

# 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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## Why One Christian Demitted From All Lodges

Although I was converted at the age of 13 years, and joined a Baptist church, I lived in the world for some time, never going to extremes, as some other young people did, in any direction, yet not fully separated from the world. The church that I was a member of never warned of the dangers of worldliness, never taught separation, because many of the members were worldly. Sound Gospel preachers were not able to remain long and it took an out and out modernist to have a tenure of several year's length.

The movies were new and free from much of the objectionable features they have today. I attended as frequently as I could afford it. While I never gambled, I did waste a lot of time playing cards. I learned to dance and thought that was smart for a while. I got to using tobacco and thought that it was nobody's business but my own, never realizing how offensive it might be to others. In all these things, the Lord let me drift about so far and then put a limit to my activities. I began to feel guilty when indulging in them and eventually dropped them off one by one, as the Lord showed me their sinfulness.

The thing in which I went the farthest was the matter of the lodge. When an organizer started a lodge of Order of Owls, I was not yet 21, but found I could get in if over 18, and so I joined. The local group and club room were pretty clean and decent and I was proud of my membership. But when I went to Waterloo, Iowa, I found that it was primarily a drinking club in prohibition days. Later, I found

their quarters in Des Moines and found a bar that would be the envy of most night clubs of today. One day I went up there to get a check cashed and to visit a little with the man who was in charge and later found that I had missed a raid by less than a hour. I took my pin off right then and there and have never had any connection with the order since.

My father was an Odd Fellow and was anxious to see me become one, and had my application fixed so that I was able to receive my initiatory degree on the Monday night following my 21st birthday on the previous Friday. I was doubtless the youngest Odd Fellow in the state for a while.

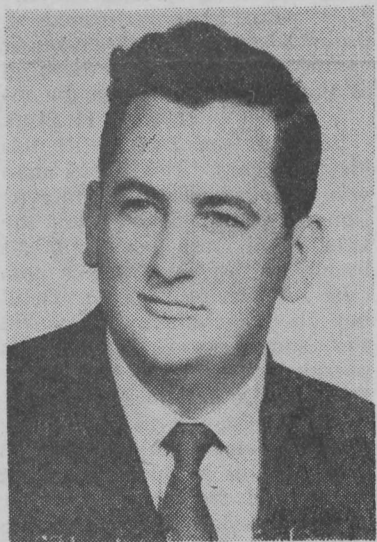
There is a saying that one must make application for membership in the Masons of his own free-will and accord, that

he is never invited nor urged to join. He must be convinced of its merits by the conduct of its members and voluntarily seek admittance. But that is not the case. In my own case, there was no pressure applied, no threat of losing my job, or anything like that, but my boss did approach me and ask if I had ever made application and said he would be glad to take my application in if I ever decided to try it. Previously I had thought of the Masons as an organization for moneyed men, lawyers, doctors, merchants, etc. I felt elated to think it possible for me to make such application. I finally decided to try it and was, of course, accepted and became a Blue Lodge member of Osage Lodge No. 102 F. & A. M., Osage, Iowa, in May, 1918. My wife and I became members of the O. E. S. and D. of R. Later, I took the Royal Purple of Odd Fellowship. About 1924, I also became a member of the K. K. K. If anyone is expecting an expose of silly signs, symbols and secrets, they are going to be disappointed, not that I consider my obligations binding at all, but because there are much more important things to talk about.

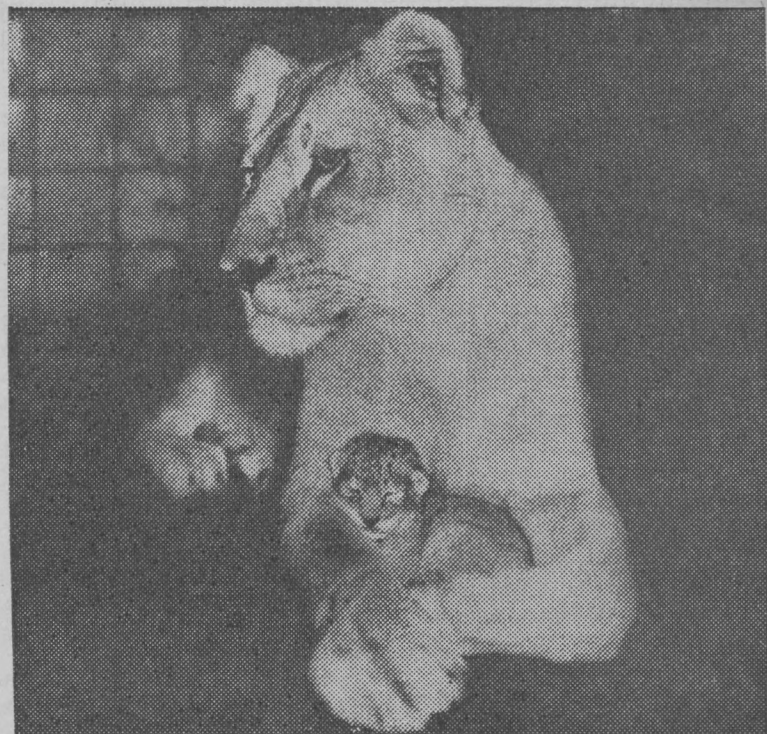
Omitting the circumstances through which I became aware that the lodge was not the thing any Christian should be tied up with, I will proceed to give the reasons I demitted from all these secret orders. As Masonry is the grand-daddy of them all I will discuss that one.

