

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).

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions and Bible Doctrines.

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

HOLE NO. 438

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"I Will Not Grow Weary!"

I cannot, I dare not, I will not grow weary,
The Sword of the Spirit must not be laid down,
Though rugged and thorny the path of my calling,
Beyond the rough cross I have sighted the crown.

The storms will subside in the grey of the morning,
The night will but last till the dawning appears,
The highnoon of His glory will banish the shadows,
The charm of His Presence will scatter our fears.

In conflicts and battles I'll lean hard upon Him,
When sickness and sorrows encompass my soul,
Like a bird on glad pinions I'll fly to the Saviour,
My Jesus, My Healer, who maketh me whole.

As I watch for His Coming, I will not grow weary,
For soon, like the lightning from East to the West
Will flash the glad tidings, "The Bridegroom is coming!"
Blest morning of freedom, coronation and rest!

Then, immortal, shall I in His glory behold Him,
For the clouds that hang over my vision to-day
Will vanish like mist from the mountains of morning,
And I shall pass on, with my Saviour to stay.

Was The Commission Given To The Church?

As astonishing as it may seem, in some quarters today it is denied that the "Commission" of Matt. 28:18-20 was given to the New Testament church. This error, like all others, arises from a lack of knowledge and understanding of the Word. So few seem to know what a church is, and consequently have a confused idea as to when it started. Primarily a church (Greek, ecclesia) is an "assembly," or "called out group." The church of Jesus Christ was that group called out by the Lord Himself. We see clearly where it began in Mark 3:13, 14, After the Lord's resurrection, He told the women, "Be not afraid; go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me." (Matt. 28:10) Of all the brethren only eleven had faith to take

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IF ONE PASTOR CAN DO THIS, WHY CAN'T YOU?

Coushatt, La.
Sept. 2, 1946

Dear Brother Gilpin:

I have been reading your paper for several months. I am thankful to God for such a wonderful work as you are doing. Our churches have become so weak spiritually, and so weighted down with organized form, that the Lord's Voice is seldom heard, and more seldom heeded.

I told my church about your paper and a number of them gave me the yearly subscription price. Below are the names and addresses. Please send the paper at your earliest convenience: Enclosed is \$8.00, for 16 yearly subscriptions.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Joyner

Pastor Zion Baptist Church

Mused Uncle Mose

"At de 'sosaashun an' de beeg cawnvenshuns dese days you heah de bruddern callin' each odder 'Doctah' so much dat you git to thinkin' you in a hawsptial."

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"Demas, Mark, And Luke"

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica . . . Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."—2 Timothy 4:10, 11.

Our text is taken from the last of Paul's letters. It was written very near to his martyrdom. As he was writing it, he knew full well that death was drawing near. Contemplating the end of his life, which he knew must soon come to pass, he said:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my depar-

ture is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."—II Tim. 4:6, 7.

Now that he is nearing the end of his way and is in prison, practically all of his friends have forsaken him. There had been many who had clung to him and had been somewhat faithful in former days, yet now he is practically alone. None of the old friends are with him except Luke. He is lonesome, dismayed and possibly discouraged. Before he dies, he longs to see once more familiar faces and to be minister-

ed to once more by friendly hands. In view of this, he pens the words of our text whereby he writes to Timothy.

In this text he mentions three of his friends, and by mentioning them, he presents an interesting character study of each of them.

THE FIRST OF THESE THREE CHARACTERS REFERRED TO IS DEMAS.

Demas had once been quite active in the service of the Lord. Two years previously Paul had written to Philemon concerning

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"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust him."—Nahum 1:7.

"Be still and know that I am God. . . the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."—Ps. 46:10, 11.

"Ah Lord God! . . . there is nothing too hard for thee."—Jer 32:17

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."—I John 14:27.

Why Work, Or Worry, If You Can't Lose Your Salvation?

The doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" has a great many implications. Two attitudes in particular are manifested by different people. Note these as follows:

1. The Attitude of Self-Satisfied Complacency. Some folks take a good easy seat on the "stool of do-nothing" after they have joined the church. They heave a sigh of relief that it is all settled. Since hell is no longer a danger, they don't scruple to do most anything, and they don't worry or trouble about doing anything for the Lord. Since they are already saved (as they think) their working or serving wouldn't make them any more "saved-er." BUT—it is doubtful if this person is really a Christian at all. His attitude does not bespeak that he is. Such presumption is dangerous.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, YE WILL keep my Words."

If no attempt is made to do

this, is it not an indication that there is no love there?

2. The Attitude of the Scornor. Some say, "If I believe that one is eternally saved, then I would get that way and 'take my fill of sin.'" In other words, such a person thinks that it would be "safe to sin." This too betrays an utter lack of understanding of what takes place at conversion. If a new creature is given, then one cannot "take their fill of sin" and be happy about it—impossible!

