

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!"

Poor Old Malachi! How Unfortunate That He Didn't Have Seminary Training!

The Florida Baptist Convention President Sounds Like Fosdick And All Modernists

This is how Wallace R. Rogers, who is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., president of the Florida Baptist Convention, referred to Malachi since he called all non-believers "robbers."

Pastor Rogers' full statement follows:

"Malachi, being at the great disadvantage of not having attended one of our seminaries where he could have been taught manners, bluntly said at taking the tithe which belongs to God is robbery — just like stealing. Modern, up-to-date pastors of modern, up-to-date congregations could not afford to say an uncouth thing like that. Modern pastors must be careful to be sweet and not offend, and being a modern pastor, I refrain from calling people who rob God just thieves, but Malachi didn't know any better. He said, 'Ye have robbed' God. Poor old Malachi! How unfortunate that he didn't have seminary training."

Well, there it is in black and white, as it was copied from the Baptist state paper of Fla., — the Florida Baptist Witness, of Oct. 30, 1947.

This is the worst blasphemy I ever saw in print in any religious paper. Notice that it is

declared that Malachi was at a "great disadvantage," that he said "an uncouth thing," and that he "did not know any better." All this Pastor Rogers says of him though Malachi was writing under the leadership and inspiration of God. The opening verse of Malachi declares its inspiration. In the light of Malachi's declaration that he wrote by inspiration, then Pastor Rogers' statement is rank blasphemy — utter infidelity.

It is evident that Mr. Rogers does not believe in the inspiration of the Bible. No man could make such statements concerning the Word of God and at the same time believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Pastor Rogers may choose for himself, but I prefer to believe that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." — II Tim.

3:16.

Pastor Rogers declares that if Malachi had been to the seminary, he would have been taught "manners." Bro. Rogers doesn't say anything about him being taught the Bible. There's a reason! He wouldn't have been. He might have been taught some books about the Bible, psychology, programs, and "manners," but he surely would never have been taught much Bible, for modern seminaries specialize in everything else except the Bible.

It is noticeable that Pastor Rogers is president of the Florida Baptist Convention. In other words, he is one of the "big cogs" in the Southern Baptist machine. I've said repeatedly that our hierarchy is given over to modernism. Well here's another instance of it. Our seminaries, particularly the one in

Louisville, are turning out a new crop of modernists and near-infidels every year.

Even the Baptist press is muzzled by the denomination, for the state paper of Florida condones and tacitly approves the blasphemy of Pastor Rogers. His statements, utterly in defiance to God, and disobedient to God's Word, are a travesty on an intelligent people. This is but a sample. Our Baptist press is silenced. The only opposition to Pastor Rogers' infidelity must come from independent papers.

Remember, the editor of this paper is not the editor of the Florida Baptist Witness. The big boys can say all they wish about this editor, but the statement of Pastor Rogers still stands, as published in a convention-owned and dominated paper. Read (Continued on page four)

God Be But A Myth, Then Pray Tell Us, Who Taught The Birds?

One beautiful morning, off I came as usual, with the gun over my shoulder, and my lunch in my pocket, in search of game. After a while, feeling rather tired and very hungry, I sat down on the trunk of a fallen tree to rest, and to enjoy the sandwiches I carried.

While seated there, my attention was attracted by the cries of a bird, which was fluttering over a leafy spot, which contained, doubtless, her tiny nest. She was apparently in great distress, and I could not

help rising to ascertain, if possible, the cause of her trouble. I soon found out. I saw creeping slowly along toward the tree, one of the most venomous snakes in South America, with its small glittering eyes fixed on the bird and her nest, and his forked tongue darting quickly out and in, as though anticipating his prey.

Presently I saw a curious thing happen. The male bird flew quickly away, hither and thither, as though in search of something. In a little while I saw him return, like Noah's dove, with a small twig covered with leaves in his beak. Perching near the nest, he laid the twig carefully across it, covering his mate and her young entirely; and then, taking his place on one of the topmost branches of the tree, he seemed to grow calmer and quieter, (Continued on page four)

CHILDREN OF THE KING

A visitor was once watching a group of slaves, slouching and shuffling off to their work. One tall, broad-shouldered fellow strode on, head erect and with the gait of a man.

"How's that?" the visitor asked.

"Oh, he's the son of an African king," was the reply. "He never forgets that."

