

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. 353

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## Do You Intend To Commit Suicide In 1945?

### CAN GOD PROVIDE?

From "China's Millions"  
It wasn't exactly a wilderness; but in it they were entire strangers. They had already walked fifteen miles, and the afternoon was late. Soon they would have to look for a place to spend the night. And suddenly!

"Halt." The command was peremptory. The spokesman meant business. Wang and Sun halted. So would you were you met by bandits. And you would hand over your little bundle of belongings, too—if you were wise. But what did their bundles contain? Bibles, hymnbooks and a little roll of paper dollars.

A few minutes later our friends were again walking along the road, their bundles slung over their shoulders; the money was in the bandits' care. Evening was fast approaching. They were seventeen miles from friends. They had seventeen cents between them! You cannot buy supper and breakfast for

two men, and pay for beds, too, with seventeen cents — not even in China.

Wang and Sun knelt and told the Lord about it. While they were in His service, He had allowed them to be robbed. Now they asked Him to provide for them in their need.

The landlord of the first inn welcomed them; asked them to sit down; and promised them a place for the night. They wondered how to use their seventeen cents to the best advantage.

Then up the road came the patrol, pat of running feet. Into the inn yard turned a stranger, a young man of some twenty years. "Ping An," he greeted them, "I wish you peace." "Ping An," replied our surprised friends: they didn't know there were Christians here. "Your honorable names?" "Mine," replied the older, "is Wang; this man's is Sun."

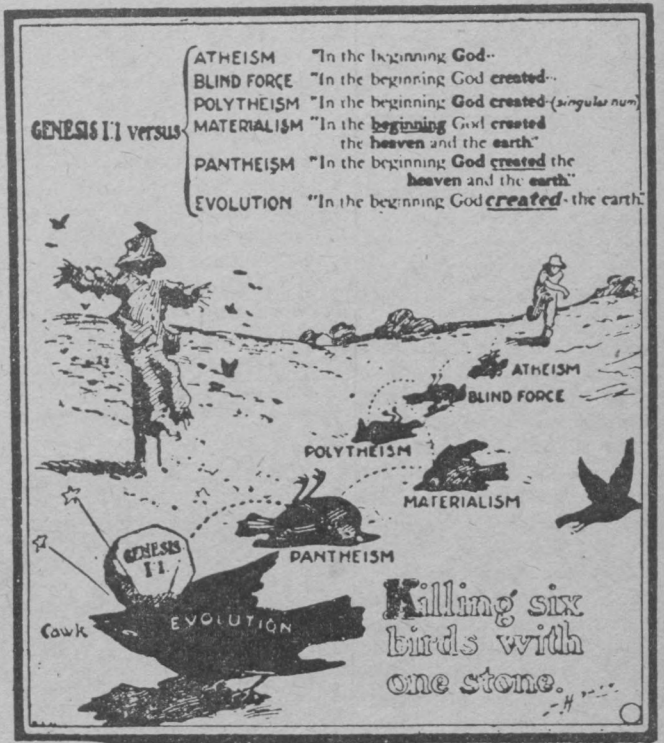
"Will you come and spend the (Continued on page four)

By Stanford Smith  
Are you planning to commit suicide? Maybe not. Are you planning to do something drastic? Probably not. Every day drastic things are being done to you or to your closest friends. You don't know what tomorrow will bring in the mail, at the office, wherever you are. Three gallons of gas or a draft notice — what next! Everything and everyone is uprooted. We are no longer in that rut that people used to tell us to get out of back in the "good old days."

With a world gone crazy people are becoming more thoughtful and serious. Let's be silly for a minute, just to be different. We are planning to commit suicide. We must have a motive, so let's say that life is dull: we never get anywhere; the boss is a bear and we don't dare speak up to him; nobody really likes us; life isn't worth the struggle. As I am a chemist, I will take poison. You do it your own way. But before ending it all, I think I will have a good time for a week. Money will be no problem. I could start it off by walking into the boss' office and giving him a piece of my mind, and those people who have been a pain in the neck will hear from me, too. I'll buy a can of red paint and paint red stripes all over the house of the neighbor next door who has been mistreating my dog. Boy, will he be mad!

Come to think of it, though, that's a very poor way to spend my last week of life. Why waste my time on people I never liked much? Maybe it would be more fun to spend my money doing things for some of my friends. No! They are going to wonder why the sudden change in me and it would never do to explain to them that I am planning my own death in a week. What am I going to do with this last week of mine? It's more of a problem than I had thought it would be.

