

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With a National Circulation

"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. 424

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"Chocolate Christians!"

Heroism is the lost chord; the missing note of present day Christianity!

Every true soldier is a hero! A soldier without heroism is a chocolate soldier! Who has not been stirred to scorn and mirth by the very thought of a Chocolate Soldier? In peace true soldiers are captive lions, fretting in their cages. War gives them their liberty and sends them, like boys bounding out of school, to obtain their heart's desire or to perish in the attempt. Battle is the soldier's vital breath! Peace turns him into a stooping asthmatic. War makes him a whole man again, and gives him the heart, strength and vigor of a hero.

Every true Christian is a soldier—of Christ—a hero "par excellence!" Braver than the bravest—scorning the soft seductions of peace and her oft-repeated warnings against hardship, disease, danger and death, whom he counts among his bosom friends. The otherwise Christian is a chocolate Christian! Dissolving in water and melting at the smell of

fire. "Sweeties" they are! Bonbons, lollypops! Living their lives on a glass dish or in a cardboard box, each clad in his soft clothing, a little frilled white paper to preserve his dear little delicate constitution.

Here are some portraits of Chocolate Soldiers taken by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"He said, 'I go, sir,' and went not," he said he would go to the heathen, but stuck fast to Christendom instead.

"They say and do not"—they tell others to go, and yet do not go themselves. "Never," said General Gordon to a corporal, as he himself jumped upon the parapet of a trench before Sebastopol to fix a gabion which the corporal had ordered a private to fix and wouldn't fix himself, "Never tell another man to do what you are afraid to do yourself."

To the Chocolate Christian the very thought of war brings a violent attack of ague, while the call to battle always finds him with the palsy. "I really cannot

move," he says, "I only wish I could, but I can sing, and here are some of my favorite lines:—

I must be carried to the skies
On a flowery bed of ease,
Let others fight to win the prize,
Or sail thro' bloody seas.

God never was a chocolate manufacturer and never will be. God's men are always heroes. In Scripture you can trace their giant foot-prints down the sands of time.

Noah walked with God, he didn't only preach righteousness, he acted it. He went through water and didn't melt. He breast- ed the current of the popular opinion of his day, scorning alike the hatred and ridicule of the scoffers who mocked at the thought of there being but one way of salvation. He warned the unbelieving and, entering the ark himself, didn't open the door an inch when once God had shut it. A real hero untainted by the fear of man.

Learn to scorn the praise of men,

Learn to lose with God;
Jesus won the world thro' shame!
And beckons us His road.

Abraham, a simple farmer, at a word from the Invisible God, marched, with family and stock through the terrible desert to a distant land to live among a people whose language he could neither speak nor understand! Not bad that! But later he did even better, marching hot foot against the combined armies of five kings, flushed with recent victory, to rescue one man! His army? Just 318 odd fellows, armed like a circus crowd. And he won too. "He always wins who sides with God." What pluck! Only a farmer! No war training! Yet what hero has eclipsed his feat? His open secret? He was the friend of God.

Moses—the man of God—was a species of human chameleon—scholar, general, lawyer, leader,

etc. Brought up as the Emperor's grandson with more than a good chance of coming to the throne, one thing only between him and it—Truth—what a choice! What a temptation! A throne for a lie! Ignominy, banishment, or likely enough death for the truth! He played the man! "Refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin and success for a season, accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

Again I see him. Now an old man and alone, marching stolidly back to Egypt, after forty years of exile, to beard the lion in his den, to liberate Pharaoh's slaves right under his very nose, and to lead them across that great and terrible wilderness. A wild-cat affair, if ever there was one! When were God's schemes otherwise? Look at Jordan, Jericho, Gideon, Goliath, and scores of

(Continued on page four)

What To Do When There Is A Thief In The House, Destroying Our Faith

Another strong letter has come to our desk, written by an earnest and sincere Christian, to tell us that we must cease mentioning error in these pages, if we would please God. As previously, the scripture, "the servant of the Lord must not strive," has been used to prove the point at issue. At the risk of seeming redundancy we point out something to which we alluded recently, that the word translated strive is the Greek machesthai, which means, to war. It has the implication of disputing or quarreling.

To call attention to error is neither quarreling nor disputing;

AS A REFINER

Malachi 3:3 says: "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." Notice the word, sit. A woman read this verse and said, "I shall find out all I can about the way silver is refined."

