

The Truth About Christmas

By R. F. BECKER
Holland, N. Y.

"Ye are they who justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15).

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 5:1).

Dear Reader: These words of the Holy Spirit should interest you greatly if you are a Christian. They are very searching words. They are very alarming words. They are very condemning words. They show us that whatever is popular with men is not of God. They show us that what ungodly men think highly of, is abominable to the Lord. And sad to say they teach us clearly that Christ's own children can be deceived by others into sin and idolatry.

Holidays are esteemed highly by men. And no holiday is more esteemed than Christmas. No date on the calendar is more

looked forward to. The ungodly who spend their short lives in pursuit of money and pleasure, fame and power unite as one to celebrate Christmas. Worldwide no date is more given to sin, revelry and idolatry than December 25.

This Christmas the world celebrates is not of God. It is abominable to Him. It is not honoring to His Son Jesus Christ. It is only sin in His sight. It is not of the Holy Spirit. It is only a mockery of falsehood to Him. It is not a time of spiritual upbuilding in the Church. It is an evil that plagues the true Church. It is not a season of holiness when the heart is lifted up in fellowship with God. It is depressing, unprofitable and polluting to the soul of the individual believer. The Spirit-taught Christian will have nothing to do with that which is so dishonoring to his own dear Lord.

All Christmas celebrating is founded on idolatry, heathen superstition and traditions of un-

godly men. Enough proof exists to place beyond any doubt the fact that Christmas in its origin was a pagan festival. The celebrating we now witness every December 25, is a copy with variations, of the festivities held long before Christ, when the Babylonians feasted in honor of the son of the Queen of Heaven. It is a festival planned after the ancient Arabians' celebration of the birthday of their Lord, the Moon. The Roman Catholic Church developed it into the vast system of idolatry we see today. Faithful men of old fought against its entry among true Christians. But in spite of their efforts, the lukewarm Church with the exception of a small remnant, soon was overcome by pagan superstition. And so to this day the godly in nearly every land witness the sorrowful sight of Christians going halfway with pagans in celebrating a heathen Christmas.

To set up a Christmas tree, to deck it with ornaments and tinsel and lights is to do as the

idolatrous heathen of Rome and Egypt did long ago. To have any part in Christmas festivities or celebrations will bring leanness into the soul of a Christian. And whether he knows it and feels it or not, to take any part in such heathen celebrations and ceremonies is to invite a spiritual blight upon his soul. What else can you expect Christian reader, if you enter into fellowship with the idolatrous unbeliever whose heart's cry is "Away with Christ, crucify Him! I will not have Him reign over me!"

Are you startled, my Reader? Are you angry to think one should write so about the Christmas you have celebrated all these years? Then do not thrown down this message in disgust but allow me to prove what I have said. For remember "Many false spirits have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1); "And no marvel for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" 2 Cor. 11:14. I will here briefly quote what

is on record in our own recognized standards of authority, as to the origin of Christmas.

In the Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia 1903, Vol. 2, Page 987 we read—

"Christmas: Christmas properly begins with the evening of December 24 . . . and continues until Epiphany, January 6, the whole period called Christmas-tide. In the Roman, Greek, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches Christmas is observed as a religious festival with special services. Its celebration was forbidden by the Puritans."

In Webster's Students' Dictionary for Upper School Levels—page 145 (a Catholic dictionary used in our schools) we read—

"Christmas. Christ plus Mass. A church festival, December 25, Christmas day commemorating the birth of Christ."

Encyclopedia Britannica, Ninth Edition, Vol. 5, Page 611—we read—

"Christmas Day: There is (Continued on page two)

Elder Grady Higgs Tells Of The Work Of His Infant Baptist School In Pueblo, Colorado

Nov. 15, 1949.

Editor, John R. Gilpin,
The Baptist Examiner,
Russell, Kentucky.

Dear Editor Gilpin:

Sometime ago I received your card asking for news about the Park Hill Baptist Bible Institute. I appreciate the interest shown by you and the paper. The following is a brief summary of the school and its student body and teaching faculty.

First of all I want to say that the school is owned and controlled solely by the Park Hill Baptist Church. It was founded with the idea of providing a place where ministerial students and others who so desire and are not able to attend school elsewhere, might obtain an education in the Bible. However, there is an open door in the city of Pueblo for a school of this nature to expand.

The school has no thought of competing with any other school. It seeks no recognition from the field of higher learning. Neither is the school set up in opposition to any other.

The subjects taught this first year are Evangelism, Missions, Old Testament No. 1, New Testament No. 1, Theology, Sunday School Administration, Music, English, Speech, and Lectures are held each week on various subjects of importance. Beginning at mid-term, Bible Introduction will also be taught. The school's curriculum is so arranged that anyone can enter at (Continued on page three)



Eld. Grady Higgs

Brother Grady Higgs is not only pastor of the Park Hill Baptist Church but also is the head of the Park Hill Bible Institute. He is one of the finest Christian gentlemen and one of the soundest Baptists the editor knows. I believe in him and his school one hundred per cent and would unhesitatingly recommend this school to any young preacher who is seeking further Bible instruction.

