

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).

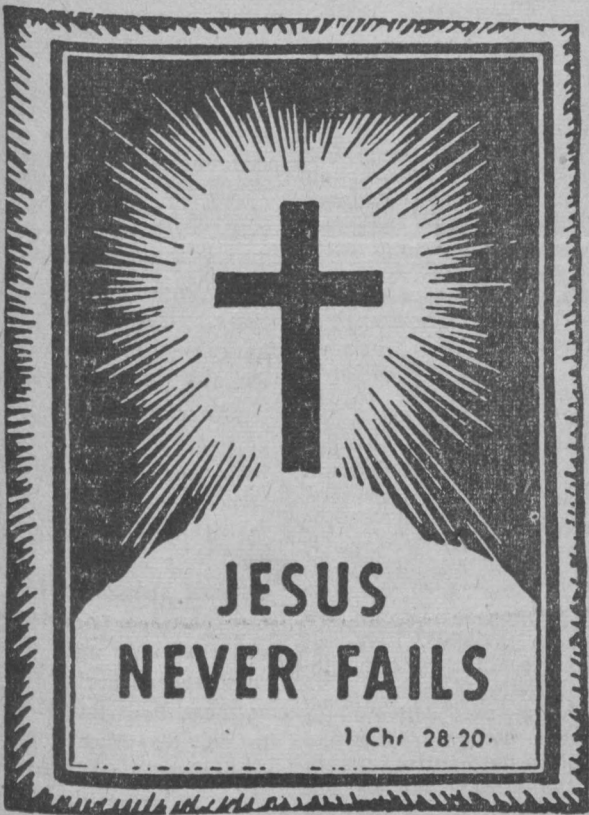
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Devoted to Evangelism, Missions and Bible Doctrines.

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



"PAGES FROM A CHRISTIAN DOCTOR'S CASE REPORTS"

This is the title of a paper covered book written by my good friend, Dr. W. D. Lester of Many, Louisiana. As the title indicates, these are true-to-life cases and no individual will ever read this book without rejoicing over the fact that he has read it. At the same time, no one will ever read it without realizing the terrible effects of worldliness and especially that of a Christian marrying one of the world. Particularly every Christian boy and girl should read it.

In fact, I wish that every reader of our paper would order a copy of this book today to place in the hands of young unmarried folk. It sells for 15c per copy and should be ordered directly from Dr. Lester.



"ARE YE ABLE?"

(Matthew 20:22)

Able to suffer without complaining,
To be misunderstood without explaining:
Able to endure without a breaking,
To be forsaken without forsaking:
Able to give without receiving,
To be ignored without any grieving:
Able to ask without commanding,
To love despite misunderstanding:
Able to turn to the Lord for guarding,
Able to wait for His own rewarding?

—Brenton T. Badley

Mused Uncle Mose

Eb Jim'son fun'ral wuz awful sad. Pahson tol' all 'bout how purty Heab'n wuz, an' how a fel-lah could git dar, but po' ole Eb, he'd done gone some whar.

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"The Great Refusal"

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me."—Mark 10:21.

About ten years ago or thereabout, the newspapers told of a vessel that was returning from the gold fields in Australia that sank in mid-ocean. That in itself was not the reason that I remembered the incident unto this hour, but rather, when the vessel started to sink, one who had struck it rich in the gold fields of Australia, strapped a belt

filled with gold nuggets about his waist and leaped into the water attempting to swim and save his life and at the same time save the gold he had accumulated. Yet, the interesting thing of this incident is that the weight of that gold was the very means of this man's destruction, for the gold pulled him to the bottom of the ocean. I think the reason I remember that incident so well this morning is that as I read it, I thought of the man that we have just read to you about out of God's Word, for surely this gold-folish man is the material counterpart of the man of whom we read within our Scripture story, who, for the love of money, wan-

dered away from Jesus into eternal and everlasting despair.

I
FROM THIS SCRIPTURE THAT I HAVE READ TO YOU, I WANT TO SHOW YOU THAT THERE ARE THREE IMPOSSIBILITIES.

In the first place, it is impossible for any man to be neutral to the Lord Jesus Christ. This individual found that he could not be neutral, and I say this morning, beloved, it is impossible for any person within this house to be neutral toward God's Son. Some answer must be made to Him. Every man must be on one side or the other.
(Continued on page three)

GIVING

"Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee"—Gen. 28:22.

Nine dollars for me and one for the Lord;
Can I spare that dollar now?
Ah, yes, I have promised the tenth to Him,
And so I will keep the vow.
That certainly is enough to give,
It cost so much in these days to live!

"Our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins"—Gal. 1:4.

