

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).

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## A Frank Exposure Of Secretism, Showing Lodges A Swindle

By JOHN R. RICE

### "One Thing"

The expression occurs eight times in the Scriptures.

1. "One Thing Thou Lackest" (Luke 18:22).

There are three men ruined by riches mentioned by Luke. One by coarse greed (12:13-21); one by unrestrained luxury (16:19-31) and one by refined festivities (18:18-27).

Notwithstanding the latter's fine religious background he was not at ease and came asking: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

You don't do anything to inherit — inheritance is a gift, you just receive it.

So with eternal life — it is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23).

2. "One Thing Befalleth All" (Ecclesiastes 3:20).

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27).

"For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth He devise means, that His banished be not expelled from Him." (II Samuel 14:14).

3. "One Thing Is Needful" (Luke 10:42).

Martha was cumbered about much serving. Mary found time to sit at the Master's feet and learn of Him. This is the "one thing needful" in these hectic days of life-racking haste and worry.

4. "One Thing I Know" (John 9:25).

"That whereas I was blind, now I see."

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (II Timothy 1:12).

5. "One Thing Have I Desired" (Psalm 27:4).

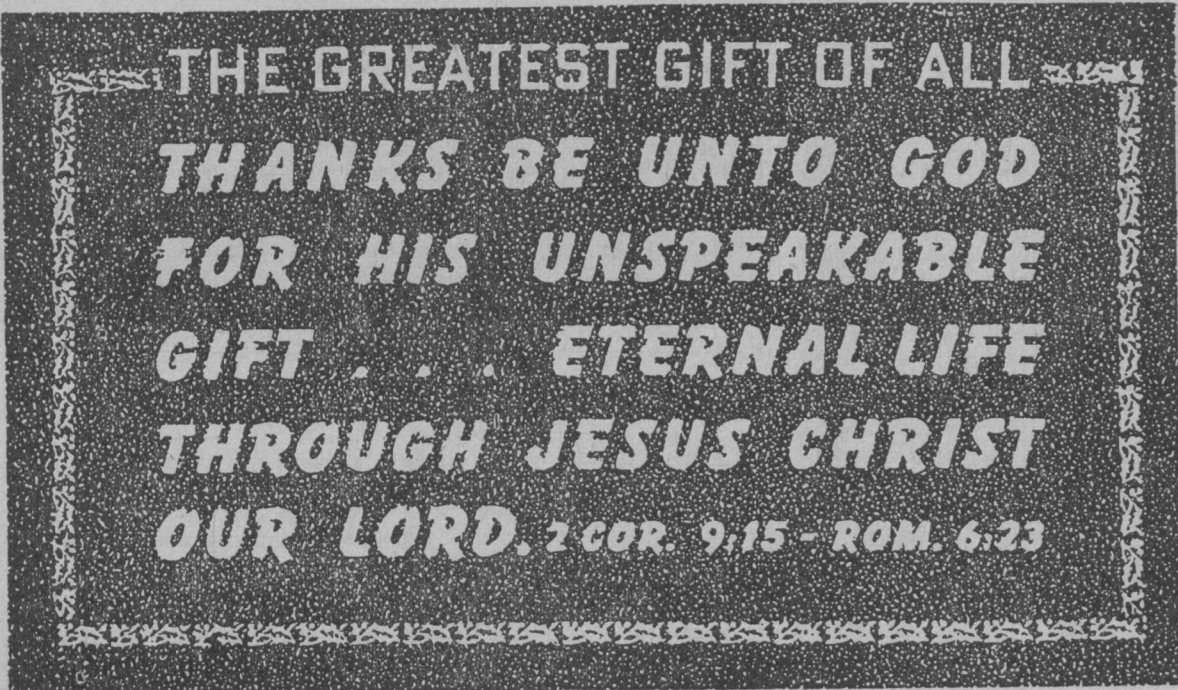
"That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple."

"And David inquired of the Lord." (I Samuel 30:8).

"Thou all earthly lamps grow dim He walks in Light who walks with Him."

6. "This One Thing I Do" (Philippians 3:13).

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### The World's Greatest Quest

The world's greatest game is life; the world's greatest thing is love; the world's greatest sin is covetousness; the world's greatest book is the Bible; the world's greatest institution is the church; the world's great quest is happiness.

Happiness is something everybody is in pursuit of, but most people are going to the wrong source to find it.

Solomon tried to find it in money. Solomon was not only a millionaire, he was a billionaire. It took fifteen years to build the house he lived in. But listen to Solomon after he had indulged himself to the full in all earthly pleasures and treasures. He says, "It is all vanity and vexation of spirit."

Everyone who has tried to find happiness in money tells the same story. They tell you they spent the first half of their life trying to get the money from the other fellow, and the last half trying to keep people from taking it away from them, and that they found peace in neither half.

The rich Jewish farmer tried to get happiness from such inadequate sources as "eats and drinks." He said to his soul, "eat and drink and be merry." It is unphilosophical to think of making an immaterial soul happy on

a material world. Eats and drinks might make a horse happy, but not an immortal soul. You might as well feed your cow the twenty-third Psalm or your horse the New Testament, and expect it to satisfy them as to expect to satisfy your soul on things.

The world cannot satisfy the soul. The world is one big cheat. It is a six-thousand-year-old swindle. It fleeces everybody on whom it can get its hands. It's the poorest kind of investment. It does not pay two per cent of satisfaction. Then, if happiness cannot be found in things, money, pleasure and fame, where is happiness?