1. *Christ is slighted.* As I was going into military service, I was given my initiatory work first and then watched another young man as he was initiated. When he was caused to kneel and caused to attend what they called prayer, he was asked, "In whom do you put your trust?" Before he could be prompted to say, "In God," he blurted out, "In the Lord Jesus Christ." He was promptly corrected and later it was explained that that word was never mentioned in the lodge because it would of-

### CHARLES JONES



Brother Charles Jones, pastor of the Baptist Church of Kanawha Falls, W. Va., is a beloved brother indeed. He is one of those few, rare samples of orthodoxy to be found in the hills of West Virginia. Thank God for him, his wife, his church and his ministry!



*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

fend any Jew or Mohammedan who might be present.

Where Christ is shunned, I am shunned. I can say that Christ is my life (Col. 3:3); For me to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21); Christ is the only real foundation, as I Cor. 3:11 states, "Other Foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Now the Blue Lodge is declared to be the foundation of all Masonry, and in the very foundation, Christ and His precious name are not only neglected, but barred. We are told in Col. 3:17 that "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." How can a Christian belong to a lodge which bars that Name? I have been told that in the higher degrees Christ is acknowledged, but certainly not as God the Son and as the only Saviour of mankind. If He is barred in the foundation, how can He be admitted in the superstructure?

2. *Lodgism is a pagan religion.*—Admittedly so according to its highest authority, Mackey. It has temples, altars, prayers, rituals, patron saints, rulers, worshippers. If that doesn't make a religion of it, what could? If Christ is shunned, it is pagan. While the Bible is in sight and even open on the altar, and is used in administration of the oaths, the Koran, the Vedas, the Book of Mormon, or any other

religious book could just as well be used. Mackey states, "Whatever to any people expresses that will (the will of God) may be used as a substitute for the Bible in a Masonic Lodge."

Even when the Bible is used, it is spoken of as only one of the three great lights and has imposed upon it the square and compasses, as if the Bible alone were not sufficient. It is an insult to God and to His Word to put anything on top of the Bible. That is the one and only thing that can lie on top of the Stars and Stripes. It is above everything else. We do not need the square—a pagan symbol—nor the compasses to supplement the Bible. When the Bible is dragged down to the level with pagan symbols and has to take third place beneath them, it is time for Christians to get clear of such idolatry. How clever Satan is to inject a little of the flavor of Christianity to disguise the paganism of the lodge!

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### SENDS OUT TWO MORE UNIONISTS

From the Louisville Courier-Journal of July 29, we clipped the following:

"The Rev. and Mrs. Gene Wise, 2120 Grinstead Drive, will leave next week for Brazil, where they will work for a Baptist publishing house.

Mr. and Mrs. Wise have been in Louisville for four years. Mr. Wise received his bachelor-of-divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1949 and his master-of-theology degree this year. For the last two years, Mr. Wise has been secretary of the committee on institutions for the Louisville Council of Churches.

The Highland Baptist Church will hold a "Wise Day program in their honor tomorrow."

Well, here's more evidence of the entangling alliances between the Foreign Mission Board and interdenominational organizations. What a LIE W. C. Boone told when he said that none existed! This would be a mighty good time for a lot of churches to become independent Baptist bodies.

## The First Baptist Pulpit

### "GIDEON'S LOST YEARS"

(Read Judges 8:22-23).

Here is a story that doubtlessly is not as familiar to you as other portions of the Word of God. I rather imagine that this is more or less an unfamiliar part of God's Book to most of you. However, most of you this morning remember some things about Gideon's life. I am sure that it will only take a moment to recall to your mind that Gideon was that man that was used so mightily of God. With a little handful

of 300 men, armed only with pitchers and lights and horns, he was able under God to destroy an army of 135,000 numerical strength.

