

Jesus came to save the lost, the last, and the least.

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"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

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A Serious, Solemn Exhortation To Backsliders

There are two classes of backsliders, well illustrated by the Apostles Judas and Peter. Judas made a great profession without an atom of reality in his heart, and consequently an awful exposure took place. There are many degrees of likeness found in him, but they all agree in this: profession without reality. They would shrink from instituting a full parallel with many, for there are thousands, alas, who are deceiving themselves as well as others, many who imagine that they are on the road to Heaven when they are on the road to Hell. Many honestly believe that observances of religion and blameless life will save their souls. Awful delusion.

Now the sooner such backslide from a false profession the better. Indeed such are more honest without any profession at all.

A girl came to me weeping one day and said, "I'm the leading singer in the chapel choir, and have passed as a Christian for eleven years; but since your meetings I have found out that I am only a sham. What am I to do?" I told her she might as well drop her mask, give up her false profession, for sooner or later God would take it from her—turn to Christ in reality and be saved. Thank God, she did so, and is now a rejoicing Christian.

But there is the backslider like Peter. Do I address one

such? Peter was a true man, loved his Lord; and found backsliding a painful course, and recovered himself by repentance and confession. You remember when you were converted, when you were happy? What has caused your backsliding? Intemperance, love of the world, love of money, sin allowed unjudged? The Lord desires your recovery. His everlasting love is set upon you. He will never give you up. He died for you. You are His, and His for ever. He looked on Peter, He looks on you: He sought Peter's recovery, He seeks yours.

You are dishonoring Him and grieving His heart by staying away. What has He done (Continued on page four)



PASTOR AND MRS. CHARLES T. SOUDER

Mountain Home Baptist Church, Johnson City, Tenn.

On February 8 and 9 it was the editor's most happy privilege to visit with pastor Charles T. Souder and the Mountain Home Baptist Church of Johnson City, Tenn.

I count it indeed a privilege to have had this opportunity to worship with this church and

with the visitors who attended services from neighboring towns.

Bro. Souder is a sound, doctrinal preacher. My impression is that he is a Baptist 100%, and furthermore that he is not ashamed of his convictions. Be- (Continued on page four)

Do You Believe In The Second Coming? Here Are A Number Of Signs Of His Return

The following are not all, but a few of the signs developing about us that herald the coming of the age:

1. A time of worldwide terror and commotion caused chiefly by threats of war, national and political discontent, rivalries. (Luke 21:7).

2. The rise of Satan's man, the "man of sin," the "little horn," and will eventually be called, "the Anti-Christ" (II Thess. 2:3; Dan. 7:8).

3. The falling away from the true faith, side by side with the development of spiritism in its multiple complex forms. (II Thess. 2).

4. A state of luxury and licentiousness which is leading to a condition comparable to the days of Noah, and to the days of Lot. (Luke 17:26-30).

5. The evangelization of the world as a last call to the marriage banquet preparatory to

the coming of the world's true King. (Matt. 24:14).

6. A mighty and miraculous return of the Jews to Palestine from all countries. (Isa. 11:11-16; Jer. 16:14-15).

7. A time of universal peace and prosperity through the rise of a world dominated political, commercial and religious system by which Satan will deceive the people of all nations. (Rev. 18:1; I Thess. 5:3).

8. The massacre of Jews in Palestine. (Ezek. 35:1-25:8).

6. The saints caught up. (I Thess. 4:13-17). — *The Prophectic News*

"I greatly admire the stand you take for the truth and the great work you are doing for the Master. I get your paper and consider it as sound as a silver dollar."

Eld. W. B. Carraway
Sherman, Texas



ROBERT EDWIN PERRY

On his trip to the North Pole he carried a pocket Bible and often refers to Christianity as man's greatest discovery. If you would discover Heaven, read your Bible.

Mused Uncle Mose

Ain' no use foolin' wid de Lawd. You go to gittin' tight wid Him an' He li'ble to cut of yo' income.

Masons Say, "Every Bit Of It Is In The Bible." Read This And See If Such Is True

R. F. Hallford
Dothan, Alabama

How often, when someone asks for information about or makes an attack upon Masonry, do we hear the claim concerning it: "Every bit of it is based on the Bible!" It is not surprising that its adherents and advocates would make such a claim, because the "Masonic Creed" says: "The Holy Bible is the Great Light in Masonry, and the Rule and Guide for all faith and practice."