Christ laid down the road to happiness more than nineteen hundred years ago in the Sermon on the Mount. He tells us in the Beatitudes that happiness is not born of what we have or do not have, but rather in what we are — "Blessed are the poor in spirit — Blessed are the pure in heart," etc. He did not say blessed is the man who has amassed a fortune,

#### Mused Uncle Mose

Fo'ks say, "Well, ole Doc, he wicked, but he don't hurt nobody but hese'f." Humph. When a man do wrong he hurt ev'body.

or blessed is the woman who has become the darling of society. Happiness is not something without us, but something within us.

Whenever I find a person seeking happiness outside of himself, I know he has not yet found it. The "Prodigal" thought, in order to be happy, he would have to go a long way off, forgetting that the fountain of sweetest joy springs up within us and not without us.

True happiness is not dependent on outward circumstances, but rather on inward harmony, and it is only possible to an evenly balanced and properly adjusted soul.

Happiness can exist only where it has for the basis a right character, and a right character can exist only where it has for its basis moral purity. Hence, happiness does not consist in having, but in being. Carlyle said happiness is like a common fraction, of which the numerator is what you have, and the denominator what you think you have. The deluded soul seeks to increase the value of the fraction by multiplying the numerator, while the wise seek the same end by dividing the denominator.

There are those whose estimate of life is found in thrills, but (Continued on page four)

Another good reason for Christian people to avoid the lodges is that there is a certain insincerity and dishonesty about the lodges that a child of God ought not to take part in. Lodges in many respects are a swindle.

First of all, the claim of the lodges to secrecy is dishonest and untrue. Men pay great sums of money for degrees in the lodges, acting on the claim of the lodges that these degrees have secret "work," wonderful verbal lessons that have never been put in writing, and that would not be available any other way.

But that claim is utterly false. Literally dozens of Masons, from Richard Carlisle on down, have renounced Masonry and then put in print the secret signs and grips and oaths and degrees and symbolism of Masonry. Before me are advertisements from one publisher, giving some fifteen or twenty books by Masons and for Masons, giving the secret work of the lodges. Masons themselves high up and leading Masons, use these books to refer to and by which to check the memory work. Also the same publisher advertises "The Complete Revised Ritual of the Lodge, Encampment and Rebekah (ladies) degree" of Odd-Fellowship. It was written by a Past Grand Patriarch of the lodge. Here advertised also is the revised and amended official "Ritual for Rebekah Lodges, published by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F.," with unwritten (secret) work added and official "Ceremonies of Instituting Rebekah Lodges and Installation of Officers of Rebekah Lodges." Here also are advertised other secret society rituals, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Red Men, Knights of the Maccabees, and others.

Besides, Charles G. Finney, the great evangelist, has a great book exposing "The Character, Claims and Practical Workings of Masonry." It is sold by the National Christian Association, 850 Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois. The same publishers have a great list of literature on the lodges, prepared by Christian men, and well authenticated.

Here in hand is a Masonic Monitor, "King Solomon and His Followers," called "a valuable aid to the memory, strictly in accordance" (Continued On Page Four)

## -- The First Baptist Pulpit --

### "Isaac, A Type Of Regeneration"

(Read Genesis 21:1-14)

This is a unique Scripture taken from the first book of the Bible. It tells us of the birth of Isaac and of the conflict which came into the home of Abraham when Isaac was born. Previously, as a result of Sarah's suggestion, Abraham had cohabited with Sarah's maid, Hagar, with the result that Ishmael had been conceived and

born. Then a good while afterward, according to God's own plan, Isaac was born, and when he was weaned and Ishmael made fun of him, Sarah demanded that Hagar and her child be sent away. Though it grieved Abraham to do so, he did as Sarah commanded and sent Hagar and Ishmael away from his home.

From this interesting Scripture story filled with human in-

terest, we can find ample instructions by way of spiritual truths.

BEFORE ISAAC WAS BORN, THE ACTIVITIES OF NATURE WERE MADE AN END FOR. Abraham's body itself was dead, and so was Sarah's womb. So far as the ability of procreation and conception were concerned, Abraham and Sarah were the same (Continued on page two)

### NOT READY FOR PRINCE

When the last Prince of Wales was on a visit to the Midlands, he went into a certain working man's home. Next day his workman told his mates sadly: "I never expected him, nor did my wife. The house was untidy, and I hadn't washed. We shall never forgive ourselves. If we had known he was coming we shrould have been ready for him." The Prince of Peace is coming again, in power, to this earth of ours, and we know not the day or the hour. The one question for all is, "Are we ready to meet Him?" — Intermediate Young People.

### SEVEN BLESSINGS

May the Lord's presence this day be:

ABOVE YOU — To Guard. "Know therefore this day . . . that the Lord He is God in heaven above" (Deuteronomy 4:39).

UNDERNEATH — To Support. "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27).

BEHIND — As A Reward. "The God of Israel will be your reward" (Isaiah 52:12).

BEFORE — To Lead. "I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight" (Isaiah 40:3).

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## A Puzzling Bible Question

ROY MASON  
Tampa, Florida

Will the different seasons be abolished in the last days?

We have heard a certain saying purporting to be Scripture that we take the time to deal with it. We have been asked, "Where is that Scripture which says that in the closing days of the age, we shall be able to know summer and winter only by the falling of the leaves?"