Alas! we forget, amid the drudgeries of earth, that we are sons and daughters of the King of kings, and in training for thrones in His empire! — The Christian Herald

I read my Bible every day, and I recommend you to do the same. — General Montgomery.

Christianity isn't worth a snap of your finger if it doesn't straighten out your character. — Dwight L. Moody

In A World Which Has Time For Everything Else, Why Not A Quiet Time With God?

If we needed authority for observing an early morning quiet time, the writings and example of men of God in all ages would supply it. But the practice of our Master Himself, who "rising up a great while before day . . . went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed," is sufficient evidence of its supreme importance for us.

Read the story of His crowded day in Mark 1:21-34. Notice how, in spite of the great pressure of work, He was up long before dawn to seek His Father's face — and then ask yourself whether your excuses for omitting a quiet time can ever be valid.

Fellowship With God

That God desires our fellowship is, perhaps, one of the most amazing facts conveyed to us

through the Scriptures.

"The Father seeketh such to worship him." Let this reflection fasten itself upon us, and it will inspire us with a passionate desire to seek His face morning by morning. The usual conception — that we read our Bibles and say our prayers for our own benefit and satisfaction — will fade into insignificance. Let this simple thought of His desire for our fellowship obsess us morning by morning (Continued on page four)

ROME'S COLLAPSE

Rome is engulfed in a crime wave, a correspondent for the Chicago Times reported last August 19. The week before, he stated, the 1,000th automobile in Rome had been stolen, making an average of five car thefts a day for the year. The police gave up keeping records of the number of bicycles stolen after 10,000 had disappeared, and merely advised their owners to go to a certain place and buy them back from the curb dealers and to ask no questions.

The jails are so full of criminals convicted of major crimes that there is no room for ordinary thieves thus giving immunity to common burglars. The number of thieves in the city is said to be 125,000 or 10 per cent of the entire population. Observers describe the condition as "a state of complete moral collapse."

In view of this one would think that the Pope and his counsellors would devote less time to lecturing Protestant America about its "Godless" public schools and awful run-down moral condition and more to sweeping some of the dirt from their own front yard.

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE BIBLE"

Read 2 Chron. 34:14-21.

I was thinking this morning how that we do not enjoy today the things that we enjoyed yesterday. The pleasures, the games, the pastimes of yesterday when we were children are not the things that appeal to us now that we are older. Our ambitions and our childhood ideals have now changed. We don't read the same books today that we read then. The story of the "Three Little Pigs" and of "Goldilocks," while they may have appealed to your childish

fancy, are not the books that you read today. The fact of the matter is, we outgrow our ambitions, ideals, pastimes, and the books that we enjoyed when we were children. We do not consult the same authorities that we consulted then.

However, though it is true that as grown folk we do not have the same outlook on life, nor read the same books we read as children, it is definitely true now and will always be true that there is one book that the world will never outgrow and that's the Word of God. I

thank my God from the very depths of my heart this morning that the Bible is one Book that the world has never outgrown. It is because of this that I take particular delight today to preach from this subject, "What the Bible Teaches About the Bible."

I

THE BIBLE ITSELF DECLARES THAT THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. Listen:

"But continue thou in the (Continued on page two)

W. VA. RESOLUTIONS

This resolution was presented and adopted by the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association, held at the Steer Run Baptist Church, Normantown, W. Va., October 11, 1947. There are 34 churches in the association. Here is the resolution:

"Inasmuch as there was a resolution presented to the 82nd session of the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association and adopted by the messengers (recorded on page 9 of the printed minutes of 1939), protesting the proposed action of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in naming the West Virginia Council of Churches; and

Whereas said convention rejected said resolution and without any consent of the independent churches composing the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association did join said Council of Churches;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that we, the messengers for the Baptist Churches composing the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association, respectfully withdraw fellowship from any and all organizations, local, state or national, that affiliate and cooperate with (Continued on page four)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN-EDITOR

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WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

(Continued from page one) things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."—2 Timothy 3:14-17.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT."—2 Peter 1:21.

I could not begin to say this morning how many times since I have been your pastor that I have made mention of the inspiration of the Bible. Yet in spite of the fact that I have preached it again and again, I take particular delight this morning in emphasizing this truth in view of the abounding heresy and heterodoxy that is abroad in the world, and especially since we are confronted more and more with modernism and higher criticism in our own ranks as Baptists, I thank God that I can come back and say to you again this morning that this Bible teaches that the Word of God is inspired. As the poet has said:

"The Holy Bible must have been
Inspired of God and not of men.
I could not if I would believe
That good men wrote it to deceive,
And bad men could not if they would
Nor would not surely if they could
Proceed to write a Book so good;
And certainly no crazy man
Could e'er conceive Its wondrous plan.
Behold, what other kinds of men
Than do these three groups comprehend?
Hence it must be that God inspired
The words which souls of prophets fired."

