

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBICAL

BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

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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."—Isiah 8:20

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Who Will Get To Heaven?

Bro. Richard S. Beal of Tucson, Ariz., in one of his recent sermons on "Heaven" said:

"A parishioner once asked an aged Puritan preacher: Who will get to heaven? to which the minister replied: Everyone will get to heaven who can live there.

This is a good answer: "Heaven is the dwelling place of the Holy One; there is His throne and there He is worshipped and adored by heavenly hosts. It is a prepared place for a prepared people. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing

that defileth." . . . (Rev. 21:27).

"Heaven is no place for those who live and die in their sins. They would defile it, for sin is a defiling thing. And even if they were allowed to enter, they could not live there. There would be nothing to interest them in heaven where God is, and where Christ dwelleth with multiplied millions of His redeemed ones.

"Sinners have nothing in common with such people on earth. What could they have in common with them in heaven? The unregenerate have no nature for the things of glory."

As The Evolutionist Sees It

Once I was a tadpole, a-beginning to be;
Then I was a toad frog with movements so free;
Then I was a monkey on a bamboo tree;
But now I'm a teacher with a Ph. D.

It is easier to use Bible language than to obey Bible commands.

Made A Citizen Of The United States On His Death Bed

Nicholas Pastoret, 79, was a flag-maker in his native Luxembourg. While there, he made many American flags. When the way opened, he came to the United States. He became very fond of this country and longed to become a citizen of it. He secured his first papers; but before he received his final papers, he was dying of cancer. Unable to appear at Federal Court in St. Paul, Minn., Judge Dennis Donovan went to him and administered the oath which made the dying man a citizen of the U.S.A.

"I made many American flags, but this is the first time I can call it my own. God bless America," whispered Pastoret through his cancer-stricken throat.

Grand as it is to be made a citizen of the United States, it is a grander—in fact, the grandest—thing to become a citizen of heaven!

Although some have become citizens of heaven on their death beds, it is not wise to put the important matter off until

then. Many dying persons are deprived of the use of their faculties and are then unable to settle the matter.

Multitudes of people are ushered into eternity without ever lying upon deathbeds. Death does not always warn its victims of its approach. It is the part of wisdom to attend to this vital matter at once. It is not necessary to wait until a certain period of time has elapsed, as is the case when becoming an American citizen.

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." The Lord Jesus attended to the work necessary for heavenly citizenship when He died for our sins and rose again for our justification. Those who receive Him, by believing on His name, are given the right to call themselves children of God. (John 1:12) And they can say: "Our conversation (or citizenship) is in heaven." (Philippians 3:20); and until the Lord calls them to Himself, they have the privilege of living as citizens of heaven.

THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD --- HOW MANY BOOKS DOES IT CONTAIN?

The name "Apocrypha" is a Greek word meaning "hidden" or "concealed." It is evident that St. Jerome was among the first to apply this title to all the books not found in the Jewish Canon. He classified as apocryphal all the books which were in the Septuagint, or Greek translation of the Old Testament, which were not found in the Jewish Canon. The translators of the Septuagint did not find any of the deuterocanonical writings in the Hebrew Bible from which they had prepared their version.

The canonicity of the Old Testament took place in the days of Ezra, about 457 B. C. Only thirty-nine books were acknowledged by the orthodox Jews or the Christian church to be canonical, inspired and authoritative. There were some uninspired writings that were in circulation before the canon of the Old Testament was closed. Some of these were written in Hebrew while others, such as the addition to Esther, Wisdom, part of Baruch, the Songs of the Three Children,

and Second Maccabees never existed in the Hebrew at all. While these books were disseminated among the Jews, they never attained the same position of authority as the Inspired Word. When the canon of the Old Testament was finally closed, they were completely excluded. From this point the Apocrypha ceased to be copied in Hebrew; consequently, they have come down to us in the Greek, or in a translation made from the Greek. Thus the Hebrew Bible has never contained any of these spurious books—Tobias, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, First and Second Maccabees, with the addition to Esther and to Daniel.

THE REFORMATION AND THE APOCRYPHA

The Protestant Reformation marked a definite and memorable period in the history of the Bible Canon. Shortly before the Council of Trent, at which time the Apocrypha received its full canonization, God raised up men who translated the Bible into the vernacular, and who puts the deuterocanonical books in an intermediate position between the Old and

the New Testaments.

The Zurich Bible of 1529, Luther's Bible of 1535, and the Geneva Bible of 1560 placed the apocryphal books by themselves with headings such as the following:

"Here are the books which are numbered by the ancients among the biblical writings, and which are not found in the Hebrew Canon . . .

"It is true that they are not to be despised, inasmuch as they contain good and useful doctrine. At the same time, it is very right that what was given by the Holy Spirit should have preeminence above what came from men." (Cf. The titles given to the apocryphal books in the Zurich and Geneva Bibles.)

