

None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

1,000,000 HINDUS WASH AWAY THEIR SINS

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.

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Can Lost Sinners Pray?

ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners."—John 9:31

I am going to speak on a subject that a great many people need to get straightened out on—a subject on which there is much misunderstanding—a subject on which many people are moved by feeling rather than by what the Word of God says. My subject is, "Can A Lost Sinner Pray?" My text, just by itself ought to be enough to settle this question for any one who is willing to have it settled by the Bible, for it says "Now we know that God heareth not sinners." It is true that these words were spoken by the Pharisees, but it is likewise true that neither Jesus nor any one else questioned the truth of the statement. Can a lost sinner pray? You will notice that I say a "lost" sinner, and I mean by that a sinner who has never trusted Christ for salvation. I am not going to beat around the bush anything about it—I am going to answer forthwith and say NO! Now I realize that that is an unpopular answer. It is almost an unpardonable sin for a preacher to speak out and say that a sinner cannot pray, and every time he does it, he will get a kickback. These people do have an altar in their services, have that altar there on one assumption, namely that a sinner can pray. And there isn't anything that I ever speak against over the radio that brings so quick a kick back, as for me to say something against the "altar." Just as well to say something to a native of India against his sacred cow, as to say something against the sacred altar. Yet, in all of these years, no one has ever written me to show me where the Bible teaches such a thing as an altar, for a New Testament church. When people merely fuss and grumble because I preach against something, I don't pay any attention to that. I want them to give me some-

thing from the Bible to show that I am wrong — and these altar people can't do it.

Devil's Way of Salvation

Strange to say, there are a lot of people who don't think a sinner can be saved unless he prays. And the first thing a lot of preachers will do, if a lost person inquires of them the way of life is to say, "Get down and let us pray." I think of one noted minister—and he is a Baptist minister at that—whose instruction to sinners is this: "Get down and tell the Lord you are sorry and ask him to forgive you." That is no more the way of salvation as laid down here in the Bible, than to tell a sinner to jump himself into the Kingdom of God by his own boot straps. And in these "healing campaigns" the invariable technique is to send inquirers or penitents back into a prayer enclosure to "pray through." I want to say to you — and I don't care who practices it—that is just as false a way of salvation as the devil ever originated. Show me — anybody — where the New Testament ever tells anybody to pray through to salvation, and I'll change my attitude. It simply is not in the Bible. Now don't somebody come to me saying, "Yes, but I think." I don't care what you think. What I want is what God thinks on this subject, and he doesn't say one word about "praying through." That's just "gabble" that men have coined.

Now before I get further along with my subject, let me make several explanatory remarks:

1. Let me say that if there is anything that I wish to do—and try to do constantly—it is to MAKE THE WAY OF SALVATION PLAIN AND CLEAR.
(Continued on page three)

A BOOK REVIEW OF AN UNUSUALLY REMARKABLE BOOK

"Archaeology And Bible History"

This is a 400 page book, written by Joseph P. Free of Wheaton College, and published by Van Kampen Press, which retails at \$5.00, and which is worth every penny that is costs.

Taking up Biblical history from the earliest chapters of Genesis and following its course all the way through the Bible, Prof. Free seeks to show that archaeological materials fully confirm the events recorded in the Bible. He surely proves beyond any question of doubt that the spade makes valid many of the events of the Bible that have been held questionable in the past.

Here is a book which is true to the Scripture and was written by one who treads reverently on Holy Writ. He magnifies God, the Word, and the substitutionary death of Jesus at Calvary. Any Christian will be brought into deeper fellowship with his Saviour as a result of reading this splendid book.

Suffice to say, the editor differs with Prof. Free in some particulars:

(1). The editor believes in the "dictation theory" of verbal inspiration which Prof. Free rejects. (See page 3).

(2). The editor does not believe that any period of time
(Continued on page four)

Mused Uncle Mose

Some time a chu'ch git jes' lak a apple tree wid a lot o' rotten apples on it; it need a good shakin'.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"WHAT GRACE DID IN THE LIFE OF PAUL"

"But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

—I Cor. 15:10

The majority of you have at some time or other read "Pop-eye." I am sure that you have read that Popeye has said again and again, "I yam what I yam." Several years ago, Robert L. Ripley, in his "Believe it or Not" column, said that Popeye's famous statement was in the

Word of God, and when it was called to my attention that Ripley had made that statement, I began to search to see if it were true. It is true as a perversion of the Book, but it isn't what Paul said. Paul said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am."

Turn with me through the Word of God and let's read Paul's own testimony as to what grace did for him.