Why am I spouting all this nonsense about suicide? Because I want you to seriously consider what you would do if you knew (Continued on page four)



(Reprinted through courtesy of Sunday School Times)

### "I Do My Own Thinking" Says A Modernist Preacher

That is the oft-repeated statement of Modernists. They think it sounds smart. They haven't enough sense to know that it isn't so. They do not do their own thinking. They never had an original thought in their lives. They are cheap copyists. Their hashed and re-hashed infidelity isn't either original or new in this age. You can go back to the third century and find in Porphyry or Celsus every thought they ever had. They're neither new or original. They do not do their own thinking. They copy and quote without giving credit to 3rd century infidels and are not honest enough to tell where they got it. There is not an honest Modernist in the world. The Bible says they are liars and it is being proven on them. And all Liberals are Modernists. It is exactly the same lie the devil told Eve in the garden of Eden. He said if she would believe him and give the lie to God that it

would make her wise. That is what the devil said then; that is what the same old devil says today. Give the lie to the Bible and believe my new thoughts and you can palm them off as your own thinking and the folk will think you are original and smart. It is a lie out of whole cloth. God calls all that think they are wise above what is written—and all who "do their own thinking" belong to that class—God calls all of them fools. In Prov. 26:12 Solomon said "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him." Selah. In Rom. 1:21-22, Paul said: "But become vain in their reasonings and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. The word translated "fool" in (Continued on page four)

### Some Deadly Heresies Of The Hardshell Baptists

Hardshells make much of Bible doctrine of the sovereignty of God. That the Bible teaches the sovereignty of God none can deny, who have read it at all. The Hardshells are heretical on this great Bible doctrine in that they preach only a half-truth; and a half-truth on this subject as on many others is the enemy of and destroys the whole truth. They claim that God is a sovereign and yet they treat Him as a servant. The very heart of the Bible teaching on the sovereignty of God is that He must be obeyed in all things. The Lord Jesus commended the faith of the centurion in Matt. 8, because it was a faith that not only recognized Him as a sovereign; but the centurion's faith in Christ believed that a sovereign Lord must be obeyed. There is where Hard-

shellism is most heretical. They say God is sovereign and yet will not obey the last command of Him, who said: "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." The man who really believes in the sovereignty of God, like Saul of Tarsus, will count himself debtor to all men and "as much as in him is," will go his length to obey the Lord's command to "preach the gospel to every creature." Hardshellism is heretical, fatally heretical, on the doctrine of the sovereignty of God because they cut the heart out of the great commission and wilfully and wickedly disobey Christ's sovereign command to "preach the gospel to every creature." The one ground of censure against the one-talent man was that he claimed to believe in the sovereignty of God and yet did not do what his sovereign Lord told him to do with his money. The same offense (Continued on page four)

### FAMILY ALTAR

1. Because it will send you forth to the daily task with cheerful heart, stronger for the work, truer to duty and determined in whatever is done therein to glorify God.

2. Because it will give you strength to meet this discouragements, the disappointments, the unexpected adversities and sometimes the blighted hopes that may fall to your lot.

3. Because it will make you conscious throughout the day of the attending presence of the unseen, divine One, who will (Continued on page four)

## -- The First Baptist Pulpit --

### "IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?"

By William Ward Ayer  
Psalm 9:17; Matthew 10:28; Luke 16:19-24; Hebrews 2:3; Revelation 20:10,13-14.

The man-named hell which the present war has created, with its obvious purpose of destroying lawlessness and maintaining freedom among the nations, may be ample proof as well as vivid illustration of the reality of the Bible's teaching concerning the eternal hell which God is to create for the segregation and destruction of universal forces

that would destroy His purposes and man's freedom in God's far-flung kingdom.

Sensitive souls shudder at the implication of a Biblical hell, just as they shudder when they meditate upon the hell which our bombers are creating in Europe, as there was a hell created in Warsaw, and Amsterdam, London and Coventry by the Germans. Yet we are prone to justify this man-made perdition on the ground that it is necessary. The unusual, cruel and

devilish situations which prevail under Hitlerian rule demand unusual, cruel and all but devilish retaliation. We say we regret the suffering but in order that the many may be free those who are guilty must suffer.

We are faced immediately with the question as to whether God takes this attitude in His universal rule. The great complaint against the thought of a literal hell is that God is love. But love is not a soft, wishy- (Continued on page three.)

### WAS IT YOU?

Tom Carter, the evangelist, told this in one of his messages: While he was holding meetings in a Pennsylvania town, a young man who had formerly lived next door to the parsonage committed murder. The whole community was stirred. Mr. Carter and the pastor obtained permission to visit the young man in his cell. After telling him his own story of conversion in a prison, Mr. Carter and the pastor succeeded in leading him to Christ. Then the newly-saved man addressed the pastor and sadly said, "To (Continued on page four)



# THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN - EDITOR

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## RAMBLING WITH THE EDITOR

"I am praying for you and hope the good Lord will see you out of your trouble so you can continue to preach the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour, and keep editing and sending forth the wonderful paper, The Baptist Examiner."

W. W. Streeter  
Claremore, Okla.

"I am taking this opportunity to renew my subscription for The Baptist Examiner, for I do not want the paper to stop coming to me, for we all like it so much. There are so many good truths in it."

Marietta May  
Catlettsburg, Ky.

"I certainly appreciate your stand, for there are so few that stand firm in these days. I pray God's blessings on you and your work in the church and the editing of your paper."

P. R. Whitefield, Sr.  
White Plains, Ky.

"I have been packing the Examiner in a box and mailing them to my son over-seas. You would be surprised how much they appreciate them and the good things they say they get from them. Most all the boys on this island are Catholics but they read The Baptist Examiner and compliment it."