The reformers made repeated attempts to remove from the Scriptures the uninspired books. During the Synod of Dort,

Mused Uncle Mose

Ef'n dem Isrulites had a had all de experts to lead dem dat we has today, dey'd a been so fuh ahead o' de pillar o' cloud an' fiah dat dey'd a been jes' as much in de dark as we is.

which was held in 1618, there were men who were eager to have them eliminated completely from the Bible. All they were able to accomplish in this respect was to separate them from the authentic canonical writings. The new versions which appeared placed them by themselves as an appendage or supplementary matter.

On May 3, 1827, the British and Foreign Bible Society finally decided to completely exclude the Apocrypha from the Bible. The Edinburgh Committee of this society protested against translating them and sending them to the heathen. From this date on, the Protestants of America and Britain have not published them as a part of the Sacred Scriptures.

It is worthy of note that the English Revised Version published in 1885 received its special promotion from the Church of England, yet there is not one word translated from the Apocryphal writings, or any reference made to them. The American Revised Version likewise ignores them.

THE COUNCIL OF TRENT AND THE APOCRYPHA

During the Middle Ages there were many who fluctuated between the positions of Jerome and Augustine on the strict and the larger canon. But there is no doubt left in our minds as to the position which the early reformers took on this important matter. Because of their stand, the Catholic Church felt compelled to settle forever her position regarding that which the reformers designated as "pseudopigrapha."

In the year 1545, the great Council of Trent convened which lasted over a period of 18 years. This council was characterized by dogmatism rather than erudition. Ecclesiastical authority was not to be mentioned. The decrees issued by this august assembly of the 53 prelates were to decide the future state of the church. The historical effect upon the church by the decree which was made on the question of the apocryphal books, as well as other important points of doctrine, is quite obvious. It closed definitely the field of free research (Continued on page four)

COLUMBIA BAPTIST BIBLE SCHOOL

We, the undersigned students, wish to take this opportunity to recommend our school to any minister, teacher, or worker in the cause of Christ, who has a desire to learn more about God and His cause, and how to better impart the truth to others. We know of a number of schools of this nature, and we thank God for each of them; but we believe that Columbia Bible School is one of the best. We also believe that the faculty of the school is a group of sincere, God-fearing, and God-loving men, with a love for the cause in their hearts. We appreciate from the depths of our hearts, their love; and have the utmost confidence in their zeal, labor, and competent manner in which they teach each class. The faculty is composed of: Elder E. B. Jones, President, Elder E. R. Williams, Vice President, and (Continued on page four)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"LYING WORDS"

"Trust ye not in lying words."—Jer. 7:4.

When I was just a boy preacher, in the very beginning of my ministry, I remember reading an incident which was reported in the daily paper that was one of the most shocking stories I ever read. On a western prairie, riding across the plains on a train in the winter-time, a traveler, who had traveled that road many times, assured a woman on the train that he knew the country well and that he would see to it that she got off at the proper destination

—at the proper station. The train stopped at a certain town and this traveling man spoke to the woman and said, "The next stop is yours." Very soon, a few miles on, the train came to a stop and the woman with her little child some six or seven months old walked off the train into a blinding snow storm. The train started on and some five minutes later the train stopped again and this time at the destination where this lady was supposed to have gotten off. The man had put her off out on the prairie without a house in sight, with no place to go, in a blind-

ing snow storm. He had put her off at a water tank where the train had stopped to get water.

Now, beloved, he didn't do that purposely but the results were just the same. When that traveling man stood beside the bodies of that mother and child that froze to death on the prairies that night, and when he looked down upon their cold faces, he knew they were dead because he had given them the wrong directions. He knew that they were dead because he had spoken lying words to them. (Continued on page two)

ENTERS EVANGELISTIC FIELD

John L. Bray, pastor Raiford Baptist Church, Raiford, Florida, plans to resign his pastorate shortly and go back into revival work again. In 1946, after preaching and holding revival campaigns in fourteen states and Canada, he took the pastorate at Raiford in order to secure his college education at John B. Stetson University in Deland, Florida. During this time he has held a number of evangelistic campaigns in several states, but has been limited on account of his school activities. Pastors desiring to contact him concerning meetings may address him at his home address, 1044 La Rue Street, So. Jacksonville 7, Florida.

Bro. Bray is a good, safe, sound evangelist and any church will do well to make use of his services. I hope the brethren keep him busy in the Master's service.

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ments are made for their continuation.

"LYING WORDS"

(Continued from page one)

Beloved, it doesn't make a bit of difference how sincere a man may be. You had better be careful of lying words even though they may have been sincerely spoken. The best friend that you may have in this town may speak lying words to you. He may give such to you in sincerity. He may speak to you, thinking that he is doing you a favor and thinking he is telling you the truth, but if it is a lying word, the results will be just as damning.

Sometime ago in making calls one afternoon, I met with some half-dozen individuals who gave to me expressions that I jotted down after the afternoon was over, realizing that every expression that these individuals had made were nothing else, and nothing short of lying words.

