PREMILLENNIAL -0-BAPTISTIC -o- CALVINISTIC -o- BIBLICAL

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions and Bible Doctrines.

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With a National Circulation

"Go ye into all the world the Gospell"

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20).

Whole No. 460

found

s the me

an?"

and

ings

ooks,

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1947

Volume 16, No 5

A Barriers To Blessings A

Eld. W. A. Fox Hamilton, Ohio

"And when they could not come high unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was; and when they had broken it, they let do sick let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay." (Mark 2:4).
In the text we see Jesus preach-

ing in a certain house. A crowd has gathered, a crowd which fills the whole house and overflows into the yard. Every door is blocked by a mass of humanity. bown the street lay a sick man. Although he was sick, he was a fortunate had four fortunate man for he had four friends who wanted to bring him to Jesus. This crowd erected a barrier between the man and the blessing Jesus had for him. You manufacture took him member how they took him on the room and let him down into the room and let him down into the healing, forgiving presence of the ence of the Saviour. We, too, have been a barrier to blessings. I think this is a timely subject, because cause so many Christians are not living and living as they ought to live and their lives are being a barrier to blessing as Chrisblessings. Whenever we as Christian tians are not living as we ought

and the way God expects us to, we erect barriers which keep blessings from us and others.

The Christian life is a thing of the Spirit. It takes the Spirit of God in us to be a Christian. It is the Spirit that you have that really counts. If we have the wrong Spirit the blessings can never flow to us or through us. May we notice some spirits which are a barrier to blessings.

1. A COVETOUS SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

Achan is an illustration of this spirit. He coveted the forbidden things in the city of Jericho. Because of this covetousness he brought defeat to Joshua's army and death to himself and family. God would have blessed Achan and his family but Achan cut off the blessing by his covetousness. People in our churches today are covetous and are letting it be a barrier to blessing. We believe that most Christian people un-derstand God's Scriptural plan of giving. But they are like Achan. The more they look at the things that belong to God the



ELDER W. A. FOX

more they covet them until at last they say in their heart God can get along without it and I need it therefore they take it for True enough, God themselves. gets along without your tithe but

you can't get along very well without it. If God's people would give themselves unto the Lord for His service and then give their tithe to Him there would be a great revival break in this nation in which we live. Sinners would see that we meant business for the Lord. One of the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not covet." So we can easily see that covetousness cuts off the blessings of God. It is a barrier to blessings.

II. A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

Take the case of Jonah. God wanted to bless him and wanted to make him a blessing to people in the city of Ninevah. To this preacher He said one word, "GO." That is a small word, but it carried a big blessing with it. But the preacher said, "NO" to God. This is a small word, too, but it cuts off blessings. Jonah was stubborn and rebellious. He decided he would go where he pleased regardless of what God wanted him to do. So he started to another place. A place where

he thought he would be better satisfied. He bought a ticket to a certain place and crawled down into the hull of the ship to sleep. God caused the waves to dash high upon the ship and the ship was tossed to and fro in the waves. The mariners in searching the ship found this preacher asleep. So they woke up this rebellious preacher. Jonah confessed to these mariners that he was a rebellious preacher and that he was running from God. So they threw him into the sea. He would have been destroyed in the sea, but God prepared a fish that swallowed Jonah. By the time Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of this fish, he was willing to do what God wanted him to. Jonah had to have this terrible experience to learn his lesson.

Dear readers, some of you possess a rebellious spirit. God is wanting some of you young men to surrender and preach the gospel of Christ and you won't because you possess a rebellious spirit. A young preacher friend mine yesterday told me the

(Continued on page four)

A Much Lamented Eulogy Of Former Editor Freeman of Western Recorder

In the July, 1946 issue of "The Harvester", Elder A. D. Muse laments the going of John D. Rreeman from the editorship of Western Recorder. Brother

"Dr. John D. Freeman went the first of February from the editorship of THE WESTERN RECORDER, Louisville, Ky., to the Bap-tist Home Mission Board, Atlanta Atlanta, Georgia as superntendent of the work in the rural church. We do not remember the exact title of the place. Personally, I regretted to see Dr. WESTERN RECORDER. First, I regretted to see him go, because he talks and writes like I think in lots of matters. I am happy to count him one of my good, warm, personal friends. He



Entering a crowded streetcar with his Bible under his arm, a young minister soon became the brunt of sneering remarks and wisecracks from the group of fellows. These remarks continued and when the minister left the car, one youth said, "Say, Mister, how far is it to heaven?" The Christian replied "It is only a step; will you take it now?" This reply and the influence of the minister keeping his temper were later the means of bringing that young man to Christ.

is orthodox through and through. He does stand up and fight for his convictions. His is the metal of which martyrs are made. Second, I regretted to see him go, because I don't know what type of brother will take his place."