Beloved, this morning I find

SALVATION

Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.

Nor what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers, my sighs, my tears,
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.

—Selected

myself in hearty agreement with the poet when he penned those words. Surely the words that were fired from the souls of the prophets could not have come from any source other than by the inspiration of God.

It is often said that when Columbus discovered the Orinoco River that someone declared he had discovered an island, whereupon Columbus said, "No, we have not touched upon an island; we have touched upon a continent; that mighty torrent of water could not come from an island; it must drain a continent."

Whenever I come to this Bible and when I read the mighty things contained therein, I am convinced of the fact that it could not have come from man, it could not have been produced by man. This wonderful, marvelous, mighty Book must have come from the mind of God Himself.

II
WITHOUT THE BIBLE COMES ERROR. That's what the Bible teaches about the Bible—that when you don't have the Bible, you are going to have error. We have that in the Scripture I read to you this morning.

For a period of time the Word of God had been lost. To be sure they did not have the Bible in that day as plentifully as we have them now. The Word of God was not as plentiful as it is today, and they even lost the one copy they had—lost it amidst the rubbish of the house of God. When the Bible was finally found and the one copy they had was recovered, on reading it, they learned that a lot of error and a lot of falsehood had crept in, even unto their religion, so that the king himself declared that great was the wrath of God that was to come upon the people in view of the things they had done which was contrary to the Word of God.

I say, beloved, in the light of this Scripture, whenever you do not have the Word of God, you can expect the entrance of error. Wherever the Word of God is not to be found, you can expect heresy and error to be rampant.

As a good example of this, the country of France, which, as you know, is Catholic predominantly, decided during the last part of the seventeenth century to do all within their power to nullify the work of Baptists. In order to do so, they said, "We had better make our country infidel." And, beloved friends, in the last half of the seventeenth century, the country of France as a government, spent millions of dollars in the printing, the publication and the propagation of infidel literature. This infidel literature

soon took hold upon the lives of the French people, resulting first of all in the French Revolution, and since that time has reaped a tremendous harvest of that which you would expect, growing out of the seeds of infidelity. I say to you this morning, beloved, since the French Revolution, as a result of the seeds of error and infidelity that were sown just prior thereto, there have been no less than fifteen overthrows of the government of France. Its morality is at the lowest ebb of any nation in the world, so much so that a Commission from the United States, said, sometime ago, "We were supposed to be fighting a war to save civilization, but we doubt if the civilization that we have observed in France, is worth saving." Actually it has come to pass that one-half of the children of France are born out of wedlock.

I say to you this morning, beloved friends, wherever the Word of God is not preached, wherever the Word of God is not to be had, you can expect error and heresy and heterodoxy of the worst type to arise.

Look at our missionaries down in South America, in Peru and Brazil. As far as that's concerned, look at all the South American countries. Our missionaries have both told us within the last year of the loose morality that prevails in the South American, Latin-speaking, Catholic-controlled countries where the Word of God is practically banned. Wherever you don't have the Word of God you have error. I don't care whether it is in France, whether it is in South America or whether it is in Russell, Ky.—wherever the Word of God is not preached, you can expect error and heresy to be rampant. That's what the Bible teaches about the Bible.

III
THIS BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE IS FINAL. There are some four scriptures that I want to read to you. Listen:

"And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I CANNOT GO BEYOND THE WORD OF THE LORD my God, to do less or more."—Numbers 22:18.

Those were the words of Balaam when he was talking to the servants of Balak, who shook the guinea beneath the very nose of Balaam, desiring this prophet of God to preach contrary to the Jews. When they shook the money before old Balaam, they said, "Balak has plenty of it, and he will give you much money if you will preach the preaching he desires." It was then that man of

God said, "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more." What more could he have said? He knew that the Bible is final, and that he couldn't go beyond it.

Listen again:
"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: THOU SHALT NOT ADD THERETO, NOR DIMINISH FROM IT."—Deut. 12:32.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ADD THOU NOT UNTO HIS WORDS, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."—Prov. 30:5, 6.

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

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall ADD unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall TAKE AWAY from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."—Revelation 22:18, 19.