No doubt most of those who echo this claim are honest and sincere in the conviction that they speak the truth. If there are those who make the claim while knowing that they are not speaking the truth, we leave the benefit of the doubt to them. It has been my experience, in conversing with lodge members, to find that the average one of them does not know enough about their Bible or the lodge teachings to discuss the

matter intelligently.

It is the purpose of this brief treatment to show that, instead of "every bit" of lodge teachings and practice being "based on the Bible," very little if any of it has any basis there. The ideas as to what the lodges teach are not a product of my own imagination, but are derived from their own sources of information. If any reader should desire proof or additional information about any of it, he may feel free to call on me for it, and reliable sources will be furnished.

Let us notice some of the more outstanding lodge teachings and practices which claim to be based upon the Bible, but are not:

First, look at the statement: "There is one God, the Father of ALL men." Certainly, there is only one God, but He is NOT the Father of ALL men; He is (Continued on page four)

Pertinent Facts

To logically-minded people, figures present the truth in a form which cannot be gainsaid. Examine these and draw your conclusions:

1,500,000,000 people live on the earth.

50,000,000 die every year.

136,986 die every day.

5,707 die every hour.

Ninety-five die every minute.

Three die every other second.

Take into consideration these facts:

The average duration of life is thirty-three years.

One-quarter of the earth's people die before the seventh year.

One-half of the earth's people die before the seventeenth year.

Out of every 1000, only one reaches 100 years.

Out of every 100, only six reach sixty-five years.

Not more than one in 500 (Continued on page four)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"THE COMING OF THE KING OF KINGS"

(Read II Peter 3)

I was impressed unduly when I noted of recent date a number of pictures of the floats and decorations and the crowds that attended the inaugural ceremony of President Truman. It seemed to me somewhat unusual that bands were imported from all sections of the country and that states, and cities as well, sent floats representing varied and various industries within them. To me it was most remarkable as to the crowds that attended the inaugural ceremony. Don't misunderstand

me, I wasn't there. I judge from my reading and from the pictures which I have seen, it must have been a tremendous event.

When I thought how President Truman was honored by Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, and Communists as well as all other political parties of the nation — as I thought of it, my mind immediately turned to the day when the Lord Jesus Christ is coming as the King of kings and Lord of Lords. It must be a tremendous honor to any man to be a president and I am sure it must have been a tremendous honor to Mr. Truman when he

was inaugurated into office, but, beloved the events of that day and the experience through which he passed dwindle into absolute insignificance in comparison with the events that shall take place when the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ comes to reign within this world.

I

In the very outset, let me remind you this morning that JESUS' COMING IS A POSITIVE AND CERTAIN EVENT. I can't tell you when He is (Continued on page two)

I Must Go Shopping

I am completely out of self-respect. I want to exchange some self-righteousness I picked up the other day for some humility which they say is less expensive and wears better. I want to look at some tolerance which is being used for wraps this season. Some one showed me some pretty samples of peace, we are a little low on that and one can never have too much of it. And by the way, I must try to match some patience that my neighbor wears. It is very becoming to her and I think it might look well on me. I might try on that little garment of long suffering they are displaying. I never thought I wanted to wear it, but I feel myself coming to it. Also I must have my sense of appreciation mended. And look around for some everyday goodness. It is surprising how quickly one's stock of goodness is depleted!

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"THE COMING OF THE KING OF KINGS"

(Continued from page one)
coming, but I can tell you that He is coming. I don't even intend to speculate as to the time of His coming but I know one thing — Jesus Christ someday is coming back to this world again. The Word of God abounds with many scriptures as to His coming.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou has said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." — Matthew 26:64.

That was before Jesus was crucified — that was before the Son of God had ever been taken to Calvary that He told them that He was coming back to this world again. Over nineteen hundred years have taken place since that memorable day of Jesus' arrest and that great speech of defense and it would seem that it has been a long time since Jesus said, "I am coming again." Yet, beloved, the Son of God will come. A thousand years with Him is but as a day and day as a thousand years, so from God's point of view, scarcely two days have elapsed since Jesus spoke thus.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." — John 14:1-3.

Brethren, He went away. He is coming back. It is guaranteed for He said, "If I go, I will come again." Thus, we can be sure of the return of Jesus Christ. After that Jesus had been crucified, on the day of His ascension, He and the disciples stood on Mt. Olivet, and as they looked steadfastly toward Heaven, He went up and behold two men stood beside them which said, "Ye men of Galilee why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you in Heaven, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YOU HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN." Acts 1:11.