Suppose we go back and recall that story of Gideon's earlier days. God called him one day as a farmer when he was threshing his grain, to be judge over Israel. Immediately Gideon objected and informed the Lord that He had called the wrong man. It was only by the persuasion of the Lord and the compelling of God that

Gideon was willing to assume the position of judge of Israel. However, when Gideon was convinced that God had made no mistake and that God was really in the matter of his calling, Gideon started out at once earnestly to be the right kind of judge over Israel. He immediately took an axe and cut down the trees around his father's idol and destroyed idol worship in his own father's house. You would say that that was an act of courage. You would say

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### THE SIZE OF THE POPE'S FOOT

Solmiredo Papini is a shoe cobbler in Montecatini, Italy. The Vatican Secretary of State visited the village and had some shoes made to order by Solmiredo.

When the Secretary returned to the Vatican, he had a pair of the Pope's worn slippers mailed to Solmiredo—who set about making new ones of the finest red leather, with cork-filled heels and light engraved buckles. The finished product weighed less than a pound.

Solmiredo Papini has since been made official papal shoemaker. In that capacity he has revealed the size of the Pope's foot. The length, 11.02 inches; width, 3.14 inches—which would approximate 8½ AA, American size.

We conclude from Romans 10:15 that it is not the size of a person's foot that interests the Lord, but the service it renders. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good news!"

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## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN — EDITOR

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### "Gideon's Last Years"

(Continued from page one)

that that was an act on the part of a man who was determined for his life to count for God. Look at him as he brought that army of 35,000 men together. God said to him, "Gideon, you have too many men. Tell all of them that are fearful and afraid to go on home." 22,000 of them turned their backs, and all that Gideon could see was men running in every direction. 22,000 of them didn't want to fight. 22,000 were cowards who were glad for the privilege to go home. God said, "Gideon, you have too big an army. Bring them down to the brook and I will try them for you there." Gideon led his army down to the brook and most of them took time to get down leisurely and spread out on the ground to drink, but there were 300 men who had fire in their eyes. They wanted to be up and at the enemy immediately. They didn't want to take time to spread out on the ground and drink in a leisurely fashion. Therefore, as a dog might lap up the water, as they ran through the brook these men picked up handfuls of water and were soon on the other side standing by themselves. The separation was made. God said to Gideon, "With these three hundred men I will give you victory." You remember how Gideon armed them. He gave each man a pitcher, a lamp, and a trumpet and stationed them in three companies on the hillside round about the 135,000 Midianites soldiers encamped in the valley. At the midnight hour, Gideon said to them, "Look at me and do likewise." Then when those Midianites were well awakened by the noise of trumpets, Gideon followed up by the crashing of those large earthen pitchers, which sounded like a formidable

force was entering the valley. Then they began to wave their lights in every direction and those Midianites, awakening out of their sleep at the midnight hour, didn't see 300 lights, but they saw 3,000,000 lights. They didn't hear 300 pitchers breaking, but they heard 300,000,000 soldiers marching, and they started hacking in every direction, killing 120,000 of their own men. All Gideon had to do was to stand up on the hillside and let them slay themselves.

After that Gideon showed what a marvelous man of God that he was in that he refused to become king over the Israelites. Up until that time the children of Israel had been governed entirely by God. They had what we would call a theocracy as to government, or government by the rule of God. Now they came to Gideon and said, "We are willing to have a monarchy. You become our king and we will make it not only for you, but for your household forever. Your son and your son's son can reign over us." Gideon said, "I will not reign over you. Neither shall my son nor my son's son reign over you. We don't need a monarchy. We want to remember that we are under the rule of God."

Beloved, I tell you, it takes a man of metal to stand up for God like that. Look at him. What kind of a man is this man Gideon? He takes an axe and cuts down the grove of trees around his father's idol. He takes a little handful of men—300 in number—and withstands an army of 135,000 men, all because he is depending upon God and trusts in the Lord for deliverance. He is a man that loves God so much that he refused to allow them to make a king out of him or to make the kingship hereditary in his family.

Beloved, every man has his faults, and the best of men are but men at best. Gideon had his faults. You wouldn't think that a man that was so strong for the Lord as this man Gideon, would ever become an idolater and bow down to a piece of stone. Beloved, he allowed his heart to decline from the serving of God and he said to these men who had been in battle with the Midianites, "Give me every man the earrings of his prey," and immediately there was a tremendous pile of gold by way of golden earrings that was piled up as a personal gift on the part of the 300 men for their valued leader and ruler. Now what did Gideon do with it? This

man who had chopped down the groves and destroyed his own father's idol and erected his first altar to Jehovah, now sets up an idol made from the golden earrings that had been stripped from the ears of the Midianites. Thus, through the later years of his life Gideon failed in his service for the Lord. Instead of continuing as he had begun in his former years, he turned back to the very evils that he had risen above in the early portion of his life.

I wonder if we can learn from this experience of Gideon.