So she visited a silver refinery. She watched the process for a time and then said to the man who sat by the boiling liquid, "Do you always sit at your work?" "Oh, yes," he replied, "You see the liquid needs constant and careful attention. All the scum must be taken off and the fire must never get too hot."

"How do you know when the refining work is done?" queried the woman.

The answer was: "It is done when I can see my face in the molten metal."

Here is Romans 8:28,29 in our Bibles. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son." This is the purpose of every trial in our lives—make us more like Jesus, — To The Uttermost"

it is not warring. Suppose there were a thief in your house, making off with your most precious possessions! Would you pat his back and compliment him on his good taste? Would you hold the door for him and help him load your belongings into his car? Would you sit down and have a cup of tea with him, and assure him that he had a right to his way of life and livelihood? Or would you seek to apprehend him, and to save your possessions? You know what the answer is, nor would you say that to act for your own protection is "striving."

There is a thief in the house of our faith. He is seeking to rob us of all that we hold dear concerning Christ our Saviour. He would take from us His Deity, His atoning sacrifice and its efficacy, the hope of His coming, and anything and everything else (Continued on page two)

DEFINITE COMPROMISE ON PART OF BOY SCOUTS

We are glad to pass on and endorse the following item from the bulletin of the Franklin Street Baptist Church of Louisville:

Boy Scouts - Girl Scouts

We greatly regret that, in spite of the protests of the Baptists of Louisville, the Scout leaders have accepted a gift of \$30,000 from the Brewers of Louisville. We feel that "Beer" is doing more than any one thing to ruin the lives of our boys and girls and we cannot see how our Scout leaders would let these people who are ruining the lives of our (Continued on page two)

Mused Uncle Mose

Dem missionary womens, dey meets and talks and sheds teahs ovah de heathen Chinees, while dey own gals is out ridin' to hell wid de debil.

What Is The Meaning Of Mt. 16:18 As To The Church Which Jesus Built?

We have here in Matt. 16:18 a Scripture that has been the battleground of much controversy. The particular question that we desire to consider is the question as to the foundation of the church that Jesus established.

The Wrong View

The wrong view is that Peter was the foundation of the church. This is the view that furnishes the very foundation of the Catholic Church. They assume that Peter was given the primacy—the headship of the church—that he transferred his authority to his successor, and that a long chain of popes have followed, each with the authority that Peter had.

Why Peter Is Not The Foundation Of The Church

The language used prohibits this meaning. There is a play of words in the Greek "thou art

Petros (little rock) and upon this perta (great stone) I will build." The word "petra" is feminine and therefore could not refer to Peter.

The subject under discussion prohibits the idea that Peter was meant. (v. 13). What were they talking about? About who Jesus was—not about who or what Peter was. To assume that Peter is referred to as foundation is to assume that Jesus suddenly changed the subject, which it is evident that He did not mean to do.

The subsequent remarks of Jesus prohibits the idea that (Continued On Page Two)

DOES CHRISTIANITY WORK?

Does Christianity work? Kazainak was a robber chieftain, a man of violence, in far-away Greenland. Curiosity brought him into contact with the missionary. One day the missionary read to him the story of Christ's sufferings, when the chief immediately asked: "What has this man done? Has He robbed anybody? Has He murdered anybody?"

"No," was the reply. "He has robbed no one, murdered no one; He has done nothing wrong."

"Then why does He suffer? Why does He die?"

"Listen," said the missionary. "This man has done no wrong; but Kazainak has done wrong. This man has not robbed any one; but Kazainak has robbed many. This man has murdered no one; but Kazainak has murdered his brother. This man suffered that Kazainak might not suffer; died that Kazainak might not die."

"Tell me that again," said the astonished chieftain. And the hard-hearted sinner became the humble follower of the Lord Jesus, doing good instead of doing evil. — Selected.

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"Seven Reasons Why Christ May Soon Come"

By D. B. Eastep

Ed. Note: Bro. Eastep is pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Covington, Ky., having been pastor there for the past nineteen years. The editor has counted him as one of the best of personal friends. It is a joy to reproduce this message in the columns of our paper. As you read it may your heart echo, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Our subject tonight is Seven Reasons Why Christ May Soon Return. I wrote a little book years ago called, "Bringing Back

the King," and in that book I gave twenty-four signs of Christ's coming. Through the years I have seen no reason to revise it. Whenever you have the Word of the Lord, you do not need much revision in your books. You may change them slightly to bring them up to date, but the same conditions that exist today have existed for many, many years. The only difference is that today they are worse—more exaggerated. I could give you fifty reasons why I believe that Christ may soon return, but I am going to give you only seven tonight.