Note this Scripture: 2 Cor. 5:17.

BUT WHY WORK OR WORRY?

If nothing can add or detract from salvation, then why trouble about anything? We suggest some reasons as to why a genuine Christian desires to work for the Lord, and is moreover troubled about the rendering of poor service.

1. Because of His Love for Christ. He desires to be pleasing to Christ, because of his love. Love always desires to please. (Continued on page four)

A GREAT SCIENTIST

Michael Faraday, one of the world's greatest scientists, had a very ignorant pastor. Their little church house was on one of London's most unattractive streets. There were not more than forty members in the little bunch, and none of them was in the class to which Faraday belonged. They were utterly unable to appreciate anything he was doing.

Yet he never missed hearing the pastor preach on Sundays—hearing him with pleasure and profit. His seat was never empty, even on mid-week prayer-meeting.

It is reported of him that on

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The Potency Of Prayer In Crisis Days Such As These

W. S. HOTTEL

"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).

The spiritual problems which need to be solved and the difficulties which need to be surmounted and overcome by God's faithful people to-day are numerous and great. The hardness of heart prevailing among the masses is appalling. The indifference and carelessness among many of our own dear children is so deplorable that it is heart-breaking. The majority of professed Christians are fast asleep and are living a life of ease and self-pleasure. Many of the Lord's people are under the spell and the grip of absorbing worldliness, so that the things of spiritual import are almost entirely crowded out of their lives. Prayer is forsaken, the Bible neglected and the assembling with God's people forsaken. They have no time for God and spiritual interests, because they are utterly taken up with the things of the world. And then, too, there

FOSDICK'S SUCCESSOR

Harry Emerson Fosdick, the well known liberal pastor of the Riverside Church in New York City, retired on his 68th birthday, Sept. 24th, 1946. His successor was Robert James McCracken, prominent in church history and the philosophy of religion at Ontario's University. It is reported that Riverside Church will continue under Dr. McCracken's leadership as the liberal institution that Harry Emerson Fosdick made it. We regret that the change of heart and call a disbelieving, Christ-honoring minister in the place of the moderate who retired.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN-EDITOR

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VATICAN CITY INSTALLING 5,000 PHONES

Vatican City is installing 5,000 telephones, a telephone for each of its 5,000 employees. In New York City a new telephone exchange is being installed so that telephone and telegraph corporations can handle traffic from 1,000 to 5,000 persons in the Vatican service.

From this it is apparent that the Vatican expects that part of its major activities will be communications to and from the United States.

The area of the territory of the State of Vatican City is a trifle over 100 acres.

Imagine 5,000 overseas telephones scattered over 100 acres of territory! (There are no skyscrapers there, such as large American cities have).

Imagine 5,000 employees clinging to these 5,000 phones in constant touch with New York! Rome must consider conditions to be desperate!

Whether or not conditions are desperate, the spiritual Christian keeps in constant touch—not with an earthly center—but with the Throne of Grace, where he obtains mercy and finds grace for seasonable help (Heb. 4:16).

BOO-WOO!

The heading of this article does not stand for a sobbing lady saying, "Boo-hoo!" nor a big owl saying "Who? who?" but it has reference to the way my little 14 months old baby describes a dog! She probably learned this from her little 6 year old brother who takes delight in teaching her all the meaning of the strange sounds and mimicking chickens, dogs, cats, etc., etc.! At any rate she now identifies all four-footed creatures as a dog with a "Boo woo, boo-woo." She may see a picture on the wall, or a china or a glass dog, it is always, "Boo-woo". If she sees a cat across the lawn, immediately a little sweet voice can be heard saying, "Boo-woo, boo-woo!"

The other day she was looking out the window and a colored man was driving a mule to a spring-wagon. She didn't bray like a mule nor flop her ears like one because she was under the delusion that there was another dog. So immediately she began to say, "Boo-woo, boo-woo!" To her this mule was just another big dog. The distinct characteristics of a mule as compared to a real dog were of no significance to Marilyn Rhea. The colored man was driving a dog!

We are living in a day of spiritual and moral confusion; just as much so as the physical confusion confronting my little girl. People are not thinking straight. There doesn't seem to be the insight into the real objectives of the evil forces at work in our midst; and there doesn't seem to be too much interest on the part of the people to actually concern themselves as to whether they are looking at a mule or a "Boo-woo" as matters take shape.