I

MANY WHO PROFESS TO BE CHRISTIANS DO THUS.

I have known preachers who dared to stand out for the things of God, then in their later years have known them deny the very doctrines they had stood for. I know one Baptist preacher today who is past eighty years of age, whom I have known intimately through the years. I know that there was a time that that man stood like a giant. No tree with its roots firmly fixed in the soil ever stood straighter than that man stood once upon a time for the doctrines of the Word of God. Yet, beloved, he has compromised his position so much that I have said concerning him that it is a shame he didn't die ten years ago.

Beloved, I say to you, it is hard to understand the experience of Gideon and it is hard to understand the experience of any man who once knew the Word of God and who has compromised and turned back in his service of the Lord.

Some people do thus. Some folk go along for a while in the service of God and then turn back and refuse to continue in the service of the Lord just because they are unsaved church members to start with. We have a good example in the Word of God. Listen:

"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

—II Pet. 2:22.

Of whom is Peter speaking? If you will read that chapter carefully, you will see that he is talking about religious leaders who were false teachers.

I say to you this morning, some people won't continue in the service of the Lord. They do exactly what Gideon did, and they do it because they are unsaved. They merely had a

profession without a possession. They merely had churchianity without Christianity. Theirs was an experience of the flesh apart from the Spirit of God. In the twenty-one years as pastor of this church, I have seen individuals do exactly the same. I have seen them start well and continue well for a little while and then fall by the wayside, and their service amounted to nothing. They were unsaved church members.

In contrast, there are some who start well and then fall by the wayside not because they were unsaved, but because they get cold and backslidden and careless. Brother, sister, I know, just like you know, how hard it is to keep your heart warm in the service of God. You have the world and the flesh and the Devil to contend with every day, and it is hard for any Christian to keep his heart in tune with the Lord every day of his life. There are many people just like Gideon that get cold and backslidden and run down spiritually, though they themselves are saved.

II

WHY ONE NEEDS TO CONTINUE.

Why should we strive to continue to the end of our Christian experience as we began? I think I can offer you some reasons why we ought to try to continue.

Surely we ought to continue in the service of the Lord because the Devil's servants are ever busy. Paul says:

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

II Cor. 11:14,15.

Beloved, the Devil still has his preachers. Not every man who stands before a congregation today and who wears the title of a preacher, is God's man. In the light of this passage of Scripture, the Devil has his preachers in the world the same as God has His preachers. You can be certain that the Devil and his ambassadors are going to keep busy in the service of the Devil.

Notice his ambassadors that go around from door to door with their pernicious literature—the Russellites, or notice in almost any town on a Saturday afternoon, business men who believe in the works of the Devil so much that they are willing to sacrifice their personal pleasure and business to stand on a busy corner and hand out their pernicious literature. Beloved, the Devil's servants are busy doing their work.

A few days ago out in the city of Chicago a blind man was standing on a street corner ready to cross to the other side. Somebody came up to him and said, "May I go across the street with you?" This blind man thinking that it was someone who had noticed his blind condition and was offering to help him across safely to the other side, gladly accepted the offer. When the two of them had walked across the street, with brakes screeching all around them and horns blowing and the policeman blowing his whistle at them, the blind man turned to his friend who had brought him across the street and thanked him. In reply the other man said, "You needn't thank me. You see I am blind, and I am so glad to have someone to lead me safely across

the street."

The man who asked to go across the street was a blind man and he by chance happened to ask another blind man to lead him across the street. By a miracle of God their physical lives were spared. Beloved, listen, I would just as soon be a blind man and have a blind leader to direct me across the busiest street in the city of Chicago as to be a blind man spiritually, like every unsaved man is, and have a blind, religious leader to direct me and to try to lead me in the right manner.

I tell you, beloved, the servants of the Devil are forever busy. You needn't think they are going to let up for one moment's time. They are blind leaders of blind men. Nevertheless, they keep busy at their pernicious, evil deeds from day to day. You and I ought to be faithful servants of God because these servants of the Devil are going to keep busy in the service of the Devil.

I offer a second reason why it is that we ought to continue faithfully in God's service. Our own self-preservation requires it. If you want to keep on fire for God, keep busy. The day that you sit around and the day that you become complacent and the day you decide that someone else can do what you have been doing, that day, beloved, you start backsliding. That day your heart gets cold in the service of God.

I like the words of that poem which says:

"Is thy cruise of comfort failing?  
Rise and share it with a friend,  
And through all the years of famine,  
It shall serve thee to the end.  
Love Divine will fill thy storehouse  
Or thy handful still anew;  
Scanty fare for one will often  
Make a royal feast for two."