I

The first of these individuals said to me, "I AM NOT A SINNER." If you would say this tonight, I would say that these are lying words. You are a sinner. A man said to me only this past week, "Everybody believes in Jesus Christ. Nobody sins against Him." Oh, my brother, how far from the truth! It may be that the majority of people believe that there is a God of some kind in the skies, but there are a mighty few people that believe that Jesus Christ, as God's Son, paid for our sins on the Cross. There are a mighty, mighty few people who believe that Jesus died for their sins, for mighty few will even admit they are sinners. Whenever a man says that he doesn't sin or whenever he says that he is not a sinner, mark it down, he is speaking lying words.

I know that it doesn't sound the best in the world for me to tell you that you are a sinner, but I tell you the truth when I speak this. You might prefer, beloved, that I speak of it as an infirmity, or a weakness. You might even prefer that I speak of it as an error, or you might even prefer that I give it a "Holy-Roller twist" and call it a mistake. The fact of the matter is, beloved, it is plain, unvarnished sin—and you are a sinner in God's sight.

Here is an individual who goes to a drug store and buys some deadly medicine—maybe hydrochloric acid, or maybe something even more deadly. He tears the skull and the cross-bones and the warning printed in red off it and pastes on it another label bearing the name perhaps of some mild laxative—maybe the "Essence of Peppermint". Beloved, he hasn't changed the contents of that bottle one particle, but he has made the contents of that bottle

Beware of a Christian with an open mouth and closed pocketbook.

Remember
THE WORDS OF THE
LORD JESUS
HOW HE SAID,
IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE
THAN TO RECEIVE.



a thousand times more deadly. Likewise, if I would not speak of it as sin, but rather if I would call it an error or a mistake or an infirmity of the flesh or a weakness of your body, I wouldn't change it one particle. I would just make it more deadly as far as you are concerned. Beloved, I say you are a sinner tonight and the man who says "I am not a sinner," is speaking lying words.

God tells us that every man born from the day of Adam down to this present time has been born with a sinful disposition. Listen:

"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are ALL UNDER SIN: As it is written, There is NONE RIGHTEOUS, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is NONE THAT DOETH GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."—Rom. 3:9-12.

"For ALL HAVE SINNED, and come short of the glory of God."—Rom. 3:23.

"But the Scripture hath concluded ALL UNDER SIN, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."—Gal. 3:22.

I say to you tonight, beloved, you are a sinner whether you admit it or not, whether you like it or not, whether you believe it or not, whether you want to accept it or not, whether you reject it or not, you are a sinner in the sight of God, in the light of His Word.

II

A second individual on that same afternoon said, "THERE IS NO HELL." He was, and is yet, an official of the railroad. As I came out of the office of the C. & O. yards I met him at the door. I asked him to come to the services that we

were then conducting and he sort of made light of it. Even though I have known him all these years that I have been pastor of this church, never once has he been within this building. He speaks to me courteously and kindly every time he sees me and has gone out of his way to be kind to me on numerous occasions, yet he has never come to the house of God. When I insisted that he come, he said, "Why? There is no Hell." Beloved, that is a lying word, and it would seem to me that any man of normal intelligence would know that, whether he ever read the Bible or not.

Suppose tonight that you were to start out here on the highway and you would come face to face with a sign that said, "There is danger ahead. You travel this road at your own risk. There has been a wash-out and a great abyss has opened up in the road, and if you travel this road, you will fall into it." If you were to see that kind of sign upon the highway, there isn't an intelligent person within this house that would take one step on that highway. It is true that you might travel ten miles before you reach the abyss. It is likewise true that you might find it the first step that you took. The sign just says that there is danger ahead and that you are doomed for destruction if you follow that road. I say, beloved, if you were a sensible man you wouldn't take one step on such a highway.

I stand here tonight and say that somewhere between here and eternity there is a great gulf fixed—there is a ditch—there is a midnight darkness—there is a Hell awaiting every soul within this house who is unsaved. I don't say that you will meet it tonight. I don't say that you will fall into it tomorrow, but I say that somewhere between here and eternity you are going to come face

to face with Hell. Brother, sister, if you were in your right mind spiritually tonight, you wouldn't dare step out of this house until you had trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour. The only reason that any man would leave this place tonight unsaved is because he is depraved and is poisoned throughout with sin. Beloved, the Bible is just such a highway that warns you of Hell and all the way along the highway are signs, one by one, that tell you there is a Hell to shun. Listen:

"The wicked shall be TURNED INTO HELL, and all the nations that forget God."—Psa. 9:17.

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."—Rev. 14:10,11.

Beloved, there is a Hell out there before you and the man who says there is no Hell is trusting in lying words.

III

The third individual that I met on that afternoon, said, "IF I AM NOT SAVED IN THIS LIFE, MY PEOPLE WILL PRAY FOR ME WHEN I AM DEAD. Beloved, it won't do one bit of good. You might just as well wake up to the fact now (Continued on page three)

CHRISTIANITY AND NON CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS COMPARED PROPHETS

CHRISTIANITY. A prophet was a person whom God chose and endued to be His representative and to announce His message to whomsoever He desired to send him. His message often contained warnings of divine judgment coupled with an unfolding of future events.