That question is easily answered. THERE IS NO SUCH SCRIPTURE. It is one of the many "chimney corner scriptures" as some have called them. There are a number of such. For instance: "Every tub stands on its own bottom."

"The Lord helps those who help themselves."

Then there are other sayings, which are considered as true as if they were in the Bible. Such as:

"It doesn't matter which church one belongs to, for we are all WORKING for the same place." And, "I can worship God just as well at home as I can at church."

The above sayings are both false.

## But What About The Seasons?

Instead of the saying about the seasons given above being true, we have quite the contrary taught in Genesis 8:22. Definite seasons are promised. To be sure, there are variations in climate, but the laws of God are such that there is usually a balancing up.

## Seasons Before Noah

Evidently these were quite different from those we have now. Some think that the earth was enveloped with a shield of vapor which distributed light and heat in a more even way, such that there was tropical vegetation in the far north. And we know that in the coal is found fossil remains of tropical vegetation, even in northern climates. With the flood perhaps there came a change in earth's atmospheric condition, such that the earth came to have well defined regions as to climate. We know that in the past there was an ice age, with ice creeping far down into the U. S.

Also we know that there was a period in which no rain came upon the earth, and the earth was watered in a different way. (Read Gen. 2:5,6). Perhaps the rainbow came as a new phenomena with the advent of rain. (See Gen. 9:12-13).

13).

We believe that the peculiar phenomena of the earth's crust, and many of the things that the evolutionist argues as bolstering up his theory, can be explained upon the basis of the flood, with the tremendous upheavals that came. Not only did rain descend in torrents, but we read "the fountains of the deep were broken up." There are many evidences of the flood, apart from the statements of the Bible, and evidently it covered the whole face of the earth.

## Our Attitude Toward Scientific Theories

Of course the whole teaching of Scripture concerning creation fall of man, flood, etc., is laughed at my many today. Teachers trained in heathen universities and who have made no study of the Bible, dismiss its teachings as unworthy to even trouble with. School boys and girls and young men and women often get biased against the Bible before they know anything about it. But we should remember that there is a vast difference between actual SCIENCE, and a mere THEORY. Science is fact, while theory is guess work. Evolution is a good sample. Taught as actual fact in text books and in schools, it is only a guess. It ought to be

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\$1,100.00

No, this debt hasn't been reduced yet. As this issue goes to press the last issue hasn't been mailed to our subscribers.

Each week until our debt is paid, we will carry a list of contributors and contributions. I am anxiously waiting to see who will be the first to assist in the liquidation of this debt.

taught as a mere guess. Much pertaining to geology is in the nature of guesses. The fact that text books in the sciences change so rapidly, shows that theories are constantly changing. Much superior is the Bible, which age after age remains the same. Often the Bible has been discredited by making it teach something that it doesn't teach. Such as the idea that the world is square. It does not teach it.

The Bible wasn't written as a text book of science, but where it makes statements of a scientific nature, we can depend upon them standing as the truth long after men's theories have been exploded.

Let us make sure however that we have what the Bible really says — and not a "chimney corner Scripture" which originate in some person's fancy.

## A Merciful Mistake

He lay in the hospital that day racked with pain and impatient to be out again with his carefree friends. He was a young man who had been thrown from his horse while riding. Now as he lay in bed, he was resolving to become a master of horsemanship and had almost decided to take the law course at the University. Why, oh why, did the pain in his leg...

Suddenly everything changed for him. A sober nurse quietly brought a folding screen into his ward and placed it carefully around his bed. The screen! That meant he was expected to die—

now, soon. The world began to collapse around him. Horses and law courses were forgotten. He heard the hospital clock chime one. Perhaps before it chimed again he would be gone. Why hadn't they told him before? He wasn't ready to die. Perhaps before the hour was past he would be face to face with God. He hated the thought. He had never done anything very bad, but he hadn't gotten acquainted with God. He had always figured that there was plenty of time. His life began to pass before his eyes and he tried to see it as God would look at it. He shuddered. He hadn't even kept the second commandment about loving one's neighbor, let alone the first commandment about loving God with all one's heart. For the first time in his life he felt the crushing weight of the load of his own sin, and groaned at the judgment of a holy God. Restlessly he tossed. His eyes roamed feverishly over the ceiling and walls.

Then the answer came. It was written on a little placard on the opposite wall. He could see it above the screen.

COME UNTO ME,  
ALL YE THAT LABOUR  
AND ARE HEAVY LADEN,  
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

That was it. Jesus Christ, the Son of God — somehow a fellow could be saved if he came to Him. The sick man remembered pictures of the Christ with His hand stretched out to help — and one vivid picture of Christ on the Cross! Christ had died, and in some way that meant pardon for sinners and rest for the soul. This time he didn't stop to question the verse again: "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest." Aloud he said, "I will come! I do come! I come to Thee. Is it too late?"

The man in the next bed thought Poor guy, he's delirious now. But the man behind the screen was smiling. He knew it wasn't too late. A light shone into his soul. The burden of his sin rolled off and peace filled its place. He rested on the finished work of the redeemer. He had never been so deeply happy in his life. Now he was ready to die.

And yet, he wasn't ready to die. He thought of his own brother and his chums. Most of them cursed and laughed at God. Why hadn't he come to Christ sooner — while there was still time to tell them? If he could only have one chance to shout this wonderful news from the housetops! He would give a plea from a dying man that would make the whole

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## ISAAC, A TYPE OF REGENERATION

(Continued From Page One)

as dead. God's Word tells us specifically that this was true of both Abraham and Sarah. Listen:

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb." — Romans 4:19.