Not everything that wears a good name and bears a few marks of similarity to good institutions are of true character. Not everything that is given out as being "Religious" or "Democratic" or yet "For the best interest of the public" can be counted on as being just that. We have seen some suggestions of that by the pious appeals of the radio stations in formulating new policies on religious broadcasts. Many have swallowed their "Angel of Light"

proposals because they can't tell the difference between a dog and a mule! Just because a radio announcer says "Boo-woo" doesn't mean that he is not acting like a jack-ass under the surface! Some of these days America will wake up after her teeth have been kicked out by the jack-asses instead of investigating now and determining just what the animal really is that we name a "Boo-woo!" To show that there is not a fair policy in other matters on the radio scheme, there is scarcely a radio station that does not advertise beer and whiskey (especially beer) and at the same time will let a dry crusader get on the radio and tell the awful damning effects of liquor drinking on the lives of individuals, homes and the nation!

There is still another lesson that I want to draw from this little definition of a dog that was given by my little girl. That lesson is about the churches. Not everything that goes by the name "Church" is really something that belongs to the Lord. They have as many similarities to the real church as a mule has similarities to a dog. But just as a mule is not a dog so these institutions do not belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said, "Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof." Just as it is true that not everything that glitters is gold so not everything that is listed by historians and those who keep records for denominations are churches. So-called churches that deny the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, holy life, Sacrificial-Substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection and His present ministry at the right hand of God, CANNOT BE LOOKED UPON AS TRUE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES though in organization they compare favorably with all that do believe these fundamental things! A person, saved by the grace of God, should beware lest he become identified with some mule-like organization called a church when the very character and profession of such stinketh to the heavens!

Still one other lesson emanates from my musing on the jabber of my little girl. Not all the profes-

COUNTERFEITS

H. L. McNISH
Italy, Texas

Text "... And she painted her face.—II Kings 9:30.

In this day when so much is counterfeit, we should take heed to the ear marks of the true Church. Certainly there is the false as well as the true Church. If there is a character in the Old Testament that is typical of the false church, surely it is Jezebel. King Ahab took to wife this woman, who was the daughter of a king, by name, Ethbaal. I wonder if as soon as God took a wife for His Son, Jesus Christ, if that is not what Satan has tried to do. That is, to make one to look as much like her as possible. But notice this, she slew the Lord's prophets. See I Kings 18:13. Notice again the false prophets ate at Jezebel's table. I think that the false prophets eat at her table today just as they did then. See I Kings 18:19. But there was another one in the picture—Jehu, who was to smite the house of Ahab. Read II Kings 9:7. So one day Jehu smote Jezebel. Though she did have her face painted, she could not hide her identity. That was a day of triumph even as it will be a day of triumph for Christ and His Church. One day Christ will smite, uncover and expose the false church. Even though she be painted, she cannot hide her identity.

sed ministers of Christ are really Christ's ministers! They are ministers of righteousness—true, but not of HIS righteousness. 2 Cor. 11, and Romans 10. They may be humanitarian, civic-minded and may promote worthwhile and beneficial causes; yet they may deny the Lord's death and shun the whole counsel of God! Such, the Bible warns you, to "turn away." Do not be a partaker of such a man's sins! Do not bid "God's speed!" Position in a church or denomination, clerical education, pleasing personality and soothing voice does not guarantee one of being God's minister. His allegiance to Christ and His teachings, his adherence to the fundamentals of our historic faith and the tokens of God's approval are matters to look for. Be careful about the "Boo-woos"! —Elder Raymond Smith, Knoxville, Tenn.

tity. May I ask, "Whose church are you in?" Talk about camouflage; paint can't hide. This is not anything that can hide Christ from knowing His church or the false church. The church is going to be manifested one day that she is in reality enemy to God, Christ, and the true Church.

Notice Isa. 4:1. Read of seven women who propose to their own bread and wear their own clothes. All they were to be called by this name. So it is now they offer to wear their own clothes (their own righteousness) and their own bread (feeding on their own Christ) if they can be called by, or wear the name of Christ. The number seven signifies completeness, so that takes in all of them. All have about the same doctrine.

Christ gave warning to the Church. He said, "I know your works... I have a few against thee, because thou ferrest that woman Jezebel, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed unto idols." —Rev. 2:20.

Surely churches can't be careful today, because there are many false prophets. Peter said, "There shall be false teachers in our day... many shall follow their pernicious ways; the reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." II Pet. 2:1, 2.

May God help us to put on the whole Armor of God, that we be able to stand against the evil doctrine of our day. 6:11.