Beloved, you can't read these Scriptures without the realization that the Word of God is final.

Just a few days ago in conversation with an individual who differed with me as to my theological interpretation of a certain passage, he remonstrated, "But I don't believe it that way." He then proceeded to tell me what he thought was true. I said to him, "But, my brother, it doesn't make a bit of difference in the world as to what you think or what I think, or what anybody else thinks, the question is, what does the Word of God have to say." I say to you this morning, beloved, all your thinking, and all my thinking put together doesn't amount to one thing in the light of one "Thus saith the Lord." This Word of God is final.

That's why it is that we can't take infant baptism. That's why it is we believe in baptism by immersion. That's why it is we believe in tithing. That's why it is we believe that it is wrong to have inter-communion. Oh, beloved, this Word of God is final in every particular. You and I need to make it so within our lives.

IV
THIS BIBLE TEACHES THAT

YOUR GIFTS!

WHAT SHALL THEY BE?

Can you think of a gift that would do more good than a copy of

ALIEN BAPTISM AND THE BAPTISTS especially if the recipient is a weak Baptist or a member of another faith?

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IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO US AND PRESERVED FOR US AT A TREMENDOUS COST. Listen:

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held."—Rev. 6:9.

Without entering into an exposition of this great verse in Revelation, I want you to notice one truth, namely, John saw individuals who had been slain for the Word of God, men and women who had dared to die for the Word of God. They would rather die than give up their convictions.

I have said repeatedly that better than fifty million Baptists during the period of the Dark Ages died in preservation of our faith. The fact that we are Baptists this day, and that we today preach the Word of God as we do, has come down to us at a tremendous cost. Better than fifty million Baptists during the period of the Dark Ages died in confirmation of their faith and in the preservation of the Word of God for you and for me.

Beloved, this old Book is a precious Book to me. It certainly grieves my heart when I see Baptists today who are lost on the matter of their doctrinal theology. When I see Baptists going into union meetings, when I see Baptists who today will take part in an Easter service, or who will countenance a baby baptismal service; when I see Baptists who will permit these things to take place that caused the death of fifty million Baptists in the Dark Ages—I say it is a grief to me, and it makes this old Bible all the more precious and all the more wonderful to me when I remember this Bible has come down to me at the cost of the blood of many of the saints of God of the days gone by.

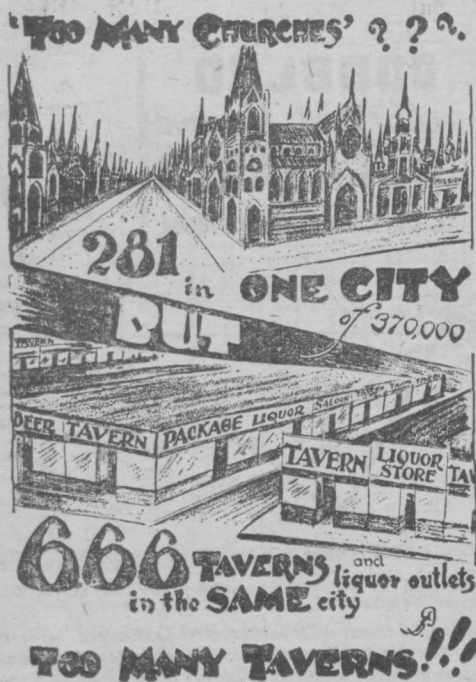
Yes, this Bible itself teaches that it has been preserved at great cost.

V
THIS BIBLE TEACHES THAT IT MAY BE LOST. That's what our Scripture would indicate that I read to you this morning. Listen:

"And when they brought out the money that was brought in to the house of the Lord, Hilikiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses."—II Chron. 34:14.

Beloved, the Word of God had been lost in the days of Hilikiah, and the Word of God can be lost today. In a church where the Bible is not preached

(Continued on page three)



WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

(Continued from page two)

It is a lost Book. You find a church where philosophy and culture and morality are taught from the pulpit without the Word of God, and the Bible is a lost Book within that church. You find a church where the preacher compromises with every denomination and every error and heresy that comes along, where the preacher unionizes with everybody that will unionize with him and where the Bible is a lost Book. You find a church where there are no sermons on hell, no sermons on sin, no sermons on repentance, no sermons on the doctrines of the Word of God pertaining to the church and its ordinances, and you will find the church where the Word of God is lost. I am definitely convinced this morning that in the majority of churches, the Bible is a lost Book today. You say, "The Bible lost in the churches?" Exactly so. It is lost amidst the rubbish of the denominational hierarchy. I am insisting today that the Word of God can be, and is lost in many, many churches today.