The first one I shall mention is found in the 12th chapter and

fourth verse of the Book of Daniel. Daniel, you will remember, had a vision of Gentile world power. God gave him in one vision something that He had never given to any other man. God showed him the whole sweep of Gentile world power—He showed him the whole history of the world under the rule of the Gentile nations. You will recall that Jesus said that Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled. This makes it clear that there is a certain time that the Gentiles are going to rule but when that time is finished (Continued on page two)

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WHAT DOES MATTHEW 16:18 MEAN?

(Continued From Page One)

Peter was meant here.

Almost immediately Jesus called him "Satan." (Matt. 16:23). Strange words to the "pope" — the head of the church.

Other Scriptures make plain that Peter did not occupy any place of primacy in the church. (Ephes. 2:20 places him alongside the others, as "foundation stones"). I Peter 5:1 Peter speaks of himself as "fellow elder" showing that he did not give himself any place of headship.

Peter, the vacillating denier of Jesus would have been a poor foundation for the church. Recall the story of the denial. No — the church was not founded on man.

What Then Did Jesus Mean?

Let us analyze the passage for a moment.

Jesus asks the disciples (16:13) what people were saying about Him. The answer is given in verse 14.

Then He asks the more personal question as to what they thought of Him. (v. 15). Peter hastens to answer for the group. He declares that Jesus is the Messiah — the Son of God.

Jesus blesses Peter for the answer and declares that this truth as to His Messiahship and deity are divinely given truths. Then He utters the words of our lesson. What did He mean? What was He talking about? He was talking about Peter's confession that He was the Christ, the Son of God.

As we understand it, the passage may be paraphrased something like this:

"I want to tell you, you are Peter ("petros" — the little stone) and upon this great (petra) foundation rock — this divinely apprehended truth that I am the Messiah, the Son of God, I am going to build my church, and it shall never go out of existence."

No Accounts

When the Rev. Henry Blunt was dying, the doctor said to him, "Sir, you are drawing near the grave, and I think if you have any accounts to settle, you had better settle them now." Mr. Blunt replied, "I have no accounts to settle; I owe nothing to man, and my Saviour has paid all my debts to God!"

What a blessed state! God grant that we may all be able to say that when we stand on the brink of the river.

JUDY AND SAM

By Henrietta Van Laar

From Wm. B. Eerdman's Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.



It was with much reluctance that Judy, with her mother, leaves her city home and friend Mary to go live with her uncle on a large farm. Longing for her city home, she anticipates a very lonely life until she meets Sam, a friendly neighbor boy, with whom she has lots of fun. Then, too, you will enjoy reading how she learns to love the animals on the farm, especially the little baby calf which she cares for and raises. Boys and girls will find this a very interesting book.



BOY SCOUTS

(Continued from page one)

children to buy their way with them. WE JOIN WITH OTHER BAPTIST CHURCHES IN URGING OUR BOYS AND GIRLS WHO ARE IN "THE SCOUTS" TO TELL THEIR LEADERS THAT THEY CAN NOT BELONG TO THE SCOUTS LONGER, unless this matter is corrected.

We should just as soon have the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed the Son of God as to have the money contributed by the organized manufacturers (Continued on page four)

In brief:

We believe that Christ established His church upon the divinely revealed and apprehended truth of His Messiahship and Deity. This is equivalent to saying upon Christ Himself. For the truth of Christ's Messiahship and deity, and the Person of Christ Himself, are inseparably connected. With this view coincide such Scripture as Ephes. 2:20; I Cor. 3:11; I Peter 2:5-6).

Therefore those who deny the full deity of Christ are digging away the very foundation of the church and Christianity.

Incidentally Note

Christ started His church. (He said I will build) not Campbell, Calvin, etc.

His church was a local, visible assembly. (Matt. 18:17 makes this plain).

He promised its continued and continuous existence. Therefore any church that was started centuries later, was started too late.

"I wish I could send you ten times this amount (\$10.00). I hope and pray others will send more and you will have what you need for your equipment. THE BAPTIST EXAMINER gets better all time. I hope I never miss a copy as long as I am able to read." — Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Huntington, W. Va.

