

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).

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

SOLE NO. 432

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1946

VOLUME 15, NO. 28

The Family Altar Dismantled

Our Task. . .

ton is not far from being right when he calls the Scriptures "The Book that Nobody Knows." The Bible has been neglected, and prayer is being regarded as an antiquated family custom.

Testimonies on the Dismantling of the Family Altar

Men of every walk of life have taken note of this decline of family worship and have regarded it as an exceedingly unfortunate development.

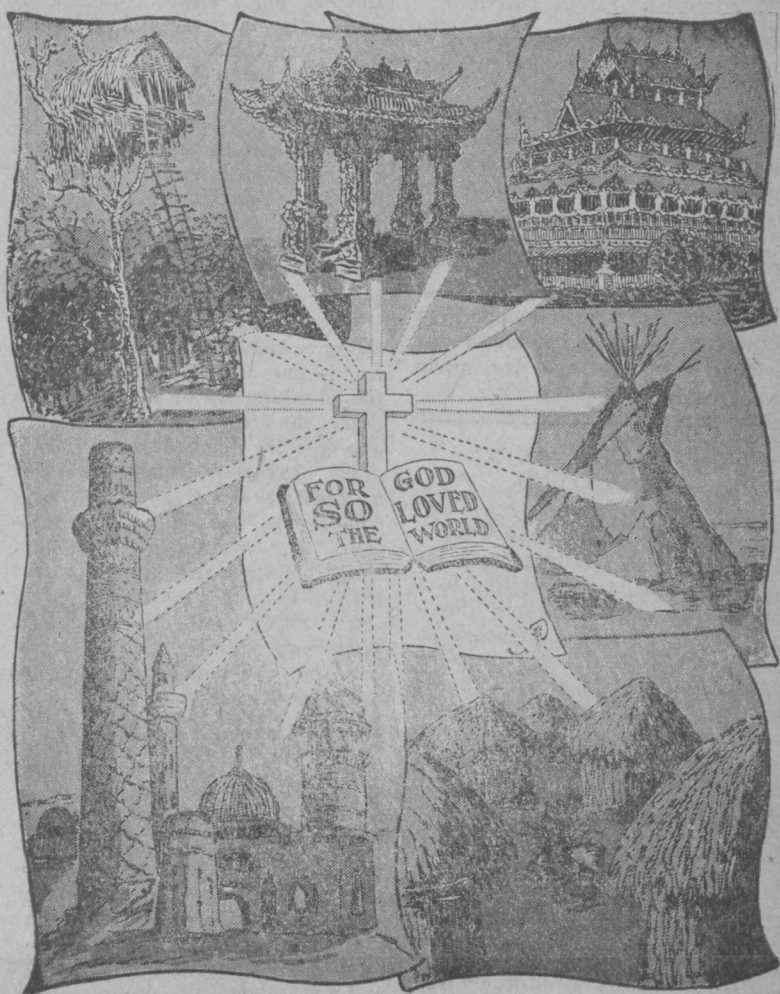
Roger W. Babson, the great statistician, wrote on page 55 of his book on "The Fundamentals of Prosperity," "Much of the prosperity of the nation is due to family prayers which were once held in the homes of our fathers. To a very large extent this custom has gone by. Whatever the argument pro and con may be, the fact remains that such family prayers nurtured and developed those spiritual resources to which the prosperity of the nation is due. The custom of family prayers should be revived." One may want to ask Mr. Babson some questions about the assumed relationship between family prayers and material prosperity, but he surely can agree with him that the removal of the family prayer service is a most regrettable manifestation of America's spiritual indifference.

In addressing the New York

State Congress of Teachers and Parents, Dr. Stitt, an associate officer in the New York City schools, said among other things, "Family prayers and even the asking of blessings before meals are no longer the rule, but rather the exception. The family Bible which once occupied a prominent position on the center table in the sitting room or parlor, has given place to the radio." Isn't it strange that almost every new interest we develop has a way of stealing time formerly devoted to spiritual exercises? The field of the spiritual is the one always encroached upon as if that field is expendable.

Not only have statisticians and educators become alarmed about the general situation, but even editors of the daily press have sounded a note of warning in this matter. The editors of a mid-western daily remarked editorially, "Certainly no one would thrust this country back to the conditions that obtained a generation or two ago; but who among us would deny that we could as a nation reach back into the past and bring into the present a few of the things that our fathers and grandfathers had and which we have neglected of late years? The time was when the family altar was the rule and not the exception. In that time the family Bible was far more than a mere

(Continued on page two)



"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."—Mark 16:50.