Nine dollars for me and one for the Lord;
Somehow, that seems very small
When I think how He counted not the cost
But freely poured out His all.
Shall I stop with giving a tenth, when He
Has given—Himself priceless Gift!—for me?
—Edith Lillian Young

How Ordinances Delivered By Jesus To His Churches Are To Be Preserved

By Frank B. Beck

Why Is This?

The purpose in writing this article is to explain from the Scriptures why Baptists adhere to certain practices regarding the observance of the ordinances which are different from the practice of other so-called churches.

Baptist Churches Hold To The Following:

1. They baptize none but believers: this may be called "close baptism," or "restricted baptism."
2. They receive into their church fellowship only those who have been Scripturally baptized: this may be called "close" or "restricted membership."
3. They offer the Lord's Supper to those only who are in their own membership: this may be called "close communion." We prefer to call it "church communion."

You are invited to carefully examine I Cor. 11:2 which reads: "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances as I delivered them unto you." Note four things about this text: 1. Paul praises the Corinthians. 2. His reason: "That ye remember me." 3. "And keep the ordinances," (A.S.V.). "Hold fast the ordinances." 4. "As I delivered them to you."

To Whom Were The Ordinances Delivered?

Paul says, "I delivered them to you." To whom? This is an important question; this is where the differences between Baptists and other denominations come in. In Cor. 1:2 we learn to whom Paul was writing: "Unto the
(Continued on page two)

REDS BUILD UNDERGROUND AIRFIELD

At a place called Iman in Siberia the Russians are building the world's largest airfield under ground. This is the story of an escaped Japanese war prisoner, a cavalry officer, who says he was captured by the Reds in northern Korea on August 17, 1945. His story is as follows.

"I was blindfolded and put on a train. We rode all night. The next day we were unloaded at Iman, Siberia, a city of about the same latitude as extreme northern Japan. We were hauled in trucks to a point outside the city, given shovels, and put to work.

"As weeks passed the magnitude of the project dawned on us. Fifty thousand prisoners of war were scooping earth from a gigantic plain to make an underground airport too big for description. There were 80 radiating runways, each 1,000 meters (3,280 ft.) in length. Some accommodate 30 planes in its indi-
(Continued on page two)

Who Has The Authority To Administer Baptism In A New Testament Church?

Roy Mason, Tampa, Fla.

It takes four things to constitute Scriptural baptism, namely:

1. A proper subject—a believer.
2. A proper motive—obedience and not the idea of saving significance.
3. A proper form—immersion in water in the Name of Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
4. A proper ADMINISTRATOR—one authorized by a Scriptural church.

This last point is the one that we shall discuss at this time. Where the first three things just mentioned are present and the proper administrator is absent the baptism is invalid. In other words, baptism is no better than its administrator. Baptism is worth no more than the authority behind it. An ARREST is not valid unless the proper legal authority is behind it. A MAR-

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S IN THE BIBLE

1. Every book in the New Testament was written by a foreign missionary.
2. Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a foreign missionary.
3. Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign missionary church.
4. Every book in the New Testament that was written to a community of believers was written to a general group of foreign missionary churches.
5. The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to the seven foreign missionary churches of Asia.
6. The only authoritative history of the early Christian church is a foreign missionary journal.
7. The disciples were called Christians first in a foreign missionary community.
8. The language of the books
(Continued on page two)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN-EDITOR

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NEW EDITION NOW UNDER WAY

We wish to call our readers' attention to the fact that we are now at work on a new edition of Arthur W. Pink's important and valuable book THE SEVEN SAYINGS OF THE SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS for the Bible Truth Depot, I. C. Herendeen, Swengel (Union Co.), Pa. This helpful book has been out of print for some time, and we are glad that as soon as conditions will permit, it will be available again. It will be cloth bound with cover design and jacket, and will sell for \$1.75 postpaid.

Mr. Pink deals with each Saying of our Saviour on the Cross in his usually characteristic, thorough and helpful way. He shows how marvelously full are the words of the dying Saviour; how they not only reveal His own personal excellencies, but also set forth the Gospel of our salvation as well as interpret the purpose, the meaning, and the sufficiency of the Death Divine. We heartily and strongly endorse this book and trust you will be sure to order one or more copies from the publishers.



REDS BUILD UNDERGROUND AIRFIELD

(Continued From Page One)

vidual hangars."

The young Japanese, Zentarō Tanaka, said there was a lack of mechanical equipment, and the guards were mere youths who looked to be no more than 15 or 16 years of age. Because of the large number of prisoners, making it impossible for the guards to keep count of them, he, and numbers of other prisoners made their escape.