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The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries

"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

VOLUME 14, No. 47

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 24, 1949

WHOLE NUMBER 603

What Is The Sin Unto Death Of 1 John 5:16,17?

This sort of sin, spoken of as "unto death" must be a very serious thing inasmuch as it brings death. Before we consider what it is, let us first look at the question negatively, to

SEE WHAT IT IS NOT.

1. It is not the unpardonable sin. The unpardonable sin is a sin committed by those who are not the children of God. Gen-

Mused Uncle Mose

Pahson say he know dat ef'n he leave his chu'ch dey'd want 'im back, but he say he ain' got 'nuff money to stay 'way long enough fo' dem to git to feelin' dat way.

uinely saved people cannot sin the unpardonable sin, for the following reasons:

(1) To do so would be to nullify the doctrine of election.

(2) To do so, would nullify the Bible doctrine of the eternal security of believers.

(3) And a person brought to conversion by the power of the Holy Spirit, and indwelt by the Spirit, would not attribute the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan.

This "sin unto death" is a sin committed by saved people, for John speaks of the offender as a "brother."

2. It is not a sin that leads to eternal punishment, but rather to physical death. Eternal condemnation is impossible to the

believer in Christ, as is made plain in Romans 8:1 (Revised Version).

What Then Is This Sin Unto Death?

It is a sin committed by the child of God, from which he does not turn as he should in self-judgment and confession, and for which the heavenly Father in chastisement brings upon him physical death.

When a Christian sins, his salvation is not jeopardized, but his fellowship with God is broken. What is the way back into fellowship with God? The answer is found in 1 John 1:9. This passage was not written for unsaved as instruction as to how to get saved, but for Christians, telling them how to have fellowship restored.

A Sample Of Sin Unto Death (1 Cor. 11:27-31)

Here were some people who—
1. Were disorderly at the Lord's table. (1 Cor. 11:27).

2. They refused to examine themselves in order that they might partake of the bread and (Continued on page three)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"THE TRUTH"

"Buy the truth, and sell it not."—Proverbs 23:23.

Let me remind you at the very outset that there is much error that is being taught in this world today. In fact, beloved, much that is being taught in churches today is erroneous and definitely far removed from the Word of God. There are many, many false prophets in the world, and the Word of God very carefully and very explicitly exposes those false prophets. Listen:

"Beware of FALSE PROPHETS, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."—Mt. 7:15.

"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.

Here the prophet Isaiah gives the test for a preacher. Don't test him on the basis of his oratory. Don't test him on the basis of his eloquence. Don't test him because of his striking personality. Don't test him because of his good looks. Don't test him because he has a great following. Don't test him because he is able to fill the pews and empty the pocketbooks. Don't test him on any of these superficial methods, but test him with the Word of God. If he speaks not

according to this Bible, it is because there is no light in him.

Notice again:

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." — Gal. (Continued on page two)

WHAT A CONTRAST

Byron wrote before he died—
My days are in the yellow leaf;
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone!

Paul wrote just before he died—
I have fought a good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.

HELP YOUR PASTOR

1. PRAY FOR HIM.
No one needs your prayers as him who stands to preach the truth of God's Word.

2. STAND BY HIM.
Support his program. If your church had confidence enough in his ability to call him as your leader, then stand by HIM!

3. TALK HIM UP.
Never run him down to anyone.

4. TREAT HIM GENEROUSLY IN EVERY WAY.

Churches have often been nigardly with their pastors. A lit- (Continued on page three)

Editorial Department, RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, where communications should be sent for publication.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
One 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, Ky., 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.

Xmas

(Continued from page one)

however difficulty in accepting this (December 25) as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season when neither flocks or shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. By the fifth century, however, whether from influence of some tradition, or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of the period of the year such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon."

The Encyclopedia Americana, 1942 Edition, Vol. 6, Page 623, reads thus:

"Christmas: It was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the fourth century. In the fifth century the western Church (Roman Catholic) ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the Old Roman Feast of the birth of Sol.

"The holly, the mistletoe, the Yule log and the wasail bowl are of pre-Christian times.

"The Christmas tree has been traced back to the Romans. It went from Germany to Great Britain."

Any thoughtful reader can see from these portions of recognized historical authority that Christmas itself has no connection with the birth of Christ. It began in the fourth century, A. D., under the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, therefore it is of heathen anti-Christ origin and is not of the Holy Spirit.

Now let us see what the Encyclopedias say of Christmas customs and festivities—

The new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, Edition of 1899, Vol. XI, Page 404.