This in itself serves as an excellent illustration in that we may see that the natural man is thus spiritually dead. This is not a figure of speech, but a solemn reality, for every sinner is spiritually dead before God. Again and again God's Word tells us this is true. When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he reminded them that before they were saved, they were spiritually dead. He said:

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." — Ephesians 2:1.

In the same book the apostle declares the same truth in slightly different language when he says:

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." — Ephesians 4:18.

When the prodigal son returned home after having wasted his substance, the old father said concerning him:

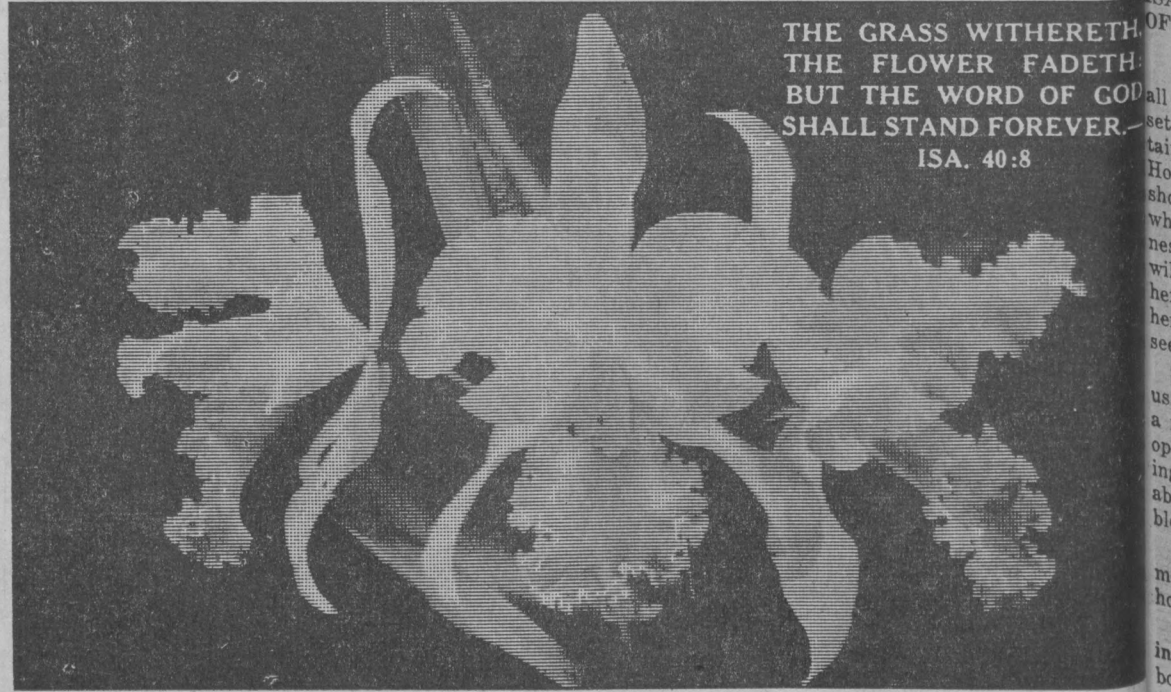
"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." — Luke 15:24.

Yes, beloved, as Abraham's body was dead, and as Sarah's womb was dead, so the natural man is spiritually dead. Many preachers speak of the sinner needing reformation, transformation, and education. I declare, beloved, that this is not true. The sinner needs none of these — what he needs above everything else, is LIFE. Even Jesus indicated that the sinner was dead, for in His conversation with Nicodemus, He insisted upon the new birth in that He said:

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." — John 3:7.

We come into the house of God many times for funerals. I often look down into the face of the individual within the casket realizing that that one is physically dead. Yet, beloved, no corpse is more physically dead than the sinner is spiritually. In fact, that which is true of the corpse naturally, is true of every sinner of the spiritual realm. While this may seem absurd to

THE GRASS WITHERETH.  
THE FLOWER FADETH:  
BUT THE WORD OF GOD  
SHALL STAND FOREVER.  
ISA. 40:8



the sinner in that he feels himself perfectly alive, yet it is infinitely true as the Scriptures indicate. Listen to the words Paul:

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." — Tim. 5:6.

In the story which Jesus told of the Good Samaritan, He mentioned of the man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and who fell among thieves. Among other things that Jesus said describing this man's condition, was that he was left "half dead." Cf. Luke 10:30. This poor unfortunate represents every saved person. The sinner himself is half dead. Manward, womanward, and sinward he is alive, but spiritually and Godward he is dead. While it is true that the sinner is alive naturally, physically, mentally and morally, it is true that he is dead spiritually and thus the poor unfortunate Jesus' story perfectly illustrates the spiritual status of every who is outside of Jesus.

BEFORE ISAAC WAS BORN GOD HAD TO PERFORM A MIRACLE. As I have said, before Abraham and Sarah were dead as to procreation and conception. Even Sarah herself, realizing this, laughed at the mention of child being born of her. Yet, we have often said, beloved, that is nothing too hard for God. Accordingly, God worked a miracle whereby Sarah conveyed to be a child. In other words, God had to perform a miracle as to the dead bodies of Abraham and Sarah before Isaac could be born.

What a perfect illustration this is as to salvation in view of the fact that God had to work a miracle before any of us could be born again. In reality, every conversion is a miracle.