If this editorial by Brother Muse were not written seriously, every Baptist in Kentucky would split his sides laughing. Editor Freeman hardly has a friend in Kentucky but what was compelled to hang his head in shame in view of his many compromises. I was a regular reader of The Western Recorder through the entire period of Mr. Freeman's editorship, and I do not recall a single issue whereby he ever took a definite stand for the truth except when he castigated the heretics of Worchester, Mass., for their (Continued on page four)

22222222

GOD'S PLAN

Not till the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly Shall God unroll the canvas And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as need-

ful In the Weaver's skillful hand As the threads of gold and silver

In the pattern He has planned. _From "235 Precious Poems"

22222222

Mused Uncle Mose

Pahson say, Brudder Alford, hab you talked to de Lawd to-day?" Heh, her! Hit ketch Brudsay, "Law, no! I ain't eb'n seed

What Are The Real Pre-requisites Of A Missionary Baptist Church?

Of recent date in the state of West Virginia, three so-called and supposed-to-be Missionary Baptist preachers testified under oath that the Lester Baptist Church was not a Missionary Baptist Church. When asked as to prerequisites, they said in substance that a church had to belong to the West Virginia Baptist State Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention and that it must pay its missionary money through these Conventions.

Since the Lester Baptist Church had done its mission work independently and had refused to cooperate with the above named agencies, these brethern said therefore that it was no longer a Missionary Baptist Church.

This is nothing new for West Virginia Baptists and Baptists of the Northern Baptist Convention. More than one church has had the same experience and many preachers have thus been held up to ridicule as to not being Baptists since they refused to cooperate with the heretical monstrosities of the convention agen-

Frankly, I do not see how any church of the Northern Baptist Convention could cooperate with that agnecy. It is atheistic, communistic, feministic, and Arminiian to the core. Surely every self-respecting Baptist church or God-honoring Christian ought to heed the words of our Lord, when He said, "Come out of her, my people."—Rev. 18:4.

I have never been to Lester and know nothing as to the church there. However, I do wish to answer the question as to what constitutes a Missionary Baptist Church.

Several years ago in eastern Kentucky a legal suit was in progress relating to litigation over church property. I, along with Evangelist T. T. Martin,

(Continued on page four)



"ALIEN BAPTISM AND THE BAPTISTS"

In our announcement last week about the new edition of ALIEN BAPTISM AND THE BAPTISTS we should have stated that you can send your orders to the EX-AMINER and your orders will be filled promptly. It will be a beautiful cloth bound edition, and notwithstanding the increase in cost of paper and printing it will sell at one dollar and twenty cents. We are doing this to make it possible for everyone who wants it to buy the book.

Won't you help us in this missionary enterprise? Let's sow the South down with this that is so much needed in our churches.

W. M. Nevins, Publisher, 311 Ridgeway Rd., Lexington, Ky.

First Baptist Pulp

'God's Gifts'

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." - James

The last few weeks we have been reading and studying in our Wednesday night service from the book of James. In the providence of God, this last Wednesday night we studied the portion of the first chapter of James wherein is found the words of my text. Those of you who were in the prayer service last Wednesday evening, will recall that I specifically dealt with this pass-

age of Scripture for practically the entirety of our service. I don't know when that any verse of Scripture has ever gripped my soul to make a more lasting impression on me than this passage of Scripture did last Wednesday evening. Even after I went home and ere I retired on Wednesday night, this text of Scripture still bore on my memory, and I still recalled it in a most vivid manner. All through the week following the Wednesday night service, time and time again the Lord impressed this text upon my mem-

ory, until tonight, beloved, I come to preach to you from it again, with the full realization that "every good gift and every perfect gift cometh down from above."

I wonder beloved, just what it is that we actually receive which definitely comes from God. As I asked myself that question during the past days since Wednesday night, I have been amazed in turning through the Word of God just to notice the things which we every day take for

(Continued on page two)

JOHN R. GILPIN-EDITOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Editorial Department, RUS-SELL, KENTUCKY, where communications should be sent for publication.

SUBSCRIPTIONN PRICE

Per Year in Advance____50c (Domestic and Foreign)

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

Paid circulation in every State and many foreign countries.

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



COLUMBUS SAVAGE

This is one of the editor's dearest of friends - Captain Columbus Savage - located at Dayton, Ohio.