SOW THE WORD OF GOD

In this post-war period we know of nothing quite so important as to literally sow the Word of God. Urge people everywhere to it. None of us may touch a few. If each of us will hand portions of Scripture, New Testaments, or whole Bibles, to about us, and urge them to read and study them, it will have a reaching effect in every realm of life. A lot of us get excited over the great advances made by communism, Fascism and other "isms" in our country. The only reason in the world they can thrive here is because we have allowed generation after generation of people to grow up around us without any knowledge of God's Word. It doesn't do any good to have our political leaders get "wild-eyed" and thrash their arms about the windmill while they lambast these "isms" in our midst. They thrive on that. But, Christian people, fathers, mothers, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and all others who have any concern about the situation will invest a little time and money in their own immediate communities, they can do it to successfully combat the "isms" than all the legislation and lambasting possible. The most important field is in our own homes, then we may reach out to "regions beyond." Let us remember that there is no life and light in wishes, anxieties, argumentations. But, "the Word of God is living and powerful" (Heb. 4:12) It will work to light and life to those who receive its message. Let us sow the seed of God now, and wait for the Lord to bring harvest in His time and way. He will do it when we need have no anxiety about that!—The Clarion

A HELPER TO THE TRUTH

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER is my favorite of all fine religious literature coming into our home, and I feel that I couldn't live without it, and look forward to it eagerly from week to week. Its strong, fearless stand on all subjects is a delight to me, and every view expressed is in agreement with my own opinion, and that of our wonderful pastor, Dr. Roy Mason, whose articles sometimes appear in your paper. It gives us a strong, spiritual "meat" diet to feed our souls, and not the weak milk needed by babes which is handed out as soothing syrup in some publications, which I won't waste time reading. The world needs more of such reading matter, if they could only digest it. As proof of my enthusiasm for THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, I've recently given a year's subscription as a birthday gift to a dear friend who will really appreciate it.



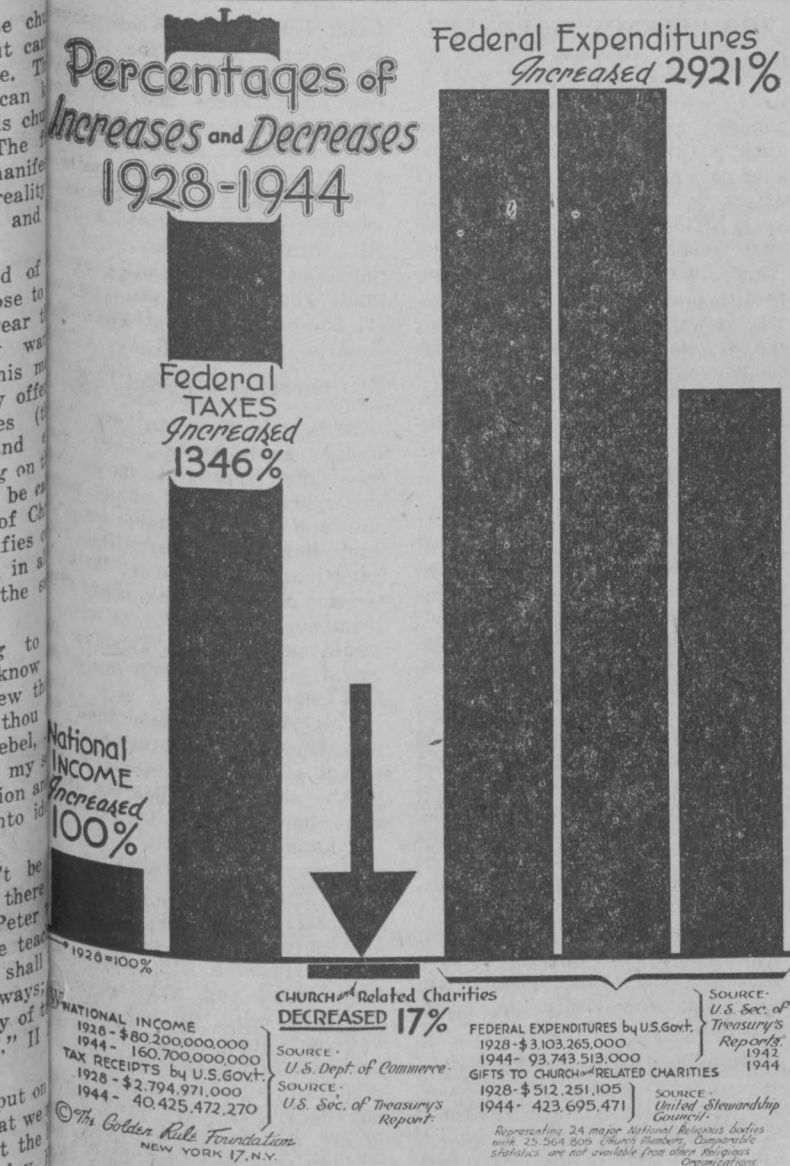
Mrs. H. L. Hahn
Tampa, Florida

Favorite Verse

"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."—Rom. 8:28.



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of God."—James 4:4.