Lost and weary in the mountains  
Wouldst thou sleep amid the snow,  
Chafe that frozen form beside thee  
And together both shall glow.  
Art thou wounded in life's battle  
Many stricken round thee moan,  
Give to them thy precious ointment  
And that balm shall heal thine own."

Brother, sister, your own self-preservation requires that you keep busy in the service of God. I have never seen a man in this First Baptist Church of Russell in twenty-one years who has gotten careless and has begun to miss a service now and then but what that man's heart influence became worthless in the service of God. Your own self-preservation requires that you keep busy and that you continue in the service of God. You don't want to be like Gideon who set up an idol in the very place where he had chopped an idol down. As surely as God looks down upon us, if we don't continue in the service of the Lord and if we allow ourselves to become careless and neglectful in His service, beloved, sooner or later our lives will be like the life of the street.

(Continued on page three)

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

THANKS BE UNTO GOD

FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE

GIFT . . . ETERNAL LIFE

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

OUR LORD. 2 COR. 9:15 - ROM. 6:23



A dollar can be made do many things, but it can not buy a reserved seat in Heaven.

## "Gideon's Last Years"

(Continued from page two)

Gideon himself. The imminency of death requires that we keep busy in the service of God. The very fact that your death and my death is only a little while, at best, removed from us is sufficient reason why we ought to continue in the service of God.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

—Eccl. 9:30.

Beloved, if you are going to do anything for God, do it now. When you die your day's work is ended. Our Lord Jesus said the same thing in substance when He spoke:

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

—John. 9:4

Beloved, if you are going to do anything for the Lord, now is the time to do it. Tomorrow may be too late.

So many Christians remind me of that little nursery rhyme which says:

"In go-carts tiny my sister I drew,

And I promised to draw her the whole world through;

We have not yet started, I own it with sorrow

Because our trips always put off till tomorrow."

I used to read that as a boy and I wondered what it meant.

Beloved, I know now. I have seen many a Baptist who was going to be what he wanted to be, tomorrow. He was going to start taking his place in the service of God tomorrow. He was going to start attending services regularly tomorrow, but tomorrow in many instances never came. Oh, brother, sister, some of these days, and it can't be very long even at best, you and I, unless our Lord Jesus comes, are going to be dropped down beneath the sod

and await the morning of the resurrection. When that day comes all opportunity for service will be gone. If you are going to do anything for God, now is the time to do it—now while you have the opportunity.

Our gratitude to God requires that we continue in the service of God. If you are saved today your gratitude to God demands that you pour out your all on the altar of service to God.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

—II Cor. 5:14.

Beloved, you ought not serve God because you are afraid you are going to Hell. You ought not serve Him because you want to go to Heaven. Rather, you ought to serve Him out of love because of what He has done for you. God's Word says:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

—Rom. 12:1.

Beloved, we ought to present ourselves to the Lord sacrificially in view of what He has done for us. Think of the mercies and the blessings that we have. Suppose we walk out to Calvary and see that form which was disfigured more than any other form. Suppose we see

that blood as it dropped from his hands and his feet, and that face that was marred beyond description. Suppose we see Him as the spear was driven into His side, and we ask, "What is this? Why is all this?" Beloved, that was done for you and that was done for me. He suffered in order to keep you out of Hell, in order that you might be saved and go to Heaven. I tell you this morning, your gratitude to God demands and requires and necessitates your service for God that you should continue in your service for Him.

### CONCLUSION

How wonderful it is to see one who continues right on down to the end. How wonderful it is to see one who is saved and who starts growing and never slackens. How wonderful it is to see one who is saved and who immediately wants baptism and desires to live his life to the best of his ability, and who continues daily in the service of our Lord.

As my mind goes back to the years that have gone by, I think that some of the most pathetic incidents I know of are those who, like Gideon, failed to continue in God's service.

At the same time, some of the sweetest, happiest recollections of this preacher's experience are of those who started, and who continued, and who kept at the task of serving God until God called them home.

How many, many times I have been impressed by that elderly man, Grandpa Stennett, when I first became pastor of this church! How many times he has spoken to me an encouraging word and how many times this preacher's heart has been lifted thereby! He started and kept right on in the service of God, even down to the very end.

I think this morning of the last time that I saw Sister Unrue, Sister Bruce's mother. As I stood beside the casket of this aged saint, the day of the funeral services, I thought of how she had served God year after year, and had kept right on in the service of God.

I think of the last time that I visited Brother Lowe before he died, when he told me that he hoped he would get well, but if he didn't, he was ready to go. I remember the time when he was saved and how the Lord used him time and time again through the years.