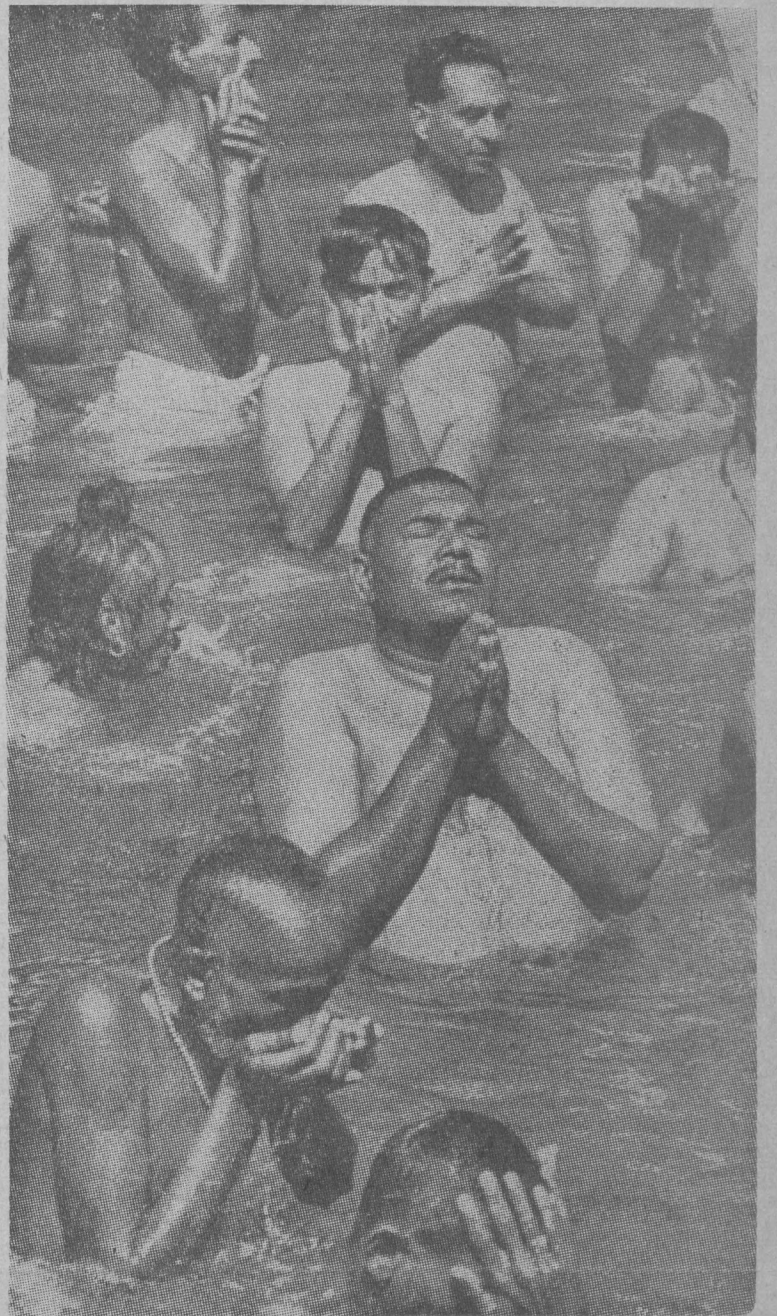
I

GRACE SAVED PAUL.

We are prone to think of the Apostle Paul as a great preach-

er, a great missionary, a great evangelist, and a great worker in the cause of Christ. Whenever we think of Paul we just naturally think of him as a great man that was used much and mightily of God, but, beloved, Paul, wasn't always a great man of God. There was a time when Paul thought he was doing God a favor if he killed Christians. There was a time in his life when he thought he was serving God by exterminating Baptist churches. There was a time when he thought he was really showing God how

(Continued on page two)



Outside northern India's holy city of Hardwar (the "Doorway to Heaven") on April 13 a vast procession of happily pious pilgrims trudged toward the River Ganges. They marched to throbbing drums, while the flat tenor wailing of reed flutes cut through the rumble of their voices. Their bare feet churned the plain's dust into great mushrooming clouds. The pilgrimage was moving to one of Hinduism's most sacred spots, the Brahma Kund (Brahma's Pool), for the climatic hours of the bathing festival called the Kumbh Mela—an event whose frequency is set by astrologers and normally is held for nine weeks every 12 years.

By astrological computation the 1950 festival's most auspicious

hours came between 12:40 p.m. on April 13 and 1:40 a.m. on April 14. Most of the one-million-odd Hindus who made the pilgrimage tried to be in Hardwar during this brief period. The most auspicious single moment came at 3:48 p.m. For three hours after that, Brahma's Pool was open only to Hindu holy men called sadhus (from the Sanskrit word meaning "pure"), who live as mendicant hermits but have the power to interpret scripture and bestow blessings. Some 15,000 representing seven different orders marched three miles to the pool. The most fanatic of them, some 2,000 members, were stark naked.

Remembering well that during the last Kumbh Mela in 1938 a cholera epidemic killed thousands of pilgrims and spread disastrously throughout India, the government this year inno-

(Continued on page four)

HYPOCRITES

Some professors of religion are like the man who was sitting on the street corner with a sign around his neck, with the letters "BLIND" on it, and with a tin cup in his hand. A passer-by was going to drop a quarter into the extended cup, but being a poorshot, the coin was going to miss the cup altogether, when, quick as a flash, the blind man shoved it under and caught the quarter. "Say, wait a minute," said the gentleman, "you aren't blind; how could you see that I was missing the cup?" "Well, no sir," said the beggar, "I'm not the real blind man. He is a friend of mine and got tired

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CATACLYSM

In the book review, "Archaeology and Bible History," in this issue, I differ with Prof. Free as to the supposed cataclysm, which he says probably occurred between Gen. 1:1 and Gen. 1:2.

There are six reasons why this is false:

1. Rom. 5:12 teaches there was no death on the earth until Adam sinned. If there were no death until Adam sinned, then there were no fossils, for you can have no fossils without death.

2. If there were a cataclysm, then there were two creations
(Continued on page four)

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"Grace In Paul's Life"

(Continued from page one)

much he loved Him by cutting off the heads of the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. I tell you, beloved, Paul wasn't always a great man of God. There was a time when he was a blasphemer and a persecutor of the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ and of His preachers, and it took the grace of God to change him. It was God's grace that made out of him a soul winner and a missionary and a man of God. Paul, speaking of his own experience, says:

"Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."—I Tim. 1:13,14.