"Befana. A corruption of the word 'epiphania' (Epiphany) is the name of an old female character in Italian folklore who was so busily engaged in housecleaning when three wise men of the East passed by on their way to offer their treasures to the Infant Saviour that she excused herself for not going out to see them, thinking she would have an opportunity of doing so when they returned. Not knowing that they went home by another road she has been ever since watching for them. She, like the Dutch Santa Claus, is supposed to take a great interest in children who, in Italy, are put to bed early on the "twelfth night," a stocking of each being hung up before the fire. Soon the cry "Ecco le Befana" is raised when the children jump up and seize their stockings, each of which contains a pres-

Let us live as though Christ were crucified yesterday; risen today; and coming tomorrow.

"The Truth"

(Continued from page one)
1:6-9.

What could be plainer or what could be a greater warning than this! Paul says that if a man preaches anything else except the Word of God, let him be accursed!

Now, beloved, in the light of the three Scriptures which I have just read, I say that the Bible speaks much and warns often about the false prophets, the false teachers, the false preachers and the false leaders that have gone forth into the world. Therefore, beloved, since the Word of God warns us so much about false preachers and teachers, how important our text really is, when it says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." If we are to beware of the false teachers and if we are warned that all false teachers shall be accursed,—since that be true, how unusually important our text is. Literally it says to us, by all means, at all cost, get the truth, hold on to it and make it a commodity for your own personal use. Hold on to it and sell it not.

I

This leads me to ask, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Long years ago when our Lord Jesus was being tried before Pilate, He made mention of the fact that He was sent to bear witness to the truth, and immediately Pilate, the judge, inter-

ent, bearing value in proportion to the conduct of the child during the year. One whose behavior has been particularly bad finds his stocking filled with ashes in token of Befana's displeasure.

The custom of carrying an effigy called the Befana on the "Twelfth Night" in a procession through the streets is probably a relic of one of the "mysteries" of the Middle Ages."

The new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, 1900, Vol. IX, Page 5236, has this—

"Saturn: An ancient Italian god . . . Saturnalis, this is the great 'Festival of Saturn' celebrated on the 19th but after Caesar's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December.

"Augustus decreed that the 17th and 18th should be sacred to Saturn, and the 19th and 20th to Opalia, the festival of Ops.

"Caligula added a fifth day. 'The Day of Youth,' December 25, lasted seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed. . . .

"Gambling and dice at other times illegal was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro thought that these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings to the Infernal God."

The New International Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Vol. 3, Page 27, tells this—

"Epiphany: A festival held on the sixth of January by the Roman Catholic, Eastern and Anglican Churches in commemoration of the manifestations of Christ. Three different events are included in this celebration. As early as the third century at least it was observed as the commemorations of the Baptism of Christ. . . . Later in the East it was taken to commemorate the manifestation of divine power in Christ's first miracle (Continued on page four)

rupted the trial to ask, "What is the truth?" (John 18:38). Beloved, could you answer Pilate's question? We don't have to get out of the Word of God to get the answer. In fact, all the answers you need on any subject are right here within the Bible. What is the answer to this question? Listen:

"Sanctify them through thy truth; THY WORD IS TRUTH."—John 17:17.

Here is old Pilate asking the question, and here is the answer from our Lord's prayer, when He says, "Thy word is truth."

Beloved, I do not say that this Bible contains the truth, but I say that it is the truth. If I were to say that this Bible contains the truth, I might leave the implication that it contains something else besides the truth. Rather, I say emphatically, and even dogmatically, that the Bible doesn't contain the truth, but that it is the truth and there is not one thing in all this Bible that is not the truth.

I know that this is the answer to Pilate's question because a little later the Apostle Paul speaks about the truth in these words:

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—II Tim. 2:15.

The Board of Deacons desires to call to the attention of all women who truly love the Lord the exhortation in 1 Cor. 11:3-15 that they have their heads covered when they come to services of the Church. The exhortation is not as of law, but as of devotion to Christ and His Word, remembering that when we gather in His Name He is truly present in our midst.

The above was clipped from the church bulletin of the First Baptist Church of New York City. Every church everywhere ought to do likewise.

Paul is writing to a young preacher, Timothy by name. He tells this young Timothy that he is to study the Bible for one purpose, that he might be able to rightly divide the truth; and if he rightly divides the Word of Truth, when he comes to stand in the presence of God, he will not be ashamed of what he has preached.