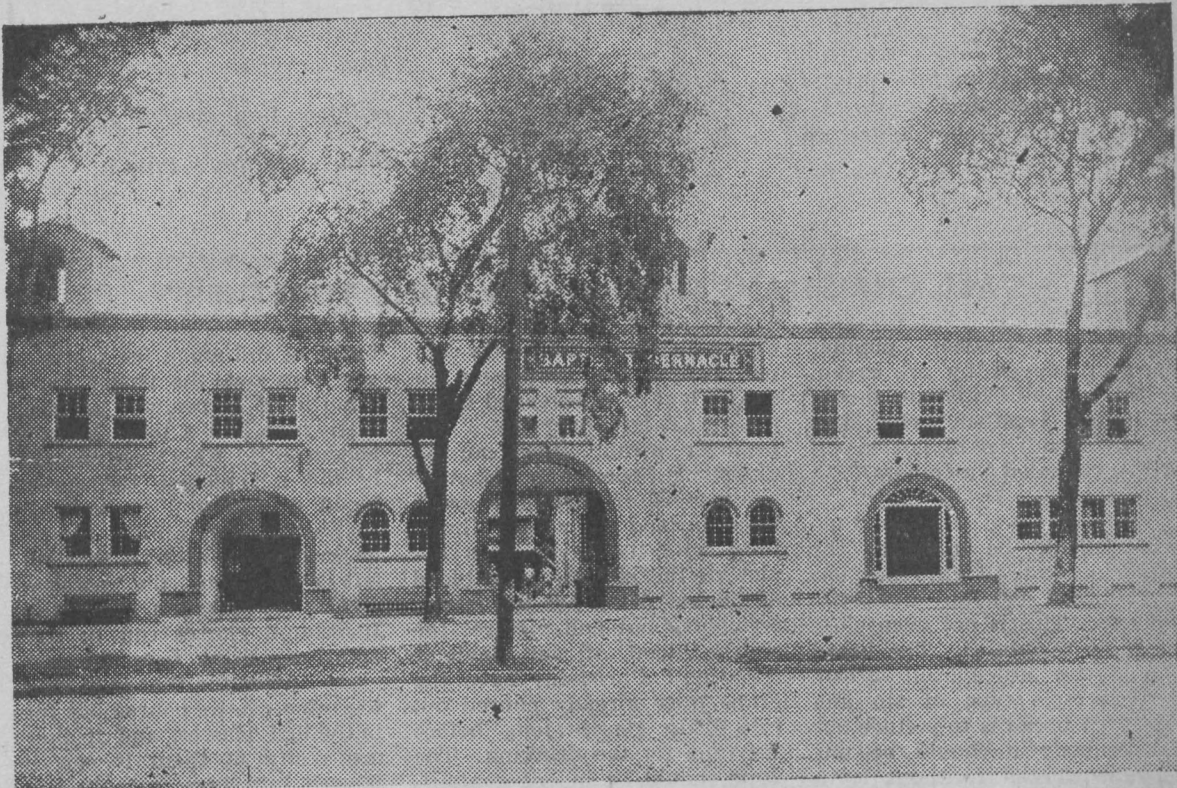
I went in to speak to my mother before I left to come to the services this morning. Most of you know that she is past eighty and far from well. As I was talking to her, she expressed the desire to come to God's house. I can go back in my boyhood days before I was saved and can remember my mother as she faithfully served God. We lived three miles out in the country and I have seen her walk those three miles to morning services and then walk the same distance going to services at night during a revival and never miss a service. I can remember before I was saved, awakening at night to find her on her knees beside my bed praying for me that God would save her boy. What a joy to remember how she has continued in His service until now she is past 80 years of age.

Beloved, it is an inspiration to me and blesses my soul as I think of these individuals who have kept active in the service of God.

Oh, may God help you this morning through this message to continue in the service of

## Southern Baptist Bible Seminary

ITS HOME



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ITS PRESIDENT



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May God bless you!

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# Ideas For The Hell Box

The Hell Box is where all discarded metal—printer's mistakes and errors—is thrown, to be melted and remolded.



Popular misconceptions of religion that are deadlier than yesterday's type.

## "ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD COMMUNE TOGETHER"

This is another popular heresy believed by all except Baptists. If all Christians should commune together, why does the Bible tell us to not to eat with excluded members? 1 Cor. 5:11-13. If all Christians should commune together, then what should be used for the bread? Most all churches use light bread cut up into little squares. This is not even close to being scriptural. The bread should be unleavened bread. Leaven is a type of sin and since the bread is to picture our Lord's body it should be unleavened bread (without leaven) because our Lord was without sin. Also the bread should be in one loaf "a loaf" and then after thanks it should be broken, which pictures the sinless body of Christ being broken for us. Light bread (which has leaven in it) cut up into little squares does not give any one a picture of the sinless body of Christ being broken. When