Beloved, what did God's grace ever do for Paul? It saved him. If it hadn't been for God's grace he would have been a persecutor and a blasphemer and one that was injurious to the cause of Christ all of his life.

Now what is grace? Let's fall back on my own definition—a definition I like better than any that I have ever heard. Grace is "something for nothing." It is what God gives us and doesn't ask anything from us in exchange.

Grace saved Paul. One day he started on the road to Damascus from Jerusalem to persecute Christians. He had the letters of authority in his pocket whereby he had the permission of the governor to persecute any who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God says that as he rode along on a horse that there shone out a light from Heaven above the brightness of the noon day sun and that Paul fell to the ground and immediately raised up and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Beloved, when the Apostle Paul thus stood on his feet, he was a saved man. What had brought about the change? It was God. God's grace had become operative and effective within his life. The grace of God was positively operating within Paul's life that day.

What had Paul done that day to be saved? Nothing. What had he done to deserve salvation? Absolutely nothing. There was nothing good in his life whereby he should have been saved. God saved him that day and gave him grace and asked nothing in return.

Paul was saved by the grace of God. He wasn't saved by church membership. He wasn't saved by baptism. He wasn't saved by a good life. He wasn't saved by reformation. He wasn't saved by keeping the law. In fact, he counted all this but loss to him. It was the

CHRISTIANITY AND NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS COMPARED ASCETICISM

CHRISTIANITY acknowledges but one source of merit and that is in Christ. After a person has been born again, and made a new creature in Christ Jesus, there is the promise of a reward for his service, if faithfully done for the glory of God.

BRAHMANISM. The millions of Brahmans who live ascetic lives in India are influenced to do so largely from the standpoint of merit, although other motives are apparent and are more noticeable to the traveler. The practices in self-denial are frequently those calculated to appeal to the sympathy of their friends and admirers.

PRAYER IS A PROMOTER OF ACTIVITY FOR IT PUTS ONE AT THE DISPOSAL OF GOD

HINDUISM. It is considered a pious act in India to build a temple, to dig a tank for water, or to plant a tree by the roadside. Some take the "vow of silence" to minimize the number of sins committed; others measure their length on the ground, over and over, for miles to a temple, to gain the favor of some god and to prepare the way for the answer of the prayer they expect to offer.

BUDDHISM. One of the teachings of this religion is: "By oneself the evil is done, by oneself one suffers, by oneself evil is left undone, by oneself one is purified. Purity and impurity belong to oneself; no one can purify another." Asceticism and celibacy are essential to salvation. Great merit is obtained, simply by repeating the name of Buddha many times, and by charity.

IF THERE WAS MORE PRIVATE PRAYER, THERE WOULD BE SHORTER PRAYERS IN PUBLIC

TOAISM. Rich men hire servants to go about the city and gather up pieces of paper containing printing. These are burned before the god in the temple of literature and give great merit. Some keep merit account books in which they credit themselves with every good act, and charge each bad act against themselves. This kind of work atones for all manner of evil.

CONFUCIANISM has for its ideal virtue the simple doing of one's duty. Chinese beggars appeal for alms by saying: "Do a good action," or "Act virtuously, that you may obtain sons and grandsons." These views are, however, the result of the teaching of Buddhism rather than Confucianism.

GOD HONORS NO DRAFTS WHERE THERE ARE NO DEPOSITS

ZOROASTRIANISM says: "Merit for both good and bad deeds increase with time as does money put out at interest." Thus, a meritorious deed in youth is more effective than the same deed in old age. Destiny of all is decided by the weight of deeds, the slightest over-balance, either good or bad, determining the future abode.

PARSEEISM pictures the gods as bidding for gifts, while they promise to reward the givers with both temporal and spiritual things. Stress is laid on philanthropy, righteous living, and the observance of ceremonials inculcated by the Parsee religion. Between heaven and hell is the "bridge of the gatherer," over which the soul of the pious alone can pass, while the wicked fall into hell.

SOLDIERS OF THE LORD ARE DOING REAL FIGHTING WHEN THEY ARE ON THEIR KNEES

SHINTOISM having no moral system and no eschatology, no sin and no real salvation, naturally has no place for merit-making. Any practice of its followers along the line of penance and merit-making have come from Buddhism, the influence of which almost shook the skeleton of Shintoism to pieces.

MOHAMMEDANISM lays considerable stress on the merit of good works in spite of its denial of man's free agency and its strong claims of predestination. Five things are especially meritorious: Confessing the creed, prayer, fasting, legal alms, and pilgrimages. "Every good act done shall receive from ten to seven hundred rewards."

grace of God that saved Paul.

Listen to the Apostle Paul how he magnified the grace of God throughout all of his life.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."—Eph. 2:8,9.

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

—Rom. 3:24.

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."—Gal. 1:15.

Beloved, it was grace that saved Paul, and if you are ever saved, it will be by the same matchless, amazing grace of God whereby Paul was saved.

This last week a woman came to see me, whom I hadn't seen for years. In fact, she had passed out of my mind so com-

pletely that I don't remember ever having seen nor heard of her before. She told me that she was converted in a revival meeting that I held in Ashland some twenty years ago and that I baptized her in our church here at Russell. I asked her about what she had been doing and about her family and questions in general as to events of her life from the time that she was supposed to have been saved under my ministry down to the present. In the course of the conversation she told me that she had several children and that one of the boys showed unusual talent as an actor and that she was trying to secure financial backing to get her boy in Hollywood. She was sure that her boy would "go places" in the movie industry if she could just get financial backing to get her boy in Hol-

wood. She took something like an hour of my time making an appeal to me that I would try to help her boy. When she went out I told myself that she must have been one of my disciples, or one of my converts. I didn't think the Lord had anything to do with her. My personal opinion was that she was purely Gilpin's apostle," and she had never known anything about the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother, sister, listen to me this morning, you can join a church, you can be baptized, you can turn over a new leaf, but, beloved, that won't save you. It takes the grace of God that was manifested in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation. It was grace that saved Paul. It was grace that saved you and that saved me. Every person that ever gets to Heaven will get there saved by the grace of God.