If Gog is building a gigantic airfield in Siberia there can be but one motive back of it, and that is war with the United States. An underground field would be safe from bombing, and even the atomic bomb would have little effect. No nation ever prepared for war on such a huge scale as Russia is now doing. Only God can circumvent Gog in his ambitious schemes — The Midnight Cry.

Ed Note: Read Ezek. 38, 39 to learn the story of Russia's final defeat. May God speed the day when this godless nation shall come to naught.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page one)
of the New Testament is the missionary language.

9. The map of the early Christian world is the tracing of the journeys of the first missionaries.

10. Of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus, every apostle except one became a missionary.

11. The only man among the twelve apostles who did not become a missionary became a traitor.

12. The problems which arose in the early church were largely questions of missionaries' procedure.

13. Only a foreign missionary could write an everlasting Gospel.

14. According to the apostles, missionary service is the highest expression of Christian life. — William Adams Brown.



KEEPING THE ORDINANCES

(Continued from page one)
church of God which is at Corinth." Hence, he had delivered the ordinances to the "Church of God which is at Corinth." No one can make this deliverance to a "universal, invisible, mysterious church," for Paul plainly tells us to whom he made the deliverance, "To the church of God which is at Corinth." This was a local, visible church of God, located at Corinth. If there were no other true churches in the world at that time, there certainly was one at Corinth, and to this true church Paul delivered the ordinances. If the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an invisible, universal church, why did not Paul say, "Unto part of the church of God, which is at Corinth?" If God has only one true church how can you explain I Cor. 11:16, which reads: "The churches of God." There can be but one explanation and that is, all true churches are local bodies in a given locality. Such was the "church of God at Corinth."

With all due respect to the many valuable helps in the Scofield Bible, this writer must disagree with him in what he says on page 1189: "The church is not an organization but an organism." He is right in declaring the church to be an "organism," but the "church of God at Corinth" was also an "organization." To such an organization the two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, were delivered. I Cor. 1:2 is very definite and specific; it is not only addressed to the church of God at Corinth, but to all true churches of God everywhere: "... with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ," etc.

A Description Of A New Testament Church

What kind of a church was this New Testament church? Was it a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Brethren, Christian, Lutheran or Holiness? Personally, this writer is not so much concerned about the name; it is the nature and doctrines that so vitally concern us. Read I Thess. 1:1. The true churches of New Testament time as now consisted of:

1. Saved people. "And the Lord added to the church daily those that were saved." (Amer. St'd. Ver.).

2. Saved people who were baptized. We assert that baptism is a complete immersion in water. The apostles were in the church, I Cor. 12:28. These apostles had all been baptized; they were all baptized believers except Judas Iscariot. In selecting one to take his place, in the apostleship, one of the requirements was that he must have continued with the disciples, "Beginning from the baptism of John." Acts 1:22. One who had received the baptism of John and had continued with the Lord,

in that early church was alone fit to fill the place vacated by Judas Iscariot. The office was too holy and sacred to be filled by any other.

Again, on the day of Pentecost, we learn that the church continued to receive only those who professed to be saved, and who were immersed: "Then they that gladly received his word" (were saved) "were baptized, and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls," Acts 2:41. In verse 47 we learn that it was the Lord's method to add the saved to the church. In Acts 18:8 we learn that the church consisted of saved and baptized members: "... And many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized." Observe the order: (1)



They heard. (2) They believed. (3) They were baptized.

What Churches Today Practice This Order?

In all kindness we quote from each church's respective published belief. Keep this fact in mind, that the churches of God alone are intrusted with the ordinances in a given locality, and that each church is composed of saved and baptized (immersed) members and no others.

1. The Presbyterians do not: "The infant seed of believers are through the covenant and by right of birth, members of the church." Chap. III, Par. 29, Book of Church Order.

2. The Methodists do not: "From the first the Methodists practiced infant baptism." P. 34, The Methodist Primer.

To the above we reply: Infants are not believers, they cannot believe; neither can sprinkling be rightfully called baptism. Nor can either of the above churches be called a New Testament church; they started entirely too late and by men.

3. The so-called Church of Christ does not: They do not claim to baptize saved people; they baptize people in order to save them and not because they are saved. We quote from Alexander Campbell: "I assert that there is but one action ordained or commanded in the New Testament to which God has promised or testified that He will forgive our sins. This action is Christian immersion." Christian Baptist, P. 530. He calls this "The Gospel In Water," Christian Baptist, P. 417. Hence, we see this group cannot stand the Scriptural test.

Baptism, as with prayer, reading the Bible, church membership, tithing, soul winning are all works of righteousness, but they do not result in the salvation of the soul, but, instead, are results of salvation, Titus 3:5.