Christ instituted the Lord's supper before his crucifixion he used a loaf of unleavened bread that was left over from the passover meal. How can all Christians commune together when most of them use grape juice instead of wine. Grape juice with its leaven does not picture the sinless, pure blood of Christ. Wine has the leaven fermented out and pictures the sinless blood of our Saviour. Also most Christians have the grape juice already poured out into little glasses long before the time for the drinking. The wine should be in one container, (literally "a cup") and poured out after thanks is given. Wine in little glasses does not picture Christ's blood that he shed or poured out for us. But when the one container of wine is poured out after thanks is given, the people get a picture of the sinless blood of Christ being shed for us. Not long ago a church was doing some

building and when the platform was torn out, the pastor found a bottle of grape juice partially full which had a large lump of leaven in it. This most certainly did not picture the sinless blood of Christ. When Christ instituted the Lord's Supper he used a cup of wine that was left over from the passover meal. No question about this. Individual glasses can be used or all can drink from the same glass. After the thanks is given the wine can be poured out into individual glasses, and if there are many of them it can be poured into two or more containers with pouring spouts or bulbs, and the deacons can quickly fill the individual glasses. Finally, how can all Christians commune together when each local church is a body of Christ and it is a communion between Christ and his bride, (his body) not between individuals?

## Pope's Foot

(Continued from page one)  
tidings of good things."

The Lord grant that every saved person may have "beautiful feet."

—Light and Liberty



## Masonry

(Continued from page one)

But when the officers of the lodge are given as the only means of knowing the Bible and given as representing the sun and moon, it takes us right back to the Egyptian Sun-god worship. God's Word is the complete revelation of God's will and needs no pagan religious ritual to reveal its truth. The Holy Spirit is given to Christians for that.

One of the symbols displayed in every lodge room is known as the "point within the circle." Mackey's Ritualist, pages 62, 63, has the following paragraph: "The Phallus was an imitation of the male generative organ. It was represented usually by a column, which was surrounded by a circle at its base, intended for the cteis, or female generative organ. This union of the Phallus and the cteis, which is well presented by the point within the circle, was intended by the ancients as a type of the prolific powers of nature, which they worshipped under the united form of the active or male principle and the passive or female principle. The two parallel lines, which in the modern lectures are said to represent Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist, really allude to particular periods in the sun's

annual course. The Master and Wardens are symbols of the sun, the lodge of the universe or the world; the point also is the symbol of the same sun and the surrounding circle of the universe, while the two parallel lines really point, not to two saints, but to the two northern and southern limits of the sun's course." And so we see that the lodge makes use of the very thing known in Scripture as Baal-Peor worship, for the practice of which God plagued the Israelites to the extent of taking the lives of 24,000, while He smote only 3,000 for worshipping the golden calf under Aaron's leadership. Numbers 25 is more explicit.

In the eighth chapter of Ezekiel, we have the picture of Masory, "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, AND THEIR FACES TOWARD THE EAST... and they worshipped the sun toward the east." Few lodge men are loyal to their church and fewer to Jesus Christ and the Word of God. Most of them pretending to be Christians, and being found in the church, really have their backs to the real church and the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, but are in reality worshipping nature and the lusts of the natural man, resorting to paganism, thus denying the Lord who bought them.

When I invited the tyler of the lodge to attend some special meetings at the church, he snorted and said, "The church! You know that my church is the world." We read in the Bible that the world is at enmity with God. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? He that would be a friend of the world is the

enemy of God." (Jas. 4:4). There is no Christianity in religion. Religion is man's futile effort to lift himself by his own boot straps and save himself. Christianity is trusting what the Lord Jesus Christ did for man on Calvary's Cross, and receiving salvation as a free gift from God without works or merit on the part of the recipient. I repeat: Masonry is a religion.

3. Another reason why I demitted is that Masonry, in particular, is founded on falsehood. Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKETH A LIE, HE SPEAKETH OF HIS OWN: FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF IT." There are at least three broad ways in which Masonry is founded upon lies.

a. As to its antiquity. Ninety per cent of the members believe Satan's lie, because they do not know the Bible well enough to perceive the lie. There was no lodge at the time of the building of the temple. If there had been anything as important as is claimed for it, the Bible would have made some mention of it, but the Bible is silent on such a matter. God is the revealer of secrets and would not hide it. King Solomon was not a Mason. Incidentally all the U. S. presidents from Washington to Grant were not masons. Washington was, but attended very little and was never "Worshipful Master." The Adamsons were not, Fillmore was not, Grant was not, but ironically, Benedict Arnold was, as his record in a Connecticut lodge shows.