I remember that a "traveling preacher" drove up to our church some months ago in a large automobile and asked the privilege of preaching in our church, telling his life story and, of course, taking an offering to defray his expenses. When I refused, he suggested that he himself was a miracle of grace and that his conversion was a miracle. I reminded him that in that respect he was the same as everyone else for everyone who is saved is truly a miracle. Just as God had to work a miracle before Isaac could be born, so God has to work a miracle in each of us to be born anew in His kingdom.

After Hagar had been driven out of the home of Abraham, she found water within her water bottle

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# ISAAC, A TYPE OF REGENERATION

(Continued from page two)

all spent, and so accordingly, she set her child down, feeling certain death would come to both. However, God opened her eyes, showed her a well of water, which, in her sorrow and blindness, she had overlooked. You will notice that God had to "open her eyes." Had He not opened her eyes, she would never have seen the well.

Surely this is true of each of us, for if God had not performed a miracle in us — if He had not opened our spiritual understanding, we would never have been able to see the truths of His blessed Word.

In the Scriptures there is a marvelous statement showing how this is true. Listen:

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." — Proverbs 20:12.

If you have an ear to hear God's voice and an eye with which to see spiritual truths, then you may know assuredly that both have come from God. He has made them for you. They have been miraculously given to

another good illustration of this truth is in the experience of Lydia, who was the first convert in Europe. Of her spiritual experience we read:

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul." — Acts 16:14.

You will notice this expression, "Whose heart the Lord opened." God had to open her heart — He had to work a miracle before Lydia might be saved.

Thus, as a miracle had to be performed on the part of God before Isaac was born, so before we could be born again into His family, God had to work a miracle in our behalf.

## III

THE COMING OF ISAAC PRODUCED A CONFLICT IN ABRAHAM'S HOUSEHOLD. So far as the revelation of God's Word is concerned, Sarah was perfectly agreeable and even suggested that Hagar bear a child for Abraham. There appears to have been no objection on her part, and evidently she offered no complaint as to the conduct of Abraham and Hagar until after her own son, Isaac, was born. While Abraham's household had been apparently free from strife up until the time of Isaac's birth, when Isaac was born, the true character of Ishmael was manifested. Of course, Ishmael symbolizes and illustrates the one who is born after the flesh, whereas Isaac is a type of that individual who is born after the spirit. That is, to say that Ishmael represents the unsaved while Isaac represents the child of God. Paul, by inspiration, tells us of this typology when he wrote to the churches of Galatia. Listen:

"But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." — Gal. 4:29.

Again this perfectly illustrates another phase of our spiritual experience. When one is born again and receives a new nature, the old nature — our fleshly nature — comes out in its true colors. Just as the birth of Isaac revealed the true character of Isaac, so when one is born again the true character of our fleshly nature is manifested. No one would ever have known possibly how vile

Ishmael was had Isaac not been born, and surely no individual would ever know how vile and sinful his flesh were if he had never experienced the new birth. It is when we are born again that we learn what a vile thing our flesh really is.

Yes, it is definitely true that as the coming of Isaac produced a conflict in Abraham's household, so when one is born again, there begins a conflict between his fleshly nature and the new nature he has received from God.

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." — Gal. 5:17.

If you would see the strife of the two natures, then read Paul's own experience as recorded in Romans. Listen:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me: but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." — Romans 7:15-20.

Surely there is no child of God but what sees in this a reflection of his own spiritual experience — on the one hand doing the things that he does not desire to do, and on the other hand failing to do the things that he knows he should do. Thus, the new nature delights in the law of God while the old nature continues in sin.

Again I say that as Isaac's coming produced a conflict in Abraham's household, so when we are born of the spirit, a conflict begins within our own experience — the new nature and the old warring the one against the other.

## IV

IT IS RATHER INTERESTING TO NOTICE THAT ISAAC GREW BY FEEDING ON HIS MOTHER'S MILK. Listen to God's Word:

"And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned." — Genesis 21:8

As Isaac received milk and nourishment from his mother, so he grew until the day came that he was weaned. Thus it is with the believer. When we are born again and experience the new birth, we become spiritual babes. A lot of folk never get beyond their spiritual babyhood. They remain spiritual juveniles all their lives. Instead of growing, developing, and maturing spiritually as they should, they continue as infantile Christians. Many churches are filled with them. Whereas the church ought to be a training camp for soldiers, it becomes in many instances, a nursery for babes — all because those who have been saved have failed to grow.

This is the basis of the carnality, strife and divisions which are found within our churches. These conditions never would exist if God's people had grown and matured. This was true of the church at Corinth. Paul said of them:

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

## Laid On The Altar

Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord divine,  
Accept my gift this day, for Jesus' sake,  
I have no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,  
Nor any world-famed sacrifice to make;  
But here I bring within my trembling hands,  
This will of mine, a thing that seemeth small,  
Yet Thou alone, O Lord, canst understand  
How, when I yield Thee this, I yield mine all.

Hidden therein, Thy searching gaze can see  
Struggles of passion, visions of delight,  
All that I have, or am, or fain would be  
Deep loves, fond hopes, and longings infinite;  
It hath been wet with tears, and dimmed with sighs,  
Clenched in my grasp, till beauty hath it none;  
Now from Thy footstool, where it vanquished lies,  
The prayer ascendeth, "May Thy will be done."