Baptist churches are true New Testament churches. They immerse believers only, or those

who profess to believe. They do not knowingly admit sinners, unsaved people, to their membership. They do not sprinkle infants. It was to a church of this kind that Paul said, "Keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you."

Duties Of A New Testament Church

"Keep the ordinances." 1. Baptism was delivered to the churches, Matt. 28:19, 20: "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them," etc. (A.S.V.). Mark you, this commission was not given to individuals separate and apart from the church; it was given to a church as such.

2. The Lord's Supper was given to a church. Luke 22:29,30. The Lord's Supper is not a Christian ordinance; it is a church ordinance. Paul in writing to the church at Corinth, mentions five times that they are to be assembled or together, as follows: Verse 17, "Ye come together." Verse 18, "Come together in the church." Verse 20, "Come together." Verse 33, "Come together to eat." Verse 34, "Come ... together." If the communion was given to an invisible, universal church how could they come together?

3. Authority was delivered to the churches. They not only had a commission to baptize and to observe the Lord's Supper, but they had authority to exercise discipline over their members, I Cor. 5:1-13. All scholars agree

that this has reference to a local organization, but many of them when they come to I Cor. 11 want to claim that it has reference to an invisible, universal church. The local church has the same authority to exclude from its communion disorderly members as does to permit orderly ones to eat. "But let a man examine himself" (personal judgment) "and so let him eat" (church's judgment) "of that bread and drink of that cup," I Cor. 11:28. This was written to a church. A church is told to "let" him eat after examination. Common sense would say that a church can forbid one as easily as it can permit him.

Paul admonished the Corinthian church to exercise discipline, I Cor. 5:11: "But now have written unto you" (the church) "not to keep company" if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or with such an one no not to eat. Hence, the church is supposed to withdraw her fellowship from disorderly members. This writer believes, the church of God at Corinth was a true Baptist church and that only such churches today have authority from God to do what Paul taught this church to do. No other churches have authority to do these things because no other churches were in existence at that time except Baptist churches.

Five Minutes After I Die

Loved ones will weep o'er my silent face,
Dear ones will clasp me in sad embrace,
Shadows and darkness will fill the place,
Five minutes after I die.

Faces that sorrow I will not see,
Voices that murmur will not reach me,
But where, oh where, will my spirit be,
Five minutes after I die?

Here I have rested and roved and ranged,
Here I have cherished — and grown estranged,
There, and then, it will all be changed,
Five minutes after I die.

Naught to repair the good I lack,
Fixed to the goal of my chosen track,
No room to repent: no turning back,
Five minutes after I die.

Now I can stifle convictions stirred,
Now I can silence the voice oft heard:
Then the fulfillment of God's sure Word,
Five minutes after I die.

Mated for aye with my chosen throng,
Long is eternity, O so long,
Then woe is me if my soul be wrong
Five minutes after I die.

Oh, what a fool—hard the word but true,
Passing the Saviour with death in view,
Doing a deed I can ne'er undo,
Five minutes after I die.

If I am flinging a fortune away,
If I am wasting salvation's day,
"Just is my sentence," my soul shall say,
Five minutes after I die.

Thanks be to Jesus for pardon free,
He paid my debt on Mount Calvary's tree,
Paradise gates will enfold even me,
Five minutes after I die.

O marvelous grace that has rescued me,
O joyous moment when Jesus I see,
O happy day when with Him I'll be,
Five minutes after I die.

—Copied

JANUARY 4, 1947



THE GREAT REFUSAL

(Continued from page one)

Listen:
"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."
—Matthew 12:30.

In the light of this verse, if there were no other, we can easily see that you are either for Jesus Christ or else you are against Him. You can't be neutral toward God's Son.

I have an idea that this morning there are those here, who will say in their heart, "Now I'm not going to make any decision at all toward Jesus Christ today, but rather, when the service is over, I'll get up and walk out of the building and not make any decision this morning." Yet, when you walk out of the door without accepting Jesus Christ as your Saviour, by going out thus, you are definitely and publicly saying by your action that you are rejecting God's Son. If you were to come down this aisle and raise your hand to high heaven and say, "I absolutely reject the Son of God as my Saviour, it would be no louder a profession of your rejection than for you to walk out of this building without publicly acknowledging God's Son as your Saviour. In other words, you are trying to say to you that it is impossible for any man to be neutral toward Jesus Christ. You are either for Him or against Him. You are either with Him or you are opposed to Him. You are either accepting Him or you are rejecting Him. You are either taking your stand for Him, or you're taking your stand against Him.