He is the son of a practicing physician, is the thirteenth and youngest child of the family, was a prisoner of the Japs from Bataan, had many glorious experiences under God's direction during his stay in Japanese prisons, is a strict Baptist, and withal a devoted Christian. The editor is happy to know him as a loyal friend.

The pictures of this page were made during a recent trip which Columbus made from the west coast. Surely God's hand can be seen in every one of them.

Incidentally, at least once a month, Columbus drives from Dayton (150 miles) to worship with us in Russell. This would be a fine thing for YOU to do sometime too.

"GOD'S GIFTS"

(Continued from page one) granted which are positive gifts from God Himself.

IN THE VERY FIRST PLACE, A GENERAL SENSE, ALL THINGS COME FROM GOD. In reality there isn't anything that is not a gift from God. Listen:

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." - II Peter 1:3.

Where does everything come from? He has given us all things. Therefore, in a general sense, you can say tonight that all things are a gift of God. There isn't anything that you possess

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER that has not come from Him. We come together sometimes to sing the doxology-

> "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

> and I wonder many times as we sing, if we fully realize the truth of what we are singing—that all things come from God.

> I say then, beloved, before I mention some things specifically, that in a general sense everything we have or that we receive is but a gift from God Himself.

BUT I WANT US TO NOTICE A FEW THINGS SPECIFICAL-LY THAT HE HAS GIVEN US THAT ARE DEFINITE GIFTS FROM HIM. DID YOU EVER THINK THAT SLEEP WAS A GIFT OF GOD? I imagine that the majority of you folk who are here tonight, have had some sleepless nights - nights when sleep fled from you - nights when you just simply couldn't close your eyes nor sleep. I will never forget riding a sleepless sleeper from Norfolk into Ironton one night, and for some reason I never was able to relax and go to sleep one moment's time in that entire night's ride. I am sure that you can easily appreciate that in view of experiences that you yourself have had. I'm positive tonight that there isn't a person here probably but what has taken sleeping portions from time to time in order to induce sleep when you just simply could not sleep otherwise. Well, do you realize that sleep is a gift of God. Listen:

"It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrow: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." — Psalms 127:

Notice this verse: "It is vain for you to rise up early and to sit up late, for so he giveth his beloved sleep." God gives us sleep, and since God gives to His beloved, sleep, it is therefore vain to sit up late and to rise up early. Sleep is a gift from God.

III I WANT YOU TO NOTICE ALSO, BELOVED, THAT NOT ONLY SLEEP IS A GIFT FROM GOD, WISDOM IS LIKEWISE A GIFT FROM GOD. Go back in the Old Testament and read about King Solomon. God spoke to that king and said, "You can ask what you will, and I will give it unto you." King Solomon might have asked for riches; he might have asked for wealth; he might have asked for peace; he might have asked for victory over his enemies; yet he asked for none of these; instead, he asked that God would give him wisdom dom that he might be able to go in and out before the people over whom God had made him king. God was so well pleased what Solomon asked for, that He not only gave him wisdom, but He gave him the other things he might have asked for as well. I tell you tonight, beloved, wisdom is a gift from God. Listen:

"Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee." — II Chron.

"Wisdom and knowledge have I granted unto thee." Where does it come from? From God. Every once in a while in my experience, it is necessary that I visit someone who is a mental case. I have a preacher friend down at Lexington, Kentucky, who is in a mental institution. When he and I were in college together, he was the smartest lad that I ever knew. I think, beloved, I have never known a man who had more intellect, or who showed more intelligence than that lad did in college. He was a genius in practically everything. Just a short time before I became pastor of this church, he read a book, and

as he laid it aside, he said, "There is something strangely coming over me." Within a few days time that lad was in a mental institution and now has the mind probably of a child three years of age or less. I go to see him quite often when I'm in Lexington. The last time I saw him, I pulled my Greek Testament out of my pocket and handed it to him, and he sat there and read Greek just like a college professor, and yet his mind, as far as wisdom is concerned, is the mind of a child between two and three years of age. I never come away from that place but what I say, "Thank you, Lord, that in your providence this didn't come to

I was in the city of Richmond, Virginia, a few years ago, and I went over to the home for incurables. I tell you tonight, beloved, I have never so much in

my life thanked God for suf ficient intelligence to go about and do my duties from day to day as I did when I left that home for incurables.