DO YOU HESITATE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY BECAUSE YOU FEAR YOU WILL NOT BE SURE OF YOUR SALARY? IF CHRIST HAD WAITED UNTIL MEN RAISED HIS SALARY, HE MIGHT NOT BE HERE YET. TRUST GOD.

BRAHMANISM. The ancient Vedic hymns frequently speak of the Kavis, or seers, who were believed to possess divine revelation and secret wisdom. They were enabled to secure this wisdom by drinking the delicious but intoxicating soma juice and were consulted by those wishing guidance.

HINDUISM. The Hindu mind is so trained in superstition that a priest has but to play upon that mental chord to gain any concession he desires. When once he gains the reputation of a seer, his fame and success are assured. Five classes of men have been deified:—noted kings, warriors, Brahmins, saints and sages.

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU CANNOT GO BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT HAD A COLLEGE AND SEMINARY TRAINING? THE DISCIPLES HAD NEITHER, YET THEY DID WELL. IT MAY BE YOU CAN ALSO.

BUDDHISM. Gautama was so occupied with exposing and denouncing the conduct of the Brahmins, and with teaching the solution of the difficult problem of how one should live, that prophecy did not seem to find a place in his thought.

YOU SAY, "MY BUSINESS KEEPS ME." IF YOUR BUSINESS IS NOT GOD'S BUSINESS, YOU SHOULD GIVE IT TO HIM OR GIVE IT UP.

TAOISM developed alchemists and philosophers who offered wisdom and length of life through drinking their elixir of immortality, but its system has become so debased that it cannot now produce men who aspire to anything above the conjurer's tricks. Its communications are largely with evil spirits.

CONFUCIUS did not claim prophetic ability. He said the future could be foretold only as it followed the past, i. e., his rule for future success was, to follow what had been a success with the fathers. He, however, claimed wisdom intuitively, saying: "The sage knows things from birth." Having therefore no revelation to use in urging on his teachings, he could appeal only to man's instincts.

IF GOD WANTS YOU TO GO AS A MISSIONARY, DO NOT THINK YOU CAN EXCUSE YOURSELF FROM GOING BY SAYING THAT YOU WILL STAY AT HOME AND STIR UP OTHERS. YOU CANNOT STIR OTHERS TO OBEDIENCE IN THE VERY THING IN WHICH YOU ARE DISOBEDIENT.

ZOROASTRIANISM: "Every thousandth year Ormuzd shall send a new prophet. He dared not send his great prophet because Ahriman was too strong. Nevertheless Zoroaster was born and Ormuzd then protected him and in his thirteenth year taught him his commandments. At the end, the great prophet Sosyosh will awaken the dead and hold the last judgment."

ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH A NUMBER OF SOCIETIES, THE EXPENSES OF WHICH DRAIN YOUR PURSE? STOP THEM FOR AWHILE AND TELL THE HEATHEN OF THE JOY THEY MAY HAVE IN THE SOCIETY OF CHRIST.

THE PARSEES believe that three great prophets will appear before the end of the world. They will perpetuate life, check the influence of the devil and restore truth and the Zoroastrian religion. One of these will bring the new Parsee Bible which has hitherto been unknown.

SHINTOISM began with simple nature worship without any particular acquaintance of deities, except deified heroes. The mikado was a direct lineal descendant of the sun-goddess. The people obeyed him as one possessing divine right, and the thought of prophecy was outside the realm of their narrow minds.

MOHAMMEDANISM. Mohammed is said to have taught that there were 144,000 prophets and 315 apostles. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed are the major prophets. There were 23 minor prophets among whom were Balaam, Ishmael and Alexander the Great. The iman is, for the Moslem, a supernatural revealer or saviour.

"LYING WORDS"

(Continued from page two)

that if you die without Jesus Christ, you are going to be without Jesus Christ throughout eternity. As I have said from this pulpit hundreds of times, there is just one way to keep out of Hell and that is Jesus, and there isn't one single way to get out of Hell when once you get there. If tonight, beloved, your idea is that regardless of how you live and even if you are never saved in this life that your people will pray for you when you die,—if that is your idea, then you are trusting in lying words. I hold no hope for any individual who dies without the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." —Luke 16:23-26.

Beloved, when a man goes to Hell, he goes there to stay.

It is rather interesting to notice that those individuals who think that even if they die unsaved that their loved ones on earth can pray for them and get them out of purgatory into Heaven—it is rather interesting to notice that they talk about praying to the saints. The only prayer in the Bible that was addressed to a saint was the prayer that I have just read to you, which was addressed to Abraham. There isn't another prayer in the Bible that was ever addressed to a saint. This is the only instance of any individual that ever called upon a saint in prayer and, beloved, every petition that was asked in prayer was denied by Abraham. I tell you tonight, beloved, the man who thinks that if he dies in sin that his loved ones will pray for him when he is dead, and thus relieve him from the

Not all the babies who come to church are out in the pews. Some are trying to fill pulpits.

flames of Hell, that man is trusting in lying words.

"If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, IN THE PLACE WHERE THE TREE FALLETH, THERE IT SHALL BE." —Eccl. 11:3.