Here's a young man who proposes to a young girl, and she says, in substance: "Well, I don't love you enough to marry you, and at the same time, I do not entirely reject you." Can you tell me where in that girl's affections that young man stands? Yet, there is many an individual who will take such an attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ. This rich young ruler realized some choice had to be made. He realized he could not be neutral toward the Son of God. He knew he had to make a choice, and I insist, beloved, that this is the teaching of all the word of God. Listen:

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."—Joshua 24:15.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."—Deut. 30:19.

I repeat, beloved, it is impossible to be neutral toward God's Son. You have to make a choice for Him or against Him, with Him or against Him. It is absolutely impossible to be neutral toward the Son of God.

There is a second impossibility within this Scripture whereby we see that it is impossible for anyone to do anything himself in order to be saved. Here's a man who doubtlessly had done much whereby we would assume that he might be saved. We read in the 17th verse he asked the question: "Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" He thought that there was something he could do to be saved. What this young man thought is what 90 per cent of the people of the world think today—they think there is something that they themselves can do to inherit Heaven. But what does the Word of God say? Listen:

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."—Romans 4:5.

Here's a verse that tells us that salvation doesn't come to the man who labors, but salvation comes to that individual, who by faith, believes on Him that justifies the ungodly. Listen again:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit."—Titus 3:5.

"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."—Eph. 2:8-9.

Beloved, I insist this morning that it is impossible, as we see from these Scriptures, for any man to do anything whatsoever to save himself. It is obvious as to why that is true, for every man has a sinful nature and he is powerless to change that na-

ture.

In the days of Queen Victoria, she one day pardoned a man sentenced to English prison for life. When the officer in charge handed this pardon signed by Queen Victoria unto the man within the prison, he bared his shirt to reveal an ugly hidden cancer of the breast, and said, "Unless the queen can give me a pardon from this cancer, the pardon of my life from this jail is worthless." That likewise is true of the sinner, for the sinner not only needs a pardon;—he needs a new nature, and that new nature can only come as a gift from God. I insist, then, beloved, that it is impossible for any man to do anything to save himself.

There are those who will say, "I know that I've been a bad man; what can I do to be saved?" To every man who asks me that question, I answer him in one word by saying, "Nothing—absolutely nothing." There isn't anything you can do to be saved, for 1900 years ago Jesus Christ did it all on the cross of Calvary and there isn't anything in the world left for you to do. That's why it is that we sing,

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see.

We don't sing of amazing works, for no man's works are ultra amazing and certainly if they were, no man could be saved by his works. We don't sing of amazing works, but of the amazing grace of God which saves.

There's a third impossibility given within this Scripture, in that it is impossible for morality to save anyone. If such had been possible, then this young man would have been on the front seat of Heaven. He was doubtlessly the most moral man that Jesus met in all His ministry, for when Jesus enumerated a number of the commandments to him, he answered Jesus by saying, "All these have I kept from my youth." There wasn't a single one of the Ten Commandments that Jesus propounded to this man but what he could say, "I've kept that one—I have kept every one of them from my youth." Why, beloved, the Word of God tells us this man was so good, so moral, and so pure that the Lord Jesus actually loved Him when He saw him, and yet in spite of his morality, the Word of God indicates that man is in hell today. Why? It is impossible for morality to save.

The majority of people within this town and all over this world have a feeling that if you are good, it is certain evidence you are going to Heaven when you die. I had a Sunday School teacher of the First Baptist Church of Ashland, Ky., in my home some time ago, and in the course of conversation, he startled me by his spiritual and Scriptural ignorance of the Word of God. He said in substance, that he couldn't understand how that God would save a man who had violated everyone of the Ten Commandments and had done wrong constantly throughout his life, and at the same time, would allow a good fellow to go right on to hell. He even went so far as to say that it didn't seem fair that a man could be good all his life and yet be lost, while someone else who had not been good and moral could be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. I say to you I was startled by his spiritual and Scriptural ignorance. If he had told me he himself were an unsaved man, I would not have thought so much about it, but to know that he was a Sunday School teacher in a Baptist Church, it

was amazing to me.

I tell you this morning no man can be saved by his morality. The best man in all the world and the best woman in all the world will go to Hell without trusting the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Bible we have a good illustration of this in the experience of Nicodemus. He had certainly reached the top-most rung of the moral ladder. He was a leader of the Jewish Sanhedrin, yet the Lord Jesus said to him, "Ye must be born again."

Another good illustration showing morality will not save, is found in the person of Cornelius, of whom we read:

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always."—Acts 10:1-2.

Yet, my beloved friends, though he is thus described as a man of unusual morality, still God's Word says that he was lost and that God himself said, "Send for Simon Peter who will tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."—Acts 11:14.