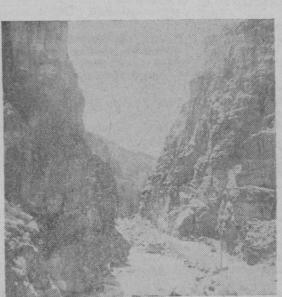
I say tonight, beloved, wisdom is a gift from God.

EVEN THE FOOD THAT WE EAT AND THE RAIMENT THAT WE WEAR ARE GIFTS FROM GOD. (Continued on page three)

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork." -- Ps. 19:1



Shoshone River



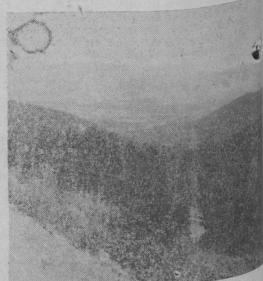
Shoshone River, Canyon, near Cody, Wyo.



Bad Lands of South Dakota



Along Needles Highway, Black Hills S. D.



Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Teton Mountain



Needles Highway, Black Hills, S. D. Munichten Munichten Munichten Munichten Munichten Municht

1947

"GOD'S GIFTS"

y to (Continued from page two) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is hot the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are You not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stattre? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet t yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arranged in arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you o ye of little faith? Therefore ake no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we dink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) your heavenly Father knowth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the king-dom of God and his righteouss; and all these things shall be and all these things standard unto you.' — Matt. 6:25-33. I want you to see tonight that even the clothes you have on your back are a gift from God. The ood you ate today is a gift from it all comes from Him. I lave in mind tonight that there only right here in this house ooking forward to Easter — the ress-up season of the year, worying now about where you are to get your new Easter out-The Lord Jesus said, "Why that's like the heathen — you are acting like the heatnen — the Unsaved — it is the unsaved who act that way. You put me first and all these things will be taken care of." Therefore, beloved, even or food and our raiment are dits from God.

NOTICE V
PEACE, IF THERE BE PEACE
IN THIS WORLD, IS A GIFT
BLOWN GOD. The majority of peoble, if you ask them as to what
brought about peace and the cesation of hostilities at the end
of World War II, would say the
dare say if I were to go around
this audience and ask each of you
would get more than any other,
brought peace.

However, I want you to notice that peace came because of God God is the one that giveth peace. Listen: "And I will give down, and none shall make you of the land, neither shall the land, neither shall the Leviticus 26:6.

Let me say to you tonight that has little peace we know, comes as a gift from God. You say the hations just wore themselves out until they had to make peace. No, o, God brought peace. I am as definitely convinced of it tonight as the fact that there is a God that Heaven. I thank God that through His providence that I do not have the line. hot live tonight in war torn lands. have tonight in war toring the talked to a number of lads hat were overseas in the Pacific some who went on to Japan after the war was ended and who have told me some of the actual horrors of war. I have talked to number of lads who were in Europe, and I thank God that I do not live in a war torn land, out rather, that God has given us peace.

MY TEXT SAYS THAT EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT COMETH DOWN FROM ABOVE. WHAT HAS HE GIVEN US? IN ADDITION TO FOOD, RAIMENT, SLEEP, WISDOM, AND PEACE, WHAT HAS HE GIVEN UE- THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL THE LORD JESUS CMRIST HIMSELF. Turn to the Word of God and listen:

"I the Lord have called thee in righteousness and will hold thine hand and will help thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles." — Isaiah 42:6.

What does it mean? God the Father has given Jesus Christ as a light for the heathen. Listen again:

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from Heaven; but my Father giveth You the true bread from heaven." — John 6:32.

"Jesus answered and said unto heh, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." — John 4:10.

My brother, listen to me tonight - the Lord Jesus Christthe greatest gift that could ever ocme to this world - came as a gift from God. Back yonder in the years that have long past away, I used to be about as much of an heathen on the matter of Christmas as some of you are tonight. I can remember in my first pastorate that we had a Christmas tree, and I'll never forget one experience around that Christmas tree. I say, beloved, that was in the days a good long while ago. As jovial old St. Nick was handing out the gifts, a little girl said, "That's just what I needed." Of course so, her mother and father had seen to it that she received just what she needed. Many times I have gone back in my memory and have thought of that experience. When God gave Jesus Christ as a gift to this world, He gave me just what I needed, and I could not need anything else more tonight than the Lord

Jesus Christ. How wonderful it is to have gifts given to you. How wonderful it is to receive that which you can make use of. However, beloved, stack up all the gifts that you have ever received count up all the things that have ever been given to you, and the sum total of them all can't begin to equal the gift that God gave to us the day He gave Jesus Christ to be born in Bethlehem, to pray for us in Gethsemane, to be sacrificed at Calvary, to rise from the grave of Joseph of Arimathea, and to ascend from Olivet - that day God gave the greatest gift this world ever saw. VII

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST GIVES TO US ETERNAL LIFE. Listen:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

— Romans 6:23.