II

GRACE KEPT PAUL.

Paul couldn't keep himself. He would have had as hard a time keeping himself as you and I have keeping ourselves. Paul had an awful temper. If you will read through the Word of God you will see evidences of Paul's temper. One day they had him up in court and the high priest said something to him that he didn't like and he "sassed" him and called him a whited sepulcher. He had temper enough that when he was rebuked by an ungodly high priest, Paul even forgot that the Word of God says, "Thy shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people," and in violation to the Word of God "sassed" the high priest.

I tell you, beloved, God's grace kept Paul. He couldn't have kept himself. He had the same kind of nature that you and I have. If the grace of God hadn't kept him, Paul would have gone to Hell; but, beloved, God's grace kept him. Listen:

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

—II Tim. 1:12.

When Paul wrote to Timothy he had been saved for 30 years. When he wrote his second letter to Timothy, it was a little while before he died. Beloved, the grace of God had kept him right down to the end of the day.

All the way through his ministry Paul contended for the security of the saved. Listen:

"Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

—I Cor. 1:8.

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."—Eph. 4:30.

Paul says that we are sealed unto the day of redemption. Our redemption means the time when this old body is changed at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus comes back again, if you are alive, He will change your body without you dying. If you are dead, he is going to catch up the remains of that body and transform it to look like the Son of God Himself. That is the day of redemption that Paul is speaking about.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, don't you believe that a man can be saved and then lost?" No, I don't, brother. I don't believe that anyone can be saved and then lost, that can be

saved, and then unsaved, that can be borned and then unbored, that can be made alive and die. I don't believe a man can become a child of God and then become a child of the Devil. Listen:

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."—I Thess. 5:23,24.

I tell you, beloved, Paul wasn't only saved by grace, but he was kept by grace.

In the Old Testament there is a Scripture that has been mighty precious to me. Listen:

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."—Psa. 27:25.

This was David's own experience. Beloved, God just doesn't forsake the righteous. We have numerous examples throughout the Bible. You remember how those Jews came up to the Red Sea when Pharaoh, with four hundred iron chariots, was pursuing them. There was an impassable barrier by way of the Red Sea in front of them, but the Word of God says that God opened the way and allowed those Jews to go dry-shod across the Red Sea and drowned those Egyptians as they tried to follow. God never forsook those people.

You remember those three Jews that were dropped into the fiery furnace. The Word of God says that the furnace was heated seven times hotter than it was ordinarily heated, but it was so hot when they threw the Jews into the furnace that the men who did the throwing were killed by the flames. When those Jews came out of that furnace unharmed, there wasn't even the smell of smoke upon their bodies. They hadn't been harmed one bit. Beloved, God never forsook his people.

I tell you this morning, I rejoice from the very depths of my heart that that is the kind of God we serve today—a God who never forsakes his own. I am glad that I can come to this text and hear Paul say, "But by the grace of God I am what I am." Paul was not only saved by grace, but it was the grace of God that kept him.

III

GRACE MADE PAUL INTO A SUCCESSFUL WORKER.

It was the grace of God that transformed Saul into Paul. It was the grace of God that made a worker out of the man who was a blasphemer and a persecutor of the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. If somebody makes a sacrifice for you, you are going to love that person. You can't accept a sacrifice from any individual without returning loving that individual. The Lord Jesus Christ became my sacrifice at Calvary. He became Paul's sacrifice. It was that grace that was manifested at Calvary that took Paul and transformed him into a successful worker for the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you will notice carefully beloved, Paul was a handicapped man. He had a lot of handicaps as far as his service for the Lord was concerned. Listen:

"But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge."

—II Cor. 11:6.

"For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

—II Cor. 10:10.

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"Grace In Paul's Life"

(Continued from page two)

Paul's letters were powerful but as far as his bodily presence was concerned, he was a physical weakling. Paul was a handicapped man, yet God made him a successful worker. In spite of every difficulty that he had, he kept right at the job and did a marvelous task in the service of the Lord.

"Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation."—Rom. 15:19, 20.

The grace of God that saved Paul, and the grace of God that kept Paul, made out of Paul a successful worker. If you are saved, it will make a worker out of you, too. The grace of God makes a worker out of any saved individual.

I remember several years ago when I was just a boy preacher, there was a preacher who certainly wasn't anything to look at from the standpoint of handsomeness and his clothes were nothing to brag about. His appearance is what we would say as positively "seedy," yet, as I listened to that man of God take his Bible and unfold the Word of God, I realized that there was a power back behind that individual that was different from the power that most men have.

Beloved, it isn't a good personality that makes a man a good worker. It isn't an attractive, pleasing disposition that makes a worker out of a man. It is the grace of God that makes a successful worker out of any individual.

I think one of the greatest men that I ever knew was our Brother H. Boyce Taylor. He meant very much in the determination of my life as a Baptist preacher. The last time that I saw Brother Taylor he had two patches on the seat of his trousers. He was three hundred miles from home and had made the trip to preach in a Bible Conference. Beloved, listen, when that man took the Word of God into his hands and stood before you to preach it, you knew that you were in the presence of a man who had something to do with the grace of God.