They had stood shielding their eyes looking up into the skies watching Jesus go up into the Heavens and the angels of God said, "This same Jesus you have seen go away will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go." They had seen Him in His departure as He visibly and bodily departed from them. The angels of God said you are going to see Him come back in like manner. The last place that our Lord's feet touched on this earth was Mt. Olivet and the prophecy in the Old Testament is that the first place that our Lord's feet shall touch when

CHRISTIANITY AND NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS COMPARED

BELIEF CONCERNING TRANSMIGRATION

CHRISTIANITY denies transmigration in various ways. It accords to each spirit only one body. At death, these remain separate and alone until reunited at the resurrection. God never unites human spirits with bodies of lower animals.

BRAHMANISM. The knowledge that realizes that everything is Brahma alone, liberates the soul. As long as the soul wishes anything, it will continue to migrate and to suffer. The early Vedic worship, however, did not teach transmigration. Its principles of sacrifice and transmigration are inconsistent with each other.

HINDUS universally accept transmigration. Present conduct is the result of some past existence, and future existence is determined by present deeds. If good, the next birth will be in a higher form, perhaps an elephant; if bad, it may be in a snake or a dog. The final deliverance is through knowledge.

BUDDHISTS. Guatama adopted transmigration as an only solution to some of the inexplicable problems of life. He did not believe in a separate existence of soul and body. Since future blessings is measured by present conduct, so the present condition is the result of past conduct.

TAOISM. The Taoists have been servile imitators of the Buddhists in many things; one of which was transmigration, as it enabled them to increase the personal importance of the founder of their religion by declaring that he had been born into the world many times, in high positions.

CONFUCIANISM. Confucius did not teach transmigration. He avoided all subjects pertaining to the future life. The Chinese call "death" the breaking of the three-inch vapor, which escapes upward like a wreath of smoke. The relatives have a custom of going out just after dark and calling the soul to come back.

ZOROASTRIANISM. The passing of the spirit of a deceased person into another physical body, to live out a new life, seems never to have entered the mind of Zoroaster. His method of classifying and rewarding people was not by the miseries of transmigration but by the ministrations of spirit judges.

THE PARSEES deal with but one life for each person. This life begins at birth and continues through its earthly existence after which the immortal good pass on to blissful enjoyment and the wicked to their merited punishment.

SHINTOISM developed out of ancestral worship. About 400 A. D. the system was advanced so that it passed out of the narrow precincts of the home, and a separate temple was erected, over which a chief priestess, the daughter of the Mikado, was placed as custodian. Transmigration was not recognized.

MOHAMMEDANISM does not teach transmigration but declares Adam's posterity was once taken from his loins, by the Creator, and became small ants until they acknowledged their dependence upon God, after which they returned into the loins of their great ancestor.

He comes back again will be Mt. Olivet from which He ascended to the Father. Let me read you one other scripture that you might see how positively the coming again of Jesus is.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death TILL HE COME." — I Cor. 11:26.

Every observance of the memorial supper is a prophecy that He is coming. There are a lot of things this morning I can't give you the answer to. The fact of the matter is, beloved, there is such a little bit I can speak of with certainty and surety. I can't tell you anything about the financial status of America even six months from today. I can't tell you whether war is imminent. All the problems that are puzzling men in the realm of economy — certainly I can't give you the answer this morning that men and women would like to know — but, there is one thing I can tell you today, — Jesus Christ is coming back some day. I don't have to doubt about it. I don't have to guess about it. I can give you this Word of God and I believe it literally when it says He will come again.

II

HIS COMING WON'T BE LATE AND IT WON'T BE EARLY. He is coming in God's appointed time. Do you know, beloved, there is an appointed time for the return of Jesus? The fact of the matter is, beloved, the time is appointed for every event that takes place in

this world. There isn't anything that takes place in a haphazard manner. God has a plan and everything that takes place in life is just according to the plan of God. There never has been an event in this life that has not been planned by God Himself.

"To every thing there is a season, and A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." — Eccl. 3:1, 2.

Brethren, God is running this world with clock-like precision and everything is moving according to God's time. God has a time for the return of Jesus Christ and when He comes, He won't be late and He won't be early. It will be according to God's appointed time.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." — Matthew 24:36.