Brother, sister, if you die saved, you will be saved throughout eternity. If you die lost, you will be lost throughout eternity. Which ever way the tree falls, there it is going to be, Which ever way you die, that is the way you are going to be throughout eternity. There are some of you here tonight who doubtless have in mind that the prayers of the righteous will help some when you are gone and that the prayers of your people will be sufficient to get you out of purgatory and into Heaven. Not at all! That would make purgatory a great and successful reform school where the incorrigibles of earth who would not be corrected in time would be corrected in eternity. That would make purgatory a place where that individuals who wouldn't believe in Jesus here would believe when they get to Hell. Not one word to it, beloved, but rather God's Word says "between us and you there is a great gulf fixed". No one can pass from one side to the other. I say it is lying words when any man depends upon the prayers of the saints to take him to Heaven when he has died in his sins.

IV

The fourth of those individuals said, "I FEEL PERFECTLY SECURE BECAUSE I HAVE ACCEPTED THE RELIGION OF MY CHOICE." Brother, sister, let me ask you, what right do you have to talk about your choice in the matter of spiritual things? God is the one to tell you, and it is your business to accept what God says.

Suppose you go down to the bank tomorrow to borrow some money. I would like to ask you one simple question, who is going to dictate the terms on which that money is going to be paid back? Who is going to dictate the terms whereby you are going to get that money? You say, "Why, the banker will, of course. Beloved, you are spiritually bankrupt tonight. Every unsaved man and woman in this house tonight stands spiritually bankrupt in the sight of God,

and if you want salvation, you will have to take it on God's terms and not on yours. The man who says that he has accepted the religion of his choice isn't talking the language of this Bible, for, my brother, if you ever get salvation, you will get it on God's terms and not on yours.

You say, "I have accepted the religion of my choice." Let's just see. Can religion save you? Is there hope for a man in religion. Join the church and be baptized and you will be just as big a sinner as you were before. That is what the majority of people are doing today. Between now and the so-called season of Easter, preachers by the score will attempt to get people lined up to join the church, and when they do so on Easter Sunday, it will be just so many ecclesiastical corpses that have been added to the church. Beloved, religion won't save any man. There is a world of difference between salvation and religion. Religion is what man does; salvation is what Jesus Christ has done for you. Listen:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE from their sins." —Matt. 1:21.

It doesn't say a word about you joining the church of your choice. It doesn't say a thing about you accepting the religion of your choice. It says that Jesus Christ shall save His people from their sins. If you ever become saved, and if your sins are ever remitted, and if you ever become a child of God, it won't be by religion. It will be by Jesus Christ who died for your sins.

Listen again:

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen THY SALVATION." —Luke 2:29, 30.

These were the words of old Simeon when he took the baby Jesus in his arms and blessed Him and said, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Beloved, what is salvation? It is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation isn't a creed, it isn't a religion, it isn't something you do, it isn't something you accept in your mind. Salvation is a person—the person of the Son of God Himself. Beloved, the man who receives Jesus Christ as a Saviour, that man is saved.

He has salvation. I feel sorry for you tonight if you say that you have accepted the religion of your choice because I know that you are trusting in lying words.

V

The fifth of these individuals made this statement: "I AM DOING THE BEST I CAN." Suppose you are, you are going to Hell. Just read with me from God's Book:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS FILTHY RAGS." —Isa. 64:6.

Are you doing the best you can tonight? God says the best is just like filthy rags. If the best you do outside of Jesus Christ is like a filthy rag, pray tell me what your sins look like in the sight of God. If your righteousnesses look like filthy rags, what do your lies and your adulteries and your evil thoughts look like in the sight of God? If you are depending upon what you are doing, I say that it is lying words that you are trusting tonight.

Listen again:

"NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." —Titus 3:5.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, I've been an awfully bad man. I've cursed and I've blasphemed and I've done a lot of things that I shouldn't have done, but a few months ago I quit my meanness and I am living better now and I feel like I am saved because I am doing so much better than I used to do." Don't let the devil deceive you, beloved. What grounds do you have to think that you are saved because you are doing so much better than you have ever done? Beloved, listen, any unsaved sinner can do better than what he is doing right now. That is no sign that you have salvation. Salvation isn't anything that you have done or that you do. Salvation is what Jesus Christ has done for you. He died to pay for your sins. Oh, listen to me, sinner friend, if you are depending upon what you have done, upon your works, upon your good deeds, upon your efforts, upon your human merit, I say tonight that you are lost and you are depending upon lying words for salvation.

SOME PARENTS SAY:

"We will not influence our children in making choices and decisions in matters of religion!"

Why not? The ads will! The press will! The radio will! The movies will! Their neighbors will! Their business will! The politicians will!

We use our influence over flowers, vegetables and cattle. Should we ignore our children? "No," says the Good Book. "Train up a child in the way he should go."

CONCLUSION

Briefly, let me ask you this, wouldn't it be better to discard the lying words and trust in the true Word? Wouldn't it be better to discard the lying phrases that you have heard upon which you are depending, and take God's Word for the basis of your salvation?