Beloved, I think that there are a lot of preachers who have not studied this Bible very much and have not learned to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Some preachers will preach to the unsaved and will quote Scriptures that are spoken only to the saved people, and vice versa. Some preachers will quote Scriptures to the Jews who are spoken primarily to the Gentiles, and vice versa. That is, beloved, a lot of preachers have never studied this Bible enough to rightly divide and to give the proper explanation and the right application, and the result is, even if those preachers are saved, when they stand at the judgment bar of God, they are going to be ashamed when their preaching will be proven false, in that they have failed to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Coming back to Pilate's question when he asked, "What is truth?" I say, in the light of the statement of Jesus in John 17:17 and the statement of Paul's in II Tim. 2:15, that the truth is nothing more nor less than this Word of God. Therefore, beloved, when my text says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not," it

doesn't mean that we are to buy a copy of the Bible and keep it at our home and refuse to part with it. Rather, it means that we are to get the body of truth within the Bible into our souls and make it a part of us to such an extent that it is there to stay, and that we are not to part with it in any respect or for any amount of barter.

II

WHY IS IT THAT THE TRUTH IS SO VALUABLE? Why is this Word of God so important? Why is the truth of such dire consequences to our lives that we are to hold on to it at all cost?

Beloved, at the outset the truth is so valuable because it teaches us all that we know about God. I ask you this morning, what would you know about God if it weren't for this Bible. Probably the only thing that you would know what to do would be to cuss. This Bible—this truth—teaches us all we know about God.

I turn to Genesis 1:1 and I find that He is the Creator and that things in this world came into existence because of His creative fiat. I turn through this Word of God and find that He is a Sovereign God. Listen:

"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him."—Nahum 1:3-6.

Beloved, you would never know that God was sovereign if you didn't read it in the Word of God. I know you wouldn't know it if you went to the average church, because in the average church man is held up as sovereign and God as a puppet. From the average church, man is magnified and God is minified, whereas, beloved, actually God is sovereign and is to be magnified and man is to be minified and made as little as possible. Beloved, the truth is valuable because you would never know about God if it were not for this Bible.

Again, beloved, this truth which is to be bought and not sold, is valuable because it teaches us about man. You would never know anything about yourself if it weren't for the truth of the Bible. You read in this Bible from whence man came—created by the hand of God. You read, beloved, how man came to be a sinner. In Genesis 3 you will find the story of the entrance of sin into the human family, and you would never have known what is wrong with you if it weren't for the truth of God's Book.

Lost sinner, have you tried to analyze yourself and say, "Just why am I in this condition? Why is it that I would rather lie than to tell the truth? Why is it that I would rather cuss than not cuss? Why is it that I would rather sin than not sin? Why is it that I do these things?" Lost man, if you ever try to analyze yourself, you won't be able to find the answer except in the Word of God.

A red-headed peckerwood settled down on the top of an old pine tree, out in the swamps of Arkansas, and started to drill into that tree. The clouds began rolling up into the sky and as that old peckerwood sat up there on the side of that tree and tapped, tapped, tapped with his bill, the clouds drew nearer. Presently when the sky was completely overcast and lightning was flashing in every direction and the thunder was pealing through the sky, a flash of lightning hit that tree on which that peckerwood sat, and split the tree from the top to the bottom, and that peckerwood thinks to this day that he was the fellow that did the job.

Beloved, you would be just as vain if it weren't for the Word of God. The only reason in this world that you know you are a sinner is because of what you read here in the Word of God. Otherwise, you would be puffed up and swelled up with vanity, and you would think yourself something if it weren't for the fact that God said that we are less than nothing in his sight.

Beloved, I say the truth is valuable because it tells us not only about God, and about man, but it tells us also about salvation. You wouldn't know how to be saved if it weren't for this Bible. That is why it is that some of you do not know how to be saved because you have been running around to all these false churches and have heard everything but the Bible. If you had been going to God's (Continued on page three)



I have esteemed
the words of His
mouth more than
my necessary
food. Job 23:12



"The Truth"

(Continued from page two)

house to hear God's Word, you would know how to be saved. This Bible makes it clear.

A fellow said to me the other day, "I sure like to hear you preach, Brother Gilpin. I like the old time way." I said, "Now, brother, what do you mean by the old time way?" He said, "I like to get down to the altar and pray through." I said, "Brother, you talk about the old time way, and the way you are talking about is less than 150 years old. What you need to hear is the truth of God's Word."

III

I wish you would notice with me **WHAT THE TRUTH CAN DO FOR YOU**. Lost man, what can this truth—this Bible—do for you today? Listen:

"And ye shall know the truth, and the TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John 8:32.

The Bible doesn't say that joining the church is going to free you from your sins. It doesn't say that baptism will wash them away. It doesn't say that you can pray them away. It doesn't say that by doing good works you can work them away. Beloved, the Bible says, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Listen again, sinner friend, what the Bible can do for you:

"Of his own will BEGAT HE US with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures."—James 1:18.

How are men begotten, beloved? It is by the word of truth—the Word of God, which God uses to bring men and women to see Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Listen again:

"Being BORN AGAIN, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."—I Peter 1:23.

