"

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." — I Timothy 5:8.

Lots of parents provide for their families mentally in that they take care of their education. They provide for them physically in that they see that the children are properly sheltered, fed, and clothed. Yet, this, I think, means more than this. I think that Holy Writ would remind us that parents owe more than mental and physical care to their children. God declares by these words that if the spiritual side be neglected, parents are, thereby, worse than infidels.

I insist, beloved, that the home, which should be first and paramount as one of the foundations of civilization, is being rapidly and surely destroyed.

The Lord's Day is another foundation which is fast crumbling. In fact, it is already practically destroyed in America. There is a little poem which says:

"A Sunday well spent

Brings a week of content,
And joy for the cares of tomorrow;
But a Sunday profaned —
Whatever be gained —
Is a sure forerunner of sorrow."

God's day is a holy day, but with most people today it is a holiday. With the American public, it is no longer "Sunday," but "sin day." It is a day for frolics, excursions, picnics, pleasure trips. Instead of a day wherein God is remembered and His Word revered, it is a day wherein sinful pleasures are exalted and magnified, while God is minimized.

We, especially, are living in a section where men work particularly on Sunday. I think that many of these men in this industrial area would not do so, if it were not for the extra pay that Sunday work brings.

Whenever I think how God's Day is abused, I think of the words of Paul:

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." — Hebrews 10:25.

I am convinced that God's Day, as a day of reverence and worship, is one of the foundations of civilization; and, yet, this foundation is practically destroyed in the life of our nation. There are very few communities where His day is given but very little reverence.

Another foundation that is being destroyed is that of education. The old McGuffey Reader and the other readers that were published about the same period were filled with good moral stories which were based on the Bible. Seventy per cent of them were of a Biblical nature. Today, less than three per cent of the stories in readers are based on God's Word. Instead, there are

FAIRY STORIES.

One educator explained to me that the change was made in order to stimulate the imagination of the children. Well, frankly, the three children that God has given to me have not needed anything to stimulate their imagination. It would have been mighty well in many instances to have had something to curb it.

Our schools exist in the main as the very antithesis of our churches. I am convinced that the average high school student graduating this year would be far better off spiritually, if he signed his name with an "X" and had never seen the inside of a high school. I have noticed in our own church that just as soon as the young people get into high school, their spirituality begins to wane. Thank God, there have been some notable exceptions here in our church; but in the main, the majority of high school students have graduated bereft of any spiritual convictions.

Of course, there is a reason. The teachers, in the main, are modernists, having been educated in modern institutions. God's Word is neglected. Materialism and materialistic philosophies are taught. It is only logical that the educational foundation would crumble.

Another foundation of our civilization is the Word of God as our final authority. To me, the Word of God is final in every particular. It is my authority for what I believe and do. No one ought ever to think of going beyond it. Listen to these Scriptures:

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

"Every word of God is pure, he is a shield unto them that put their

trust in him.

"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." — Proverbs 30:5, 6.

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." — Revelation 22:18, 19.

These Scriptures declare that the Word of God is our authority and that it is final in every particular. It is not to be added to, nor taken from. Through the years gone by, it has been the bed-rock of our country. The thought of the Word as our final authority was the foundation upon which our Puritan forefathers settled this land and established our constitution.

But today, the Word of God is not considered as authoritative. Whatever man believes is put on a par with, and often superior, to the Word of God. It is even getting to the place in most sections of supposed culture that for one to declare his belief in the infallible, literal, inspired Word of God, causes his associates

WITCHES AT SALEM

to think of him about as we think of the witches and witchcraft of Salem, Massachusetts. Yet, what else can we expect when even our seminary professors deny the literal, inspired Word of God. As a result, this foundation has crumbled.

Another foundation of civilization is that of honesty. Old Diogenes went about the streets of his city in broad day light with a lighted lantern looking for an honest man. Today we would have a difficult time to find such. I am convinced that even the average church member, if he were to get more money in change than was coming to him, that he would think himself fortunate. In fact, I have known of church members who have thus congratulated themselves on their good fortune, forgetting entirely that theirs was an act of dishonesty.