Mrs. E. Ball  
Ashland, Ky.

Elder Harry J. Simms, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Chelyan, West Virginia is the first of our readers to order printing from us. We urge you to remember us too when you are in need of printing. Letterheads, envelopes, business forms, invoices, revival posters, tracts, manuscripts, or anything from calling cards to newspapers can be printed in our office quite reasonably, and your patronage will help us to propagate the Truth.

"I want you to know that your paper is one of the best sources for sermon material I have found anywhere," says Elder Thomas W. Bray, Faith, N. N.

"I am enclosing \$5.00 for the printing fund. I am made to believe that God is really behind you in this vast undertaking. THE BAPTIST EXAMINER has been such a blessing to us. We feel indebted to you."

Gaye Carroll  
Shoals, West Virginia

"Have enjoyed your paper very much. I am enclosing a check for \$2.00. Please send THE BAPTIST EXAMINER to the four enclosed addresses, starting as soon as convenient," so writes

Elder Roy Botruff, Carson City, Michigan.

"I am a firm believer in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, for the doctrinal position it takes. 'Old-timey' Baptists are few and far between these days. Please accept the enclosed check (\$25.00)."

W. L. Heffner  
Huntale, N. C.

"I have just read through THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, and if I know my own heart, I do thank my Lord for you and the paper. There are very few papers today that will print what you do. I used to be a Master-Mason, but I am now with you 100 percent there. If I never see you in this world, I'll meet you over yonder you then how much you have helped me down here."

W. R. Powell  
Huntsville, Texas

"I received THE BAPTIST EXAMINER yesterday and never stopped until I read it through. It does me so much good to know that there are still some few who believe as I do, especially on the woman question."

Mrs. Beulah Blalock  
Lake Charles, La.

# WHAT KIND OF A PAPER IS THE BAPTIST EXAMINER?

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Missionary Baptist" paper, although it is missionary through and through. But the name "Missionary" does not need to be tacked on to the name "Baptist." One cannot be a Baptist without being missionary, since all New Testament Baptists were missionary. Other sects that have split off from us have relinquished the simple name "Baptist" by adding some qualifying designation. Hence we need none. We were called Baptists before they split off from us. We are still just Baptists.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Primitive Baptist" paper, although it is the kind of Baptist that New Testament Baptists were.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Calvinistic" or "Hardshell Baptist" paper, although it teaches eternal, unconditional election and particular redemption. But

it rejects the teaching that men can be saved apart from hearing and believing the gospel.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Conditional Baptist" paper, although it believes that faith is a condition of justification. None are justified until they believe. Faith, however, is not a condition of regeneration. Regeneration is logically (but not chronologically) prior to faith. As to time, regeneration and faith are synchronous or simultaneous.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Predestinarian Baptist" paper although it stands for the absolute predestination of everything. However, God's will of purpose must be divided into His efficient or causative will and His permissive will. But one is as certain as the other. And in both of them God is absolutely sovereign and free.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Landmark Baptist" paper, although it stands for all the landmarks in God's Word and is opposed to moving any of them. The trouble with most so-called "Landmark Baptists" is that they ring the changes on a few hobbies, and then refuse to accept other Bible truths.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Gospel Mission" paper, although it believes that our special mission is to preach the gospel, baptize believers, and then teach them the all things of Christ. We reject the programs of men. We teach that the church is the custodian of Christ's commission. We also contend against everything that is contrary to New Testament mission methods. But we are not one with Gospel Missioners, either in doctrine or spirit. Gospel Missionism has become almost the equivalent of "donothingism."

The Baptist Examiner is neither a "Board Baptist" nor an "Anti-board Baptist" paper. We stand against the way our denominational boards are now functioning because they take the commission of Christ out of the hands of the churches. But, on the other hand, we do not throw a fit or have a nightmare when the word "board" is mentioned. If boards will function so as not to take the commission of Christ out of the hands of the churches, or when they function in the things not committed to the churches, such as the teaching of preachers

which was committed to preachers (2 Tim. 2:2), we have no objection to them.

The Baptist Examiner is neither a "Convention Baptist" nor an "Anti-convention Baptist" paper. We object to every attempt of the Southern Baptist Convention or any other body to lord it over the churches or fix their mission program for them. But if conventions will take their places as mediums of discussion, inspiration and information, we believe in them.

The Baptist Examiner is not an "Associational Baptist" paper, although it believes in associations when they stay in their places and do not try to usurp the place God has given his churches. However, we think the average associational meeting is so dead that it is almost as spiritual and profitable as a graveyard. Stereotyped reports and discussions should give way to discussions of spiritual interests, together with doctrinal and inspirational sermons. Our associations can be made to mean something when they cease to be cat's-paws for the denominational machine.

The Baptist Examiner is not a "Free Will Baptist" paper, although it believes that man's will is always necessarily free in all its actions. To say that the will is free means simply that the will is not constrained by any outside force—that it is determined from within. It does not mean that a lost man can turn from sin to God prior to regeneration. Free Will Baptists and all Arminians and semi-Arminians are ignorant of the nature of the will and the meaning of "free will."