If it were not pitiful, it would be laughable when I tell you that over in England a few weeks ago in a literary society one of the highest literary societies of London, England, that one of the members of the society took the book of Esther out of the Bible, changed the names of it, presented it to his literary society and won the prize as the greatest contribution toward English literature of this past year so far as that literary society was concerned. You talk about the Word of God being lost — the only change made in the book of Esther was to change the names of the individuals, and it was acclaimed a masterpiece. Why? Because the Word of God was lost.

Whenever I think of this, it thrills my heart to know that through the years we have studied nothing but the Book — through the years this church has had a reputation of standing for nothing but the Word of God. If I have one prayer this morning, it is as the days of the future shall spread into the years that shall roll on to eternity, if it please God, it will always be true here that the Word of God shall not be lost.

VI

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED. We have a good example of this in the case of Jehoiakim in the 36th chapter

of the book of Jeremiah. He burned up the roll which Jeremiah had written, and God had Jeremiah to re-write it. It could not be destroyed. Listen:

"FOR EVER, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." — Psalms 119:89.

Beloved, if all the Bibles of this world were burned up this morning; if every copy of the Word of God were completely destroyed; if every reference to the Bible in literature were burned; if you went into all the museums and destroyed every reference to God and His Word, do you know you could not destroy this Bible, for there is a copy on file in the registry office in the sky. Listen again:

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY." — Matt. 24:35.

There is a day coming that God is going to burn this old world over — a day coming when every evidence of sin is going to be destroyed, but here is one Book that will last when this old world is no more. Though the earth may perish and be destroyed, this Word of God shall last forever.

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOR EVER." — Isaiah 40:8.

Beloved, here's a Book that is indestructible. Voltaire might have sat down a hundred years ago to write saying that within fifty years the Bible would be no more, and yet his home is now used as a repository of the British Foreign Bible Society, and today the Word of God is printed in better than one thousand languages. This brings me back to the fact that this Old Book can't be destroyed. The man who tries to do so is as much a lunatic as any individual might ever be. This Bible can't be destroyed.

VII

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT IT IS THE BIBLE WHICH UP-BUILDS CHRISTIANS. Listen:

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to BUILD YOU UP, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." — Acts 20:32.

Do you know why it is that a lot of Christians are spiritually weak? It is because they don't read their Bible. Do you know why it is this morning that many Christians are weak spiritually? It is because they have starved their souls of the living Bread of Life. You have been horror stricken at some

of the pictures of starving people you have seen within the last year's time. I looked through the current issue of LIFE two nights ago before I went to bed, and, beloved, it was hours before I was able to get the pictures — the mental pictures of those starving Moslems out of my mind that I might sleep. You have seen pictures of individuals who were kept in camps during the war as prisoners, who were virtually starved to death, and as you have looked at these individuals whose bodies were emaciated and who were starved physically, there was surely a surge of sympathy that came from your soul.

Beloved, I wonder this morning what your soul would look like if we could take a picture of it today. I wonder what your soul would really look like if we could take a picture of you spiritually. You see some of those folk who have been deprived of the necessities of life whose bodies are emaciated and who are nothing but skin and bones. I'm afraid they would look like well fed giants in comparison with the souls of God's people if a picture could be had of us, — we would be so spiritually weak. There is just one thing that will upbuild a Christian, and that's the Word of God.

When Paul was talking to these Ephesian elders, he knew what that church needed. He knew what every church down through all the ages would need — the Word of God. I thank God this morning that there is nothing that will make you strong spiritually, — nothing that will build you up in the Spirit like feeding on the Word of God.

VIII

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE ITSELF CONVICTS MEN OF THEIR SINS.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." — Hebrews 4:12.

Notice: Paul says that the Word of God is living, it is powerful, it will divide, it will pierce, it will discern, and it will criticize. All those words mean to tell us that the Word of God will convict an individual of his sin. Whenever I come to preach, I want to preach to you what the Word of God says. I want to give you plenty of the Word of God, for the only hope I have is as the Word of God takes hold of your soul.

I have read this Word of God continuously from the time I entered the ministry, and I have never found one reference nor one Scripture that would indicate that God has promised to bless anything the preacher himself says, but I have found abundance of Scriptures to tell us that God will bless His Word when it is preached, for it is the Word of God that convicts.