Yet the whole country is shot thru and thru with thoughts of dishonesty. Every year here in Kentucky in the month of May a horse race is run in Louisville, called the Derby, whereby multiplied thousands, gamble millions of dollars. Over at Washing-

MISREPRESENTED

ton the senators and representatives who mis-represent us have even proposed a national lottery to keep our government out of debt. Last year in Kentucky one of the individuals who made the race for office of lieutenant-governor did so on a ticket espousing a state lottery annually to keep the state out of debt. It would be well for all these to remember what God says about honesty.

"As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." — Jeremiah 17:11.

Just as the foundation of the home, the Lord's Day, and the Bible as our authority, so the foundation of honesty has crumbled too.

Even the foundation of morals is gone. Listen to these Scriptures:

"For by means of a whorish woman

a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" — Proverbs 6:26, 27.

"Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

"But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell." — Proverbs 9:17, 18.

Last October I rode on a bus from Jackson to Grand Rapids, Michigan, seated next to a young woman who was going home from working in a defense plant in Detroit. In the course of the conversation, she said, "Morals are a thing of yesterday."

Just recently I was riding on a bus from Frankfort to Lexington, Kentucky. A young lady whose home was in Lexington, and who was a WAVE on her way home for a leave from a camp in Kansas, upon learning that I was a preacher, mentioned the terrible conditions of immorality around the camps. She said: "It is no pleasure to go for an evening's date; for the joy is always taken away before the evening is over by having to take a stand for one's virtue."

HOW TO SIN SUCCESSFULLY

Even the chaplains in our army are compelled to give instructions to the lads in service as to the use of prophylactics. Not one word is said to the chaplains about teaching the lads of the Lord Jesus, but rather there is a tacit approval of immorality in that the chaplains are to instruct in the use of prophylactics.

At a defense plant in the state of Ohio some little while ago, a Negro man pushed his way up beside a white woman and asked her for a date to spend the week-end with her, to which she agreed. A Christian man standing next in line overheard the conversation and learned that these two had spent the week-end before in like manner. Yet this is nothing! Even here in our town, a young woman, whose husband is in the army, is soon to give birth to a baby, and the father of the expected child is a Negro.

I mention these instances that I might say that the foundation of morality has crumbled.

Then, there is the foundation of temperance, which, likewise, is a thing of yesterday. God's Word very pertinently speaks of this foundation.

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

"And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands." — Isaiah 5:11, 12.

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayst look on their nakedness!" — Habakkuk 2:15.

WOE TO RICKENBACKER

"Wine is a mocked, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." — Proverbs 20:1.

The institutes which give Keeley cures are more plentiful today than ever before in the history of our nation. Of course, this is logical in view of the fact that intemperance is more prevalent than ever before.

One thing of utmost interest took place recently in the army: Major Bong succeeded in shooting down

twenty-seven enemy airplanes — one more than Captain Eddie Rickenbacker shot down in World War I. Immediately afterward, Rickenbacker offered a case of Scotch to Major Bong. Yet to his credit, may it be said that Major Bong refused the gift, declaring that he drank only soft drinks. I thank God very definitely for the statement of General McArthur, when he immediately declared that he wished sobriety on the part of his soldiers and that he would have objected most seriously to Major Bong's acceptance of the gift, had the latter so desired to accept it.

To me, this is not an isolated incident, but it is a definite indication that the foundation of temperance is crumbling.

Even the foundation of truthfulness is gone. Man's word means nothing today. Paul declared that this would be one of the signs of the last days, in that he said that in the last days men would be "truce breakers." (I Tim. 3:3).

We had a good example of a lack of truthfulness in our recent revival meeting. I called nearly one hundred persons living nearby by telephone, and personally insisted on their attendance at our services. Without exception, all of them promised to attend; and, if I am not badly mistaken, out of that group, only three of them put in their appearance during the entire two weeks of the meeting. I found by that experience that the majority of folk handle the truth very economically — that is, they don't use any more of it than they have to.