The Baptist Examiner is just a plain Baptist paper. So far as God enables it, it stands for all Bible truths; not for just a few hobbies. It belongs to none of the factions among Baptists. It stands on the whole word of God and opposes the heresies and false practices of all the factions. Being a Baptist paper makes the Baptist Examiner independent, doctrinal, militant and missionary; because the first Baptist, together with other New Testament Baptists, such as Peter, John and Paul, was independent, doctrinal, militant, and missionary.

## THINK OF THIS!

IT IS TRUE: "Many are called and few are chosen"

BUT

IT IS ALSO TRUE: Many are cold and a few are frozen.

## Excuses Given For Not Uniting With The Church

1. "I don't know how long I'll be here." That is the reason you should join the church and WORK—we don't know how long we'll be in the world. People move to town, bring their cat and dog and fur coat, but not their church letter. I guess they think church membership is pretty cheap. Mrs. F—said to me, "We don't know how long we'll be here." I said, "Did you bring your dog?" She said, "Yes," I said, "Is your dog more valuable than your church membership?"

2. "My relatives are all buried out by the old church." Well, they won't run off. Sentiment is natural, but DUTY TO CHRIST is first. I love my parents too, but my Church membership is not back in their church. PUT JESUS ABOVE ALL!

3. "They need me back there to keep the church alive." We answer: They are not getting you, for you are HERE, not THERE. God meant the church to keep you alive, not you to keep the church alive. This is usually an excuse for Mr. Lazy Bones, for this relieves him of real service ANYWHERE.

4. "There are hypocrites in the church." We answer: Probably so, but come on, there is room for one more. Come on in and show them how to live; if you are so good yourself. There was a hypocrite in the church Jesus built—Judas. There are hypocrites among merchants, doctors, grocers, miners, and garagemen—but they are not all so.

5. "I can't contribute much to the expenses of the church." Who said anything about that.

Mrs. H—said that to me, and I said, "We seek not yours, but you. You ought to join our church, not so much for what you can mean to us, but for what we can mean to you." People say, "I can't help very much and thus put themselves above the entire church membership. You need our help a lot more than we need yours."

6. "I don't feel worthy." Answer: We do appreciate your desire to preserve the sanctity of the church—I wish others would do the same. But you are looking at YOURSELF instead of at God. You were not worth saving either, but God's grace saved you. You will be better in the church.

7. Faith saves, so why join a church? Answer: Yes, faith does save, but after the TRUSTING should come TRUSTEESHIP, after the SALVATION should come the serving. And the church is a good channel for this.

8. "I can live as good outside as inside the church." You are either mistaken or misstating. Either deceived or dishonest. Either loose or lying. If that is so, why did Jesus build a church in the first place?

9. "I'd like to join, but I don't want to be baptized." Answer: You wouldn't make a good church member unless you love the Lord enough to obey Him.

It is a sin for a sinner to join a church. It is a sin for a Christian not to join a church. Every church member should have a reason for staying out of church membership, and THERE IS NOT A SINGLE REASON AVAILABLE. — Missionary Baptist News