Possibly there is no verse containing a stronger exhortation for Christian living than this text. There can be but one of two alternatives. If we love the world, we are God's enemy. Surely many who go to the house of God on Sunday—even many who take a very active part in the service of our Lord, are nothing more than enemies of the Lord. Many who nominally classify themselves as His friends and who would shrink from the thought of being called an enemy of God, are nothing more or less than His enemies—they love the world more than they love Him. Here is another exhortation to the Christian relative to the world:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15.

In this we have a test as to salvation. It is more than a test as to fellowship, it is in reality a test of one's salvation, for in this verse John, by inspiration, declares that no one is saved who literally loves and lives for the world.

Many other Scriptures likewise exhort the Christian as to a walk which is separate from the world. Listen:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."—Rom. 12:2.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."—Gal. 6:14.

Would to God that each Christian instead of being conformed to the world might be thus transformed by Christ and that each of us might live a crucified life daily—being crucified to the world and the things therein.

One thing is certain in our behalf. Each of us must either forsake Christ because we love the world, or else we must forsake the world because we love Christ.

It seems strange that in the providence of God that the Almighty permitted Demas to forsake Paul at such a crucial time. It was in the last two years of Paul's earthly ministry that Demas deserted him. From Paul's standpoint, it was at a crucial time, just when Paul needed him most.

I don't know how Demas attempted to justify himself for deserting Paul, yet I'm satisfied that in some manner he attempted to justify his actions. It is only human nature for each individual to do so. I have never known an individual who became backslidden but what he attempted to justify himself in some way. Usually a backslider or a deserter like Demas justifies himself by blaming the preacher or someone else. Many times such an individual will declare that his reason for not serving the Lord, is the preacher—or perhaps some other Christian worker. Yet in reality, in the majority of cases the real reason is the reason of Demas' desertion. Demas deserted Paul because he loved the world, and the majority of backsliders do so because they too love the world.

To me, the story of Demas is one that is filled with pathos. It is quite tragic to think how that one who was once quite active and who intimately associated with great Christian characters could become so enamoured by the world as to become a deserter to the cause of Christ. It is indeed a sad story and surely it serves as a warning today. Christians of this 20th century need

to be warned by the experience of Demas of the 1st century.

THE NEXT CHARACTER REFERRED TO IN THIS TEXT IS THAT OF JOHN MARK.

The previous history of John Mark is most interesting. When Paul went on his first missionary journey, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit and the church at Antioch, John Mark went along with him as a helper. We read:

"And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister."—Acts 13:5.

However, on this missionary journey, as on all others, opposition arose. Satan, working through various ones, stirred up discord, opposition and hatred. As a result, John Mark became discouraged and left Paul in the city of Perga. We read:

"Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem."—Acts 13:13.

Paul continued this first missionary tour with Barnabas, bringing it to a successful conclusion in spite of all opposition and persecution he was compelled to endure. A little later, he determined to go on a second missionary journey. Concerning this proposed missionary tour we read:

"And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed as under one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus: And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God."—Acts 15:36-40.

It would thus appear that instead of one missionary journey, two were made. Paul and Silas travelled together while Barnabas and John Mark worked together. We are told nothing as to the outcome of the work of Barnabas and Mark, and for fifteen years we hear nothing of either of them. Now that Paul is in prison, he sent for Mark. Although nothing had been heard of him for fifteen years, the indications are that he had been reclaimed and that he could now be used in the service of the Lord.

It is rather interesting to notice that Paul wanted Mark for the same position which Mark had repudiated fifteen years before. He had gone along then to minister to Paul. We read, "And they have John to their minister." (Acts 13:5) Now Paul could use him in the same way.

When he writes to Timothy, he says concerning Mark, "he is profitable to me for the ministry." This would thus indicate that though Mark had repudiated the work of the Lord previously, he had been reclaimed and could now be of service in the ministry.

All of which would tell us that regardless of one's departure, backsliding, or desertion from the Lord, that one can be reclaimed, he can come back, and he can be yet used of God. Two Scriptures very forcefully present this truth to us:

"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord: . . ."—Jer. 3:12.

"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine

anger is turned away from him."—Hosea 14:4.

Perhaps the greatest illustration in all the Word of God showing that a backslider may come back to God, is the experience of Samson. Samson was a man of unusually great strength. His strength was not because of his uncut hair as is often supposed. Instead, his hair was a sign of his Nazarite consecration unto God. When his hair was cut at the hands of Delilah, his sign of consecration was gone, which meant that actually his consecration was gone, and therefore Samson became weak as anyone else. Even though the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes, we read that his hair grew again and that in his last day on earth he was used of God to destroy three thousand Philistines. Though he became weak and powerless as any other man for the time being, yet ultimately God restored his strength and he again was used of the Lord.