Don't you see what the Word of Truth can do for you this morning? It can give you a new life in Jesus Christ. It can take you as the agent which God uses and bring salvation into your life and make salvation a reality as far as your life is concerned, in that it presents Jesus as Saviour.

My brother, do you know what will be the result if you don't believe the truth? We have the answer right here in God's Book. Listen:

"That they all might BE DAMNED WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."—II Thess. 2:12.

When you reject the truth of God's Word, it says that you will be damned. That is what will happen to every individual that rejects the truth of the Word of God.

IV

Let me show you how **THAT MEN OPPOSE THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD**.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."—Rom. 1:18.

Beloved, that is the most solemn verse in God's Word. I don't know a text in the Bible that ever made as solemn an impression on my life as this Scripture.

The King James Version says that men hold the truth in unrighteousness but the Greek says "hold DOWN the truth by unrighteous living." I ask, beloved, for you to notice with me how men oppose the truth and hold it down with unrighteous living.

Here is a man whose wife dies and after the funeral services he feels terribly convicted of his sins. He knows that he ought to be saved. He realizes that there is only one way of salvation—that he should turn to Jesus Christ, but he doesn't do it and he turns back to his sins. What

is he doing? He is holding down the truth with unrighteous living.

Have you lost a child and you felt at the time of the death of that baby that you ought to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour? You came back home after the funeral service was over and you looked at those little clothes, the crib, the shoes, all those little baby things, and you felt you ought to settle the matter with God. Instead, you went on in sin and held down the truth with unrighteous living.

Have you had a narrow escape when you were almost killed? You felt surely that you ought to turn the Lord. A man said to me sometime ago, "I got my foot caught in the track and it seemed to me like the train was going to cut my leg off before I could get my foot out." He went on to say, "You probably won't believe it but I felt a hand on my back pulling me out of the way and when I got free, though my foot was mashed and injured, the foot was saved—when I got free I looked to see who it was that pulled me back out of the way of that train, but I didn't see anyone there. I know God pulled me out of the way of that train." Yet, beloved, he went right on and on and on holding down the truth by unrighteous living.

Maybe you started out one day to one of your haunts of sin. Maybe you started out with one purpose in mind—that of sin, and at the door of that den of vice you heard God's voice saying, "Wait a minute; you had better stop," yet you went right on. What did you do? You held down the truth with unrighteous living.

Many times you have heard the Word of God. There probably isn't a man or woman in this house that doesn't know how to be saved. You know that you have to pay for those sins in Hell or else trust Jesus Christ to pay for them on the Cross. You came here this morning and you feel like you ought to be saved, that right now you ought to settle the matter with Jesus Christ, but you go out without trusting Jesus as your Saviour. Maybe you will be in a picture show tonight or maybe you will be in a beer garden. What are you doing? You are holding down the truth by unrighteous living.

Out here in town it is twelve o'clock midnight. Down on the river bank I walk along and I hear somebody out in a boat. I hear a woman scream and cry, and I see a man lean over the boat and push her down the second time. She comes up and screams again and he pushes her down again. Very soon I don't hear any cry. The voice is still and there is no more screaming. Finally the voice is mute.

Let me tell you something, sinner friend, if God has spoken to your soul through His Word, don't hold down the truth by unrighteous living on your part. I realize that all of God's elect will be saved. Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me," (John 6:37). Not one of them shall perish. It is true that the non-elect do hold down the truth with unrighteous living to their own damnation. Some of these days, sinner friend, that Voice may be stilled. Some of these days that Voice may never speak again. You have held down the truth by unrighteous living.

Beloved, ere you leave this house of God, hear the injunction of Solomon as he said, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." It doesn't make any difference what others may preach or what other may say or what you have

"If the son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John-3:36

been taught by your parents, friends, or anyone else. The important thing is that you get the truth of God's Word—get it and hold on to it and don't forsake it.

Sin Unto Death

(Continued from page one)

wine in an orderly manner, and so as to please God. (v. 28).

3. They continued to eat "unworthily" and this to bring judgment upon themselves—not discerning the Lord's body. (v. 29).

4. Because of this—many were "sickly" among them. That is, the Lord sent sickness and ill health.

5. Because of this—some "slept." (v. 30). That means that they had died under the chastening hand of God. That had nothing to do with their eternal salvation, but with their physical death, which is called "sleep"—the term used to express the passing away of a Christian in the New Testament.

6. If they had judged themselves—and had turned from their course—they would have avoided this chastisement. (v. 31). But since they did not, they were chastened of the Lord, that they might not "be condemned" with the unsaved world. (v. 32).

Perhaps another case of "sin unto death" is that of Ananias and Sapphira. These are generally supposed to have been unsaved people—but how can that be proven? The more likely thing is that they were two saved people whom the Lord struck down for their lying, and as an example as to how He regards wrong dealing in the matter of money.