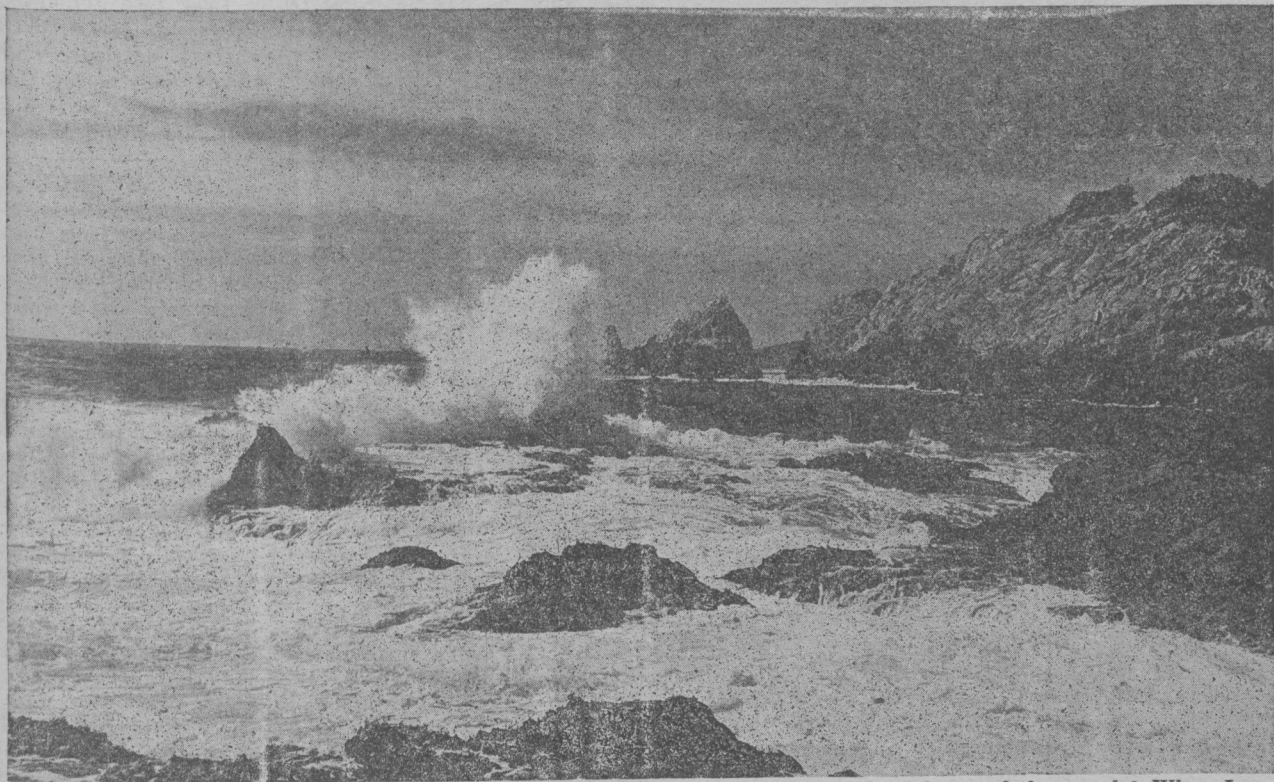
## THE NEW YEAR

The last bells sound upon the midnight air—  
Their echo dies,  
And suddenly a white page turns, and gleams  
Before my eyes.  
How beautiful, how beautiful it is!  
How clean and new:  
This page that God has given me to keep  
The whole year through.  
Oh, I must be so careful how I write  
In words and ways,  
That I may but perfect, lovely script  
For all the days;  
And that I may write out each little hour  
So clear and plain,  
And letter every moment that there be  
No blot or stain!  
God, help me make my written lines so straight,  
My work so true,  
That, when you take the copy up at last,  
It will please You.

Grace Noll Crowell.



## PROUD WAVES . . . .



Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it . . . And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? — Job 38:8,9,11.

### IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?

(Continued from page one)  
A shy sentiment — love can be terrible at times, especially in protecting the object of its love.

Love In A Moral Sense  
Among the arguments presented for the necessity of bombing great cities is one that says

something of this sort: "The Americans' intense love of freedom makes necessary this terrible procedure in the conduct of war. Love of freedom is stronger than hatred of suffering." I am not at all sure that I can coincide with that thought, because obviously too many of the innocent suffer with the guilty. It is not so in God's economy. While the revelation of God makes plain that love has provided a way of escape, it nevertheless teaches that if sin is persisted in it is sure to meet terrible condemnation and excruciating punishment. You see, we must learn that ours is a moral universe and, being so, broken law must meet its penalty somewhere. No wrong committed, no evil perpetrated can escape an infinite, holy, and just God. Somewhere, somehow, sometime in the universe every evil must be brought to judgment.

The moral looseness of modern civilization and the lethargic operation of our legal system make us think that because millions "get away with it" here, criminals and sinners can get away with it everywhere. We have fallen upon evil days in America. Murderers are oftentimes acquitted or are given trivial sentences. Adulterers (as in the recent case of several prominent motion-picture actors) are declared innocent when obviously they are guilty. Even war criminals are rarely ever brought to justice. But remember that God has said that His ways are not man's ways, and no offender will

ever get away with it in eternity.

Now in regard to hell it is obvious that those evidently going there are the ones who are most stirred about the matter. Note that every atheist and unbeliever has denied the reality of hell. Dr. T. T. Martin, a Southern evangelist, tells of an old drunkard hearing Bob Ingersoll deny the faith, especially the reality of the existence of hell. He became greatly enthusiastic about the preaching of the agnostic Ingersoll, for he knew his own lost estate and his probable destiny in eternity. Rising to his feet he shouted with fervor, "Make it mighty strong, Bob, a lot of us fellows are depending on you."

#### Saddening Thought

I'll grant the thought of an eternal hell is terrible. I have never tried to think too deeply about the matter, because it sends my mind reeling in its utter inability to measure or fathom or appreciate the awfulness of endless separation from God in unending torment. When sane earnest people think deeply of this awful place they realize they are dealing with something that is beyond them. Long meditation will drive reason from its throne. There is only one thing to do in the presence of this awful fact, and that is to flee to the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ and appreciate that the God who doeth all things well has found it necessary to have a place of this kind in order to maintain holiness and righteousness within His universe.

Well, of course, this is a vastly different attitude from that of many who deny the existence of hell because they cannot comprehend it. It may not meet with our ethical approval but it obviously met with the approval of Jesus, who said more about hell than any one else of Bible times.

The Lord Jesus who spoke such tender words to the meek, to the weak and the weary; who showed overwhelming compassion to the sick and the dying; who healed the infirmities of the multitude and who wept over perishing cities; who said to people on many an occasion "Thy sins be forgiven thee," was the same Jesus who talked continually of an everlasting hell of torment for the unrepentant and the wicked, saying, "These shall go away into everlasting torment but the righteous into life eternal."