This is the story of John Mark, and it may be the story of every backslider. Every Christian more or less backslides daily. If I speak to one who has grown cold in the service of the Lord or who has lost the joy of his God-given salvation, or who has departed in any wise from the Lord—may you remember Samson—may you remember John Mark—and may you come back now unto the Lord.

III

THE LAST INDIVIDUAL OF WHOM OUR TEXT REFERS IS LUKE.

The first time we find Luke in the company of Paul was in the city of Troas fifteen years before Paul's martyrdom. As you may recall, Paul had been preaching in southwestern Asia and when he attempted to enter Phrygia and Galatia, he was forbidden of the Holy Spirit. Later, he came to Mysia and attempted to go into Bithynia, yet the Holy Spirit again refused. He came on down to Troas where he saw a vision, and in that vision one besought him saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Then we read:

"And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."—Acts 16:10.

The pronoun "we" would indicate that Luke thus joined Paul at Troas. Where Luke was saved or where he had labored previously, we know not. The first time we read of him in the company of Paul is when he thus joined him at Troas.

From then on, Luke was a tremendous asset and a staunch helper both to Paul and to the truth. Paul himself referred to him as "Luke the beloved physician." (Col. 4:14)

From the time that Luke joined forces with Paul at Troas, he stayed by him practically all the time thereafter regardless of Paul's circumstances. Whether fair weather or foul—in sunshine and in storm, in prison and out of prison—irrespective of the circumstances, Luke tenaciously clung to Paul, cared for him, supported him, and ministered to him.

The saddest thing I know today in our churches is that not many of us are like Luke. Many start out well and continue for a while as did Demas. Still others have an off and on experience like John Mark. Very very few can be likened unto Luke.

What a blessing Luke must have been daily unto Paul. What a blessing such Christians as Luke are today. Thank God there are a few like Luke who from the time they begin to walk with the

(Continued on page four)

DEMAS, MARK AND LUKE

(Continued From Page One)

Philemon, a slave who had run away from the home of Philemon. He closed his letter to Philemon, he offered a number of salutations. We read:

"There salute thee Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus; Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers."—Phil. 1:23, 24.

You will notice that Paul sent salutation to Demas and that he was listed by Paul as a "fellow labourer." This would therefore indicate that Demas was quite active in the ministry, in the service of Paul, and in the work of our Lord.

Not only had Demas been quite active as a servant of our Lord, he had been closely associated with great Christian characters. In the verses just referred to in Phil. 1:23, 24, you find him mentioned with Epaphras, Marcus, Aristarchus, and Demas. Each of these were great Christian characters and in this instance we find Demas closely associated with them.

When Paul wrote to the church at Colosse in his closing salutation to this church, we read:

"Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."—Col. 4:14.

Thus again we find Demas associated with a great Christian character in the work of the Lord.

From these Scriptures we can see that Demas began well, that he was associated with the greatest Christian men of his day, and that he was quite active in the service of the Lord. In fact, he was doing well—he also conformed well, at least for quite a period of time.

It would appear that he continued well in the service of the Lord until he himself became prominent and influential—and when he fell away from the service of his Lord.

It is rather interesting to notice why Demas became inactive. Sometimes folk become inactive because of a lack of training and instruction. This was not true of Demas, for his defection was in no wise due to a want of improper instruction. He had journeyed with Paul and with other great Christian men and had been fully instructed in the service of the Lord.

However, there was a very definite reason for Demas deserting Paul. The Scriptures tell us emphatically as to that reason. He left him because of his love for the world. We read:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world."—2 Tim. 4:10.

I do not mean that Demas was immoral or that he was ungodly; I do not mean that he lived a vicious life and was governed by unholy appetites and passions. I mean, instead, that he was worldly. He just loved the world more than he loved the Lord.

The Word of God is very instructive to us as to our friendship with the world. Again and again we are admonished that we are not to be controlled by the world, but rather, we are to live separate from it. Listen:

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

Here is a reference to "pure and undefiled religion." This religion won't save you, but it is the kind of religion every saved person ought to have. In this verse you notice that James declared that "pure and undefiled religion" consists of acts of charity and acts of purity. Above all else, the child of God is to keep himself "unspotted from the world." Again:

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy

"DEMAS, MARK AND LUKE"

(Continued from page three)
Lord, continue daily in His service. Would to God that there might be men, who, faithful to him in spite of all difficulties and regardless of all circumstances, might continue in His service.

In closing, may I ask you a simple question: Are you a Demas? Have you forsaken Him? Have you deserted Him? Do you love the world more than the Lord? Are you a John Mark? Have you given up under difficulties? Have you backslidden and gotten away from Him because you became discouraged? Have you been reclaimed by Him? Well, remember that this was the experience of John Mark. He turned his back upon Paul and later came back. Or are you like Luke? Very very few are. May God grant that you have been and shall ever be one who continues faithfully and steadfastly in the service of our Lord.