What else can we expect of individuals when the government at large sets the example. Although our government had a non-aggression pact

GOVERNMENT BROKE PACT

with China, for years we sold scrap iron to Japan in order to get out of debt. Of course, our government knew all along that it was being used to make bullets and bombs to kill helpless Chinese; yet, what did these poor "Chinks" amount to so long as we got out of the depression and our women got silk stockings. To be sure, we had a treaty with China; yet that was easily forgotten by the politicians at Washington.

The foundation of truthfulness has gone, I fear, never to return.

The doctrinal foundation has, likewise, crumbled. This, of course, is to be expected, for God's Word declares that there are to be false teachers:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

"And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." — II Peter 2:1, 2.

"That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord;

"Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits." — Isaiah 30:9, 10.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." — II Timothy 4:3, 4.

Our Baptist schools, the seminaries, and the majority of preachers will "wink" at the old-time doctrines; and the few of us who still preach the Word of God are considered "queer" and fanatic.

To my mind, when Mr. Gardener, Sunday School Secretary of Kentucky recently recommended the book entitled "From Pentecost to Patmos" as a book whereby Baptist doctrines might be taught, he thereby declared to Kentucky Baptists that, so far as he was concerned, the doctrinal foundation was nil.

Sad as all these things may be, it is even more pathetic to notice that the spiritual foundation is, likewise, gone. Our churches are cold; Christians are living in sin; the Bible is not read; there is no soul winning on the part of the average Christian. The majority are living with their light under the bushel; the salt has lost its savour. There is no fulness of the Holy Spirit. There is a lack of spirituality. There are but few tithers and fewer pray-ers. Yet, this is just as God has warned us in His Word:

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." — Matthew 24:12.

There are many exhortations to the contrary as to how God's people are to live:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." — James 1:27.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." — I Thessalonians 5:22.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." — I Corinthians 10:31.

Yet, in spite of these, the spiritual foundation of our churches has crumbled.

II

In view of these conditions, since these foundations are shaken and crumbled, is there any hope? How can we thank God that some things are immovable. The Lord is still our refuge.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." — Psalm 46:1.

In Job's day, conditions that affected him and confronted his life were indeed serious. Foundation after foundation crumbled about him; and yet, Job said,

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." — Job 13:15.

Not only do we have a hope in that the Lord is our refuge, but we stand secure in Him.

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." — II Tim. 2:19.

Finally, let us but remember that God is reigning. In it all, He is having His way, and the things that are taking place are under God's direction.

Joseph had a hard time as a lad and young man. He didn't understand it when his brothers hated him and when they put him down in the pit. He didn't understand it when they sold him into slavery and when Potiphar's wife lied on him. He didn't understand it when he was put into prison and was kept there two long

years suffering innocently and unjustly. Yet God was using each of these events as a step eventually to set Joseph on a throne of Egypt. In the end, Joseph understood that God had been reigning all along.

While I rejoice today that in the midst of the foundations that are failing, we have the assurance that God is still on the throne and still reigning. What a joy it gives us as we face the future and the dim unknown.

In closing, I want to read to you a poem which I read in one of my broadcasts of this past week. The verses of this poem were found on the body of an unknown American soldier, who was killed in action in Italy.

"Look God, I have never spoken to You,

But now I want to say 'How do you do,'

You see, God, they told me You didn't exist,

And like a fool I believed all this.

Last night, from a shell hole, I saw Your sky.

I figured right then they had told me a lie.

Had I taken time to see things You made,

I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand,

Somehow I feel that You will understand.

Funny I had to come to this hellish place,

Before I had time to see Your face.

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say,

But, I'm sure glad, God, I met You today.

I guess the zero hour will soon be here,

But I'm not afraid since I know You're here.

The signal! Well, God, I'll have to go,

I like You lots, this I want You to know.

Look now, this will be a horrible fight,

Who knows, I may come to your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to You before,

I wonder, God, if You'd wait at Your door.

Look, I'm crying! Me! Shedding tears! I wish I had known You through these many years.

Well, I have to go now, God, good-bye.

Strange, since I met You, I'm not afraid to die."