IX

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT IT IS THE WORD OF GOD WHICH CONVERTS. Not only does the Word of God convict you of your sins, but the Word of God is that which converts in that it brings you face to face with the God of the Bible, who is your Saviour. Listen:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." — I Peter 1:23.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." — Psalms 119:9.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." — Rom. 10:17.

There will never be a man saved in all this world who does not hear the Word of God. Preachers may tell funny stories and they may tell sob stories, they may become past masters in the matter of mass evangelism, but, beloved, after all is said and done, there will never be one soul saved that does not hear the Word of God. Whether he live in Russell or whether he live in "Tim-Buc-Too," whether he be born with a silver spoon in his mouth, or in the jungles of Africa — regardless of his status in life, no individual will ever be saved who does not hear the Word of God.

Beloved, this Bible teaches us that it is the Bible itself which converts men and brings them face to face with Jesus Christ as a Saviour.

X

THIS BIBLE TEACHES US THAT IT IS THE BIBLE WHICH COMFORTS US. When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, he was dealing with a group of folk who had had the misfortune to have a number of the membership to die. Paul wanted to comfort them, and he wrote to them in terms relating to the second coming, and then he said:

"Wherefore COMFORT one another with these words." — I Thess. 4:18.

Beloved, listen to me this morning, the Bible teaches that the Word of God is the source of real comfort.

A few months ago I preached a funeral sermon one Sunday afternoon — a funeral of a young child. I will never forget the grief, the deep grief that was manifested on the part of the father. An unnatural grief it was. I remember that before the funeral service he was almost inconsolable — just tre-

mendously grieved because of the death of this only son in his home. I read to him in the funeral sermon three Scriptures:

"But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." — II Samuel 12:23.

That was the first Scripture I read, and in doing so, I emphasized the fact that that child was safe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then I read from II Kings 4:26, when the prophet of God said to his servant:

"Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, IT IS WELL." — II Kings 4:26.

Then I read a third great text of Scripture on the matter of infant salvation:

"Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck? For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest." — Job 3:11-13.

I read these three great Scriptures from God's Word in that funeral service, and after I had finished the message, I looked down upon that father who had been inconsolable before the service, and I noticed a peace and a calm come over him. I noticed a look of heaven upon his face. You talk about a halo about an individual's head, his face actually was shining with the glory of God. When the services were finally conducted, I was shaking hands with the family at the grave, and that father clung to my hand with both of his, and said, "Thank God for the comfort you gave me out of the Word of God." I say to you this morning, it is God's Word which comforts.

I visited a preacher's wife a few months ago who had been operated on. I was there possibly two or three days after the operation. She told me how she came into the hospital on

(Continued on Page Four)

God's World

This is God's World
This war-wrecked, shattered sphere
That SIN has marred and scarred
Since Satan trespassed here
Tho's Boasters sit on thrones
Clad in Dictators robe
God is the one who owns
This mighty Globe.

This is God's World
By His permissive will
The powers of darkness rage
And the wicked thirst to kill
A little season, then
The darkness all will pass
Then peace shall come to men
And Christ be King at last.

This is God's World
Christian, be not afraid
Tho' Atom bombs be hurled
He'll hold the thing He made—
Intact, until that hour
When circling its girth
He'll exercise HIS POWER
Then, BEHOLD the LORD'S NEW
EARTH.

—Wilda Schrock Oatley

Psalms 24:1: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world and they that dwell therein.

POOR OLD MALACHI!

(Continued from page one)
and re-read I Tim. 5:20.
The word for today: INDEPENDENCY. Independent churches, independent preachers, independent schools, and independent papers, yet all dependent upon God.



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

(Continued from page one)
the Council of amalgamated church federation.
"A. L. Sheifer, D. L. Coberly, Committee."
Ed. Note: This is the only way that churches may proceed today in view of the entangling alliances of the conventions with modernism. Would to God that others might have the courage to do likewise! "Come out of her, my people."



TIME WITH GOD

(Continued from page one)
and day by day.
Let us beware lest, if we do not immediately derive any subjective satisfaction or conscious appreciation from this exercise, we conclude that it is of no avail. God is seeking for men and women who will worship. Let us then worship, whether

we derive any conscious benefit from it or not. Christ is worthy to be praised.

The one object of our devotions should be to eliminate everything that will keep us from believing God utterly. "This is the work of God," said Christ, "that ye believe." "All things are possible to him that believeth."