Another good illustration showing that morality will not save, grows out of the parable, that Jesus gave of the wedding garment. We read of that parable in the 22nd chapter of Matthew. A man went to a wedding, and as was customary in those days, the man who was being married, furnished the wedding garment. Presently the governor of the wedding came in and saw this man who spurned the wedding garment and ordered him cast out. That parable simply tells us that you can't go to Heaven in your own righteousness. If you spurn the wedding garment, which is the righteousness of the Son of God provided by the Lord Jesus Christ, and attempt to go to Heaven wearing your own morality and your own righteousness, you will find the Lord will say to you as in that parable, "Thrust him out and there shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth."

All around this town there are young men and young women who have grown to young manhood and young womanhood for whom I have a tremendous amount of respect this morning. They are good boys and girls, and some of them are so moral that it would behoove many of us to take our hats off to them in view of the cleanliness of their lives, yet my brother, I declare on the authority of the Word of God, that if one of them dies without the Lord Jesus Christ, as his Saviour, he will sink into a Devil's Hell depending upon his morality rather than upon the finished work of

Jesus Christ at Calvary.

I say then, beloved, here are three impossibilities listed within this Scripture—It is impossible for one to be neutral to the Lord Jesus Christ; it is impossible for anyone to do anything himself in order to be saved; and it is impossible for morality to save anyone.

II.

IN VIEW OF THIS, I WANT YOU TO NOTICE THE LACK ON THE PART OF THIS YOUNG MAN. Of course, it is obvious that he lacked life, which life can be supplied only by the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."—John 10:28.

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

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."—John 6:47.

This young man lacked one thing. What was it? Everlasting life.

I remember being seated in the First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, Ark., when Chester Swor who is a youth evangelist among Southern Baptists, was conducting a so-called evangelistic meeting for that church. On the night to which I refer, he preached from this Scripture, emphasizing the text, "One thing thou lackest." When he got about ready to make an appeal to his audience composed to a great extent of young people, after having tenderly and touchingly played upon their emotions with a number of emotional experiences, he then said, "It may be you lack one thing in your life. Maybe you are not as good as you ought to be. Maybe you are jealous. Maybe there is some one sin in your life that is standing out particularly. What you need to do is put that one thing out of your life," and on the basis of that appeal, he swept forty-three unsaved souls into a church that night. A woman sitting beside me, said, as she saw this flock of young people go down the aisle, "Oh, isn't it wonderful!" I could not see anything wonderful about dragging young men and young women into the church unsaved, sending them a little bit farther on the road to Hell, allowing them to think the one thing they lacked was something they could do themselves. What every man lacks is eternal life which comes only through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. There isn't anything we can do to supply that lack, for that lack of life can only be supplied through the Son of God Himself.

Notice it says that this young

(Continued on page four)

How To Read The Bible

Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter.

If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it.

If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it.

If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it, and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire.

If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you.

If the truth is revealed in all its intrinsic splendor, entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate the hemisphere of your life.

THE GREAT REFUSAL

(Continued From Page Three)
man lacked one thing. It doesn't say he lacked two or three, or a dozen; it says just one. Listen to this Scripture:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."—James 2:10.

We often say that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. My brother, if there is one thing lacking in your life, then all might just as well be lacking. This young man lacked one thing—he lacked life.

I remember reading in Grecian mythology in years gone by of Achilles, who when he was born was taken by his mother when but a baby and was dipped into a river, the water of which was supposed to make him invulnerable. She took him by one heel and dipped him down so that when arrows might strike him they could not kill him. However, there was one place on his heel which was not touched by the water, and therefore that one spot of his heel was the vulnerable spot that brought about his death.

My beloved unsaved man this morning, you lack one thing today. Regardless of how good, how moral, how righteous; regardless of your church membership, regardless of everything else, you lack the life that can come only through Jesus Christ. That one lack on your part will damn your soul in hell.

A ferryman was one day rowing a college professor across a turbulent stream. As they rowed along, the professor said to this elderly ferryman: "Do you understand astronomy?" When the ferryman answered in the negative, he said, "One-fourth of your life is gone." Then he asked him another question: "Do you understand geology?" When the ferryman answered in the negative, he said, "One-half of your

life is gone." Presently he asked again, "Do you understand zoology?" When the ferryman didn't even know what the definition of the term was, the professor said, "Three-fourths of your life is gone." About that time a large wave upset the boat and the old ferryman called to the professor, "Can you swim?" When he answered in the negative, he said, "Brother, all your life is gone."

Mark it down, regardless of logic, regardless of anything you might do, without eternal life your life is gone.

Notice, beloved, that this young man was not conscious of his lack, for he said:

"The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?"—Matt. 19:20.