Take it, O Father, ere my courage fail,  
And merge it so into Thine own will, that e'en  
If in some desperate hour my cries prevail,  
And thou give back my gift, it may have been  
So changed, so purified, so fair have grown,  
So one with Thee, so filled with love divine,  
I may not know or feel it as my own,  
But gaining back my will, may find it Thine.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" — 1 Cor. 3:1-4.

Well, Isaac grew by feeding on his mother's milk, and each believer who feeds on the milk of the Word of God will grow and develop into a full grown stature. This is the exhortation of God's Word in our behalf. Listen:

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." — 1 Peter 2:2.

## ULTIMATELY, ISHMAEL WAS DRIVEN OUT FROM ABRAHAM'S HOUSEHOLD.

The last part of the 21st chapter of Genesis tells us how that the conflict in Abraham's household between Hagar and Sarah caused by the actions of Ishmael, finally came to a head. On the day that Isaac was weaned, Ishmael mocked and made fun of him. Doubtless little Isaac did cry on that day. What babe was ever weaned who did not cry a little when his "dinner" was taken from him. Well, the weaning of Isaac gave Ishmael a good opportunity to make fun of him. It was then that old Sarah, now approximately 100 years of age went "straight up," he eyes snapping, and with anger burning within her bosom, she pointed her finger in Abraham's face and demanded that Hagar and Ishmael be put out of the house. I imagine she went so far as to threaten to go to "Reno" if the slave girl and her child were not immediately dispossessed. Well, in order to restore equanimity and peace within his house, Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away. Though it was with reluctance he did so, yet Ishmael was driven away from his home.

So it will be with us some day. Judicially the life of the flesh has already ended for us, but practically it is still with us. Every child of God knows that this is true. Only the misinformed, the unintelligent, and the Scripturally unlearned would ever dare to say that they had gotten rid of their fleshly natures. Practically, our flesh is still with us. Yet, there is a glorious day coming when our Ishmael — our vile nature — will be cast out. Just

as Ishmael was driven out, so our flesh shall some day come to an end.

Lodng ago Elijah was caught up into the skies in a chariot. As he arose in this chariot from the earth, his mantle dropped behind him. It was all that was left of Elijah here on this earth. Some day we too shall have this experience. In the words of the old song:

"This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise  
To seize the everlasting prize."

This is the meaning of many verses of God's Word. Many of the Scriptures tell us that some day our flesh will come to an end. Of course, that never takes place as long as we are here in this life. Yet, when life closes for us in this earth, we will then be perfect in God's sight. Listen:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear that we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." — 1 John 3:2.

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." — 1 Cor. 15:49.

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." — Phil. 3:21.

Yes, as peace was restored to Abraham's household when Ishmael was driven out, so when our old flesh comes to an end we shall then be brought into that perfect peace that is ours in Christ our Saviour.

## VI

ABRAHAM MADE A GREAT FEAST FOR ISAAC WHEN HE WAS WEANED. On the day that little Isaac was weaned Abraham made a great feast. Listen:

"And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned." — Genesis 21:8.

Of course, this too is a prophecy of our spiritual experiences. Some day we are going to be feasting with the Lord. I don't profess to know all that Abraham had to enjoy at that feast, and neither do I profess to know what joys will be ours when we feast with Him. Yet, the fact remains

that some day such a feast shall be ours to experience. Listen:

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." — Matt. 8:11.

You understand that this feast came for Isaac after he had grown and when he was weaned, and our feast with our Lord will only take place when we become full grown men in Him. Paul declares that in this life we are but children. Listen:

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." — 1 Cor. 13:9-11.

However, there is a day coming when we are going to be full grown. When that day arrives wherein we reach our spiritual maturity, we shall then feast with our Lord.

Surely it was a glorious day in Abraham's household when Isaac was weaned, and this feast was spread, yet nothing to compare with the glory that shall be ours when we lay aside our spiritual childhood and as full grown mature Christians, we begin to feast eternally with Him.

## VII

ULTIMATELY ISAAC BECAME HEIR TO ALL OF ABRAHAM'S POSSESSIONS.

Though other children were born to Abraham after the birth of Isaac, he gave all that he had unto Isaac, who became his complete heir. Listen:

"And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac." — Gen. 25:5.

Thus this child who was born as a result of a physical miracle, became heir to all of Abraham's vast possessions.

And we too, as God's children, are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." — Rom. 8:17.

What a glorious day then is in store for us when we receive the inheritance that is ours in Him.

A few years ago a man came into my study to borrow some money. Failing to get the desired amount that he asked for through the appeal that he originally made, he then changed his tactics and tried to tell me about how rich he was going to be when his father died. Finally he said, "When my old man dies, I'll be immensely rich." Of course he was speaking of his earthly father. You know the Word of God refers to our flesh as our "old man," and after this one had gone out of my study, I pondered his expression: "I'll be immensely rich when my old man dies." Well, beloved, surely that is true of each of us today. I am rich now. I have a loving, merciful Heavenly Father, I have the privilege of prayer, I have a Bible filled with His precious promises which He has given me ability to understand. I know that hell is in the background and that heaven is out before me. I repeat, beloved, that I'm rich now, and yet when my old man dies — when my fleshly nature comes to an end, I'm going to be immensely rich. What a glorious day then is in store for each child of God.

In view of this, may you believe upon Him and receive Him as your Saviour, remembering the words of Paul when he said:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."



## LODGES, A SWINDLE

(Continued from page one)

ance with the latest authors," published by the Allen Publishing Company, John and Dutch Sts., New York. This Monitor, used by Masons themselves, is mostly written in a very easy code so that an intelligent man with just a little study can make out practically every word of it.