How do you get eternal life? Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Beloved, you can join every so-called church organization in this town, and you can be baptized in any way you please, but you will never have life — you will never have eternal life — you will never have salvation until you receive it as a gift from God.

I saw an interesting event in the paper a few days ago. The postmaster over at Plymouth, Massachusetts, had among other letters which accumulate in the post office, one that stayed there for some period of time. Finally, when it was called for, the man to whom it was addressed, saw that it said "postage due one cent," and he threw it down and would not receive it because he had to pay the penny postage on it. In order to find out from whom it had come, and in order to properly expedite the handling of this mail, the postmaster opened the letter to find out to whom it should be returned. When he did so, he found a check made out to the addressee for \$450.00.

Let me tell you tonight, I have a letter to you from Heaven. There isn't a penny due on it, and in this letter God offers you eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. God says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

VIII
REPENTANCE IS A GIFT
FROM GOD. Listen:

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

—Acts 5:31.

"Why," you say, "Brother Gilpin, can't a man repent any time he wants to?" Listen: repentance is a gift from God. You can only repent as God gives you the gift to do so. That is contrary to most Arminian preaching, for most Arminians will tell you that any time you want to be saved, all you have to do is just fall down before the Lord and repent, and God will save you. Let me tell you something, repentance is a gift from God, and God has to give you that gift. You can't do anything whatsoever to obtain it it comes only and solely as a gift from God.

EVEN THE FAITH YOU EXERCIZE IN BELIEVING ON JESUS CHRIST IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Enhacians 2:8

Ephesians 2:8. I heard a preacher say some-time ago, "Why faith is the simplest thing in the world. You get in an automobile and sit behind the steering wheel, and you have faith that that automobile will take you where you want to go. You come into a building and sit down in a chair, and you have faith that that chair is going to hold you up. You get on a train and ride along — you have faith that the engineer is going to take care of you. Faith is the simplest thing in the world." Beloved, so far as head faith is concerned, that may be true, but the faith that saves is a faith that comes from God. God doesn't save anybody because of a head knowledge, sense faith; God saves with a faith that comes as a direct gift from God.

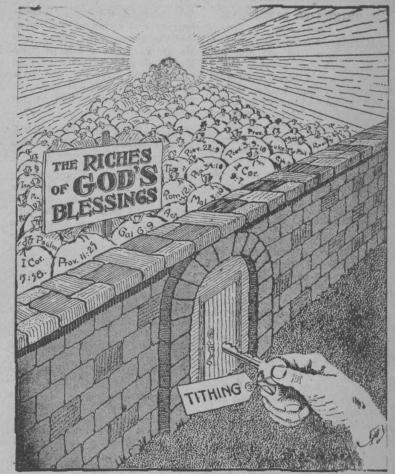
ARE YOU AT PEACE WITH GOD TONIGHT? Do you have the assurance that all your sins are forgiven? Can you put your hand upon your breast and say, "I know that my redeemer liveth? Do you have that experience tonight? Listen to me, if that's your experience tonight, if you have peace with God in that manner, you can say that that peace is a gift from God. Listen:

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." — Psalm 29:11.

Do you have that peace tonight? There's an old song which says,

says,
"Sweet peace, the gift of God's love."

Beloved, if you are at peace with Him tonight, it is a gift from Almighty God. You didn't get that peace by joining the church, nor because you turned



Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and proven now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you

out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive :

—Mal. 3:810

Woe unto you, scribes a Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye ptithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: the sought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

—Mt. 23:23.

over a new leaf, nor because the first day of January you said, "I'm not going to do these things another time," you did not get this peace because you were baptized. Peace with God comes as a gift from God, and He gives it only because Jesus Christ died for your sins on the cross of Calvary.

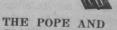
Would to God tonight that as we think of these things that God has given to us as gifts — would to God you would receive these gifts.

Maybe the Lord has given to you the gift of repentance tonight. Maybe He has spoken to your heart and given you the gift of faith. Maybe in this hour He has made you willing and given you the gift of willingness to be saved. If so, may He tonight save your soul and cleanse your heart through the gifts He offers to you.