In all our Bible reading, therefore, and in all our praying during the quiet hour, do let us see that before we leave the room, faith has brought us into this quiet resting place — of wonder that God desires our fellowship, of worship at the place called Calvary, and of working throughout the day the "work of God," even an affectionate confidence in His dear Son.

The Best Time And Place

No one can say for another what time in every twenty-four hours is the best, because our circumstances and duties are so infinitely varied. But if the proposed benefit is to be ours, we must have a time. Some will find early morning most convenient, others late night, and others again have time at their disposal during the day. But be it when it may, the time should be fixed.

It is a strange and sad state when we organize everything except our religious life. We

organize our study, our meals, our recreation, our sleep — selves but we leave the needs of our souls to take care of themselves as and when they can.

No one who organizes three meals a day for his body can say that he cannot possibly fix a time daily for Bible meditation; such an affirmation is but a loud advertisement of spiritual indifference. A sense of absolute need will soon become creative.

Some are able to give more time, and some less, but all, if they are to live, must give some time. That time should be fixed. It should be as regular a part of the daily program as washing in the morning or eating the evening meal. Before you read any further decide on a time.

The next thing to be said is that there should be a quiet place.

I know that this may present a problem. At home there may be a large family; at school you may have a roommate. It may be difficult to get away alone, at an hour every day, but at least the effort should be made. If entire aloneness is impossible then the next best thing must be done. But a certain value drops out of the quiet time when there is no "secret" place.

To derive the fullest benefit from the season of meditation you must close the doors of your mind to everything else.

The Right Spirit

The next requirement is a right attitude of soul.

There should be a stillness within. If your soul is like a storm-tossed sea, if you are beaten about like a bird in a hurricane, if you rush into the Divine Presence like a horse into the battle, what hope is there of accomplishing anything in the short time at your disposal?

Expectancy is another necessity. He who expects nothing will get nothing. It is the eager soul that will be made glad.

We must be unhurried. It is worse than useless to waste precious time thinking about your next engagement. Be quiet. Concentrate. Expect. Don't hurry. Fifteen minutes of that will be much better than an hour of restless reading of the Word.

The next thing that matters is that you have an object. If you aim at nothing you are sure to hit it. The object of the quiet time should be self-examination and self-renewing.

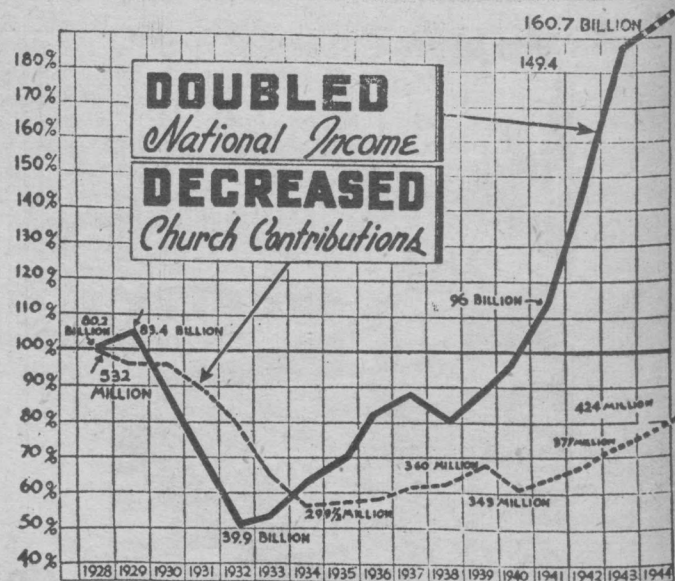
The Use Of The Bible

You may elect to meditate for a month on some of the great texts of the Bible; or you may choose a Psalm which you will devoutly contemplate without reference to the calendar; or you may select a number of great passages, such as John 17, I Corinthians 13, Hebrews 11, and work carefully through them; or you may prefer to take a book, such as John's Gospel, or Mark's, or Ephesians or I Peter, and read it over and over again until like rain it saturates your thirsty soul.

Make your reading and study time practical. Your object is not so much to gather information as to gain inspiration, and so you should discover what is the application of what you read to your present circumstances and need. Turn the truth into terms of life, and use the Word to light and feed the fire of devotion.