"Here is enclosed five dollars (\$5.00) to be used as you deem best, to spread the gospel." — Mr. and Mrs. William Bell, Elberon, Va.



A THIEF IN THE HOUSE

(Continued from Page One)

that is supernatural. What are we to do? Are we to say nothing, and do nothing? Are we to compliment such a one on his adroitness? Are we not to defend the precious truths of God's Word, and point the finger at error? Is this what the Apostle meant when he wrote: "The servant of the Lord must not strive?" Of course it isn't. To the contrary, it is written that "ye should earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). This is what Our Hope has done for a half century and will continue to do, God willing. We shall endeavor to do so, however, in love, and not in a contentious way.—Our Hope.

Ed. Note: This expresses exactly the position of the editor of this paper. Lots of sentimental Baptists need to be reminded often of "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" I Tim. 5:28.



"SEVEN REASONS WHY CHRIST MAY SOON COME"

(Continued from page one)

ished, God is going to pick up the nation Israel — the Jews — and Israel will rule. You may not like the idea but that is God's order — not mine. God says the same thing in the 15th chapter of the Book of the Acts how

"God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name... After this I will return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up."

One does not have to stretch his imagination to believe that the time of the Gentiles is about over. Nations and governments have tumbled, some are tottering, and even the so-called leading nations of the world are shaky, not knowing what move to make next.

The second reason why I believe that Christ may soon return is found in Daniel, chapter II, verses 26 and 27. Truce-breaking and pact-breaking.

"Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow; and many shall fall down slain" — (in other words, slain by the hand that feeds them).

"And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table" — (peace table) — "but it shall not prosper; for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."

Was Daniel speaking about the end-time? Yes, for the whole book of Daniel deals with the time of the end very definitely, especially the latter part. What does he say? Men are going to bite the hands of them that feed them. You wait and see. There are millions of people that America is feeding today but some day they are going to bite our hands. We let Japan have scrap iron and she threw it back in our face. We may get some of our

lend-lease material back from Europe yet. That's what the Word of God says, and I am just telling you what I believe this passage means.

Then Daniel says that they are going to speak lies at the same table. There you are. Peace-making, truce-making, but yet the whole thing founded on a lie — saying one thing and thinking another.

The third reason why I believe Jesus is coming soon is that you read in the magazines and the newspapers; that you hear from the lips of modernist preachers; that you hear on every hand. Turn with me to the book of First Thessalonians, the fifth chapter and the third verse:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

I never hear talk about peace that I do not think of this passage written by the Apostle Paul nineteen hundred years ago.

This is a day and age of peace talking; and I am for peace for the world. It is much better to get along without fighting, but I want to say this: These peace talks just won't work out, for God says, "Unto the end there shall be wars." That is God's proclamation and prophecy and you will find that He never misses.

The fourth reason I believe that Jesus is coming soon is the shaping of two tremendous world powers. I haven't time to read all the Scriptures pertaining to this subject but I shall just mention them. The 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel tells us of a great world power. We are seeing Russia coming into power right before our own eyes. She is the only nation coming out of this world war with any power. America is not — we are bled white, financially, spiritually, morally, and possibly politically. But Russia is coming out and she is coming out on top. She is seeking the boundaries that Bible students have set according to the Scriptures years ago when there was not even a sign of their being possible. Preachers who preached the truth of God's prophecy were called crazy, but their messages have been vindicated by the present trend of world affairs.

DEATH



"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." — Heb. 9:27.

"For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living." — Job 30:23.

"Man that is born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." — Job 14:1

Then the nations whose daries composed the Old Empire are falling together another league though by an written treaty. Read Daniel 45; Daniel 7 and Revelation when you go home. We shall this up in more detail in another message.

Then another reason I want to mention is a confederacy of nations. This is found in the Book of Daniel, second chapter verses 40 to 44:

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and dueth all things; and as iron breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

"And whereas thou sawest feet and toes, part of pottery, clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but they shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay."

"And as the toes of the were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken."

"And whereas thou sawest mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the clay of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

"And in the days of these shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

What is the picture? Daniel saw in a vision a man who four parts to him. He saw a head of gold, shoulders of silver, the of brass, and legs of iron. There were toes of iron and clay mingled. He said, there is coming a time when those ten kingdoms are going to be destroyed; and that day God is going to set up His everlasting king. When the ten-toed kingdoms take shape and reach their zenith, God is going to set up a kingdom. As we know, the fourth world empire was Rome. That empire is going to be revived, with ten kingdoms under one state, under one king. There is a stirring among nations around the Mediterranean (Continued on Page Three)

Looking Which Way?