I was talking to a friend sometime ago who had been working with the Indians out in Oklahoma. He said that in a service one night that he was conducting, that an old Indian sitting in the back side of the tent. heard the message, and shortly after the preacher had begun his service, this old Indian slipped outside and got his saddle off his pony and brought it in and laid it down in front of the preacher as his gift to God. Presently he went up and laid his gun downhis gift to God. Before the service had come to a close, he had gone out and untied his pony and tied it with the saddle and gun as his gift to God. Then when the service was ended and the preacher had closed his message and the congregation was singing a closing hymn, the old Indian came down to the front himself. acknowledging that he was thereby receiving the gift of God's

Would to God that you could realize that God doesn't want your gifts, your service, nor anything you can do — what He wants is to give Himself to you. He wants you to receive the gift that comes from above.

May God bless you all!



COMMUNISTS

At least three satirical weekly papers are being published in "sacred Rome." These weeklies scream at the "decadence" of the Catholic hierarchy and its interference in Italian politics.

Effectively drawn cartoons and sharp articles exceriate Catholic organization and history. Monks and priests were depicted as licentous, money-grabbing men who cared nothing for their flocks.

A front page article of one of the papers was headlined thus: "Glories of the Church—18 Popes Were Persecutors of Jews."

The Cardinals decreed that anyone reading, selling or buying such papers automatically commits a mortal sin. (What a host of "mortal" sinners there must be in Italy today!)

Ruggero Maccari, one of the editors of Don Basilio, was arrested for attacking Catholicism the state religion as recognized by the Lateran Treaty of 192. The court found Maccari guilty and sentenced him to two years in prison and the payments of the trial costs.

But the battle is not over. The weeklies are now being printed on the presses of the official organs of the Socialist and Communist parties.

It now remains to be seen what happens when the irresistible force of Communism meets the immovable object of Catholicism:

(Continued on page four)

BARRIERS TO BLESSINGS

(Continued from page one) story of how God put him flat on his back for several weeks before he would agree to do what God wanted him to do. God is wanting some of you to do a definite work for Him but you are rebellious and refuse to do it. Listen, God will make you a blessing if you will agree to do what He wants you to do. But if you refuse then you are in for plenty of disappointments and sorrows.

III. A WORLDLY SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

Demas is an illustration of this point. He was a young man, who one day heard Paul preach. He was charmed by the personality of the preacher . . . every word was a challenge to his heart. In a moment of spiritual ecstasy he cried out, "I will leave everything and go with this man in the service of Jesus Christ." Demas started out in a fine way. He was right by Paul's side. He was a joy and help to him. But as they journeyed to the great city, the bright lights of the world blinded the eyes of Demas. Then we read these sad words spoken by Paul: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (II Tim. 4:10). Thus Demas cut off every blessing for himself and for others whom he might have served. We have got many Demases in our churches. We could say about many of our professed Christians what Paul said about Demas. Now think, could your pastor say about you truthfully, that you have forsaken the church and its program because you loved this present

I was visiting the other day with a young man who is a Christian and had been missing the worship services. And I said, Son, why haven't you been attending church like you used to? And he said, Brother Fox, I am not as interested in the Lord's work as I used to be. Why wasn't this young man as interested? He loved this present world. The making of money, the social life, and the world and all its allurements has enticed him to neglect his church and spiritual life. Not that he isn't a Christian, but that a worldly spirit is a barrier to blessing to him just like it is to some of you readers. So break down that barrier, repent of your backslidden condition and get back into the Lord's work. Your spiritual life should come before anything else in your life.

IV. A PRAYERLESS SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

"Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2). James is telling us through which channel our blessings come. I have never found a happy Christian who neglects their prayer life. You will not argue that prayer changes things will you? When you quit praying as you should, you neglect reading your Bible, you begin to gossip about your neighbor, you begin to stay home from church, you begin to criticize your pastor, and find fault with the Sunday School superintendent and teachers of the Sunday School. It is a barrier to blessings to have a prayerless

We need men and women in our churches with a praying spirit. We need men and women today like John Knox when he prayed, "Give me Scotland or I die." We need to pray definitely about things. Pray to God who we know will hear, and is able to answer our prayers. How long has it been since you know definitely that God has heard your prayer and answered it. I thank

God because He is a prayer hearing and a prayer answering God. He knows when I pray. And He knows when I fail to pray. May God give us more praying fathers and mothers and boys and girls. People who are not afraid to approach God in the spirit of prayer.

V. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

I know people and you know people who have an unforgiving spirit. If somebody does them wrong they want to hold a grudge. But that is not the spirit of Christ. If we are not willing to forgive people how can we expect God to forgive us our sins and trespasses. Think how Jesus was treated. How they whipped Him, how they spit upon Him, how they forced Him to carry the heavy cross. They told lies on Him, and then they nailed Him to the cross. Yet we hear Him as He was dying on the Cross as He prays and says, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Yes, that is His words on the cross. He is willing to pray for them who put Him to death. He is willing to forgive the worst sinner that ever lived if he will but trust Him. We need that forgiving spirit. Because an unforgiving spirit is a barrier to blessing.

VI. A CRITICAL SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

Criticism is the poorest substitute in the world for service. Everywhere you find this critical spirit they are offering criticism about something. I have seen them that critize the preaching, the way the offering is taken, the way some dear old Saint of God prays, the way the deacon board works, they are critical about the trustees and everybody they can think of they critize. They remind me of a billy goat. Everything they start to say, they will say, "BUT". That is where they resemble the billy goat. They But, but, but. If they would quit butting they might be able to be a blessing to some one. Now don't you get angry, honey, if I get on your toes. Repent of that critical spirit and get busy for the Lord. I like this little motto I read somewhere, it was in a grocery store. It reads like this. "Come in without knocking . . . go out the same way! Christians need to practice that motto. Let's not belong to the knockers gang. Remember, you can't be a blessing with a critical spirit.

VII. AN INDIFFERENT SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

There are millions of people who are members of churches. But as we think of them, think how many of them you will find with an indifferent spirit. That is the reason their church life isn't being a blessing to them. I think every church member ought to try to be the best worker and attendant in their church, also to be ready to support their church with what God has blessed them with. An indifferent Spirit not only is a barrier to blessing, but it will lead the individual into sin. An indifferent spirit causes you to deliberty miss the worship services of your church. And then to critize if some one comes to see why you have missed. An indifferent spirit leads the person to say, they can get along without me, I don't amount to anything when I do attend, or there will be enough there without me. If you quit being indifferent toward your church and your Christian life, you would be happier and your life would be a blessing.

I trust that I will never have an indifferent spirit or cause

someone else to lose interest in the Lord's work. I want my life to be a blessing and to encourage people to be better Christians every day that they live. This New Year is still young and let's make it the greatest year of our life and the greatest year for Christ by giving Him our best. Best in service, best in loyalty, best in gifts, best in love, and best in everything. If you will do that the Lord will mean more to you as a Christian than He has ever meant before.

VIII. A SPIRIT OF SELF GLORIFICATION IS A BAR-RIER TO BLESSING

There are many people who speak very piously of their reli-They tell you how much they love the Lord and His work, but if they can't have a job where they receive the most glory they immediately resign. They always seek a place where they can get glory for themselves. They like for people to see what they are doing. If the preacher fails to call on them to lead in prayer their feelings are hunt. If they are not invited to sit in the choir they are not going to help sing. They want to be where they will receive the praise for what is being done. The Lord will bless those who are willing to do their best in the small jobs in the church. Whatever we do, we ought to do it for the glory and honor of Christ Jesus our Lord. Why can't we serve God in a small place? Browning said: "All service ranks the same with God." It would be a poor army if all the men were generals. We need some privates. It is even so with our churches. The spirit of self-glorification is indeed a barrier to blessings. So don't be one who is always trying to pat himself on the back and saying "Look what I did," "It couldn't have been if it wasn't for me." Sometimes I think it might have ben done better if some one would have done it beside me, or the one who is bragging on their self.

A DISOBEDIENT SPIRIT IS A BARRIER TO BLESSING

Have you been disobedient? Have you been attending places where it is question in your mind were it right or not to attend? Now be honest about these things. God knows all about you. You know Paul realized the things he had done while he was Saul of Tartus were wrong. He told of the mean things that he had been doing. But he said in all this, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." My, what our Christian people could do in this great nation of ours, were it not for the fact that many have been disobedient and it is a barrier to blessings. You know what I am talking about, don't you? We have been so disobedient that God has had to lay the chastening rod upon us.

I hope this message on barrier to blessings may have been a blessing to your heart and that you will determine that none of these things will remain as a barrier to blessings in your life. May the Lord bless each of you is my prayer.

"WHAT ARE THE PREREQUI-SITES OF A MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH?

(Continued from page one) was summoned as an expert witness to give testimony as to what constitutes a Missionary Baptist Church. I said then, and I repeat now, that only two things are necessary.

1. The organization must hold up the standard of a regenerated

membership.