I say that the claim of the lodges to give secret and wonderful lessons not available in any other way is false, and in this the lodges are a swindle. Not only are the lessons ordinary, but they are not secrets to those who can read and will see the truth.

Some of the lodges, particularly the Masonic lodge lay claim to a very great age. Some Masons claim that Masonry is of divine origin. Some say that Noah and Enoch passed on secrets to Masonry and it is generally claimed that King Solomon himself organized a Masonic lodge. It is said that Zechariah was a Mason. The lodges are 'erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saint Johns,' referring to John the Baptist and John the Apostle, both of whom it is claimed were patrons of the Masonry. In the Masonic Burial Service, adopted by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1921, is this statement, "This white apron (or lambskin) is the emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the golden fleece or Roman eagle; more honorable than star and garter, when worthily worn." Note that this badge of a Mason claims to be "more ancient than the golden fleece or Roman eagle."

Now all this is a wicked falsehood, a lie concocted to deceive the simple and ignorant. In this matter Masonry is such a hoax such a dishonest swindle, that Christian men ought to be ashamed to be connected with it. As the great John Quincy Adams said about Masonry:

"If the candidate has been educated to a sincere and heartfelt reverence for religion and the Bible, and if he exercises his reason, he knows that all the tales of Jachin and Boaz, of Solomon's Temple of Hiram Abiff, and Jubela, Jubelo and Jubulum, are impostures — poison poured into the perennial fountain of truth — traditions exactly resembling those reprobated by Jesus Christ as making the Word or God of none effect" (quoted from Masonic Oaths Null and Void, by Edmond Ronayne, page 135).

Edmond Ronayne, who was Past Master of Keystone Lodge Number 639, in Chicago, says about the frauds of Masonry:

"Then it is seriously asserted that Hiram Abiff was slain at high twelve near the east gate of the Temple, by one Jubulum when the real facts are that Hiram was not slain at all, and that the Temple of Solomon had no East gate to it. And in connection with this pretended murder we also are further assured that the three assailants of Hiram—Jubela, Jubelo and Jubulum—were workmen from Tyre, whose names had three Latin terminations sixteen centuries at least before the Latin language was ever known.

"Again it is related of Hiram that he was slain at high twelve and concealed in the rubbish of the temple, while the truth is that there was no rubbish whatever around the Temple, and he could not have been murdered and concealed as related, without the ruffians being at once detected.

## What I Need

Grace when the sun is shining, Lord;  
Grace when the sky is black;  
Grace when I get the unkind word,  
Grace on the too smooth track;  
Grace when I'm elbowed into a nook,  
Grace when I get my turn;  
Grace when I read Thy Holy Book,  
Grace to make my candle burn;  
Grace when the duties all go wrong,  
Grace when they all seem right;  
Grace when it's gladness, praise, and song,  
Grace when it's hard to fight;  
Grace when my coat is fresh and new,  
Grace when it's worn and old;  
Grace when my purse is empty, too,  
Grace when it's full of gold;  
Grace when the saved ones seem to wave,  
And bring disgrace on thee;  
Grace when the grace I ask and crave  
Seems denied me, Lord, by Thee;  
Grace when the midnight hours I tell,  
Grace when the morn is nigh;  
Grace when I'm healthy, strong, and well  
Grace when I come to die.

—The Ohio Independent Baptist.

"Again it is asserted of Hiram Abiff, that he cut a white stone, and polished and engraved upon it eight Roman letters—H. T. W. S. S. T. K. S.—the initials of Hiram, Tyre, Widow's Son, Sent to King Solomon—at least fifteen hundred years before the Roman letters were known in the world" (Masonic Oaths Null and Void pages 138, 139).

All this talk about the ancient origin of Masonry is false. Masons themselves have kept a careful record of the origins of Masonry. By consulting a standard encyclopedia, the reader may learn accurately about the origin of Masonry.

Rev. James Putt, Th. M., pastor of the Fourth Christian Reformed Church in Chicago, in his pamphlet on Masonry says:

"The full name of the Masonic Order is 'Ancient and Accepted Freemasonry.' This leaves the impression that it dates back many centuries. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, it had its inception not earlier than 1717 A. D. The degrees of the Scottish Rite were set in order in 1762. In 1786 there were some changes and regulations made. There are some degrees in Masonry today that are supposed to be a continuation of orders that existed already during the times of the Crusades, as, for example the Knights Templar. But these orders were not introduced into Masonry until the beginning of the eighteenth century.

"The history of the Mystic Shrine, to which all Masonic degrees lead, tells us that it was established at Mecca, Arabia, and later revived and instituted at Cairo, Egypt, with the purpose of promoting, organizing, and perfecting the Arabian and Egyptian Inquisition in order to dispense justice and execute punishment upon criminals. When it was brought to this country, it was placed in the hands of the Masons. This took place in the early part of the eighteenth century."

This scholarly pamphlet of thirty-one pages with references and bibliographies, is published by Zondervan Publishing House and is very good.

Again I say that the claim to antiquity made by Masonry is a false claim. High and leading Masons know that it is false. By claims of great age and some times of divine origin, Masonry

seeks for itself and authority that it does not deserve, and by these false pretenses it catches the unlearned. And this claim to great age is such a swindle, so dishonest, that any Christian ought to be devoutly ashamed to have a part in it.