Let us look at the term "hell" for a moment in order to get the Biblical interpretation of it. The word hell is used in the New Testament twelve times, and of the twelve Jesus used it eleven times. He preached more about hell than anyone else. If you want proof of this turn to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:29,30). There He says, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

#### Terrible Words

Then too in Mark 9:43-48: "And if thy hand offend thee cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than, having two hands, to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." These are very solemn, very serious words. They send chills up and down the spine. I suspect the reason that Jesus said more than anyone else about hell is that He alone could do it with satisfaction, because He was to give His very soul as an offering for sin in order to save the race of men from this awful place.

Now let us study the subject of hell. Is there a literal hell?

### I. WHAT IS HELL?

First, hell is a prison-house for lawless spirits. Prisons are not nice but prisons are necessary. Those who visit Sing Sing and other great prisons tell us that they shudder at the thought of being incarcerated in such a somber place. I should hate to think of anybody's going to prison, but I should also hate to have all of the inmates of prisons turned loose upon society; it would be hell upon earth. Men have discovered that it is necessary to confine people in order to preserve righteousness and peace in society.

Second, hell is a furnace for the eternal destruction of moral and spiritual refuse. The New Testament word often translated "hell" is "Gehenna." It is used eleven times in the New Testament. Gehenna was located in the valley of Hinnom, outside of the city of Jerusalem. There the refuse of the city was burned, and the fires glowed night and day. It was necessary for Jerusalem to dump out its refuse or there would have been a plague in the city. Every city must have its incinerator and obviously God must have one in His universe, for our God is a consuming fire.

### II. WHERE IS HELL?

There are in reality two hells — a temporary and a permanent. In Old Testament times there was a place called "Hades," which Jesus said was in the heart of the earth. Both the righteous dead and the unrighteous dead were confined in Hades. However, the righteous dead were in conscious happiness while the unrighteous dead were in conscious torment, and between the two situations was "a great gulf fixed." The place of the righteous dead in Hades was called "Paradise"; the place of the unrighteous dead was called "Tartarus." Jesus illustrated that with His story of the rich man and Lazarus: Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom, a place of conscious happiness. The rich man went to hell and lifted up his eyes, being in torment. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Undoubtedly when Jesus' body died His soul went to the heart of the earth. Later He was to meet

the soul of the Repentant Thief in Paradise.

Upon our Lord's ascension after His resurrection He changed Paradise from the heart of the earth into the heavenly presence of God, for it is written in Ephesians, "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive" (or He led up a multitude of captives). However, it would seem that the place of the unrepentant dead is still in the heart of the earth awaiting the second resurrection and the judgment of the Great White Throne. Dives, the rich man, suffers the torment of fire and asks that Lazarus might dip his finger in water and come and cool his tongue, for he was tormented in the flame. However, the final and eternal hell does not seem to be in existence today but will be created at the beginning of the Millennium, and the first occupants of that "lake of fire" will be the beast and the false prophet. Later Satan will be cast into it, and last of all the souls of those whose names are not written in the Book of Life shall be cast into this place of eternal torment.

### III. WHY IS HELL?

Hell exists because sin exists. Terrible as hell is, it is but a part of the inscrutable mystery of sin. The only way you can really look at hell is through Calvary. Remember that God's love stands vindicated there. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins." Do not quarrel about hell and say that God would be a terrible monster to send people there. He sends no one to hell. People go there of their own volition. He was not a terrible monster when He permitted His Son to climb Calvary's hill and die there in darkness and agony and blood, crying out "My God! My God! why hast thou forsaken me?" and in the midst of His agony shouting, "I thirst," evidently tasting of hell itself in order that you and I might never taste of it!

#### Attempted Rescue

Some years ago in Scotland a train piled over a precipice into a rushing stream and many people were killed. The bridge had been washed out by a flood. When the tremendousness of the tragedy was determined, many wanted to know where the watchman had been. It was learned later that the watchman had gone home temporarily and that his grown daughter had stood in his place. Why had she not gone and flagged the train? The approach to the bridge was through two deep canyons of solid rock; obviously no one could stand before that train and live. They labored under the impression that the girl had forsaken her post because of the danger and had allowed the train to pile over into the rushing stream in order to have her own life.

But later they found her mangled body far back on the track. She had done what she could to stop the train but the engineer had not seen her; he had run over her frail body and plunged the train on into destruction. When Divine Justice stands out in its own clear light and when God is manifested in the holiness of that justice no one will ever utter a derogatory word concerning the existence of hell or of the justice of anyone's being there, because Jesus Christ stood in the way, doing all in His power to save men from destruction. If anyone goes

(Continued on page four)

### START THE DAY RIGHT

Do not have your concert first, then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all in harmony with Him. — J. Hudson Taylor



# IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?

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to that awful place it will be over the mangled and bleeding body of the crucified Son of God.