Those are the words of Jesus. In short, He said that even the angels of God, who have to learn just like you and I, — that even the angels of God did not know when He is coming back — but God the Father only. He will return according to the plan of the Father. I am saying this morning, the return of Jesus is not only a glorious reality, but, brethren, His coming will be according to the appointed time that God before the foundation of the world knew and predestined and fixed in His behalf.

III

WHEN HE COMES EVERY EYE IS GOING TO SEE HIM. There were a lot of people at the inauguration of President Truman that did not get to see him. Some folk paid as much as \$25.00 for a curbstone seat and then never got to see the president. Imagine good money spent like that and then never getting any results from it. When the Son of God comes back again every eye is going to see Him.

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." — Matthew 24:27.

When He comes, brethren, it will be just like the lightning that shines from one end of the Heaven to the other. Everybody can see it. When He comes everybody will see Him.

"Behold, he cometh with clouds: and EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM." — Rev. 1:7.

Brethren, I'm glad that He is coming and I'm glad that when He comes every eye is going to see Him. I long to see my Lord, — brethren, I long to see Him. I sat down some days ago and viewed the problems of life and I thought what strife there is within this world. I thought of man's injustice to man and I thought of all the immorality, atheism and communism in the world. I thought of all the heartaches and all the problems and difficulties that we are confronted with today and in my heart I long to see Him. I am rejoicing that when He comes, every eye is going to see Him. Nobody is going to be disappointed. There will be no one in that day that will be disappointed because they did not see the Lord. When I think of all the heartaches, strife, and confusion in this world today, I'm glad to know He is coming and that when He comes these eyes are going to see Him.

IV

WHEN HE COMES, HE IS COMING IN POWER. When Jesus came nineteen hundred years ago, He came in humility. You read in His Word that He came humbly.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, HE HUMBLIED HIMSELF, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." — Phil. 2:5-8.

Brethren, when He came nineteen hundred years ago, He came humbly, but when He comes again, He is coming in glory and power.

I remember several years ago, probably ten years ago, when the king and queen of England came to this country, how they came in royal honor and glory. They brought all the royal attire that they could. They were surrounded by a royal guard everywhere they went. They set forth the royal dignity of Britain in every town they entered. Brethren, when Jesus comes again, He is not coming in humility to be made a servant and to die as a man. When Jesus comes again He is coming in power. He is coming in glory. He is coming with all the sovereignty of God invested in Him, arrayed as a king, beloved, to a world which has forever been in rebellion against Him.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and

make war. His eyes were as flame of fire and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name was called the Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, with which he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." — Rev. 19:11-16.

Brethren, when Jesus comes He is coming in glory and power. President Truman is satisfied to be president over one nation. Kings of Europe are happy today to be king over one nation. Brethren, when Jesus comes he will be King of kings and Lord of Lords so that all men and all nations everywhere shall bow to Him whom they buffeted over nineteen hundred years ago. It thrills my heart to know that when He comes He is coming in power and glory.

V

WHEN JESUS COMES, ARE THE SLEEPING SAINTS GOING TO BE RAISED.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the DEAD IN GOD: and the DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST."

What's going to happen when He comes? Brethren, there is going to be the opening of graves where His children are sleeping and they are going to rise to be with the Lord. Have you lost a loved one in Christ? I tell you, beloved, when the Son of God comes again there is going to be a rumbling in every graveyard and there is going to be an opening of every grave and God's own, the sleeping saints are going to be called up to be with the Lord. Brethren, that ought to thrill the heart of every child of God this morning to know that when Jesus comes all the sleeping saints are going to be raised. You may be in that crowd if our Lord delays His coming. Probably better than 90 per cent of this audience will be in the ground when Jesus comes if He delays His coming fifty years. If our Lord delays His coming even a year in all probability some of this audience will be asleep in Him when He comes. How I thank God this morning that when He comes every child of God who is asleep in Him, will be raised with a new body.

VI

WHEN HE COMES, ARE THE LIVING SAINTS ARE GOING TO BE TRANSLATED AND TRANSFORMED.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall ALL BE CHANGED." — I Cor. 15:51.

What does it say? We are not all going to be dead when He comes and we which are alive shall be changed. Brethren, when Jesus comes all living saints shall be changed and made deathless and immortal in the coming of our Lord.

I can imagine that maybe you will be standing before a mirror combing your hair and when Jesus comes, the next expression you see of yourself will be so changed that you never would recognize yourself. When He comes, brethren, all living believers are going to be transformed. (Continued on page three)

We hear much about the cost of living, but the cost of salvation has not changed.