Beloved, it was the grace of God that saved Paul, it was the grace of God that kept Paul, and it was the grace of God that made out of him a worker for the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV

GRACE GAVE PAUL VICTORY OVER HIS DIFFICULTIES

Paul had difficulties just like any man today who stands up for the Word of God. Paul in his difficulties found that God's grace took care of him. He had a thorn in the flesh and the Word of God tells us that he went to God three times in prayer, asking God to take away that thorn. God's reply was:

"My grace is sufficient for thee."—II. Cor. 12:9.

I never realized until I began to study this last week just what difficulties Paul had. I had often read that Scripture in II Corinthians which tells about him being whipped with 199 stripes on five occasions. I have often read about how he was abused and stoned, but I found a new Scripture which brought

to my mind more of Paul's difficulties than anything that I had ever read before. Listen:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. Alexander the copper-smith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: whom be glory for ever and ever."—II Tim. 4:10-18.

Beloved, how Paul must have suffered! What he must have gone through when no man stood by him! I've known a little bit of it personally. You probably know what it is to have somebody turn his back upon you. Paul knew it in the fullest extent. What was it that helped Paul in all his difficulties? What was it that helped him in all his problems? It was the grace of God that gave Paul victory over all his difficulties and problems.

I don't care what difficulty you may have or what problem may come to you. God's grace not only saves you, keeps you, and makes a worker out of you, but that same grace of God will deliver you from any difficulty that you may have.

V

GRACE ENABLED PAUL TO FACE DEATH

Paul knew that the time of death was upon him, for he said:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."—II Tim. 4:6, 8.

Beloved, do you think that you can face death like that? Do you suppose that if you knew that you were going to die today, or tomorrow, or a few days from now,—do you suppose that you could face death like Paul did? Beloved, nothing but the grace of God can enable a man to look at death in this manner. Take a person who has just church membership, he would be scared to death when he comes down to die.

I went to see an old sinner who had been a church member for forty years. She was getting ready to be operated on and she was afraid that she was going to die, and she was scared to death. She said, "I have made pies and cakes for sales, and I have put on quilt shows, and I have worked for the church for forty years and I don't know whether I am saved yet or not." All she had was pies and cakes and quilts and work for the church for forty years to depend on. No wonder she didn't have any assurance. No wonder she didn't have any peace. No wonder she was scared to death.

Listen, beloved, a stranger to God isn't ready to die, but the man that knows the Lord Jesus Christ, death has no sting for him. He can look it squarely in the eye like Paul did and say, "My departure is at hand. It doesn't worry me. I can see beyond death. I can see that crown that the Lord has waiting for me."

Beloved, it was God's grace that saved Paul. It was God's grace that kept him. It was God's grace that made a successful worker out of him. It was God's grace that helped him with his difficulties, and it was God's grace that gave him victory as death approached.

I say to you this morning nothing but God's grace can give you victory over death. If you are depending upon your self you are lost. If you are depending upon the fact that you were baptized as a baby or as a grown person you are a stranger to the grace of God. Unless you realize that Jesus died for your sins and you are trusting Him as your Saviour today, you are a lost man or woman and you are foolish to kid yourself one minute longer. I wouldn't be your friend if I didn't tell you that you are a lost person without Jesus Christ. There is just one thing that will save you and that is the Lord Jesus Himself.

Recently I read in the daily paper what to me was one of the most tragic things that I have read in many a day. A young man down in Louisiana had been arrested and when the examination was made, it was found that this young man was wanted in four states to answer for criminal charges. The thing that made it pathetic was this: Just recently when that young man was serving a short time prison term, he was reading in a paper that doctors could cut off a part of the brain and remove a man's criminal intent. When he read about it, knowing that he had been in trouble time and time again, he decided he would submit to that cranial operation, with the hope and expectancy that he would live a normal life and that his criminal tendencies would be curbed. When he came out of the clinic after his operation, temptation presented itself and in a very few hours he found himself right back behind prison bars.

As I read this article this thought struck me unduly forcibly: Surgery failed to cure a criminal, but the blood bath of Calvary will cure any criminal. I tell you this morning, you can try surgery to get rid of your criminal tendencies and instincts; you can try anything that this world has to offer; you can try all the schemes and philosophies of men, but there is only one way that you can get rid of your criminal tendencies or that can get rid of your sins and that is like Paul did—by the grace of God.

I ask you this morning, do you know the grace of God? If not, will you believe upon Him and trust Him as your Saviour and leave this house of God saved by grace.