There is a legend of a lost soul who went back from hell to the place where he had lived all of his life. The words of Abraham to the rich man in Hades were ringing in his ears. "Son, remember." Memory going with him, he returns to his country home and in memory hears his father and mother praying and asking God to save his soul and to keep him forever. He visits the old country church and hears the congregation of simple, earnest folk singing the blessed old hymns, "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me," and "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood Drawn from Immanuel's Veins." In memory he sees the old preacher pleading with every unsaved person in that congregation to give his heart to Jesus Christ and to flee from the wrath to come. He sees himself as he stands there, listening cynically or indifferently to the pleadings and the prayers of all. He hears the congregation as they sing "How Firm a Foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?"

This is too much for the lost sinner—with a wild shriek he returns to his prison house of hell, realizing he has received his just recompense, crying "Lost! Lost! I chose it and I am eternally lost!"

## IV. HOW MAY WE ESCAPE HELL?

All who are unsaved are headed for hell. Remember, it is not because of what we do but because of what we are that we land there. This plaintive question is often asked: "Will my small sin merit eternal punishment? I may have done a few things that are wrong but certainly not enough to earn eternal damnation!"

That question is as sensible as a man's saying, as he walks in front of a locomotive coming at sixty miles an hour, "Will my simply walking upon this railroad track merit the grinding destruction of that onrushing locomotive?" The man who steps over the ledge of a high building says, "I am stepping only six inches over the ledge." Does that merit the terrific and unspeakable death on the pavement below? Merely jumping off a liner in mid-ocean is not sufficiently evil to cause me to drown in darkness and alone.

What you do does not merit eternal punishment. But what you are, and what you continue to be in spite of the mercy of God and the pleadings of Jesus Christ and all of the eternal purposes of God's redemptive love, certainly merits eternal separation from God. Jesus wept sorrowfully when He said, "Ye will not come unto me that you might have life." "I go my way and where I go, ye cannot come." Jesus provided a way of escape and we do not take it. Then we must take that from which He endeavored to save us.

### You May Choose

Yes, there is a hell—a literal hell. It is a terrible place. It all but freezes the blood in our veins to think of it. But God prepared it for the devil and his angels and not for men. Yet men are still beings of moral

choice and if they choose not the mercy of God then they must suffer His wrath and judgment. O that many who read this may say,

"Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

## "WAS THAT SOMEBODY YOU?"

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think that I lived next door to you for months and you never told me anything about Jesus until I came here! If you only had, I probably never would have become a murderer."

Are we overlooking any close-by opportunities? — Evangelical Messenger.

## WHY HAVE A FAMILY ALTAR?

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bring you through more than conqueror over every unholy thought or thing that rises up against you.

4. Because it will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else can do.

5. Because it will resolve all the misunderstandings and relieve all the friction that sometimes intrudes into the sacred precincts of family life.

6. Because it will hold as nothing else the boys and girls when they have gone out from beneath the parental roof and so determine very largely the eternal salvation of your children.

7. Because it will exert a helpful, hallowed influence over those who may at any time be guests within the home.

"I have enjoyed the previous issues of your paper greatly. I think you are doing a wonderful work. I pray that God will strengthen you to carry on."

Elder S. L. Couch  
Anguilla, Miss.

"I think your paper is the best Bible doctrine paper I ever read, and I have read some good ones," so says L. R. Reynolds, Yuma, Colorado, as he renews his own subscription and sends us several others.

That is the right kind of belief in the sovereignty of God, believing that He has the right to command and that we have no right to make excuse or to disobey Him. The first fatal heresy of Hardshellism is that it is a wicked and wilful rebellion against the authority of the Lord Jesus, which is the very heart of the doctrine of God's sovereignty.

## I DO MY OWN THINKING

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verse 22 is the word from which we get our word moron. God said that those who profess themselves to be wise and able to do their own thinking are morons. They are men in stature but have the minds of a five-year old. And God's estimate will stand. And that is God's estimate of all Modernists. God says five things about the man who does his own thinking.

1. All his thoughts are wicked. Gen. 6:5: "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil continually." Pretty bad fellow. Never has a single good thought. Note what God says his thoughts are: they are only evil: they are continually only evil: and every imagination that springs out of his wicked thoughts is only evil continually. Mighty bad man in God's sight is the fellow who does his own thinking.

2. He is an enemy of God. Rom. 8:7: "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

That is why he wants to do his own thinking: he hates God and the Bible. Mighty bad man.

3. He is an agnostic or ignoramus.

The word for ignorance in the Greek is agnoia. That is the word from which our word agnostic comes. The literal meaning of agnostic is an ignoramus. They used to mean the same. They don't now. An ignoramus is an illiterate or densely ignorant man. An agnostic is a man who does not believe the Bible. It is popular for school men, with all kinds of degrees, to boast of being agnostics. Yet agnostics and ignoramuses are one and the same. If there is any difference, the agnostic is more ignorant than the ignoramus; for he is ignorant of God and the Bible. Here is God's estimate of the man who does his own thinking. Eph. 4:18: "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts."

4. He is a liar. God says he is. That makes it so.

Rom. 3:4: "Let God be true and every man a liar; as it is written, That Thou mightest be justified in Thy sayings and mightest overcome when Thou art judged."