THE COMING OF THE KING OF KINGS

(Continued from page two)
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for John 3:2.

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."—Phil. 3:21.

I can imagine brethren, when Jesus comes that every child of God that is alive in this world is going to be caught away from this sphere of human activity to be with Him translated at once and transformed immediately into His righteousness. In the Old Testament, the Word of God tells us how that Enoch was translated and how that Elijah was caught away in the chariot of fire. Beloved, these serve as an illustration. When Jesus comes again, He is going to catch away, just like Enoch and Elijah were caught away—these living children in that day.

VII

WHEN HE COMES, EVERY BELIEVER WILL BE REWARDED FOR EVERYTHING HE DOES THAT IS PLEASING TO THE LORD. I believe in salvation by grace, beloved. It is taught here in God's Word. Since we are saved by grace, we will be rewarded for our works.

"For he that planteth and he that watereth are one; and every man shall receive HIS OWN REWARD according to his own labour."—I Cor. 3:8.

You are saved by grace and when everything you do from that day on that is pleasing to God, you will get a reward for it. When? When Jesus comes. "For we must all appear be-

fore the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."—II Cor. 5:10.

The Greek word there for judgment seat is the word "bema" and it goes back to the Olympic Games that Paul had doubtlessly witnessed. The individual who had won in some Olympic contest would come up and stand before the "bema,"—the place where the judge sat, and he would hand out to the winner the trophy which was his, having successfully participated in the game. Paul took that same figure of speech and said, "We must all stand before the judgment seat, the 'bema' of Jesus Christ. Not before an earthly judge but Jesus Christ—there for what purpose? Why, to receive rewards for the things we have done in the body whether they be good or bad.

Haven't you gone to funerals to hear the preacher say that the individual who died had gone to his reward? Haven't you picked up the paper and read the account of some individual who had died, that he had gone to his reward. Not a word of truth in it, brethren! No man that has ever died has ever received one particle of reward yet. Even the Apostle Paul who has been in Heaven for 1900 years has never received one reward. Moses who had been in glory fourteen hundred years when Jesus came has never yet gotten any reward, but, brethren, when Jesus comes He is going to hand out rewards for things we have done that are pleasing to Him.

VIII

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO REIGN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord, and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of

his ears: But WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL HE JUDGE the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."—Isa. 11:3-4.

Brethren, this tells us of the characteristics of His judgment and of His kingdom when the Son of God begins to reign. When he comes, He is going to reign in righteousness. Judges and rulers today judge by the hearing of the ear and with what they can see with their eyes, but when Jesus comes, He is going to reign in righteousness. He won't have to see with His eyes. Jesus knows the heart; He knows the intent and the purpose of the soul. My brethren, the Son of God will reign in righteousness. There never has been a case tried in any court in this world where righteousness prevailed. There never has been a case brought before the judges of this land where righteousness and righteousness alone prevailed. But when the Son of God shall judge, beloved, He will not depend upon what He sees with His eyes and hears with His ears, but He will judge and reign in righteousness.

IX

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO TEACH US THE BIBLE. I would like to know everything that there is in this Old Book this morning. Let me ask you, are you satisfied with your little puny knowledge you have of this Bible? Wouldn't you like to be able to say, that you can give the answer to any question that is asked about the Bible? We don't have that ability now, but thank God we are going to have it some day.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and HE WILL TEACH US HIS WAYS, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."—Isaiah 2:2-3.

Brethren, I'm glad that I am saved this morning. I am glad I am going to be in that class that the Lord is going to teach some day. He is going to teach us His ways. I feel sorry for some folk who never read the Bible—who have never studied this Word. They are going to be in the "primer" class I guess when they get up there. I feel sorry for some preachers who never study this Word of God. I would hate to be a preacher of this Word of God and come up to the Lord when he sets up His kingdom and be in the "primer" class in the Word of God. I tell you brethren, that it's going to be wonderful to have Jesus for a teacher. Maybe the reason that folk don't learn any more Bible than they do is because of the faults of the preacher. Maybe if I were a more perfect teacher, you would be a more perfect pupil. Maybe if I as your pastor were a better teacher you would know more about the Word of God. But, brethren, wonderful shall be that experience when you and I sit at the feet of Jesus with a perfect teacher, and a perfect textbook, to learn the perfect will and the perfect way of God Himself.