Regardless of what your experience may have been thus far, may God in His mercy grant that henceforward your life shall count for Him.

Thus far I have spoken only to you who are saved, trusting that I might arouse you and awaken you in your service for Christ. I realize, though, that many to whom this message comes are unsaved. Ere you are finished with this sermon, let me give you one brief thought. Lost sinner, there is hope for you in the Lord Jesus. May you trust Him and be saved, and then by His grace go out to live for Him from day to day, remembering Paul's words when he said:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."—Eph. 28: 10.

A GREAT SCIENTIST AND HIS CHURCH

(Continued from page one)
one occasion he delivered an address to the leading scientific society of Great Britain which

swept the learned auditors off their feet. When he had finished speaking, the Prince of Wales arose and offered a resolution of congratulations and thanks to the great scholar, and, while the building was rocking with applause, Faraday suddenly vanished. He was hurrying through the streets to keep from being late at the prayer-meeting of his little church. He sat at the feet of his unlearned pastor meekly to learn of the Saviour whom they both adored. Any sort of sermon exalting his Master was music to his ears.

Friends, if a great man could enjoy his pastor's message, it looks like you could. **DON'T MISS CHURCH UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY AND POSITIVELY NECESSARY.**

WHY WORK OR WORRY, IF YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

(Continued from page one)
"We love him because he first loved us, and gave himself." This love for Christ ought to exceed and transcend every other love, because it is love for a greater Person, and for One who has done more for us than all others. "He that loveth Father or mother, etc. more than me is not worthy of Me."

2. **Because of the Indwelling Spirit**—The Holy Spirit within a saved person would not make that person want to "take their fill of sin." Note the following: Romans 8:15; Rom. 8:2; Galat. 4:6.

3. **Because of Our Love for Others**—We will come to love others for which Christ died. The "love of Christ will constrain us."

4. **Because of Rewards.**—This is one of the greatest of all motives. Our position and standing in ages to come will be determined by how we know Christ now as Savior and how we **SERVE** him, after we know him. Note the following:

II Tim. 2:12; Heb. 2:2; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12.

So then, it matters a lot as to how we live after we are converted. The person who doesn't want to live differently — who indeed **CAN** live just as he did before he professed Christ, is probably and almost certainly a self-deceived lost person. And the person who is saved—apart from all human works — will **LOVE TO SERVE CHRIST**, and shall be **RICHLY REWARDED** for every service rendered. Mason

WAS THE COMMISSION GIVEN TO THE CHURCH?
(Continued from Page One)

Him at His word and meet Him in Galilee. (Matt:28:16, 17) To them, the duly called together group, the Lord Jesus Christ gave His marching orders for this age, that we call the "Great Commission." (vv18-20) The eleven were there as "the brethren" and not as ordained apostles only. To them, as a group, as a church, did the Lord give His commission, carrying authority for the execution of His commission. Thus it is the church, and not the preacher, or preachers, or other outside groups, which has the privilege and responsibility of doing missionary work, baptizing the disciples, and teaching them to observe the "all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Upon this important truth rests many fundamental New Testament principles, which are grossly ignored today. Clarion

THE POTENCY OF PRAYER

(Continued from page one)
us to ever even infer such a thought, and much less to declare such a thing. But there may be a great amount of activity and effort in service for God, with very little real fruit, even where such service is rendered in the Name of Christ, and according to the plan of God. If such service is performed in a prayerless manner and apart from utter dependence upon the Lord, it will fail of its greatest possible fruitfulness. It must be so, for only the Spirit of God can really bring things to pass for the Lord.

A Lesson from Rubenstein

The need and call of the hour is for more prayer, as well as for earnest and persistent prayer. The lack of prayer is readily noticeable. Great pianists, it is said, carry the dumb piano with them, which is simply a mechanical keyboard for the exercising of the fingers. Rubenstein used it, and on one occasion he said, "If I neglect practice a single day, I notice it; and if for two days, my friends notice it; and if for three days, the people notice it." The same is true in the life of a Christian in reference to prayer. A true Christian will himself first notice the neglect of prayer; then next his Christian friends will notice it; and lastly the world will notice it.

Boundless Power of the Holy Spirit

If we would take things to God in prayer, plead with Him concerning them with holy persistence and with believing prayer, a good many things would give way, against which we have been beating and battling in vain with our own puny human wisdom and power. The Holy Spirit can break down prejudice, remove indifference, melt away willfulness, dissolve doubts and unbelief and move the hearts and wills of mortals toward the Lord and spiritual verities. There is no impossible case with Him. And believing prayer enables Him to work. We unhesitatingly affirm that the prayer-power has never yet been tried to its full capacity by anyone.