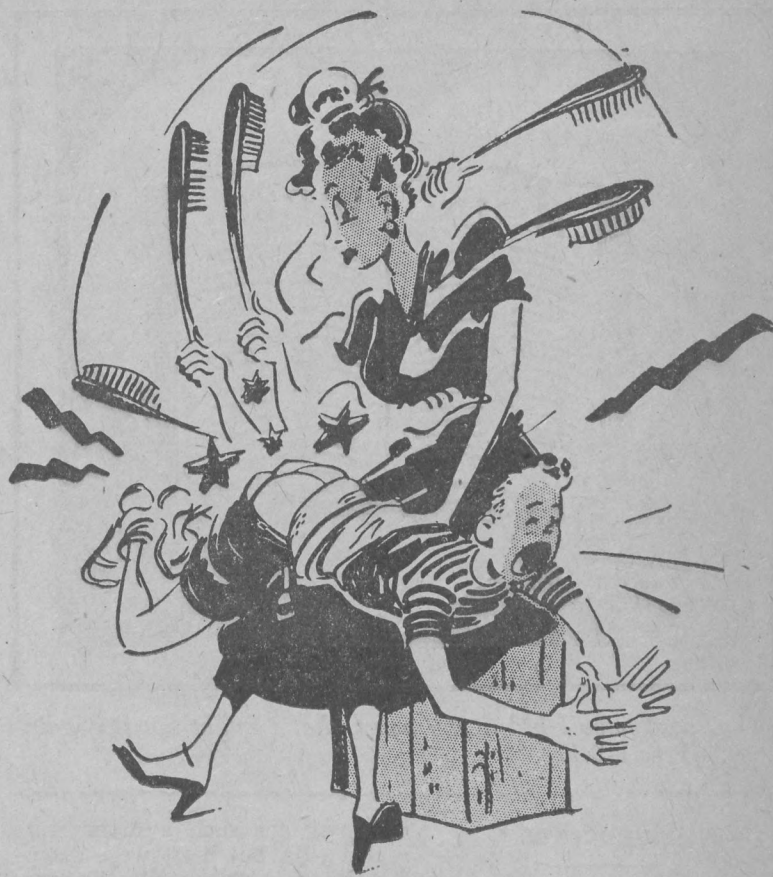
May God bless you!

Can A Sinner Pray?

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In order to do this, I have to clear away some false notions and ideas, for the devil seeks to substitute some counterfeits for the truth concerning this matter. The Bible makes clear beyond any reasonable controversy that salvation is by grace

A GOOD OLD FASHIONED TANNING



"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

—Heb. 12:11.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith. (Ephes. 2:8). That completely eliminates everything—and I mean everything except grace and faith. The act of baptism is a human act—it is something that we "do," therefore it is neither of grace nor faith, and it has nothing to do with salvation, for the Bible says, "not of works." Morality is likewise eliminated, for the Bible plainly tells us that that which is of works is not of grace. Joining something is eliminated, for that is something that we do. And prayer is also eliminated, for if you pray and get saved through your prayers, then salvation is not of grace, but of human effort. There is absolutely no escape from that, whatsoever.

2. Let me make clear that I do not mean that a sinner cannot SAY prayers. We read of the Pharisee who stood and "prayed thus with himself." Cornelius prayed and God took note that he prayed, just as God takes note when a sinner cusses. A sinner can go through the motion of praying, but what I mean is that God doesn't hear in the sense of answering his prayer.

3. Let me make clear that I don't mean that God doesn't hear the sinner pray in the sense that he hears the noise of a train. He hears in that sense of course. I mean that the sinner has no assurance of getting an answer to his prayer.

Exploiting Children

4. There is no scriptural example of any Christian ever telling or asking an unsaved sinner to pray. If someone wants to say that Peter told Simon Magus to pray, let me remind you that we are not sure that Simon was not saved, for the Bible says that he believed and was baptized. It is true that he wanted to exploit the power of the Holy Spirit, but I am persuaded that there are saved people in evangelism today that are exploiting the gospel for popularity or gain. What about the fellow who exploits a 5-year-old boy or a 7-year-old

girl—putting them up to preach the gospel? as has been done in Florida recently. The Lord Jesus himself didn't begin preaching until he was around 30 years of age. These little kids have Jesus beaten a mile! That's an exploiting of babies in the name of the Lord. Simon wanted to do some exploiting, and perhaps he was a Christian, just as these exploiters of babies probably are, and Peter rebuked him and told him that he had better ask the Lord to forgive the thought of his heart.

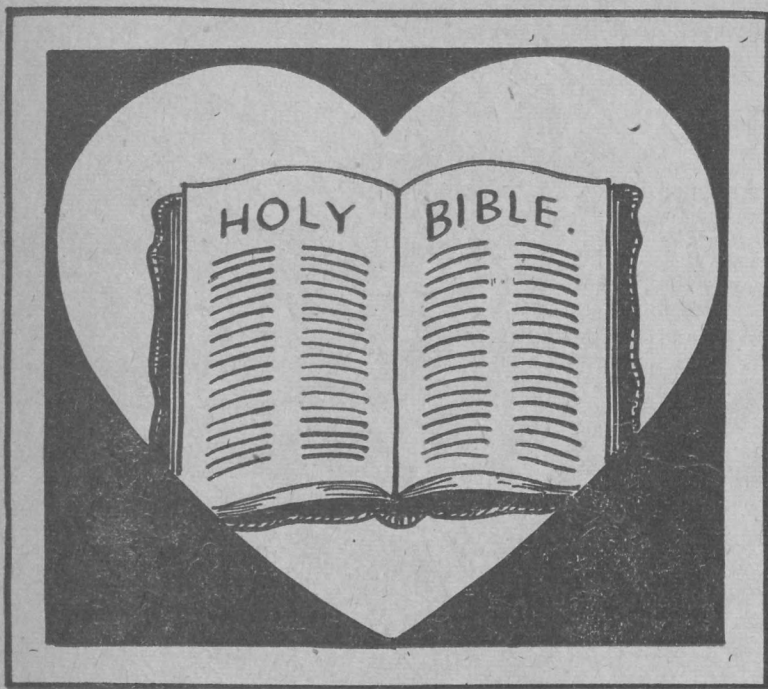
But now, somebody else has probably thought of that passage in Romans. (Rom. 10:13) "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Wait a minute! Go ahead and read the next verse. It says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" So that passage is no proof. I say we simply don't have any Christian of the New Testament times, ever telling an unsaved sinner to pray, and if God had purposed it that a person should pray for salvation wouldn't he have said so here in his Word?

Suppose He Can—Then What?