X

WHEN HE COMES, THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE WARS.

MY GUIDE

The open door of another year
I've entered by grace divine;
No ills I fear and no foes I dread,
For a wonderful Guide is mine.

Through joy or chastening though He lead,
In tears though my race be run,
Whate'er my lot, this my prayer shall be,
"Not mine, but Thy will be done."

I walk by faith in my heav'nly Guide,
With fearless, unflinching tread,
Assured that He, who appoints my days,
Will daily provide my bread.

He'll send more grace should afflictions come,
And a staff for the pathway steep,
While o'er me ever by night and day
My Father His watch will keep.

With perfect trust in His love and care,
I'll walk to my journey's end;
And day by day He will strength renew,
And peace to my heart will send.

O blessed Guide, walking all unseen,
Yet close to my side always,
Do Thou, who guidest my steps aright,
Lead on to eternal day!

--Gertrude R. Dugan

XI

WHEN HE COMES, ALL THE THORNS AND THISTLES AND THE BRIARS ARE GOING TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS WORLD. God's Word hasn't left us in any doubt as to what is going to happen to the world when He comes.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE."—Isa. 35:1.

Can you imagine the desert becoming like a rose garden. Today men spend tremendous fortunes on rose garden. Rose gardens will grow like weeds in that day. You remember thorns and thistles came as a result of the sin of Adam and when Christ comes again all thorns and thistles will be removed. Then this world shall become like a rose garden. Oh, brethren, it is going to be wonderful to be here when Jesus comes. I'm glad I am a child of God this morning. I'm glad I know Him in the pardon and remission of my sins. I'm glad I know Him this morning and that in that day, I am going to be here in a world that is going to be as beautiful as a rose garden.

XII

WHEN JESUS COMES TROUBLES WILL END.

There won't be anymore sickness. There won't be any more disease because the devil who is the author of sin and sickness will be bound. There won't be any more disease or death because the devil will be out of the way. There won't be any doctors or undertakers. When? When Jesus comes.

There won't be any disputes between capital and labor.

We won't be divided into two belligerent camps as in this day. There won't be any disputes at that time. You can read the (Continued on page four)



For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

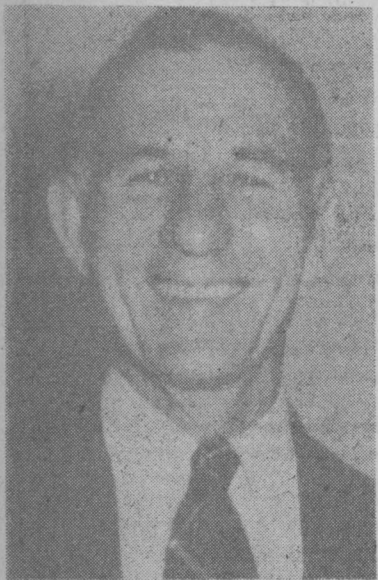
—Rom. 1:16

PASTOR CHARLES SOUDER

(Continued from page one)
 lieving as he does, he will have many difficulties from compromising brethren but at the same time, rich fellowship both with the Lord and those who love His Word. It was indeed an inspiration to be in his home and with his family.

I took my wife and little girls (Rhoda and Ruth) and we had a pleasant, brief vacation. We spent one evening in the home of Elder and Mrs. Millard Boggs and for their Christian hospitality we are most grateful.

All of the folk of the church and visitors were most courteous and our fellowship there was indeed a blessing to me and a little foretaste of what we can expect when we all get to Heaven.



Walter Brookshire

Elizabethton, Tenn.

This is one of the brethren whom I met when recently in Johnson City, Tenn. He has been a reader of **THE BAPTIST EXAMINER** for several years and a warm supporter of it.



PERTINENT FACTS

(Continued from page one)
 reaches the eightieth year.

These facts ought to stir Christians everywhere so that they might say with the Apostle Paul: "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." — *Holiness Mission Journal*.



"THE COMING OF THE KING OF KINGS"

(Continued from page one)
 fifth chapter of James and see that we are living in the very light of that scripture right now. No man can read that without the realization that you and I are living right now and seeing that portion of God's Word fulfilled.

filled. But, beloved, when Jesus comes all disputes between capital and labor shall come to an end. Every laboring man needs to listen to His Word:

"Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."—Jas. 5:8.