LOOK BACKWARD—See Christ dying for you.
LOOK UPWARD—See Christ pleading for you.
LOOK INWARD—See Christ living in you.
LOOK FORWARD—See Christ coming for you.

SEVEN REASONS WHY CHRIST MAY SOON RETURN

(Continued from page two)

...and as sure as we live, it is the coming of that kingdom that Daniel said was coming to pass, which shall be supplanted by the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Then here is another thing we see today. If you don't see it, it is because you don't read your papers or listen to the radio news commentators. There is an antagonism between atheism, large headed up under communism and socialism, and Catholicism.

Revelation 17: "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; and I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

"So he carried me away in the spirit unto the wilderness; and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colors, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

"And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. "And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw this, I wondered with great admiration."

Then the Apostle John saw something else. Let us read verse 18:

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate; and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

"For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Now, that is very plain, isn't it? The two forces that are playing for political power in America today and in the world for that matter are Communism and Catholicism. Throughout all Europe that is the trouble shape right now, the Roman Catholic church trying to get power from the communistic Russia and vice versa.

We are not entering into the kingdom of God, we who are the people of God. We are to preach the Gospel of Christ and to take our stand against all unrighteousness.

Then the sixth reason I believe

that Jesus is coming soon—there are many other signs but this one is a very prevalent one. In the Second Book of Timothy, the third chapter and the first verse, the Apostle Paul names nineteen different signs of the coming of Christ. I shall just select one of these — "without natural affection." Surely there never was a time when this was so manifest in people. First of all it shows itself in juvenile delinquency and second, it shows itself in the divorce court. These two things, as a rule, bring immorality in a community or nation.

"Without natural affection"—just what does this mean? It means this: God put into a mother and a father the natural feeling of love for their offspring. A dog will seldom forsake her puppies or a hog her pigs, or even a mother rat her little ones, but I'll tell you what you will find by the dozens — you will find human beings that forsake their offspring. If you don't believe it, look at the newspapers; go down to the police court and learn about some of the cases on record. There is one case that the father is married to another woman and he cannot get the child until he pays its board bill. He has let the bill run until it is a hundred dollars and he does not think enough of the child, his own flesh and blood, to pay that bill. What is it? Just what God's Word says, "without natural affection."

We are hearing a lot about juvenile delinquency these days. A condition surely is bad when even the world is worried about it and the world is very much worried about juvenile delinquency. But as many have said, it is rather a parental delinquency question. Fathers and mothers do not think enough of their children to give them some of their time — ah, much of their time — to teach them, to chasten them and to care for them. An eagle will teach her young to fly, a dog will teach the little pup to care for itself, but mothers and fathers by the thousand bring children into the world and just turn them loose.

You say, well what are we going to do about it? The only thing in the world that will cure the ills of this world is the Word of God. I say this with kindness, but I know it to be the truth—the man, whoever he may be — the president of a nation, the governor of a state, a king of an empire; a mayor of a city or any city official — if he doesn't know this BOOK, he does not know enough to rule successfully. This BOOK is the answer — this BOOK is the key to every problem that agitates the public life of today.

In Luke the 17th chapter, the 26th verse, Christ says:

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

"And they did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed

them all.

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.

"But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all."

Who said this? Christ. He said the conditions that prevailed in the days of Noe, the conditions that prevailed in the days of Lot, will prevail in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. Tonight when you go home, read the 6th chapter of the book of Genesis and there you will read that every imagination of the thought of man's heart was only evil continually. After you have read this chapter, turn to the 19th chapter of the book of Genesis and read the terrible conditions that prevailed in the days of Lot when God destroyed Sodom. Do you know what happened in both of these days? God sent judgment. He sent destruction. He sent the floods in the days of Noah and He burned Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes. God is a God of judgment as well as a God of love.

Now turn to the book of Ephesians, the fifth chapter. There God tells Christians some things they ought not to do and then adds in the 6th verse:

"For because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Not on us, no; we have escaped it; but that is the reason God calls us away from unrighteous deeds. He says in essence, If I am going to burn the world up for doing these things, then you Christians lay off of them.