He wasn't conscious of the fact that there was anything wrong with him, and he is just like every unsaved man, for unless the Holy Spirit has begun to deal with you, the Devil tries to deceive every man so that he will not be conscious of his lack. How many individuals there are today who are lost, yet do not know it. Many of them are church members,—religious but lost. Many are outside the church, moral and good and righteous as the world goes, yet lost, unconscious of their lack. The sad thing about it is often times even your wife, your husband, your parents, your friends, or your children are not even conscious of the lack.

I had a preacher friend some time ago who went into a house to see a dying man, and as he paused beside the man to talk to him, the daughter said to him, "Don't bother father, he is a good man; he always paid his honest debts." Why, beloved, a gentleman would do that, to say nothing of a Christian. That daughter was herself unsaved, and at the same time she was unconscious of her father's lack, of which he himself likewise was unconscious.

I remember years ago when I was just a boy that a family was moving from the community where I lived, out west, and at the depot in St. Louis, Mo., the mother allowed her babe to die in her own arms. She was unconscious of the fact that the baby was sick.

Many an individual today is going right on down the road to hell unconscious of the fact that he lacks life which can come only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

III.
NOTICE THE CHOICE WHICH THIS YOUNG MAN MADE. It is rather an interesting and an unusual choice, for he chose material things. The gold that ought to have been a golden key opening up Heaven to him, became a golden bar which held fast the gates of Heaven against him. Would to God that he might have said, and all others might say,

I care not for riches,
Neither silver nor gold;
I would make sure of heaven,
I would enter Thy fold;
In the book of Thy kingdom
On its page white and fair,
Tell me, Jesus, my Saviour,
Is my name written there?

Yet, beloved, this man chose material things and held on to his gold to the damnation and the destruction of his own soul. Material things were more interesting to him than were spiritual things.

It reminds me of the old legend of the beautiful swan which floated down out of the skies and lighted upon a beautiful lake of water where a long-legged crane was standing on one leg in the water fishing snails out of the bottom of the body of water. The legend says that a conversation ensued between the two, wherein the crane asked as to the whereabouts of the swan and where he had come from. The answer was, "Why from Heaven." And then the swan launched upon an oratorical presentation of the beauties of Heaven, telling about its golden streets and everything that was to be seen within that fair city. When the swan had finished, the long legged crane said, "And are there any snails there?" When the swan answered in the negative, the crane said, "Then you can have Heaven, I want snails."

My beloved friends, this morning many a man is saying the same thing—"you can have Heaven, I want material things; We will talk about the spiritual when I come to die; We will talk about spiritual things when the hour comes for me to leave this world; Now I want material things." That's just like the young man of whom I have read this morning. He chose material things rather than eternal life in Jesus Christ. Many a man today is sadly making that same mistake.

IV.
NOTICE AGAIN IF YOU WILL THAT BY HIS GOING AWAY HE INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET ALONG JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST. When he turned and left Jesus, he said by his going away, "I believe I can get along just a little while longer without you." That's just what the man will say this morning who will get up and walk out of this house unsaved—"I believe I can live a little while longer without Jesus Christ."

Let me picture for you a scene of which you yourself are a counterpart. Here's a hungry tramp who is standing before a beautiful residence. He has had no

food for three days. His internal organs are past the gnawing stage. It is cold and bleak. He has no overcoat. He is covered only with rags. He stands outside that beautiful residence and looks inside the windows and sees all the wealth and beauty that home has to offer. The table on the inside is all spread with delicacies both in and out of season, while he himself stands starving and freezing on the outside. As he stands there, the door suddenly opens and a man comes to the door and invites this tramp to come in to share the warmth and beauty of that home and to receive proper food and clothing. This poor fellow shakes his head in the negative and says, "That's kind of you, but I don't think I'll starve tonight, and if you hold that invitation over until tomorrow night, I may come in and eat with you." Do you realize this morning young man that this is an accurate picture of you outside of Jesus Christ. It is an accurate description of every man who knows not the Son of God and who today is rejecting Jesus Christ. You are in this world; you are hungry; you are cold; the world itself can never satisfy you. You look through the windows into the kingdom and you find within the warmth and the beauty and the comfort that is within the kingdom of God, and while you're thinking on this, the Lord Jesus opens the door and says, "Come in, I'll take those old rags of self-righteousness off you and I will give you fine linen to wear. I'll take the filth away from you and I'll cleanse you in my own blood. I'll take that hunger which is yours, longing for something better away, and I'll feed you on the things of the kingdom." And then you say, "Yes, I appreciate your kindness. I'm glad you died on the cross. I'm glad you came down from Heaven. I'm glad that one day you went to Calvary thinking of sinners, and if you hold that invitation over until tonight or next Sunday or next month or next year, I'll think about it and maybe I'll come in."