In the twelfth century, trade guilds sprang up among operative builders, probably the forerunners of the modern unions, but only small groups of builders of one kind or another.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the need of money and of prestige caused the guilds to receive into membership certain of the nobility because of their influence and money, and changed the name to free and ACCEPTED masons, because these persons were accepted without being operative builders. As new members were admitted, they were expected to set up the drinks and in the taverns, during the rounds of drinking, various jokes were played on one another and the initiations became the objective points of such admissions of members.

Later, it settled into a more dignified ritual and took on more of the present features. When it spread to the continent, for this thing started in England, Roman priests, especially in France took it up and invented the higher degrees, founding them on the false worship of the Roman church. There is no reason why a Roman Catholic priest or any of his members cannot become masons. He acknowledges that there is a God and that is all that is necessary. The whole thing is fabrication of natural minds, devoid and destitute of Christian truth or any regard for the truth of any kind.

b. As to its use of 1 Kings 5, 6 and 7. The careful reading of these chapters will show where the conflicts occur and will reveal the truth. Hiram Abiff is a fictitious character. No such man ever lived and no such event as Masonry teaches ever took place.

Hiram, the widow's son, whom Hiram King of Tyre sent to help Solomon was not an architect. He was not in charge of the building, but was an artificer in brass and, in the Plain of Dura, he cast all the brass work that Solomon used in the temple. His position as Grand Architect of the temple is purely the product of the depraved human mind, under Satan's guidance, with a view of causing confusion in the minds of men and dragging Bible characters and events down into the mud and mire of falsehood—an attempt to call God a liar.

Any intelligent person, especially a stone mason, would recognize a keystone for a stone arch. Such master workman would not have discarded a stone which was neither oblong nor square, and caused the ado that has been built around such an act in Chapter Masonry. The only reason such a thing was invented, was to traduce the Word of God to quote and misapply Sacred Scripture that applies to the blessed Son of God, my blessed Lord, whom the lodge does not recognize, except in the later degrees as a great man—never in his true character, as the only way to God; and to confuse the minds of unsaved men so that they will not seek to know the truth about what God has recorded, but will accept Satan's lie and go on to hell without ever knowing the truth.

If there had been any such important organization and such an event that was to effect all subsequent history, God would have given some indication of it in His eternal Revelation.

The whole thing is intended to rob God of His veracity, Christ of His Deity, and the man of salvation. Satan is its author.

c. As to the oaths. The master of the lodge pledges his honor as a man and a mason that there is nothing in the oaths that can in any way conflict with the candidate's duty to God, his country, his neighbor or himself. With that assurance, men who have been conducted hither and thither in the lodge and heard

many strange statements while blindfolded, even caused to kneel and attend so-called prayer, do not hesitate to go on and repeat the murderous, God-defying and soul damning oaths of the lodge. Every oath conflicts with man's duty to God, his country, his neighbor AND himself.

God cannot countenance actions of men when they affiliate themselves with idolatry, nor when they leave out His Son nor when they declare that they need pagan symbols and sun worship to aid them in the understanding of His Word, when He has given the Holy Spirit to every believer for that purpose.

God does not ask any man to bind himself under penalties of barbarous death to keep such silly secrets as are given him in the lodge. In fact God says, "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." (Jas. 5:12). The churches does not put a man under oath. It is an abomination. God alone has the power of judgment. Only in civil courts does God transfer that power to man.

As to the duty to one's country, we see a great conflict. The candidate swears, under death penalty, to keep all the secrets of other Masons, "MURDER AND TREASON EXCEPTED, AND THESE AT MY OWN ELECTION." (Iowa work). understand that in higher degrees, murder and Masons are included in the secrets which must be kept inviolate, when communicated as secrets.

How can justice be obtained when men are sworn to protect one another and keep secrets even including murder and treason? With the judge, the lawyers, and many on the jury who are masons, a man who has committed a crime has but to give the grand hailing sign of distress, or even confess his crime to his counsel as a secret and they are all bound by death penalties to extricate him from his trouble at any cost, or at least if there is great probability of saving his life than of losing their own. If I were going into a life of crime, I should certainly want to be a mason.

Can I do my duty to my neighbors, if for any reason, that neighbor comes in conflict with a mason, even if I know the neighbor to be in the right? I must perjure myself, if need be, and turn against a true neighbor, in order to fulfil my obligation to help a mason whether right or wrong. Many have confessed swearing falsely in courts in order to protect fellow masons.

How can I be true to myself, when I am sworn to answer all due signs and summonses from a lodge or a member of the degree I happen to have, and to subscribe to anything the lodge may decide to do? A man pledges his heart, life and soul to the devilishness of the lodge and must obey whatever he is ordered to do or violate his obligation.

If I had not been deceived in this matter, I should consider my obligation as binding, but now I do not so consider them.

The whole thing is a blasphemous tradition aimed at God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and intended to blind the minds and hearts of men so that they will not see their need of salvation.

(Continued next week)