ANOTHER CASE: Moses is another example of a man who sinned unto death, for he did not die because of physical infirmity, but because God told him that for his disobedience he would not be let go over into the Promised Land. Certainly he was a saved man, for he later appears on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Deut. 32:48-52). Achan was a member of Israel, yet he sinned unto death. (Josh. 7:16-26).

Let all saved persons take warning and confess and repent.

Park Hill Baptist School

(Continued from page one)

any time and go through the entire Bible in three years.

Greek and Hebrew are not taught, however, we feel that a thorough course in the English Bible will provide the student with a working knowledge of the Bible.

At present there are a total of eleven regular students enrolled in the school, however, there are several others taking two or three subjects a week.

The amount of time spent in classes each week is 19 hours with classes beginning at 7:30 A. M. on Tuesday morning and running until 12:00 noon Friday. The total amount of weeks per school year are 32.

The teachers are Mr. William L. Wayne, educational director, Park Hill Baptist Church, and former teacher in the Orthodox Baptist Institute, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Elder Harvey Bynum, Graduate of the Orthodox Baptist Institute, Ardmore, Okla.; Mr. Gordon Sullivan, a teacher in the Pueblo public schools, and Elder Grady L. Higgs, former student of the Orthodox Baptist Institute, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

The slogan of the institute is "To learn to not think above that which is written."

May I say again that I am happy to have your consideration of the school to the extent that you wish to publish something about it.

Yours, in Him,
GRADY L. HIGGS.

Help Your Pastor

(Continued from page one)

the generosity will not only make his way smoother, it will challenge him to show his appreciation by working even harder.

5. LISTEN TO HIM WITH AN OPEN MIND.

6. PRAISE HIM WHEN HE PREACHES WELL.

He doesn't want flattery but sincere praise is always appreciated.

7. CRITICIZE HIM ONLY TO HIS FACE AND THEN ALWAYS IN LOVE.

Xmas

(Continued from page two)
at Cana in Galilee. . . . In the fourth century the birth of Christ was also connected with it by some writers. Many special observances are to have been connected with the day which under the name of "Twelfth Day," "Twelfth Night" was a time of special merry making in England and closed the Christmas festivities."

By now I am sure my reader can see that Christmas originated among the unbelievers. For many generations it has been highly esteemed among worldly revelers, who have no taste for the Truth as it is in God's Word. Yet faithful believers have shunned Christmas festivities and denounced it as heathen idolatry through the same generations. For the true Christian will have nothing to do with that which is abominable to his own dear Lord. Remember the words of Jeremiah, "Learn not the way of the heathen for the customs of the people are in vain" (Jer. 10:2-4). A man after God's own heart, King David once said, "Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing?" (Ps. 2:1). Dear Christian if you want to be true to your Saviour obey the words of the Spirit in (Eph. 5:11), "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them."

Let me here give you some of my own thoughts on some points concerning Christmas as the Lord has taught me. O, that His Spirit may open your eyes to see the truth about Christmas as I have.

1. The name Christmas: The very name of Christmas is abomination to the Lord God. The reason for this is that the word "Christmas" is an unholy combination of the two words "Christ" and "Mass." Christ died once for our sins (Heb. 9:26). But in the Roman Catholic Mass Satan has introduced to the untaught ignorant soul the idea that Christ is sacrificed over and over countless times at the will of a sinful priest. Yes, the priest even claims that the Mass adds to and improves upon Christ's sacrifice on Calvary!

"Christ" is the divine title of our Wonderful Lord. 'Mas' is from shortening the Roman Catholic word "Mass." Christ is the head of the true Church. The Roman Catholic Church is the false Church. This false Church is spoken of in the Word of God, as the "Mother of Harlots" (Rev. 17:5). Nothing in the natural realm will stir one to anger quicker than for someone else to link his wife's or his mother's name with the name of a harlot. Then, Christian, how can you blend the Holy Name of Christ our Saviour with the "Mass" of the harlot Church?

2. Remembering Christ's birth: Never are we told anywhere in God's Bible to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians are commanded to remember the death of Christ, both by the Lord Jesus Himself (Luke 22:18, 19) and the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 11:23, 26). Surely, the heart must be far from right with God that can enjoy itself in doing exactly the opposite of what He commands in His Blessed Word. Nevertheless, many who profess faith in Christ join in carnal, fleshly revelry celebrating a heathen holiday called Christ-mass. And this celebrating is done in fel-

lowship with those, young and old, rich and poor of the ungodly who spend great sums for corruptible gifts, who desecrate the Lord's Day, who idolize an evergreen tree and who lie to their children about Santa Claus coming down chimneys with presents. Is there any true Christian who believes that a celebration that is not only based on pagan tradition, but is also used to practice lying to little children, is of God?