Let me ask you a question: Are you stark mad this morning? Our Lord says, "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:2.

One thing in closing: This was the last opportunity that ever came to this young man to be saved. How do we know it? Because Jesus was leaving the regions of Perea, never again to return to that section. I have a definite conviction that the same is true today that many make the mistake that this young man made.

Let me tell you of an experience: Last Sunday afternoon I went out into Lawrence County for a funeral. An old friend of mine, Luther Webb had died. I don't mean he was old in years, for he was only 58 years of age, but an old friend in the sense that he had stood by me as an old friend throughout the entire length of my pastorate here. Only a little while before his death which came unexpectedly, he had expressed a desire that when he died I should preach his funeral. After he had suddenly died on Friday night, the family asked that I come on Sunday afternoon to conduct the funeral service for this husband and father of the home. To me, it was one of the greatest occasions in all the world. To know that that man knew the Lord Jesus Christ and had walked with Him for years—to know that he was now in the presence of the Lord. I said then, and I say now, that church could have buried any twenty-five members of it and would not have missed them half as much as

they will miss this man who was a pillar in that church. He was a glorious Christian man. After the funeral services were over, we went up on the Hill for the interment, and when he had lowered the body within the ground, looked about at the tomb stones in that cemetery, and I thought what a glorious day it is going to be when Jesus comes and calls each body out of the ground, uniting each with his family and with God in the home over there. What a glorious day that is going to be! And then a second thought came to me, and I said to myself but there are some of them that will not be raised then, for when the Lord comes and catches away the redeemed who are living, and catches up out of the ground those redeemed that have died, many will stay in the ground for a thousand years for a second resurrection, only then to be sentenced to a Devil's hell eternally. As I walked down that hillside I said, "Thank God for everyone who has a part in the first resurrection, thank God for everyone who has not done as this young man of whom we have read this morning, who chose material things instead of spiritual."

May God help you, young man, old to receive the Son of God as your Saviour.

WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

(Continued from page one)
the age. Any religious organization that —

1. Was started after the days of Christ—
2. Started outside of Palestine—
3. Had some other founder than Christ — has not a particle of right or authority to baptize, for Jesus gave that right to the church which HE STARTED.

What Church Is That?

1. It can't be the Catholic, for the first pope was Gregory the Great (590 A. D.).
2. It can't be the Protestant Churches, for they came out of Catholicism either directly or indirectly.
3. It can't be any one of the host of modern sects of recent years, for all have had human founders and cannot claim Christ as their originator.
4. It must be the Baptists, for they are the only people whose origin dates back to Christ and the apostles.

Baptists And Alien Baptism

We are living in a time when many Baptist churches receive those who have been baptized by other religious organizations. It is doubtful if there are a great many of the more "prominent" Baptist churches that would today absolutely refuse to receive alien baptism. When Baptists receive such, WHAT DO THEY DO? Note:

1. They throw aside their time-honored stand of centuries. Baptists got their name "Anabaptists" because of their practice of rebaptism of those coming from other groups.
2. When they receive alien baptism, they place themselves in the position of just another sect. They by the act deny their apostolic origin.
3. They throw away the real meaning of baptism, for they then receive baptism of the Campbellites who baptize to help save. Indeed they open the way to receive any sort of immersion. The logical outcome of alien baptism reception is seen in the leadership of Harry Emerson Fosdick who led his church to receive people without the formality of any sort of baptism.

The Sunset Trail

I'm growing very weary, Lord,
The day has been so long,
The morning hours have sped apace,
And now 'tis evensong.
The shadows lengthen on the hills,
The sun sets in the West,
I'm listening for Thy voice to call,
"Come home, my child, and rest."
The flowers that bloomed around my path,
When summer skies were bright,
They all have faded long ago,
And vanished from my sight.
The mountains that were hard to climb,
Lie in the distant past
And now my pilgrim feet have reached
The sunset trail at last.
The valleys were deep and lone,
Where tears were often shed,
Where storm-clouds gathered dark and low,
And thunders roared o'erhead.
Yet THOU wert there with all Thy love,
My trembling hand to hold;
Thy goodness and Thy mercy, Lord,
Could never half be told.
My Ebenezer here I'll raise,
And thank Thee for Thy care;
Soon I may hear that "shout" to rise,
And meet Thee in the air.
Till then, along this sunset trail
I'll watch, and wait, and pray;
The "Morning without clouds" draws near,
The bright Eternal day.

—M. E. Rae