But, let us suppose for the sake of argument, THAT A SINNER CAN PRAY . . . ! Let us just consider where the logic of the thing is bound to lead us. If a sinner can pray and can get the answer, then certain things are bound to follow. What are some of them?

1. If a sinner can pray, then it follows that PRAYER IS NOT THE PECULIAR AND PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE AND BLESSING OF THE CHRISTIAN. What's the value of becoming a Christian, if an old Christ-rejecting sinner out here has the ear of God, just the same as one who is a child of God. It just isn't so. In sorrow or trouble or sickness or trial, the child of God has a Father on whom he can call, but the lost sinner doesn't have that privilege, and when he goes

THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THE WORD



"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."—Psa. 119:11.

Hypocrites

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of sitting here that he asked me to take his place a while." "Well, then, where is your friend?" was the question. "Oh, he's gone to see a movie for a change," was the amazingly reply. Here were two professors, and they were both hypocrites. Their sign said "blind" but their actions said the opposite. So many folks say they are Christians, but their lives and words say something else.

Book Review

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existed between Gen 1:1 and Gen. 1:2, although Prof. Free favors such a position (See page 19).

(3). Prof. Free's position on predestination is definitely weak (page 93)—too weak for a real believer in Calvinism to accept.

In spite of these points of criticism, this book presents a marvelous study of God's Word. Since it is fully documented, it will be a blessing to any student of Bible archaeology, and at the same time will prove most helpful to the S. S. teacher, or the layman who loves the Word, or the preacher who wants to make God's Word real to his people.

If you only buy one book published this year, then buy Prof. Free's "Archaeology And Bible History." After reading it, you'll thank this editor for recommending it to you.

It should be ordered directly from Van Kampen Press, Wheaton, Illinois. It will be one of the best \$5.00 you ever spent for a book.

1,000,000 Hindus

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culated about one million of the visitors. It ran the whole show with orderly efficiency, and even put lifeguards in Brahma's Pool. Nevertheless, when one group of bathers emerging from the pool collided with another group rushing fervently toward the water, 24 women, five men and a child were trampled to death. Happily, Hindus believe that death on the holy site is great good luck. The oldest pilgrims traveled to Hardwar

hoping for such a favor from the gods, but most were disappointed in this hope. Younger Hindus sometimes went in the hope of curing sterility. Many pregnant wives went, hoping to bear their infants near the sacred pool, and 28 births were reported during the climatic hours.—Life

Ed note: This crowd of heathen who hoped to wash away their sins in water would make good Campbellites. Or maybe, I should say that Campbellites are nothing but heathen anyway. Don't forget that the blood of Jesus is all that will wash sin away.

Can A Sinner Pray?

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through the motion of praying, he is just wasting his breath.

2. If a sinner can pray, then PRAYER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE IN JESUS' NAME. A sinner could not pray in the name of Jesus because he doesn't know him—he has rejected him. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye ask in my name." Again he said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it . . ." How are you going to ask in the name of One whom you have refused—one whom you will not receive? Again, we have Jesus saying as he recorded in John the 14th chapter, "No man cometh to the Father but by me." That statement admits of no exception. Jesus said NO MAN can come to God the Father, except by him and no lost sinner has any right to seek to approach God through Jesus because he is a rejector of him. Listen — do you believe what Jesus says? Do you believe that Jesus lied? You certainly do, if you believe that a sinner can get to God and leave Jesus out.

Breath Wasted!

The Peninsular Telephone Company has decreed that no man shall get in touch with Jacksonville by phone except through their exchange. You try to get around that and see how far you get. Suppose you go out on the back porch and try to holler your message to Jacksonville! That would be a lot smarter than for you to holler your message to God in Heaven, while ignoring his exchange. A telephone exchange is a "mediator"—it is a go-between, to establish contact between two different parties.

And remember—the Bible says "There is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." That is what Jesus said, "No man cometh to the Father but by me." And incidentally, let me remark that you can't by-pass Jesus, and get to God through some old saint—or even through the Virgin Mary. Jesus said, "In MY name"—not the name of Mary — not the name of a saint. You are just wasting breath when you pray to the saints.

3. If a sinner can pray, THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT THIS TEXT OF OURS DOESN'T MEAN WHAT IT SAYS. For the text says, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners." Is that so, or is it not so? If it is so, it means what it says—that God does not hear the prayers of lost sinners. And moreover the Bible teaches plainly that when even a child of God, seeks to come to the Lord, with his heart filled with iniquity, the Lord will not hear him. Listen to this: (Psa. 66: 18) "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear my prayer." That shuts the lost sinner out entirely, for what greater sin can anybody be guilty of than the sin of wilfully rejecting the Son of God? The Christ rejecting sinner who tries to pray, has this attitude: "I won't have the Saviour whom you have provided for me—but I want you to help me out in this emergency." Why, the very nerve of a person who will even try to do a thing like that!

4. If a lost sinner can pray, then it follows that THE DOCTRINE OF THE UNIVERSAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD IS TRUE. But it is not true, for Paul says—speaking to Christians—in Galatians, "ye are all the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ." The only way of becoming a child of God is through faith in the Saviour provided for us. Now Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Our FATHER which are in heaven." When an unsaved sinner comes to God saying, "My Father," he comes with a lie on his lips, and a person need not come to God in that way expecting to get anything from him. Prayer, my friends, is the peculiar privilege of the child of God, and in order to become a child of God, you must experience the new birth from above. John in writing about this says, "To as many as receive HIM, to them gives he the privilege of becoming the children of God, even to as many as believe on his name."