I have noticed that those who make most of celebrating Christmas are those who make least of the death and resurrection of Christ, and the day He has told us to remember Him on—the Lord's Day. People who desecrate that Day by secular work, open business houses, ungodly amusements or worldly sport will forfeit all of these for the sake of attending a Christmas program in a Church or School. Then back they go to dishonoring God in polluting the Lord's Day until next Christmas. Christian, can you take part in their sins? Can you betray Christ by joining hands with those who hate Him at heart yet falsely pretend to honor His birth? "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15. Reader, if you love the Lord Jesus have nothing to do with the revelry of the unbelievers which originated in the false Church. "Come out from her my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

3. Date of Christ's birth: There is not a single Scripture to prove that December 25 is the birthday of Christ. Not one Scripture in the Bible mentions Christmas. No one knows the date of Christ's birth. No one has any authority except from pagans to connect His birth with December 25. God in His infinite wisdom has chosen to hide the time of His Son's birth into this world of sin. The Bible is the Spirit-inspired word of this same Holy God. His dear Son is the central figure in it from Genesis to Revelation. God has revealed to us in His Word many wonderful things about Christ. But one thing he has hidden from man, it is the date of Jesus' birth.

In Bible accounts where celebrating and gift-giving was done at someone's birthday party, sin and evil prevailed and murder followed close after. In Genesis on Pharaoh's birthday the chief baker was hanged and beheaded. During Herod's birthday party John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching against sin. In Rev. 11:10 we read how wicked people celebrated the slaying of God's two faithful witnesses by making merry and sending gifts to one another. Paul said to some carnal Christians once, "Ye observe days and months and years. I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10, 11).

4. Giving of gifts: I believe that gifts can be great blessings. However a gift is of no value unless it is given in love. But those who give gifts in order to receive gifts do not give in love. They only give in covetousness in the hope of receiving. Those who only give during the time of a heathen celebration are most certainly displeasing to God. How much more then are they mocking God and making themselves abominable to Him, who send gifts to one another at such a time in pretense of honoring the birth of His Son?

The godly wise men from the East gave their gifts to the Child Jesus Himself—not to one another. They gave to Him from hearts moved by the Holy

Spirit. Their gifts were a part of their worship of their Messiah. Their gifts were not common things but presents of great value showing their hearts true love for their Lord. They did not bring Christ presents that they might receive gifts from Him in return. O, how far removed from those first gifts to the Child Jesus is the modern, cheap knick-knack giving of the fickle throng of Christmas revelers who give only in order to receive again.

5. The World and Christmas: One fact alone proves to me that Christmas is not of God. It is this: The world which hates Christ and His Blood Atonement for sin all join together, in one accord to feast and celebrate at that time. If in reality December 25 was a date, set by God, to remember the birth of Jesus, the world would have nothing to do with it. Witness how the world does not regard the Lord's Day which is of God. But the world DOES regard and love Christmas, therefore it is not of God. "For the natural man receiveth not the things of God." Then how can a spiritual person or Church follow the wicked world in its abominable mockery and revelry and sin in Christmas festivities?

Everyone knows that Christmas time is a time of social and fleshly enjoyment, and not a time of spiritual gratitude. It is a time when the ungodly of every rank in life get together to enjoy themselves. Those who despise and hate the Blood of Christ go far to revel in a false custom about His birth. Those who hate the gospel of free forgiveness through Christ imagine they are honoring His first advent. Proud sinners, selfrighteous sinners, immoral sinners, and virtuous sinners, refined sinners, and polluted sinners, with one accord, celebrate in ignorance, thinking they do honor to a Saviour they neither love or know or want to know.

Christmas time is also a time of gluttony and drunkenness. It is the only time of year some get drunk. And many who would not think of getting drunk commit the abominable sin of gluttony at Christmas festivities. Any honest observer will readily admit that Christmas is a time of flesh gratifying in many other ways also. "That which is born of flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). It is not possible here to name all the fleshly sins that spiritually blind and wicked people indulge in during Christmas parties. Yet the Lord Jesus Himself is forgotten. He is not worshipped in truth. His Blessed Name is only used in cursing and blasphemy. Christian, crucify your fleshly love for Christmas, bury forever your heathen customs and in true repentance for your sins of ignorance, begin a new walk with Christ separate from the world's sins.

6. Christmas programs and literature: Please read Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2, then chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel. Any thoughtful reader can see at once that Christmas songs, books, cards, programs are wrong. For in most of these we find in one way or another presented to us a definite idea of three wise men from the East visiting the Babe Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem on the day of His birth.