Soul-Winning Love

More Unionism In Seminary

When the S. S. Titanic went down in the Atlantic some years ago, many cities, both in England and America, mourned because of the burial in the sea of more than a thousand immortal souls. Among those lost in the sea was John Harper, then on his way to accept the call to the Moody Church pastorate in Chicago. It is told that when the steamer struck the iceberg, Harper was leaning against the railing, trying to win a man to Christ. When the vessel began to sink, he helped others into life-

boats but refused to enter one himself. His theory was, "Women and children first, the unsaved next." He even gave away his own lifebelt.

Some time later in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, a young Scotchman, also a passenger on the

Mused Uncle Mose

Sistah Arabelle, she huntin' anudder chu'ch. She jined ouah chu'ch fo' social reasons, but ouah pahson, he ain' no socialist.

Titanic, told his experience as follows:

"I was drifting on a spar and the tide brought John Harper near me, clinging also to a piece of wreckage. As I came near him, he said, 'Man, are you saved?'"

"I replied, 'No, I am not saved.'"

"He answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.'"

"The waves bore him away, but strangely, not long afterward, the waves carried him back hard

(Continued on Page Two)

From a daily paper, published in Flint, Michigan, under the date of January 7, 1946, comes the announcement of the unionistic activities of another of the professors of the seminary at Louisville. The announcement reads as follows:

Observance of the Universal Week of Prayer, sponsored by the Flint Council of Churches, had its inception Sunday night in the Court Street Methodist Church. The Rev. Julian Price Love, Ph. D., professor of Biblical theology in the Louisville Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., spoke on "The Gospel of Christ's Passion." His subject tonight will be "The Gospel of Mercy."

Dr. Love will speak nightly at 7:30 P. M. through Wednesday, Tuesday, at 2 P. M., also in the Court Street Methodist Church, (Continued on page two)

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"We Must Accept The Bible As Authority"

EVERETT C. LERCH
Archer, Florida

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

In any matter which requires that a definite decision must be made by an individual it is customary to go to the established source of information concerning the matter and to learn just what the accepted facts might be.

If a man was involved in a case of law or a legal matter, he would go to a lawyer to find out the precedents that have been established by facts and experience. If the case came to trial the trial would be conducted along similar lines, and the decision would be handed down in conformity with the evidence presented and the laws involved.

When a physician has a difficult case which involves symptoms with which he is not familiar he consults his colleagues or more often goes to his library and searches through the volumes relating to that particular class of ailment, and seeks the

established diagnosis and treatment that he may not make costly or dangerous mistakes which may cause the death of his patient.

The druggist or chemist consults his books of authority. The professor searches the books of the most outstanding scholars for information in his studies. The great musician follows the time-proven method of great musicians of the past whose works have established them as masters in their art.

In every phase of human life; in every profession; in every great decision, there is a supreme

(Continued on page two)

BIBLE READING

Recently, St. Paul, Minn., had a fifteen-day Bible-reading campaign, in which 50,000 people read a chapter of the Gospel of John daily and memorized a verse of each chapter. All but four of the Protestant churches in St. Paul co-operated in putting over the campaign.

A Bible-reading campaign is a splendid idea, as is every effort that causes people to read the Bible; but do not put off your Bible-reading because there is no campaign on in your town or city. Do your own daily reading of the Holy Scriptures.

Preparation From Evil Doctrine

countenance perversions of truth, or remain in apparent fellowship with those who do not teach them, is dishonorable to God, because He has commanded His people "from such draw thyself" (I Tim. 6:5); "from such turn away" (II Tim. 2:19). It is dangerous to ourselves because familiarity with error puts the edge of a keen spiritual discernment, and eventually so blunts the mind to its character that it ceases to be regarded as evil. Evil doctrine is of the nature of gangrene (II Tim 2:17, marg.) which silently but surely corrupts the whole man, and to whom it has access, as it is written, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Gal. 5:9).

It is dishonest to others, because by our presence where error is taught, we seem to countenance it. (Continued on page two)

BEER MATHEMATICS

the glass of beer to the bottle of gin:
I can not much of a mathematician, but I can and I do extract cash from his pocket-book, multiply his aches and pains, and add his property with the liquor traffic, so that more interest from his work and account his chances for health and success."

Junior Missionary Magazine.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN-EDITOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Editorial Department, RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, where communications should be sent for publication.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Per Year in Advance.....50c

(Domestic and Foreign)

Send Remittances to Russell, Ky. Entered as second-class matter May 31, 1941, in the post office at Russell, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Paid circulation in every State and many foreign countries.

Subscriptions are stopped at expiration unless renewed or special arrangements are made for their continuation.

THE FAMILY ALTAR
DISMANTLED

(Continued From Page One)

ornament or a family record. Its well-thumbed pages testified to a spirituality and religious devotion that nerved the pioneers to sacrifices of which the present generation of Americans know nothing. Around that family altar in the days long gone by, father, mother, and the children knelt in humble devotion and gained that help and inspiration that nerved them to splendid deeds and sacrifices. In those days parents were not content to leave to an hour of Sabbath-school once a week the religious training of their children. In those days men and women daily lived their religion and were members of the Church Militant—Might it not be well to reestablish the family altar in this republic? Certainly it would be well, provided it would not be added as a mere accretion to the already over-complex circumstances of our lives. It must be an outgrowth of an inner need felt deep down in one's heart.