There may be somebody here in this house that says, "Brother Gilpin, my heart can't make a response to that. There is no responsive cord within my heart at the thought of His second coming. I would be afraid if He were to come. I am scared at the thought of His coming. I would be afraid to meet Him." Brother, sister, you had better meet Him now. If you wouldn't welcome Him at His coming, you had better meet Him in grace because then He is going to deal in justice. You had better meet Him in mercy today because then the day of mercy will be ended and the time of salvation will be ended so far as you are personally concerned.

Are you ready for His coming? I want to ask you this morning as personally as I know how, "Are you ready to meet him?" I am not asking you if you are a member of a church. I am not asking if you have been baptized. I am not asking you if you are living the best you can. I am asking you if you have come to Calvary and seen the truth that Christ died for all of your sins. Have you trusted Him as your Saviour? Are you ready for His coming?

Thank God for His coming. Every child of God here rejoices in His coming. Are you ready? Be ready when He comes. How can you? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

May God shower His blessings upon you and save your soul!



EVERY BIT IS IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page one)
 the Father of only such as have been born again through faith in His Son. That He is not the Father of all men is made clear by the accusation of Jesus in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil." There were some people in Ephesus of whom God was not the Father, prior to their conversion: "And were by nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3b). It is still true that, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil" (1 John 3:10a). There are only two families in the world—the children of God and the children of Satan—and God definitely is NOT the Father of the latter group!

Second, another statement of the "Masonic Creed" says this:

"Character determines destiny." The idea involved in this statement—and it re-appears throughout the teachings and ceremonies of Masonry—is that good, moral character, which may be possessed by almost any unsaved person, is that which determines his eternal destiny. It must be perfectly obvious to the weakest, humblest believer in Jesus Christ that such an idea flatly contradicts the clear, repeated declarations of the Bible. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6). Again, we read: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "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).

Third, where in the Bible, does one find any basis for the blood-curdling oaths which must be taken in order to get into the membership of a Masonic lodge? Space does not permit us to quote more than one of these oaths; however, this should be sufficient to show how unscriptural they are. The Entered Apprentice degree, which is the first degree, requires the candidate to take the following oath: "Binding my-

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self under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried under the rough sands of the sea at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly and willingly violate this my solemn oath and obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same." Look at this in the light of what Jesus commanded: "Swear not at all" (Matt. 5:34). Too, what right does any child of God, whose body is made sacred by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, have to take such an oath to have his body mutilated in such a manner? "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).

Fourth, let me ask another question: What about the deliberate mutilation of Scripture quotations in the lodge ceremony, by leaving out the Name of Jesus Christ wherever it is found in them? The reason for it is quite obvious: the use of our Saviour's Name would be quite offensive to the good Jewish and Mohammedan members of the same lodge! But what about such a procedure in the light of Rev. 22:19, "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



Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wilson

These dear Christian friends of Sugar Grove, North Carolina, who have been reading **THE BAPTIST EXAMINER** for a number of years, drove in to Johnson City, a distance of ap-

proximately 75 miles, to attend the services. What a joy it was to meet these friends who have been among our warmest supporters through the years.

out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book?"

Fifth, would you say that the matter of forbidding a person to offer prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ in the lodge room, or of rebuking one who had done so, is "based on the Bible"? And yet, that is exactly what has been done plenty of times, because, according to Masonry's own scholars, "It is not Christianity." If we do not offer prayer to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, how are we going to approach Him? The clear declaration of the Bible is: "For through Him (Jesus Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18). "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

In conclusion, let me say that we could go on and cite plenty of cases from both the teachings and practices of Masonry to show that its claim of being based on the Bible is false, but these should be sufficient to convince any open-minded person. Dear reader, if you have already been led off into this system, may God give you grace to renounce those sinful vows,

sever your connections with it and come out of it forever! If you have never joined such a movement, I plead with you never to do so. Rather, make sure of Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, and seek fellowship in a New Testament church, the institution and organism which offers more than all others combined, and is Scriptural in what it offers!

A WORD TO BACKSLIDERS

(Continued from page one)
 that He deserves such treatment at your hands? The longer you stay away the harder it will be to retrace your steps. Get into the Lord's presence, make a full confession of your sin and folly, and get right with Him. He will give you strength, and show you what to do. But it must be strength, for there is no strength in yourself. You have found this out, surely.

"Return ye backsliding children, I will heal your backslidings" (Jer. 3:22).

"Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end" (John 13:1).

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