Who is it that boasts and brags that he does his own thinking? The man who wants to pass judgment upon the Bible. Instead of believing what God says because God said it, he becomes judge of God's infallible and inerrant Word and does his own thinking and then gives his judgment of God's veracity and wisdom. That is the man in the above passage that God says is a liar, namely, the man who does his own thinking and passes judgment upon God's sayings.

5. He is a disbeliever. Lu. 24:11: "And these words (about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus) appeared in their sight as idle talk; and they disbelieved them." In Mr. 16:16: "He that disbelieveth shall be condemned."

Our schools are full of arrogant disbelievers, who boast they do their own thinking.

These are God's indictments of men, who do their own thinking: Wicked enemies of God, ignoramuses, liars and disbelievers. Jesus said: "They Word is truth."

## SUICIDE

(Continued from page one)  
positively that you had only one week of life left. If you conscientiously sit down and work through such an idea, you are bound to come to the final conclusion that you had better first make yourself right with God. If you don't believe in a God it won't make any difference, because no matter how you try to get away from it, you are going to conclude that you had better be on the safe side just in case you might be wrong about God.

What should we do to get on the right side with God? I know I am on the right side because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour. The Book of God says, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" and again God sent His Son into the world "that the world through him might be saved." I'm sure of being on the right side because I am a son of God. How do I know I am God's son? Because my Bible says, "As many as received him (meaning Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Suicide? How foolish if I am a son of God and have everlasting life. Drastic things still happen to me. Heartbreaks and disappointments may come, but a Christ who was willing to die for me makes life worth living for me now.

If something is so important that you would put it at the top of the list of things that must be done before you die, it is important enough that you should do it right now.

## CAN GOD PROVIDE?

(Continued from page one)  
night in my home?" A more unexpected question could hardly have been asked. And yet the invitation was being accepted before Mr. Wang realized what he was doing.

And then the unknown friend explained. "You wonder why I invite you thus. But I know you are Christian evangelists. You see, I was working back there and saw you robbed. Of course, I could not go right close to see what was taking place, but you may remember a little child did so. The bandits paid no attention to him, and when you were gone I asked the child who you were. He had heard you say you were Gospel preachers; and he had seen them take the money."

"I went on with my work, but a voice said, 'Follow those men' and invite them to your home. Not knowing you, I just continued with what I was doing. The voice became more insistent, and finally I had to leave the field and run. You were a long distance ahead by then. So I ran the whole way — a good mile. And now, won't you come and spend the night with us? Ours is a Christian family."

That was how God provided. And He didn't even need their seventeen cents! They had good friends, good food and a good place to sleep. And when they left next morning, they carried a gift of money with which to meet the day's expenses. Can God provide? Ask Evangelists Wang and Sun!

## A Name

I know of a world that is sunk in shame,  
Whose hearts oft faint and tire;  
But I know of a name, a precious name,  
That can set that world on fire.

I know of soul that is steeped in sin,  
That no men's art can cure;  
But I know a name, a Beautiful Name  
That can make that soul pure.

I know a life that is lost to God,  
Bound down by things of earth;  
But I know a name, a Wonderful name,  
That can bring that soul new birth.

So Listen, my heart, an angel speaks,  
To save thy life from dross;  
Christ Jesus is the Name, The Name,  
He saves by the way of the cross.

## HERESIES OF HARDSHELLISM

(Continued from page one)  
called forth the just rebuke of his sovereign Lord against the man in the parable of the pounds, who tried to excuse himself for disobedience to his Lord's command on the ground that his Lord was sovereign and could do it without his servants help. Study afresh the parables of the talents in Matt. 25 and of the pounds in Luke 19 and the man censured in each case is a man heretical as to the sovereignty of God. He made his belief in the sovereignty of God an excuse for doing nothing, just like Hardshells do. Both of them said like all Hardshells say, whether in Hardshell churches or in Missionary churches, that God was a sovereign and reaped where He did not sow.

That is the favorite excuse of Hardshellism. God is sovereign, they say, and can and will save the heathen without the gospel; in other words, since the seed is the word, He will reap where no sowing has been done, just as these two Hardshells in these two parables said. Study the Lord's

answer. In each case the Lord said in substance: "If I am a sovereign, why did you not obey Me? Your professed belief in My sovereignty is wicked hypocrisy; for if you had really believed in My sovereignty, you would have obeyed My commands instead of rebelling against My authority and trampling My commands under your feet. Your own words condemn you. You pretend to believe in My sovereignty and yet wickedly withheld from Me the one thing to which a sovereign is entitled, namely, loyal obedience to My command to 'occupy till I come.' Every man who makes his belief that a Sovereign God can have the heathen without the gospel an excuse for doing nothing for missions, is a heretic against the sovereignty of God and an anarchist against the authority of the Son of God, who commanded His churches to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' Ezekiel believed in the sovereignty of God and when his sovereign Lord told him to go and preach to a valley full of dry bones, he went and went to preaching, 'O ye dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord.'