Call on God in These Crisis Days

If we would see mighty wonders of Divine grace and power wrought in human lives, if we would realize strength in place of weakness, fruitfulness in place of barrenness and victory in place of shameful defeat, let us pray more earnestly and more believingly. God's standing challenge to His people rings out in the words of the Prophet of old "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not". Let us answer this Divine challenge. Let us call upon God in earnest and believing prayer, and thus give Him the opportunity to display His glorious power and to manifest His Omnipotent might. Let this be God's message to all God's people, no matter in whatsoever capacity they may be seeking to serve Him. And let us remember that these are crisis days, when we are called upon to engage in an intense conflict with spiritual foes, and that therefore we need to pray more.

A Man Who Had Irresistible Power

The story is told of a man who had been called to the foreign field. He had not been in the habit of preaching, but he knew how to pray; and going one day to a friend, he said, "I don't see how God can use me on the

field. I have no special talent. His friend said, "My brother, God wants men on the field who can pray. There are too few preachers now and too few pray-ers." He went away saying a further word. In his room the early dawn a voice was weeping and pleading for help. All through the day, the door and the hush that prevailed made you feel like walking lightly, for a soul was pleading God.

Secret of a Useful Life

It is said that to his hungry souls would flock, by some irresistible power, the morning hours some would call and say: "I have gone to your home so many times have longed to come in. Will you tell me how I can be saved from some distant place and would call, saying, 'I heard you would tell us here how we find heart-rest.'"

This incident furnishes the explanation to the secret of a useful and fruitful spiritual life. In the secret chamber lost were borne before the Lord the hands of prayer, and the ed for in earnest prayer, and Holy Spirit knew where they were and sent them. It is prayer which brought saint of God a life of spiritual fruitfulness and great influence over the souls of men. Earnest and persistent prayer was the secret of his spiritual success. And this selfsame secret lies at our door. Shall we pray more? If we do, we shall enjoy more and greater spiritual victories.

At Waterloo, the English troops, obeying orders, fell their faces for a time, and let the hot fire of the French artillery pass over them; then they sprang to their feet, and rushed to the thickest of the fight and back their foes. The Lord will do the same for His people. He will stand before they attempt to meet. We are in a great crisis of life, or to take any great service for Him. Our task is superhuman and demands superhuman strength. We will furnish us with superhuman strength to accomplish our superhuman task, if we call upon Him and trust Him.

"GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE"

Dear Bro. Gilpin:

We are sending you one of our papers and want you to send your paper to our friend Miss Julia F. 1000 N. Macedonia Ave., Muncie, Indiana.

Your paper, The Baptist Examiner, has given us great joyment and we hope you will receive as much blessing we do from reading it.

Thank you,
Mr. and Mrs. Coleman

Dear Brother Gilpin:

I like the Baptist Examiner very much—it is next to Bible, with me. I hope you will live long to edit this paper.

Mrs. Leland Morris,
Niantic, Conn.

Man's fall, his need of a birth, forgiveness through atonement, and salvation as the sult of faith, these are our battle ax and weapons of war. Blessed is that ministry of which Christ is all.

—C. H. Spurgeon

Testing and Promise

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:5

Are you passing through a testing,
Is your pillow wet with tears?
Do you wonder what the reason,
Why it seems God never hears?
Why it is you have no answer
To your oft-repeated plea,
Why the heaven still is leaden
As you wait on bended knee?

Do you wonder as you suffer,
Whether God does understand,
And if so, why He ignores you,
Fails to hold you in His hand?
Do black doubts creep in, assail you,
Fears without, and fears within,
Till your brave heart almost falters
And gives way to deadly sin?

All God's testings have a purpose—
Some day you will see the light,
All He asks is that you trust Him,
Walk by faith and not by sight.
Do not fear when doubts beset you,
Just remember—He is near;
He will never, never leave you,
He will always, always hear.

Faithful is He who has promised,
He will never let you fall,
Daily will the strength be given
Strength for each and strength for all.
He will gladly share pain with you,
He will gladly give you peace,
Till your tired and weary body
Finds its blessed, glad release.

When the darkened veil is lifted,
Then, dear heart, you'll understand
Why it is you had to suffer,
Why you could not feel His hand
Giving strength when it was needed,
Giving power and peace within
Giving joy thru tears and trial,
Giving victory over sin.

So till then just keep on trusting,
Thru the sunshine and the rain,
Thru the tears and thru the heart-aches,
Thru the smiles and thru the pain—
Knowing that our Father watches,
Knowing daily strength He'll give,
Victory for each passing hour,
This is life, so let us live!
—John E. Zoller.