A few years ago a survey was taken of about 150 congregations in one of America's conservative established churches to ascertain how many of the families of these churches have some form of formal worship in the home. Of the thousands who submitted information, sixty percent admitted that the Bible was not read regularly in the home and that family prayers were never uttered in their home environment. (For additional testimonies of this kind see Maier's "For Better not For Worse," Chapter thirty-six.) And thus one could continue calling witness after witness to the stand to testify to the fact that the family altar has been dismantled.

No Time for Family Worship

It may be of some benefit for us to investigate the cause of this declining use of the family altar even on the part of those who are still considered good members of the church.

The reasons given for failure to have or to maintain the family devotions are numerous and varied. The most common one is that "We have no time when all can gather for this purpose." But why haven't we any time for devotions? Well, we have developed unregulated homes. Systematic living seems to be a thing of the past. The various members of the family can and do come and go at times to suit their own conveniences. They come tramping into the home at any hour

during the night or the early morning. No parental authority seems to be able to set a time in which every member of the family should be in. Why the young people and some of the older ones of today would raise their hand in horror at the suggestion that every one must make it a point to be in at eleven so that family devotions may be held. So the evening is out. Just because the evening hours are not regulated, the morning hours suffer the same fate. Each member stays in his bed until the very last minute, leaving just enough time to get to the place of business without incurring the wrath of the boss. Hence the morning hours are out. During the day the family is scattered and so the associating of our family devotions with our mealtime is out too. The loss, therefore, of family regulations and systematic living, which is the bane of America, is one of the chief causes of the breaking up of the American home, and may be regarded as one of the considerations that make prayerless homes. There is a great deal of excellent psychology in the definite regulations for worship in Biblical times. Make daily appointments with God and let nothing interfere with such appointments. Then you will be able to serve Him and you will be able to find room for His service.

Secular Interests Are First

We have, furthermore, assumed the worldly attitude for making secondary things primary. We have not placed first things first. We have heedlessly stumbled over the prescription of the Christ when He commanded that we must seek first the Kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and that then all other things shall be given unto us. It may be that the modern social and economic developments have been of such a kind that we are crowded and hurried in our living. But why then do we have to insist that the sacred must give way to the secular? We may have no time for prayer and family devotions, but we have time for baseball games, the bridge party, the theatre. We may have no time to read the Bible; but we can find time to read the funnies, the sports page, a magazine and a book of dubious moral value. We have no time to commune with God and His saints; but we can spend hours of time listening to mushy and hair-raising radio presentations. Let me tell you that there is plenty of time for family devotions every day if we are willing to give them priority in our lives. If they must, however, yield to every other interest, they are of necessity on the way out. After all, the deepest reason is not lack of time, but lack of a devotional spirit. If one complains of having no time for God, I will place the charge that he has no interest in God. Down at the bottom of the dismantling of the family altar is the worldly spirit of indifference to spiritual things. Any other reason that may be forwarded by those who are guilty is just so much camouflage.

The Formality of Family Devotions.

When, moreover, our family worship was continued only because of custom and when it had very little more than a bit of formality, it was on the way out. It no longer meant anything and bordered very close on being a bit of hypocrisy as objectionable as the street corner praying of the Pharisees. Father is informed by the mother or by other members of the family that one

of the circle or all of them are crowded for time and thus he is urged to make his prayers short, as if the worship is an unfortunate necessity that they would like to get rid of as quickly as possible. That spirit dismantles the family altar. Then, again, often some stereotyped form of prayer is muttered unintelligently. There is no mood for praying. The members hear only one word of the prayer which is the "amen," a signal to begin eating. The Bible reading is frequently just as formal. Members of the family will suggest that a very short section of the Scripture be read because John has to go to a basketball game and Jane has to practice for the choir. Psalm 117 is often suggested as appropriate for no other reason than its brevity. It never occurred to these rushers of the family devotions that they might have gathered round about the table a few moments earlier. Strange, is it not, that the intrusions are almost always made in the family devotions? Well, if family devotions must be squeezed out of existence the altar is being dismantled. The family worship will live on only when there is a realization that it is of vital importance and that other things may have to give way to it, although it should never be made to yield to other things. It takes time to be holy and to speak oft with thy Lord. What a wonderful thing it would be if a family could earnestly discuss with one another the needs of the family and the blessings received before the father expresses in his prayer the sentiments of the worshippers! What a rich blessing would be in store for those who would take time out to discuss briefly the scriptural passage that was read.