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." —Luke 19:10.

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

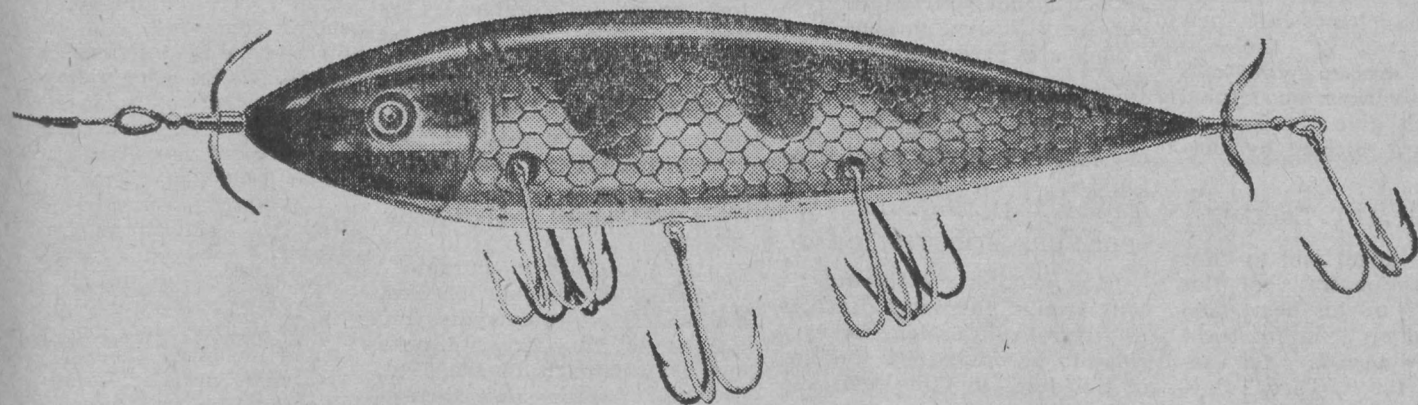
"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." —Rom. 6:23.

Some of you are depending upon lying words tonight. Maybe they have been given to you by mother or father or somebody that is sincerely interested in you. It doesn't make any difference how sincere the individual might have been, if they have been words of falsehood, they are therefore all the more dangerous as lying words, supposedly of salvation. Brother, sister, let's lay aside the lying words which God tells us not to trust in and let's trust in the Word of God which tells us about Jesus Christ—God's gift of salvation.

Beloved, if you want eternal life tonight you have to take it as a gift. You don't get it by working for it and you don't get it by anything that you do, but you get eternal life as a gift from Almighty God.

Last Friday morning a week ago I got a postcard when I went to the post office. On it were a few words: "Dear Gilpins: Since we had a piece that was too big for the three of us, we thought we would send it along to the Gilpins that they might make use of it," and it was signed by a family of friends by the name of Fish who live in Michigan, dear Christian friends that we have been hearing from, having correspondence with for years—friends in Christ. I didn't know what the "piece" was that was too big for their family of three, but I knew that there wasn't any piece of anything that would be too big for our "hotel." So I waited with eager expectancy until it arrived and when it got there on Sunday morning, special delivery, it was a long slab of Canadian bacon. Now, beloved, when I looked at that slab of Canadian bacon, I didn't write back and say, "Brother, (Continued on page four)

THE DEVIL HAS SOME MIGHTY TEMPTING BAIT TOO



— Watch out for the Hooks

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is

tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

—Jas. 1:12-16

"Lying Words"

(Continued from page three) will you please give me permission to eat it." I didn't write back and say, "Will you be kind enough to tell me that I can fry it." I didn't write back and say, "Brother, will you let me have permission to have one little bite of it." Instead, I just took it as a gift. I tell you, it was a mighty sweet gift.

Listen, beloved, Jesus Christ came down from Heaven and on Calvary's Cross paid for our sins, and God says to you, sinner friend, "Look up and see Jesus. My gift is eternal life and if you will trust Him as your Saviour, you can be saved now, you can be saved for time, you can be saved for eternity. Just take my Son as a gift." Beloved, Jesus Christ is a mighty sweet gift to any sinner who will receive Him. May God's spirit tonight enable you to receive Him as your Saviour and if He saves you, come down the aisle and say by your coming, "Brother Gilpin, I have taken Jesus as my Saviour and I want the world to know that I have received Him in my heart as the Saviour of my soul and the Lord of my life."

May God bless you!



Columbia School

(Continued from page one) Elder C. C. Winters, Dean.

After this article was prepared and signed unbeknown to the faculty, we later received their approval to print it. It is our hope that it will serve as an advertisement, and drawing card for the school; (and offset some false rumors which have been started).

We know that our school is small, but we are an humble, God-loving, and God-fearing people, seeking to know more of the truths of His word; and we long to see our school grow for the glory of God.

Signed.

Elders, Jack Rainwater, Clint C. Martin, Kenneth Tatum, Raymond Goodwin, James Kelly, H. G. Burch, James Hoover, Chester L. Young, B. T. Heard, David A. Hillier, R. P. Porteete.