What a wonderful thought this presents to us. How marvelously true it is. Even though the foundations all about us crumble, when one's faith is fixed in God, through the blood of the Lord Jesus, it makes no difference what comes, there is a happiness, there is a joy, and there is a peace. The question is, "Do you know Him?" Don't forget this Scripture:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." — Hebrews 9:22.

AN EXPERIENCE IN LOOKING

(Continued from page one)

sweet-spirited, motherly wife so stirred before. "Do you think the Lord wants me to stay in a church where

they are pulling and tugging, and where some of the members are not what they ought to be?"

"Yes I do! Unless you are more righteous than the Lord. Can you imagine Him leaving a church the minute there was trouble in it? I'm afraid if that were so, He would not be in any of our churches to-day. Just look what He stood from His little flock of disciples that He pastored for about three years. They weren't perfect; in fact, far from perfect, but He never thought of leaving them. Did you ever think of

THE LORD AS A PASTOR,

and what happened in His congregation?

"Why, one of the first things was a split. The way was just a little too narrow for them, and many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him and He was left with only twelve. And when you take a good look at the twelve, they were not so perfect either. (John 6:66, 67).

"Now, don't you think a congregation of twelve ought to be easy to get along with? Think of it! Just twelve, and the Lord Jesus as pastor. Surely, here is a perfect church if there ever was one. A perfect Pastor and a few saints. What an ideal combination. That is what most of the 'Wandering Saints' are looking for. A great many of them feel, if only they had a perfect pastor, they, with a few others, would make up a perfect church.

"But what do we find among the Lord's disciples? Perfection indeed! Why, there was enmity and strife, for they repeatedly disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. (Mark 9:33-35).

"There were self-seekers, too, in the Lord's church. Don't you remember that when the Lord was telling of His betrayal and death, the mother of James and John interrupted Him, to suggest that her two sons would make a nice pair to sit with Him on His throne, one on the right hand one on the left. Now how is that for politics? (Matt. 20:17-27).

"Quarreling among themselves did not seem to settle who would be the greatest, so they decided to do something about it. What would work better than to have their mother with her sweet ways try to persuade the Lord that her sons would be the right parties for the positions? And then she had been good to Him, and that ought to count some. I am glad the Lord let them understand that

HE HAD NO PETS

"Then some of His disciples tried to hinder Him for having a children's meeting. I'm glad He rebuked them for that and told them to suffer the children to come to Him and to forbid them not. And don't you remember His missionary tour through Samaria? I blush for shame when I think of John and James wanting to kill the poor folk because they would not get converted. I would not have been surprised if it had been Peter, for he was always getting into some trouble, but John and James, well, you never know. Now, David, what would you think if you heard that one of our missionaries wanted to shoot all the heathen who wouldn't get converted? Losh, laddie, it's awful to think about.

"Twice when He had his conventions in the wilderness He pleaded with some of His flock to give the people something to eat. But, no; they suggested it would be better to send them all home, even if they fainted

by the wayside. They were sure they couldn't do anything about it. If you ask me, it was not only a lack of faith, but there was a lack of love, too. (Mark 7:24-27; 8:1-9).

HIS ONLY OFFICIAL WAS A THIEF

And listen, David, my man, he was more than that; he was a devil. Can you imagine what a time their Pastor had with a man like Judas holding the bag? (John 12:6; 6:70,71).

Yes, and I almost forgot to tell you they had another quarrel as to who should be accounted the greatest, and you would hardly believe it, but it was right after the Lord's Supper.

"I can imagine what would happen if such a thing took place in our church. Some of the members would feel too righteous to remain in such a church and would walk out and join the ever-increasing company of 'Wandering Saints.' The Lord didn't do that. He rebuked them and pointed out how wrong they were, but He wouldn't forsake them.