2. The organization must have a proper conception of Scriptural baptism.

I am perfectly ready to grant that I would like for every church to be sound in the "all things" of God's Word. However, though that organization might be heretical on some of these, if it is sound on regeneration and baptism, it is still a Missionary Baptist Church.

The sad thing is that today so many of our so-called churches are not even sound on these two essentials. With a social gospel preached from the pulpit and with an inclusive policy embracing all creeds, baptisms, and faiths, both the first and second of these requirements are nullified.

The action of the Convention Baptists of West Virginia reminds me of my own experience when some of the "powers that be" among Kentucky Baptists declared that our Sunday School could not be classified as reaching the standard of excellence since we did not use Baptist literature. For years we have studied nothing but the Bible, yet among those who have "Conventionitis" the Bible is not Baptist literature.

May God give us a new day among both Northern and Southern Baptists whereby we shall be freed of the blind bridles, the hobbles, and the shackles of the Conventions that each church might be an independent organization unto the Lord.

(Salland

THE POPE (Continued from page three)

-Light and Liberty.

Ed. Note: No! A thousand times no! We already know that which is going to happen. Rev. 17 in picturing the old whore and her harlot daughters accurately describes Catholicism and the Protesant churches that have come out of Rome. God tells us that they shall be destroyed. Rev. 17:16 and Mt. 15:13.

(MANIET

A LAMENTED EULOGY IN BE-HALF OF EX-EDITOR FREE-MAN OF THE WESTERN RE-CORDER.

(Continued from page one) looseness relative to baptism, and even the material for this article he copied from THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. I say that I do not recall a single time with but one exception whereby he ever came out definitely and boldly showing any doctrinal convictions. Instead, his entire editorship was confined to one channel: He continually shouted. "Great is Diana of denominationlism."

During the period of his editorship he was a boot-licker for the modernists of the Seminary and the feminists of Kentucky, doing more to encourage the cause of feminism than any editor which The Western Recorder has ever Though it is a well known fact that the Seminary is filled with modernism, and though it is known that the Seminary teachings, in the main, do not strengthen but rather weaken Baptists-Mr. Freeman never one time condemned this religious monstrosi-

Instead, he apologized because of the ignorance of the students. He said in substance: "The preacher students do not have time during their seminary work to learn all the great Baptist doctrines." In connection with this statement was an apology for their ignorance of God's Word and as such certainly was a silent repudiation of the school he sought to defend.

Furthermore, Editor Freeman appeared on the radio program of Asbury College on April 22, 1945, preaching for this inter-denominational, Methodist, sinless-perfection school. J. Byron Crouse told me personally that his message was so effective that he would be invited again to take Not one time did Editor Free.

man ever write an editorial concerning the modernism of the Louisville Seminary.

Not once did he ever give 3 review of Professor Carver's unionism.

Not once did he ever say one word about Professor Tribble believing in alien immersion. Not once did he condemn the

Seminary for having Butterick and other modernists for conference speakers.

Not once did he condemn Sam pey for lending his support as an endorser of the Federal Council of Churches.

Not once did he comment of M. E. Dodd having a salvation by works, sprinkling, falling from grace, baby baptizing, Methodis bishop pray during the Baptist Hour of radio broadcast.

Not once did he critize Mr. Dodd for introducing Modernish Kagawa as the greatest living Christian.

Not once did he ever say word about the unionism of the boys of the Seminary.

Not once did he ever speak out against Arminianism but rather encouraged the Arminians by preaching for them.

Not once did he condemn the feminists of Kentucky, but rather helped their cause along by articles which were publicly written to encourage them in their violation of God's Word.

Not once did he say one work about alien immersion in Long Run Association (his home as sociation) though it is filled with

Not once did he ever condemn lodgism in his editorials.

Mr. Freeman reminds me mo and more of seminary students and teachers. In fact he exactly like them. Whenever think of them I think of a hot dog-all joined together all the same size and all filled with the

After observing the dextrous same thing. dodging and the artful words of Editor Freeman I realize that he has Hudibra's snake beat better than a mile-

"He winded in and winded out.
And left the people all in doub!
Whether the Whether the snake that left the

Was going north or coming back."

In spite of such a recol Brother Muse laments Editor Freeman's going from Kentucky Personally, I feel much the same as that which is told concerning Peter Cartwright. He was often annoyed by an old lady in his congregation who had a habit of sounding off on a high key right in the midst of his message, her day in a class meeting when her soul was filled with ecestatic ene tion, she rapturously cried out "If I had one more feather in wing of my faith I'd fly avel and be with my Saviour." in the other feather, Lord, interjected Co. jected Cartwright, "and let her go."