Editors Note: I don't know a great deal about this school personally, but all I do know is very favorable to it. Dean Winters has ordered at least 20 copies of Simmons' "Systematic Study of Theology." That in itself is a good recommendation.



The Bible

(Continued from page one) and led to the canonization of tradition, putting it upon equal value with the Holy Scriptures.

It was on April 8, 1546, in the Fourth Session, which was one of the most important sessions of the Council, that a decree was passed declaring the books of the Apocrypha to be part of the Word of God and anathematizing all who would question the validity of that decree. The following extract, taken from the decree of the Council of Trent, will attest to the inexorable edict:

"Whosoever shall not receive, as sacred and canonical all those books and every part of them, as they are commonly read in the Catholic Church,

In Church you used to hear about "do's" and "don'ts," Now it's mostly "dues" and "doughnuts."

and are contained in the old Vulgate Latin edition, or shall knowingly and deliberately despise the aforesaid traditions; LET HIM BE ACCURSED."

While the Council of Trent officially settled the canon of the Latin enlarged text, it did not retard the onward progress of Protestantism and the spread of the inspired canon. The inspired Word of God is still marching and bringing true Christianity to hungry souls throughout the world. The One who has magnified His Word above all His Name has a jealous care for it. "For Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name." (Psalm 138:2b).

WHY BAPTISTS REJECT THE APOCRYPHA

The reason why the sixty-six accepted books of the Bible harmonize is that the same divine mind inspired each writer. If John had written something that did not agree with the writings of Moses, then we would be obliged to reject the gospel and epistles of John and the Revelation.

The first five books of the Bible are the criterion for all other works claiming inspiration. If the doctrines found in the books of Apocrypha do not in every instance agree with what Moses wrote, then they are to be discarded and should find no place in the canon of the Inspired Word.

This test when applied to the apocryphal books finds them teaching doctrines that are contrary to what Moses and the other prophets have written. This is the reason they were not placed among the other books of the Old Testament, when canonicity took place in the days of Ezra.

Neither Christ nor the apostles quoted from the books of the Apocrypha. St. Jerome rejected them from his Latin Bible because they were not written in the Hebrew language.

The Catholic Church at the Council of Trent placed the Apocrypha on an equal footing with the other inspired books of the Bible, and all who do not receive the Apocrypha as of equal authority with the Holy Scriptures are anathematized (cursed) by the church.

But why does the Catholic Church continue to hold on to these uninspired writings? It is because their false, fictitious teachings, such as prayers for the dead, false cures, virtue in a burning heart of a fish to drive devils away, alms deeds delivering from death and sin (salvation by works), etc., endorse the doctrines of their church.

The following are a few texts taken from various apocryphal books which give the reasons why they are rejected by non-Catholics:

MAGICAL ART TAUGHT

"Then the angel said to him: Take out the entrails of this fish, and lay up his heart, and his gall, and his liver for thee: for these are necessary for useful medicines. . . Then Tobias asked the angel, and said to him: I beseech thee, brother Azarias, tell me what remedies are these things good for, which thou hast bid me keep of the fish? And the angel, answering, said to him: "If thou put a little piece of its heart upon coals, the smoke thereof driveth away all kinds of devils, either from man or from woman, so that they come no more to them." (Tobias 6:5,7,8).

Such teaching is nowhere taught in the rest of the Holy

Scriptures. Whoever heard of the heart of a fish possessing such magical, supernatural power as to drive away "all kinds of devils?" It would be incredible to believe that God would have any of His angels give Tobias, or any other man, advice to practice such bewitching art.

Satan cannot be expelled by any conjurer's trick. It is only through the name of Jesus that the enemy can be put to flight.

Christ said it was in His name that Satan would be cast out. (Mark 16:17). If smoke from the burning heart of a fish could cast out devils, we would have no need for Christ.

Paul commanded the devil in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of a woman. She was delivered from the evil power. (Acts 16:18). All this does not harmonize with the writings of Tobias.

Peter, at the Temple Gate, evidently knew nothing about the miraculous power advocated by the apocryphal book called Tobias, when he commanded the lame beggar, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." (Acts 3:1-8,16).

GIVING OF ALMS CLEANSSES SIN

"Prayer is good with fasting and alms more than to lay up treasures of gold. For alms delivereth from death and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting." (Tobias 12:8,9).

If charitable offerings could purge our sins, then we would have no need for the blood of Christ. We are redeemed not with corruptible things as silver and gold—or alms—but with the precious blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18,19).

Here again we find a direct statement from the Apocrypha that strikes at the very heart of the atonement of Christ by injecting salvation by works. This is the doctrine of the Catholic Church—"works of satisfaction."

"Alms resisteth sins." Ecclesiasticus 3:33. It is not the keeping power of Christ that is here advocated, but works. This deuterocanonical book does not harmonize with Jude 24:25; 1 Peter 1:5; Psalm 119:11.

SINS PARDONED BY PRAYER

"He that loveth God, shall obtain pardon for his sins by prayer." (Ecclesiasticus 3:4).