"No. He never thought of leaving them. He knew what was in man, when He started out to save him. He knew that He wasn't getting a bargain, but since the Lord went into it with His eyes open He's not blaming anybody. All He asks is that we stay with Him and let Him work His own will and likeness in us. He's doing the best He can with the material at hand. I'm glad He is a miracle worker, for it will

TAKE A MIRACLE TO DO ANYTHING WITH US

And it is hardly believable that Peter, one of His chief men, should fall so low as to deny the Lord, and even curse and swear. It goes to show that human nature is all the same and we would all be in the gutter if it weren't for the grace of the Lord. I used to think Peter, James and John were the most spiritual of His disciples, for He always seemed to keep them near Himself, and maybe they were, but it seems to me that He had to keep His eye on them, for they were the ones who caused Him the most trouble. (Matt. 26:73,74).

"No, the Lord has not told us to look for a 'Perfect Church,' continued Aunt Margaret, now thoroughly warmed up to the subject. "You and I are not perfect, and if we joined a perfect church we would spoil it right away."

"No, Davie lad, the Lord has been trying to get a perfect church for two thousand years, and if He has not been successful in a' that time, there is na use o' me wasting ma time looking for aae to-day," continued Aunt Margaret, almost out of breath, and lapsing into her Scotch, when excited.

"Were the Lord's disciples any worse than others? Indeed, they were not. But the more of the Lord you have in a church, the more of the devil you have, too.

"If we are spiritual, and want to go on with God, the greater the temptations from Satan. And God allows him to tempt us, to bring to the surface the things He sees in us that are wrong. It is my humble opinion that if we had more fire in our lives, we would see so much in ourselves that we would have

NO TIME TO CRITICISE OTHERS

Did you see the sum I took off the top of that pot of kail? Well, it was the fire that made it come to the top. If there had been no fire you would have seen no scum. The scum was there all right, but it took the fire

to bring it up where others could see it. It is the same with the cold church. It looks nice on the surface, but the scum is there, although you may not see it. I would rather have a church with plenty of fire in it, even though it's a humbling sight to see the scum. It is God's way of keeping it humble."

At this moment Uncle Dave looked up rather sheepishly and said, "Margaret, you are right, and after what I've heard I'm thinking we have a wonderful church after all. Suppose we call up some of our neighbors and invite them to the best church in the town." — "OVERCOMER"

Rules For Bible Reading

(Continued from page one)

an hour daily in studying the Bible.

4. Do not read hurriedly or heedlessly. Pay close attention to the truth that is in it. A verse must often be read and re-read before its truth, light and the love of God begin to appear.

5. Meditate on the Word of God. God has promised a blessing on the man who meditates on the Word of God day and night. Meditating on the Word is as essential as chewing our food when eating. Chew your spiritual food.

6. Do not read the Bible biased. That is, do not bring its teachings to your natural inclination. Let the Bible be your rule.

7. Conform your life, walk, conduct, dress and labours in accordance with its teachings.

8. The Bible is inspired by the Spirit. Let Him inspire your heart and life as you read.

9. When you read, remember the Bible is God's Word. Respect, fear, believe and obey it as much as if you heard it uttered in an audible voice from heaven.

10. Do not criticise the Bible. You are not to be the critic, but the Bible is to be the critic for you, your life, walk, manners, etc.; and bring them into harmony with God's ideal.

— "The Christian's Signpost"

Hearsay

(Continued from page one)

ed?"

2. "Have you 'made search'?"

3. "Did you 'ask diligently'?"

try and find out if the story is true.

4. "Is it truth?"

5. "And is the 'thing certain'?"

6. "Is it certain 'that such a thing is wrought among you'?"

"Our dear brother could only acknowledge regretfully that he had fulfilled one of the six conditions and was repeating a grave mistake from hearsay, without making attempt to act thereon in the Scriptural way! He never forgot the lesson and often passed it on for good of his brethren and sisters."

"If thou shalt hear say, then thou enquire, and make search, ask diligently; and behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that an abomination is wrought among you." (Deut. 13:12-24).

— The Standard Bearer

Brother R. E. Pinson who has reported this paper since its inception sends us another sizeable contribution to keep the paper in the mail.

says, "I may be slow in writing letters but not on reading THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. If it were as large as the Herald-Dispatch (the daily paper of Huntington, W. Va.) I think that I would miss a column get up out of my chair until I read it all."