The lodges make great claim to benevolence, but generally that claim is unfounded. The lodges, in fact, support their own homes for aged Masons and their wives, and for the orphan children of Masons, it is true. At Arlington, Texas an Eastern Star home and a home for aged Masons. At Fort Worth, Texas, is the Masonic Home. But do these homes receive anyone who is old and poor, or does the orphanage receive any children who are needy and left without father or mother, etc? Indeed, they do not. They receive those whose way has been paid ahead of time. The lodges are simply big insurance organizations. People who enter them pay in enough for dues and fees to guarantee that they themselves will be cared for when necessary. Masons who keep their dues paid up, and who carefully preserve their connection, will be relieved when in distress, but remember that they have paid for that privilege. The care that Masonry gives to the aged the poor, and the orphans is no more than insurance companies all over the world do for those who have taken out insurance policies and paid the premiums. The boasted benevolence of the lodges, I say, is a swindle.

I am thinking just now of a Scottish Rite hospital for crippled children. There I understand crippled children are treated whether or not their parents are Masons. Well and good. We are glad for all the benevolence that they exercise toward those in trouble. I do know that generally the benevolence of the lodges is simply returning a part of the great amount paid in dues and fees, and that generally it is a selfish benevolence, never for the general public.

Certainly the benevolence of the lodges cannot compare with that of the Roman Catholics in their many orphanages and schools and homes. I am not a Catholic, but I respect a sincere love for the poor and the destitute. How different is the benevolence of the lodges from that commanded in the Bible.

Listen to what Jesus said:

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

"But when thou makest a feast call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:12-14).

Let us compliment lodge men when they take care of their own widows and orphans and aged. Let us be glad about all the normal precepts which are sometimes taught in the lodges. Let us admit that many splendid men and women are in the lodges, and many of them church people and preachers. But the "benevolence" of the lodges is not benevolence at all. In general it is simply a counter part of the protection of commercial insurance companies. They take care of their own who have paid to be taken care of, and they are certainly not in the class with the churches, and their spirit and works are not those of the Christian religion. (I speak of the lodges themselves, and not of individuals. The boasted benevolence of the lodges is simply not benevolence, but paying back a part of what is paid in dues and fees.

Sometimes lodge members have said that the lodges are the handmaidens of the church. But that is untrue, just as the claims of secret and unpublished knowledge, the claims to a great age, the claims to divine origins, the claims that ancient prophets were patrons of the lodges, are all untrue. And the falsity of those claims is such that Christians should be ashamed to take part in the swindle that is put over upon the ignorant when people are led into lodge membership. Lodges live by dishonest claims and are a swindle.—The Christian Cynosure.

## BLESSINGS FROM GOD'S PRESENCE

(Continued from Page One)

45:2).  
AT YOUR RIGHT HAND — To Protect. "Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8).

ROUND ABOUT — To Shield From Storms. "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever" (Psalm 125:2).

WITHIN — As a Companion And Comforter. "And I will put my Spirit within you" (Ezekiel 36:27). "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). — Mrs. Jonathan Goforth.

## ONE THING

(Continued from page one)  
"Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (R. V.). The image is that of the race course.

7. "Be Not Ignorant Of This One Thing" (II Peter 3:8).

"That one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." — "But the day of the Lord will come—"

8. "Not One Thing Hath Failed" (Joshua 23:14 R. V.).

—"Of all the good things which

Jehovah your God spoke concerning you, all are come to pass upon you—"

"No longer doubt God's promise, true,

But trust His Word today. What He hath promised He will do,

The answer's on the way." —Selected

## THE MERCIFUL MISTAKE

(Continued from page two)

world wake up! If only —  
Then the nurse came back. "I'm very sorry, sir," she said, "there's been a mistake. I placed the screen at the wrong bed. Very sorry, sir."

To her astonishment the patient sat bolt upright in bed and said, "Sorry! Why that's the greatest thing that ever happened to me in my life!" — The Christian Register.

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST QUEST

(Continued from page one)  
God's Word says. "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." There are certainly a lot of animated corpses running around nowadays!

Millions live for pleasure and never have it because they make it a business, whereas it is a product. The most miserable mortals on earth are those who scurry around in automobiles looking for a good time and never find it.

Why spend your time at lunch counters of earthly pleasures, when we have a standing invitation to the banquet of the grace of God? Seek the things God gives — "joy unspeakable and full of glory." There is "morning after" taste to the life of the Lord.

—The Defender

## BE YE PERFECT

W. Y. Fullerton has told an impressive story of a lighthouse off the coast of Florida, which many years ago failed to act as its accustomed part, and became an instrument of death and destruction rather than of preservation and safety. A window in the lamp room was broken. There was no time to repair it, and a piece of tin was substituted. That night during a furious storm, the vessel beating up the coast was sent astray by the one part defective with results fatal to the crew. What a warning to Christians! We must see that the evidence of the Christ-controlled heart shines from every phase of our life. — Sword and Trowel.

"Not your own!" but His right. His peculiar treasure now, Fair and precious in His sight.

Purchased jewels for His bride. He will keep what thus He sought. Safely guard the dearly bought. Cherish that which He did choose. Always love and never lose.

## BIBLE READING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

According to information received by the American Bible Society, the status of Bible reading in the public schools of America is as follows:

Required in 11 states — Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee.

Prohibited in 3 states — Illinois, Louisiana, Wisconsin.

Permitted but not required in 34 states. — American Bible Society.