Sins are not pardoned by prayer. If that were true we would not have any need of Jesus. All heathen people pray, but are their sins pardoned?

Sins are pardoned by Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on Calvary. (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9). The "Advocate" is the One alone who can pardon sin for "He is the propitiation of our sins." (1 John 2:1,2).

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

"And making a gathering, he sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection. (For if he had not hoped that they that were slain should rise again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain to pray for the dead). And because he considered that they who had fallen asleep with godliness, had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." (2 Maccabees 12:43-46).

These texts, the Catholic

Church claims, give her authority for the doctrine of purgatory. Prayers and masses for the dead are accepted and believed by every devout Catholic. The money that flows into the coffers of the church each year for masses for the departed souls is beyond anything that we can imagine. This teaching has been a source of great revenue to the Church.

But a "second chance" for salvation is not Scriptural. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27). Christ rebuked a disciple for wishing to attend his own father's funeral. "Follow me; let the dead bury their dead." (Matt. 8:22). Christ knew the vacancy in the heart of his follower on the death of his father and felt compassion toward him. But by so commanding, He stressed the fact that the living are to be evangelized, not the dead.

PURGATORY TAUGHT

"The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure was taken for misery: and their going away from us, for utter destruction: but they are in peace. And in the sight of men they suffered torments, their hope is full of immortality." (Wisdom 3:1-4).

The Catholic Church bases its belief for the doctrine of purgatory on these texts. "Though in the sight of men they suffered torments, their hope is full of immortality."

The "torments" which the "just" are in, the church says, refers to the fires of purgatory where their sins are burned out. Their "hope" full of "immortality" means that after having suffered sufficient time in the fires of purgatory they are permitted to pass into heaven. The following quotation states the teaching of the church:

"The defined teaching of the church is expressed in the words of the Council of Trent: 'That there is a purgatory and that the souls detained there are benefited by the prayers of the faithful and especially by the acceptable sacrifice of the altar.' . . .

"The souls who go to purgatory are saved. They are certain of heaven, and shall reach it as soon as they are prepared for it. Purgatory has been called the vestibule of heaven. . . In purgatory the souls can themselves wipe out their debt only by suffering. Yet purgatory speaks of forgiveness as well as penalty:—of penalty on the part of those who suffer there; of forgiveness on the part of God who is moved by the prayers and good works of the living to remit that penalty either whole or in part." Catholic Religion, Charles E. Martin, pp. 288-290.

"All the souls in purgatory have died in the love of God, and are certain to enter heaven. But as yet they are not pure and holy enough to see God, and God's mercy allots them a place and a time for cleansing and preparation."—A CATHOLIC DICTIONARY, William E. Addies and Thomas Arnold, p. 702, Art. "Purgatory."

Such teaching does away with the complete atonement of Christ. If sin can be burned out, then we have no need for our Saviour. . . the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7).

ANGEL TELLS A FALSEHOOD

"The angel said to him (Tobias): I will conduct him (son of Tobias) thither, and bring him back to thee. And Tobias said to him (the angel): I pray thee, tell me, of what family or what tribe art thou? And Raphael the angel answered. . . I am Azarias the son of the great Ananias. And Tobias answered: Thou art of a great family." (Tobias 5:15-19.)

Imagine an angel of God lying as to his identity! Should he do this, he would be guilty of violating the ninth commandment.

By contrasting the following statement with that recorded in the book of Tobias, we can readily understand why Christ never quoted from the apocryphal books.

"And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings." (Luke 1:19.)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

There was only One whom the Holy Word states was immaculately conceived and that One was our Saviour. (Luke 1:30-35.)

In the book of Wisdom, the following texts support the doctrine of freedom from original sin by receiving a "good soul" and "a body undefiled."

"And I was a witty child and had received a good soul. And whereas I was more good, I came to a body undefiled." (Wisdom 8:19,20.)

Here again is a doctrine that the other books of the Bible do not support. (See Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23.)

CRUELTY AND SELFISHNESS TAUGHT

"Give not to the ungodly; hold back thy bread, and give it not to him." (Ecclesiasticus 12:6.)

Can anyone picture the Lord inspiring any man to write such counsel for His people to follow? Here is what He did cause to be written:

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee." —Proverbs 25:21,22.

The great Apostle Paul, who suffered more at the hands of his enemies than any other prophet, quoted these texts from Proverbs when writing the book of Romans. (Romans 12:20.)

There is no doubt there were many of Christ's enemies among those He fed while here upon earth. (John 6:5.) In His Sermon on the Mount, which is the Christian's rule to follow, He definitely told us to love, bless and pray for our enemies. "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you. . . for great is your reward in Heaven." (Matthews 5:11, 12:44-48.)

Naturally, the question will arise, which teachings am I to follow—the Apocrypha or the sacred inspired books? The answer is found in Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

You are putting out a good paper—sound, dealing with the great truths of God's Word, and exposing error. We need a paper of this kind. I am always anxious to read it.

John F. Reams
Langnau, Ky.

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