Ashamed to Worship

Again, there is the tendency to hide from the eyes and ears of others the fact that we are worshipping. How apologetic the children feel when their parents in a public eating place bow their heads in grateful acknowledgment of the goodness of God and in prayer for His benedictions. They will furtively look this way and that hoping that no one may look their way. Why do the children feel that prayer is something to be apologized for? I am told that there are many families

(Continued on page four)

WE MUST ACCEPT THE
BIBLE AS AUTHORITY

(Continued from Page One)

authority that has stood the test of time and experience.

If this be true; as it is true by manifold evidence; then there must of necessity be a supreme authority in things spiritual.

No man dares to live in this day of strain and nervous stress without some resource to which he can go in the dark hours that come into his life from time to time. He must have some source of strength to draw upon when everything else fails to relieve the heart hunger and emptiness that is certain to come into his life. Sometimes it is a great sorrow, or even death may lay its cold hand upon a loved one. It may be personal need, or bodily peril. It may be the terror that has lived by the side of millions of young men during this war just ended. It may be any one of a host of terrible things, or it may be that heart hunger that is in the life of vast multitudes today who are seeking some way out of the burden of sin, and an assurance of forgiveness from

sin and eternal life.

This thing is certain. There are great hosts of people seeking just such spiritual blessings. Many are uniting with the various churches to which their fathers and mothers belonged. Many are seeking these things in the cults and isms that are running wild through the world. They have been deprived of these spiritual blessings by the churches in which they grew up. The ministry has grown full of festering sores of modernism and the social gospel.

Rather than a preaching ministry, today people have been force-fed a diet of skepticism, near-infidelity and movie and book reviews by those in the pulpit. It is a case worse than the blind leading the blind. It is a case of ministers throwing aside the teachings of the Word of God for a parcel of drivel hypocritically injected into them in the seminaries by modernistic and "super educated" mouthpieces of Satan who were pumped up by the same model pump that pumped up Karl Marx and Robert G. Ingersoll before them. The only difference today is that they no longer openly deny the Word of God but conveniently leave out everything that is not in perfect agreement with their "advanced interpretation." God could, and did, speak through the ass that Balaam was riding to Balak but so far He has had a hard time trying to do anything to warn sinners through some of the leading preachers in the pulpits and on the radio today.

Listen friend, do you believe what God says in the Bible? It doesn't matter what church you belong to or if you have never joined any church, will you read what the Bible says about sin, salvation, and assurance in eternity? It does not matter what your preacher or your church says about these things. If they agree with the Word of God they are right, and if they do not so agree they are wrong. God has never given any man the right to change one word of the Word of God. If any man changes the Bible to suit his convenience he is a false prophet and the servant of the Devil. God does not want him, and neither should you believe him or follow his teaching. If he is ignorant of the truth you should pray for him and seek to show him the truth but do not follow him.

There is no ground for ignorance of the content of the Word of God. God holds every man responsible for his own soul's salvation, and he is to answer some day for his sins if they are not hid in Christ. The way of eternal life is plain and God has not confused it by a lot of restrictions and regulations, but neither does

(Continued on page three)

SOUL-WINNING LOVE

(Continued from page one)

against the spar I was clinging to, and once more he asked, 'Are you saved yet?'

"No, I cannot honestly say that I am."

"Once more he repeated, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.'

"That was the last I saw of him, for shortly afterward he slipped beneath the waves. There in the cold waters of the Atlantic, with two miles of icy waters under me, I believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. I contend, therefore, that I am John Harper's last convert."

What a wonderful way to end life — bringing a soul to Jesus

in the last minute! Love at no peril or sacrifice of souls for Jesus. He loved us unto death!

With the love of Christ burning zeal in our churches win souls for Him, we would a continuous revival, similar to that about which we read in 2:47: "And the Lord added the church daily such as should be saved."

The apostle Paul could back on his life and say, 'I fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that time.'

O Lord, wake us from our slumber, and give us back our love! — Herald of Faith.

MORE UNIONISM IN
THE SEMINARY

(Continued from page one) Dr. Love will address the council of Church Women on World Mission of the Church.

Well, there it is in black and white. One by one the professors reveal their doctrinal status. Mr. Sampey some time ago said that the protestant nominations are not to be considered enemies, but rather allies. Naturally, there's something surprising then about him or his co-laborers with some group or groups of heretics. Tribble is noted for unionism. Carver has unionism with everyone who would identify with him. But why mention the rest? One by one it is observed that on the question of Arminianism, feminism, local alien immersion, open communion, the universal invisible church, and unionism,—it is to be observed that the professors of the inary are definitely opposed to the time honored Biblical precepts and teachings of Southern Baptists.