5. Let me say that if a lost sinner can pray, THEN WE CHRISTIANS WOULD BE AT THE MERCY OF THE UN-GODLY WORLD. Are there more Christians or non-Christians in Tampa? There are more non-Christians. Suppose they have the same privilege of prayer that we have—and that would have to be true if a sinner can pray—then the ungodly could pray the wrath of God down upon us Christians, for they outnumber us, and in point of numbers could outpray us. Don't you see how ridiculous the theory is?

6. If a sinner can pray, then it follows THAT HE IS NOT DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS. Then it follows that he is not alienated from God, "without God and having no hope." In fact the sinner is in pretty good condition, if he can pray, for he has the ear of the great Master of the universe. But the truth is he has nothing of the kind. Sinner — this sounds harsh and hard and all that, but you need to know the

truth, and the truth is, you are in the same condition concerning prayer that a man is standing at the telephone with the wires all cut. You have no connection with God whatsoever, and never will until you receive the Christ who establishes contact with God, for "No man cometh to the Father but by me," says Jesus.

A Fallacy Exploded

But along comes some person right at this juncture to say, "I believe that there is one prayer that a sinner can pray, and that is the sinner's prayer—God be merciful to me a sinner." I have heard some preachers make that statement. But that rests upon a misunderstanding of the parable of the publican—and upon a mistranslation in the King James Version. When you look into it, you will find that the proper translation is, "God be propitiated to me the sinner." Propitiation was upon the basis of blood sacrifice, and no doubt as the publican prayed that prayer, he was at the same time offering a blood sacrifice in the form of a lamb that typified the Lamb of God that should later be slain for sinners. I say this, because it is written of Jesus, "For he is the Propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world." That publican came—not trusting in his prayers, but trusting in the merit of the blood atonement for his sins. And that is exactly how any and every sinner must come, if he is to get to the Lord—he must come trusting—not in words—but in blood shed for his sins—even the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why Tell Him to Pray?

But somebody else says, "Well I think the sinner can pray, but I don't believe the Lord will answer his prayer." Then I say, he can't pray in the real sense. And if a sinner can't pray, then why tell him to pray? Why invite him to pray? Why tell him to do something that the Lord doesn't tell him to do? When you do it, you are just delaying his salvation, and you are raising an issue that the Lord doesn't raise at all. Why not face the truth that what a sinner needs is not prayer but the Saviour? Now the Bible and common sense ought to be enough on this point, but just to show you that other careful students of the Bible believe just as I do, let me read you something. This is from Dr. Pettingill's book—"Bible Questions Answered." Here is what he says concerning this matter: "Strictly speaking, unsaved persons may not pray at all" (page 232).

Now, let me remark, that it is a good sign to find a sinner trying to pray, for it indicates that he is concerned and in earnest. In that case the effort to pray is the groping in the dark of a lost soul, who is trying to find the way out. Just like a man lost in the woods, who is crying out at the top of his voice. His crying out doesn't get him out of the woods, but it indicates his trouble and concern about his condition, and that he wants help. But if you found a man in that condition you wouldn't tell him to keep yelling — you would show him the way out. And that is what one ought to do with a distressed sinner — not say, as one minister used to do—"keep on praying"—but tell that sinner that there is a Saviour who is willing and ready to receive him the minute he takes him as a Saviour.

Bold Statement—But The Truth!

Let me go still further than I have yet gone, and be as bold as to say that SALVATION IS NOT A PRAYING MATTER. Salvation has been bought and paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ, and needs not to be prayed for, but to be accepted! I can illustrate this very plainly, if you will use the same common sense concerning this that you use concerning other matters. Recently this church gave me a new car. By action of the church it was bought and paid for. One Wednesday night the church authorized the whole transaction, but suppose that the next Wednesday night should have come up here, and after getting up before the congregation I suddenly burst into tears and cry out, "Oh fellow church members, please give me a new car! Please let me have a new car . . . I want one so badly!" You would have had good reason to feel that I had suddenly gone crazy. Praying—asking—crying—begging for something that you had already offered me? Why, that would have been the dopest thing imaginable. What did I have to do, in order to obtain that car? Not one thing on earth except to simply receive it. It was provided as a gift—settled for—paid for. And so was my salvation settled and paid for when the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross for me and died in my stead. All I had to do was to receive him and what he did for me. Suppose I had gone away from the church that night the church offered me a new car, disgusted at the church? Suppose I had said, "I thought they would make me get down and cry and beg for a car—but here they have offered me one as a gift!" Listen: that didn't mean that the car was worth any the less. That doesn't mean that the gift is less worth while—it just means that it was given without any payment on my part. And the same thing is true of salvation. There isn't anything on this earth that means so much. There isn't any gift that could ever be bestowed so precious as the gift of everlasting life, but you are going to have to receive it as a gift if you ever possess it.

The Supposed Cataclysm

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millions of years apart, and not one as the Bible teaches.

3. If there were two natural creations, then by analogy the Arminians are right and there can be two spiritual creations and apostasy is true.

4. All Bible history shows that there is always a remnant left by God of His work. If there were a creation millions of years before Adam, it was such a colossal failure, that no trace of it is left.

5. There is no pre-historic man. Adam was the first man. Cf. I Cor. 15:45. If no pre-historic man, then no sin, no death, no fossils, and no cataclysm.

6. The main argument for a cataclysm is drawn from the word "replenish." Such an argument is based on ignorance. The word translated "replenish" in Gen. 1:28 is translated "fill," "fulfill," or "to be full" 246 times in the Old Testament. Creation wasn't finished until Gen. 2:4.