In the first place God's Own Word does not tell us how many wise men there were. It does not say they followed a star to Jerusalem. Most certainly they knew the way there. Being wise men they knew the prophets had foretold Jesus Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. When they came to Herod to

learn where the Messiah was, it was sometime after His birth. No one in Jerusalem seemed to know where the child was. Then the same star they had seen before came and went before them to show them where the Christ was. And when the wise men found the Lord Jesus, He was no longer a babe, but a child living in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had already returned from taking Him up to Jerusalem, which took place when Jesus was 41 days old (Lev. 12). So the wise men never saw the Saviour until He had been brought back to Nazareth (Luke 2:39) from the temple in Jerusalem. They could not have seen the Christ Child before, because immediately after their departure Joseph and Mary fled into Egypt with Him and remained there till Herod was dead. (Matt. 2:14, 15).

It was not the wise men but the shepherds who came to visit the babe Jesus in His manger cradle at Bethlehem. The shepherds followed no star either. They were informed of the birth of Christ by the Angel of the Lord (Luke 2:10). Yet the world is full of literature, cards, books, programs which confuse the facts written in God's Word about the birth of Jesus. Shepherds and wise men, angels and stars, stable and manger, inn and house are misrepresented. The visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men are confused. And so instead of bringing honor to Christ, Christmas cards, literature, books and programs all tell the same untruthful story.

7. God's Judgment: One more point about Christmas we dare not overlook. The source of almost all Christmas equipment condemns the tradition. Until World War 2 nearly all Christmas goods were stamped "Made in Germany" or "Made in Japan." Thus the very goods used by England and United States to pollute the worship of God and make whole nations to sin came from the countries God used in bringing His judgment upon us in war. How did such poor nations finance so great a war? By selling us the fruit of their cheap labor, among which Christmas goods played a major role. Billions of dollars have been sent to Germany and Japan for Christmas goods. And this nation in time will reap what it has sown. No country in all history has continued to turn away from God to idols and prosper. Then what of the U. S. A. which is now rated a heathen nation and is being fast filled with the ways of the heathen? Yes—be sure of this, Reader—since Christmas is so highly esteemed among men it is abominable in God's sight. And be sure of this, too—terrible judgment awaits a people who with one accord mock the Almighty with heathen customs and idolatry and who swallow sin as a sweet morsel.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2).

But perhaps some well meaning Christian will say, "We only keep Christmas to give the children a good time."

Let me give you some questions to consider.

Why mingle your children's pleasure with a false tradition which is only a pagan custom?

Why combine the birth of our adorable Saviour, with a heathen idol, a Christmas tree?

Can we expect our children to believe our testimony about Christ being an all sufficient Saviour if they watch us indulge in a heathen celebration?

Do you expect your child to

believe you when you lie to him about Santa Claus, etc.?

Can you expect them to be truthful when they find out you have lied to them for years about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, etc.?

Can you teach your children to honor the Lord and the Lord's day and then help them engage in a heathen celebration which God hates?

Listen to the Spirit of God: "Train up a young child in the way he should go; when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6).

It may be you have saved up money for Christmas gifts and cards and decorations, etc. Be sure this is not pleasing to God, fellow Christian. Let me suggest what to do if you see your mistake of taking part in Christmas festivities by now, which I hope you have. Do not spend what God has given you on carnal gifts. Do not help the "good cause" of the heathen Christmas entertainment. Do not buy an expensive Christmas tree. Do not buy ornaments and decorations like the wicked Christ-hating world. Instead take what God has given you and send it as a gift to the Lord to some needy missionary in a dark and foreign land. Think of the thousands of souls that have never heard the Gospel for lack of the support of real Christian missionaries. Can you use what the good Lord has given you, to celebrate like the heathen instead of giving that the heathen might hear and be saved?

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

I do not want to discourage one honest soul. But I have witnessed this heathen festival of sin creeping in to spoil the Church of God. I have found most who know Christ as Saviour and Lord totally ignorant as to the truth about Christmas. I have heard scarcely a voice raised in holy protest for the honor of Christ. So I have told you the truth as God has shown me. May He open your hearts and make it a word in season to you. It is my hope and prayer that Christians who have erred so exceedingly will repent and turn again from this sin of ignorant idolatry, to the true God of all grace. It is my desire to see not only souls saved but the children of God walking in the light. The Apostle John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

Christians are commanded to be holy (1 Pet. 1:15, 16). They are to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). They are to be obedient, not following former lusts (1 Pet. 1:14). They are told to walk in the Spirit.

They are told to stand fast in Christ (Gal. 5:1). They are commanded to grieve not God's Spirit (Eph. 4:30). The Apostle John said we believers ought to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6). Christ Himself said we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is (Matt. 5:48). He told us we should set our affections on things above, where He is. In Him we are new creations, children of the Most High God. By His grace we have come through faith to Mount Zion, to the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem to an innumerable company of angels. By God's grace we have been brought from terrible darkness to the light of Heaven. We have been saved from Eternal Death by the Blood of His Own Son. We have been bought with a Price most precious, we are not our own any more. Reader, do you see why John said, "Little children keep yourselves from idols"?