Now, here is the last and seventh thing that I shall mention tonight which is an evident token that Jesus is coming soon. I believe the last days are upon us. The Bible teaches that there will come a time of famine in the last days, a famine of two things.

First, over in the book of Amos, the 8th chapter and the 11th verse, is found this passage:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."

To hear the words of the Lord, two things have to happen. First, somebody has to preach the Word of the Lord. The second thing, somebody must listen. And you don't find much of either these days. Take note of the average sermon today and see how much Scripture is used. You wouldn't find ten verses of Scripture in many whole sermons and you would do well to find three. Go to the average church and you may not even find a Bible on the desk. In the average church you see the Sunday School teacher with a Sunday School Quarterly instead of the Word of God. Many of them even stand before their classes and read out of the Quarterly and never open their Bible. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that there will come this famine, not of bread nor of a thirst for water, but of hearing the Word of God."

Then, too, comparatively few people care to hear the Word of God. How many people will you find in Greater Cincinnati tonight that have gone out to hear the Word of God? I see people who used to go to church to hear the Word of God entertaining company. I am always afraid of people who get so fashionable they have to entertain their company on Sunday night. I don't want them in this church.

Then, in the last days there

will be a famine of bread. We are being asked by our government to eat a potato instead of a slice of bread so that we may help to feed the starving peoples of the world. We have just begun to see a scarcity of food. You know, I told you years ago upon the authority of God's Word, that this was coming and you thought I was foolish, didn't you?

Let me read to you two or three passages from the 24th chapter of Matthew, the seventh verse:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be FAMINES and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

We have never known what famine is. Famine is coming and we are just beginning to see it. Don't you believe it if the Word of God says it? Don't you believe it when unsaved men who run our government are telling you and warning you?

Then there is another passage I want to give you. Revelation, the sixth chapter, verses 5 and 6:

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand."

(You know what balances are, what we used to call "steelyards." That was the most honest weight in the world.)

"And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

What is this? The black horse, a horse of famine. He comes out across the scene and marches over the face of the earth.

Listen to one other passage. I remember saying this long ago and folk thought I was foolish. I repeat it tonight:

Revelation, chapter 13, verses 15 and 16. It is speaking about a day coming when a terrible monster is going to rule the earth and is going to control the whole earth.

"He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads."

(Note: "he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor

... You know, the rich folks used to get by but not any more. Henry Ford and Rockefeller will be affected just like us.)

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

What's that? Rationing. When do they ration food? When it is scarce.

These seven things I have mentioned tonight, so far as I am concerned, point to the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Word of God? Do you believe it? Now, Christ says that we can look at the clouds and tell what the weather is going to be on the morrow and then adds: "O ye hypocrite, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Now, why have I brought this message? First of all, I want to warn you Christians. We are living in a day when we are taking it too easy; our minds are on earthly things; BUT we had better be looking for our Lord. Whatever you are going to do, you had better do quickly; the service you plan to render for God had better be done soon. The King's business requires haste.

Second, I want to warn you who are not saved. When the Lord comes, it will be too late to set your house in order. If you are ever going to make peace with God, you had better do it soon. Once our Saviour comes and the Master rises up to shut the door of the house, you may pound on the door and ask for admission but the Master of the house will have to say, "It's too late." What I have been talking to you about tonight is not a fairy story; it is the truth of God, the great prophesied truth, that JESUS IS COMING.

The only way to be ready for His coming is to receive Him into your heart now. Joining a church won't save you; quitting your bad habits won't save you; but believing on the Lord Jesus Christ will save you.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." — John 3:36.

Won't you get ready for Him tonight?

The Master Hath Need

By Ruth Hill Munce

Lord, dost Thou want a home down here?
Bright with Thy Spirit's love and cheer?
A place to rest, to be at ease,
Where all things plan Thy will to please?
A place to bring the sick and weak—
Is it a home, Lord, Thou dost seek?
Perhaps my heart will do.

Or dost Thou need a temple where
Thy Spirit makes all fit and fair?
A place to stay, a place to pray
Until the mind of God is known,
Until His will is fully shown
Apart from worldly thought or greed—
Is it a temple Thou dost need?
Perhaps my mind would do.

Or dost Thou need a market square,
A place unloved, unheeded, bare,
A place downtrod by many feet
But where Thy purchased souls may meet
Their Lord, nor lose their way;
A place to use in any way
A place like that?

—Lord, would I do?

JEREMY TAYLOR.