SEPARATION FROM
DOCTRINE

(Continued from page one) and support it, and by example and influence draw who may not be personally to judge, under the power that which may lead them to Separation should certainly be rashly or lightly made, any trivial cause or person's offense. But when the Word of God is disowned and false teaching made to supplant it, and remonstrance fails, then separation is the only means of protection at our disposal, and the effective way to plainly avow we have no part and no sympathy with that which dishonors and denies His Word.—Selected

"Through your or some else's kindness, I have been receiving for quite some time THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. It has been a source of great blessing to me. I appreciate very much your fine messages and your courageous stand for the truth. — Elder John Kejr, Jr., Kansas.

"I enjoy reading your so much because it proclaims the Word of God." — Mrs. Obie ton, Manitou, Ky.

"We still read, like, and THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Long may you and it continue the good work of enlightening people's minds on subjects 'taken for granted' or 'supplied traditional."

AUGUST 10, 1956

WE MUST ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS AUTHORITY

(Continued from page two)

overlook man's individual responsibility to take advantage of that He has so freely offered by His grace. Our text tells us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. This means that none of it is essential to you or to me. It is all given by inspiration of God. God gave inspiration. That inspiration was of such nature that it moved the hand of those that wrote the very words of the scriptures. The omniscience, or all-knowing, and the omnipresence of God are manifested in the Word of God. The Word is bound up in God. He is the author of the Word, and will stand behind every guarantee that is contained in it. He has never failed to keep every promise that is contained in His Word.

He will never fail! What a wonderful hope and help that is to a sick soul! How dare anyone, however high he might be in ecclesiastical circles, belittle and belittle the Word of God or any portion of it, and call any of its great teachings and truths "non-essential?"

And then our text tells us that the Scripture is "profitable." Just consider for a moment many things in your life have been unprofitable. All your worldly efforts have been a losing thing. All your accumulations have only temporal and intangible value and can be lost in a twinkling of an eye.

The balance sheet of your life is decidedly on the loss side of the ledger. These things are only vapour. God says that He can put you on a profitable basis. Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.

God says that the Scripture is profitable for you. He says that it is profitable for doctrine. It will give you an understanding of the sins of your life as God sees them, and not as you see them. It will give you an understanding of the wonderful work and love of God in bringing down to earth a way of salvation from unending sin. It will give you an understanding about what you can expect as a saved man, and it will give you hope and assurance through life, and for eternity.

He says the Word is profitable for reproof. From sin first; and also toward a clean conscience and life after you accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

He says the Scriptures are profitable for correction. Here not only the responsibility of the layman to be in God's will, but also the responsibility of the teacher to be willing for God to speak to him and correct him if he draws away from the true teachings of the Word.

He says that the Scriptures are profitable for "instruction in righteousness." While this means that a Christian must have instruction in a righteous life, it is also applicable to a person in need of instruction in the way of salvation, and also understanding of the will of God for his life.

All Scripture is "given by inspiration of God" and it is incumbent on you or me not to receive it as such. Neither dare we reject it or leave any of it out of our lives.

We read in 2 Peter 1:21 that, the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but by the will of God spake as they

were moved by the Holy Ghost." The same chapter, verse 19, says that we do well to take heed to the Word "as unto a light that shineth in a dark place."

Jesus said to search the Scriptures because they testify of him (John 5:39). Not only do they testify of Christ in a general sense, but they speak to every individual in regard to Him.

The Scriptures Speak

"And again another scripture saith, They shall look on Him whom they pierced." (John 19:37).

"For what saith the scripture?" (Romans 4:3).

"Know ye not what the scripture saith of Elias?" (Romans 11:2).

"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Romans 10:11).

"Nevertheless, what saith the scripture?" (Gal. 4:30).

"For the scripture saith." (I Tim. 5:18).

There are numbers of places where the Bible tells us that the Scriptures speak to us. There is a great and blessed message to lost and condemned men. They bear a message and a testimony of the precious Saviour. They tell us the way to forgiveness and eternal life. They tell us about the assurance and security for eternity of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. They tell us about a God who loved lost sinners so much that He was led to give His only Son to die upon the cross of Calvary for our sin-offering and substitute. (John 3:16).

Just by reading the Bible you see in every page a testimony of our Blessed Saviour. To study it earnestly will draw us into the wonderful nearness of God, and will lift us up to spiritual planes where we can feel His divine presence by our side.

The Scripture Cannot Be Broken

John 10:35 tells us, "The scripture cannot be broken." There has been scarcely a generation in which Satan has not raised up some great scholar to attack the Bible. They have attacked it from every conceivable angle, and all to no avail whatever. There are no contradictions in the Bible. It is a perfect book, and is without any flaws whatever.

There has never been any single thing discovered in the Bible that has not been proven true. There is no phase of scientific research that is factual, and not theoretical, that does not substantiate everything that is in the Bible. Many of the latest discoveries of mankind were revealed in the Bible centuries ago, and only in recent years have men stumbled upon these great things.

By the science of Archaeology men have unearthed the ancient Biblical cities; even in ancient Ur of Chaldea unearthing civilizations centuries older than Ur beneath a great layer of clay that could only have been deposited by the flood of Genesis 7.