The Place Of Prayer

The cost of the daily prayer



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Sources: National Income—Department of Commerce. Church Contributions: The United Stewardship Council, reporting on contributions from nineteen national religious bodies having a membership of 25,564,801, excluding infants. The Year Book of the American Churches gives as the total inclusive church membership 67,327,719, and as the membership 13 years of age and over, 54,890,044. Population: U. S. Census report and Department of Commerce.

The average church member in the United States gave per capita in 1928, \$22.70 and in 1944, \$16.57—a decrease of \$6.13 in giving during a period within which his income has more than doubled. Our national expenditures for theatres, tobacco, jewelry and alcoholic beverages have increased from 100 to 300 percent, taxes 1,078 percent, and our savings over and above all living expenses, taxes and luxuries have increased 1,150 percent.

life is great. Christian biography abounds with illustrations of the fact that the men who have moved the world for God has been men of sustained prayer habits.

We must not model ourselves on the life of another — that way lies danger. God knows our lives and He will not fail to direct as to when we are to meet with Him, and for how long.

We move in a world which has no place for the prayer habit in its daily program. For other needs provision is made, but for prayer, none. In business life as well as at school the arrangement of the day leaves no room for quiet and undisturbed prayer. For this reason, as well as for others, many arrive at the assurance that they are called to meet with God in a time captured from the morning hours of sleep.

Watchful discipline is needed in connection with the hour of retiring to rest, and such discipline is not only irksome but unpopular. Early rising is an uncomfortable habit which the body resists. Other sacrifices must be faced. The enemy will not fail to exaggerate difficulties.

"The cost in the prayer life is not so much in the sweat of agonizing supplication, as in the daily fidelity to the life of prayer. Nothing in the life of faith is so difficult to maintain.—Quiet Time



WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

(Continued from page three)
Friday and was to be operated on Monday. She said she decided to get ready for the operation, and that she read her New Testament in those two days. She said it brought the greatest peace in the world to her soul.

There isn't anything else that will comfort a troubled heart, a sorrowing soul like the Word of God.

This, in brief, is what the Bible teaches about the Bible. May you treasure it and make much of it in your life as the days come and go because it is a precious Book.

May God bless you!

WHO TAUGHT THE BIRDS?

(Continued from page one)
and there waited the approach of the enemy. By this time the snake had reached the spot, and bent upon his object, he twisted himself around the trunk, and climbed up the tree. Then gliding along the branch, until he came close to the nest, he lifted his venomous head, ready to dart upon the poor bird. His small glittering eye watched the nest for a moment, and then — suddenly throwing his head back, as if he had received some sudden blow, he turned 'round, and as fast as possible made his way down the tree, and disappeared in the long grass.

You can imagine how curious I felt as to the cause of this. I could not understand why he had turned aside from his prey at the very moment when it seemed to be in his power.

I climbed up the tree, and examined the little broken branch, the leaves of which were curious in shape and color. I carried it home, and told the whole story to a native friend, showing him the twig, and learned from him that it had been plucked by the bird off a bush which is poisonous to the snake, and which he is never known to touch. The poor, little, helpless creature had used it as a shield of defense in its hour of danger.

Satan is called in Scripture "that old serpent." He is intent on the destruction of the children of men, helpless as birds against his attacks and his wiles. The unsaved are already in his control, according to Ephesians 2:2, which describes him as the "spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

But God has told us in His Word of a tree that is as poison to our enemy, and certain protection for us, old or young. I mean the cross. Christ, "His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (I Pet. 2:24). "By his stripes we are healed." Are you as wise as the bird that protected its nest? Are you sheltered by the blood of Christ shed on Calvary's tree? "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."—Condensed from "Faithful Words"

"A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE"

By T. P. SIMMONS, Ashland, Kentucky

THINK THIS OVER PRAYERFULLY

In the last issue we said that we feel that the publication of this book is a real mission undertaking. In line with this we now suggest a very sound and practical piece of mission work for churches and individuals:

Pick out some Baptist school. Get the names of all ministerial students in that school. Send us a cash order for a copy of this book for each one. We will immediately put each one on the subscription list for The Baptist Examiner for a year, and will send a copy of the book when it is ready.

In doing this you will be sharing with us the financial load of publishing this book and you will be putting into the hands of young preachers a paper and a book that will give them the doctrines of grace and the true practices of Baptists.

Every ministerial student in every Baptist school should have both this paper and the book. What fruit could thus be borne to the glory of God! And this could be accomplished by the friends of The Baptist Examiner if they would direct a portion of their offerings toward it. Yes, think this over prayerfully. We firmly believe that this is a work that would please God.

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