Men have tried to break the scriptures by every method that their wicked hearts have been able to devise, but the Word of God has stood undamaged through the centuries and has been winning lost souls into the glorious kingdom of God by pointing them to the Lord Jesus Christ that they might receive Him by faith as their Saviour.

The Word marches on! It has stood the test of the years and is as powerful today as in the days of the apostles. It has defeated every infidel and heretic that ever dared assail its sacred pages. They have all died and the Word

has reigned victorious in its message.

Day by day the Bible grows more wonderful as prophecy after prophecy is being fulfilled in the unfolding of God's will. Here today we are witnesses of the magnificent saving power of the Gospel message as we see lost wicked sinners becoming new creatures in Christ Jesus as they receive Him by faith as their Lord. Never an hour passes but thousands find in the Christ of God's Word a comforter in death and sorrow. No other thing or combination of things has sustained men in the great crisis that they have just passed through as the great promises of God's Word. Oh, just to think of these things thrills our souls as we know that they are sustaining evidences of God's greatness and power.

Just think for a moment of that unmeasurable power of God's Word! "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing, even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God is a living thing. It is, as we read here, a word that pierces into the soul of men. It discerns the heart, and knows every hidden desire that is in the mind of the saved and the unsaved. Through the Word men come into a knowledge of their great sins and wickedness. Through the Word men are led into an understanding of God's righteousness and power. Through the Word God divides even between the soul and spirit. Through the Word men are led into an acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father but by me." (John 14:5-6).

No man can find the way of eternal life except he find it through the message of God's Word. No man can find the way of peace of heart and life except he find it in the promises of God's Word. No man can have any hope of life after death, except he find it in God's Word. Without the precious abiding Word of God this world would only hold out for men an eternity of black despair and fear of death. But praise God He has kept the precious promises alive by His power through the centuries so that even today men may read and believe and live.

Jesus Overcame Satan By The Word

Read how, in Matthew chapter four, that Jesus prevailed over Satan in that tremendous effort that Satan made to overcome Him and to defeat the eternal purpose that sent the Lord into this world.

Here Jesus is embarking upon His public ministry. After His baptism He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He was tempted three times by Satan. Notice that He spent forty days in fasting and prayer. We can easily understand that at the end of that time he was hungry. And when the tempter came to Him he said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

Did Jesus argue with the Devil or try to persuade him that He was not interested in turning stones to bread? No, all that He did was to rebuke him with a passage of the Word. "Man shall

not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Again He was tempted and He answered, "It is written again Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Still a third time, and again He answered, "For it is written Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Each time Satan was bested by a passage of the Word of God, and then we read how that "the Devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him."

Truly the Word is quick (living) and powerful. Oh, how grace would abound in the lives of Christians if they would seize upon that precious Word and use it to overcome the Devil!

Jesus Used The Scriptures To Open Their Understanding

In those darkest of days following the crucifixion of Christ His disciples were disorganized and discouraged. Then when He was resurrected and appeared to them on different occasions they naturally were overjoyed by His victorious appearing, but evidently they were somewhat confused about the amazing things that they were living to see from day to day.

Jesus knew this, and as two of them traveled the Emmaus road one day He drew near to them. They began to reiterate the events of the previous three days, and showed plainly by their conversation that they did not grasp the meaning of those things that they had been seeing. "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?"

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27).

The heart of the Lord was touched by these blundering disciples. Lest they should fall into error we see Him showing them the wonderful facts of His sacrificial death on the cross. Not by argument or debate. No, but by a simple recounting of the Scriptures of these things that had happened to Him.

Such was their joy in this new-found revelation to them that they rose up at once and hurried back to Jerusalem to the other disciples with the joyous message, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon, and they told what things were done in the way." (Luke 24:34-35). They had seen with their own eyes, and had heard with their own ears, and they understood!

And then, lest only these two should understand, He appeared before the ten in that room. "And he said unto them, These are the words that I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures." (Luke 24:44-45).

The Apostles Used The Scriptures

The early account of the miraculous growth of the church in the Apostolic days right after the ascension of Christ is an account of the wonderful power of God's Word.

Paul says that God sent him to preach, "not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ

should be made of none effect." (I Cor. 1:17). And again, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." (I Cor. 2:13).

The account of their wonderful ministry, and the miraculous power of God that was manifested where they preached is the greatest and most thrilling conquest in history. Their labor for Christ, and their very lives as well, hung upon the balance of God's Word and His attendant power.

When the church was founded at Thessalonica it was not by a census of available talent, for there was none, but we read, "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." (Acts 17:2). He told them, from God's Word that Christ was the Saviour of men, and the Holy Spirit quickened the hearts of those there, and we see how that, "Some of them believed, and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few." (Acts 17:4). This was where there was such a great stir concerning the results of preaching the Word that they arrested some of them and brought them to the rulers of the city crying out that, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

Oh, that men might realize that God's Word is still just as powerful now as it was then!

In the same chapter we read how that in Berea, "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

In Acts 18:28 we read how that, "He mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ." These are not all. Again, and again in God's account of these early Apostles we read of the mighty works that they did through that faithful preaching of the Word.

God gives a tremendous command to young preachers in 2 Timothy 4:2. "Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Why such a command? The next verse tells us why. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Unless men cling to the teachings of God's Word today we can only look to chaos, for the doctrines of the itching-ear preachers are made to comply with the wishes of men, not the wishes of God.

God's divine purpose is shown in His Word today, even as it was in the past. "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth." (Romans 9:17).

Today God says to every Christian to broadcast the good tidings of the Gospel to every person to whom we are known, "For it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Gentile)." (Romans 1:16).

Yes! The Scriptures speak! Echo that grand and glorious message of salvation throughout the world in this hour of death and blindness and spiritual groping that men might find light and hope and eternal Salvation.

Trouble In The "Amen Corner"

'Twas a stylish congregation, that of Theophrastus Brown,
And its organ was the finest and the biggest in the town;
And the chorus—all the papers favorably commented on it,
For 'twas said each female member had a forty-dollar bonnet.

Now in the "amen corner" of the church sat Brother Eyer,
Who persisted every Sabbath day in singing with the choir,
He was poor, but genteel looking, and his heart as snow
was white,
And his face beamed with sweetness when he sung with
all his might.

His voice was cracked and broken; age had touched his
vocal chords.
And nearly every Sunday he would mispronounce the
words
Of the hymns, and 'twas no wonder; he was old and nearly
blind,
And the choir rattling onward always left him far behind.

The choir stormed and blustered, Brother Eyer sang too
slow,
And then he used the tunes in a vogue a hundred years
ago;
At last the storm cloud burst and the church was told,
in fine,
That the brother must stop singing, or the choir would
resign.

Then the pastor called together in the lecture room one
day
Seven influential members, who subscribe more than they
pay,
And having asked God's guidance in a printed prayer or
two
They put their heads together to determine what to do.
They debated, thought, suggested, till at last "dear Brother
York,"
Who last winter made a million on a sudden rise in pork,
Rose and moved that a committee wait at once on Brother
Eyer,
And proceed to rake him lively "for disturbin' of the
choir."

Said he: "In that 'ere organ I've invested quite a pile,
And we'll sell it if we cannot worship in the latest style;
Our Philadelphia tenor tells me 'tis the hardest thing
For to make God understand him when the Brother tries
to sing.

"We've got the biggest organ, the best-dressed choir in
town,
We pay the steepest sal'ry to our pastor, Brother Brown;
But if we must humor ignorance because it's blind and old—
If the choir's to be pestered, I will seek another fold."

Of course the motion carried, and one day a coach-and-four,
With the latest style of driver, rattled up to Eyer's door,
And the sleek, well-dressed committee, Brothers
Sharkey, York and Lamb,
As they crossed the humble portal took good care to miss
the jamb.

They found the choir's great trouble sitting in his old
armchair,
And the summer's golden sunbeams lay upon his thin

white hair,
He was singing "Rock of Ages" in a voice both cracked
and low,
But the angels understood him, 'twas all he cared to know.

Said York: "We've here, dear brother, with the vestry's
approbation,
To discuss a little matter that affects the congregation;"
"And the choir, too," said Sharkey, giving Brother York
a nudge,
"And the choir, too!" he echoed, with the graveness of a
judge.

"It was the understanding when we bargained for the
chorus,
That it was to relieve us, that is, do the singing for us;
If we rupture the agreement, it is very plain, dear brother,
It will leave our congregation and be gobbled by another.

"We don't want any singing except that what we've
bought!
The latest tunes are all the rage; the old ones stand for
naught!
And so we have decided—are you listening, Brother
Eyer?—
That you'll have to stop your singin,' for it flurries the
choir."

The old man slowly raised his head, a sign that he did
hear,
And on his cheeks the trio caught the glitter of a tear;
His feeble hands pushed back the locks white as the silky
snow,
As he answered the committee in a voice both sweet and
low:

"I've sung the Psalms of David for nearly eighty years;
They've been my staff and comfort and calmed life's many
fears;
I'm sorry I disturb the choir, perhaps I'm doing wrong,
But when my heart is filled with praise I can't keep back
a song.

"I wonder if beyond the tide that's breaking at my feet,
In the far-off heavenly temple, where the Master I shall
greet—
Yes, I wonder when I try to sing the songs of God up
higher
If the angel band will chide me for disturbing Heaven's
choir."

A silence filled the little room; the old man bowed his
head:
The carriage rattled on again, but Brother Eyer was dead!
Yes, dead! His hand has raised the veil the future hangs
before us,
And the Master dear had called him to the everlasting
chorus.

The choir missed him for a while, but he was soon forgot!
A few churchgoers watched the door; the old man entered
not.

Far away, his voice no longer cracked, he sings his
heart's desires,
Where there are no church committees and no fashionable
choirs!

—Thomas Chalmers Harbaugh

At the bottom of this
down of the family devotion
the one word and that is Sin
may look for reasons in the
onomic world and in the world
public opinion, but the real
difficulty is religious or spiritual
decay, and that festers
in. Too long have we looked
excuses for the dismantling
the altar all around us, but
seldom dared to look within
selves where the root of
trouble may be found. The
tion does not after all call
economic and social readjust
ments, nor for a reeducation
public opinion, but it does call
a spirit of repentance and a
lingness to go back to God
His own terms. Then all the
erficial excuses will vanish
clouds before a rising sun.
secularism will give way
Christianity. Then the King
will come into our hearts
round about us.

The Value of Rebuilding the Family Altar

Such rebuilding of the family
altar will retain the American
home which is vanishing from
the face of our country and
alarms rate. The divorce
are grinding out divorces
amazing speed on the slight
conditions. And where the di
courts fail, the principle of se
ation will do its devastat
work. And where the principle
separation is not working,
home is reduced to a dorm
where the members of the fam
can get an occasional meal
a snatch of sleep. What a
ferent situation we could ha
the families would rebuild
altars, if the parents would
for each other, and for the
dren, if the children would
for each other, and for the
ents, if the members of the
hold would ask for the rem
of sin and ask that they
be aided by the Spirit to con
to the precepts of God, and
blessings were enumerated
earnest thanksgivings
brought to the throne of
There is simply no better
rent to the alarming break
of the American home than
reestablishment of the fam
tar. What a sea of tears, w
world of aching hearts, and
a cesspool of immorality and
ligious indifference would
wiped off the face of the
by God's grace if our
could be centers of worship.
made no mistake by regul
the homes of the Jews and
the early Christians in suc
way that each home became
center of communal as well
private worship.

It seems to me that ultim
ly the continuation of all
ious projects will depend
upon the maintenance of
family altar. The day of ge
services are numbered, if
members cannot or do not
whatever reason, fellowship
home. If this small comm
center cannot serve God in
lowship with one another, a
er circle of worshippers will
become impossible. The very
of Christian training
about the home altar. Th
where the first lessons in pr
and Bible study can be lea
and nowhere else more effe
ly. That is where the first
tice in the exercise of our
privileges and obligati
take place. That is where
real home-front of our spir
warfare can be found. From
place we must back the
against the secularizing po
that have taken over in our
Establish that family altar
maintain it, if you value
Christianity which you profess
appreciate.—Tract.

THE FAMILY ALTAR DISMANTLED

(Continued from page two)

that omit the table service in the
presence of strangers. That is
perhaps an American trait. As
a matter of fact we omitted pray
er at the San Francisco Confer
ence, when the matters that were
discussed were as important as
the future peace and security of
the world. Ministers here and
there protested and were inform
ed that the reason was to give no
offense to the dignitaries that
were present. It did not apparent
ly occur to them that the greatest
dignitary that was present was
God himself, and it apparently did

not disturb them that He was
offended by this unnecessary re
buff that He received at the hands
of American diplomats. This
same spirit can be found in many
of our homes, and it is no wonder
that we will begin to dismantle
our altars when we have become
ashamed of them.

Somewhere I read of the story
of Henry Clay, the great states
man, who was forced to remain
overnight in a cabin in the State
of Kentucky. The father of the
home who always prayed in the
morning and again in the evening
with his family was disturbed by
the distinguished guest. After
supper the father just sat at the
table in great hesitation, not

knowing whether he should go
ahead with his devotions or not.
The wife gestured to her spouse
that he should ask Mr. Clay either
to retire or to join in the devo
tions. The statesman was given
his choice and he declared that he
preferred to worship with the
family. The father, with much
disturbance, stuttering, and per
spiring, finally finished his
priestly function. Then, Mr. Clay
approached him and made one of
the noblest impromptu speeches
of his career. Said he, "My dear
sir, never again feel the hesita
tion in the discharge of your
duties to God on account of the
presence of a man. I saw your
embarrassment and remained on

purpose so that you might never
feel that again. Remember that
every man of sense will respect
every individual who is not
ashamed to acknowledge his de
pendence upon his Maker; and a
man deserves only contempt who
can cherish any other feelings
than reverence for the consecrat
ed hour of a man's audience with
God. I would rather know that
the prayers of a pious man, no
matter how humble his position
in life were ascending in my be
half than to have the wildest ap
plause of listening Senators." When the worship of God be
comes a matter of which a man
is ashamed, his altar will short
ly be dismantled.