

# 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 Churches Today Are Different To Churches Of First Century

By ROY MASON  
Tampa, Florida

Christianity in its modern expression seems to be sadly lacking for we see morals slumping down to a new low level. Let us look back into the New Testament and get a picture of Christianity in apostolic times. Read Acts 2:41-47. Now note the characteristics:

1. All that were converted followed in baptism and church membership. Today, many profess conversion and never do either.
2. These new converts followed in the apostles doctrines and teachings. They continued steadfastly.
3. The Jerusalem church was so active that converts were

added every day. Now let us note another passage that gives us a further picture: Acts 4:13,14. Note the characteristics:

1. Boldness in testimony — not ashamed.
2. People took knowledge that they had been with Jesus.

Now another Scripture: Read Acts 4:32,33. Note these further characteristics:

1. They were of one heart and soul.
2. They were flaming witnesses of the resurrection and of salvation through the name of Christ, and the grace of God was upon all.

Now note yet another Scripture: Read Acts 5:12-14. What further do we learn?

1. They met with one accord — some of them were not off fishing or loafing.
  2. Hypocrites quit joining the church for very fear of the power of God.
  3. Great multitudes were added. Not just an occasional convert during a "revival."
- One more Scripture: Read Acts 5:40-42. We learn that—
1. Early Christians rejoiced when they were whipped for Christ's sake.
  2. In the temple — and from house to house, they witnessed for Christ.

(Continued on page four)

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OWNING A COPY OF "THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT?"

Pursuant to the announcement of recent date, "The Church That Jesus Built," is to be reprinted early in the future.

This is a most splendid presentation of church truth, written by Eld. Roy Mason of Tampa, Florida. Bro. Mason's weekly articles have been a blessing to thousands of our readers through the years and the announcement of the reprinting of this great book will be hailed with gladness by many.

This book has been printed eight times previously, but has been out of print for a number of years. We have had literally hundreds of requests for it when it could not be furnished. Now it will soon be available. It will sell for \$1.00 postpaid. Please let us have your advance order now. The only way it can possibly be printed is on this basis of advance sales. Send your order in today, please.

## MUSED UNCLE MOSE

Dey's a lot o' fo'ks dat seem to know wha' dey is but dey don' know wha' dey's goin'. Wid me it's jes' opp'site: I knows wha' I's goin' but I don' know jes' wha' I is.

that I cannot contract a second marriage while my consort is still alive, even though a civil divorce may have been obtained;

3. that all the children, both boys and girls, that may be born of this union shall be baptized and educated solely in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, even in the event of the death of my Catholic consort. In case of dispute, I furthermore, hereby agree fully that the custody of all children shall be given to such guardians as assure the faithful execution of this covenant and promise in the event that I cannot fulfill it myself;
4. that I will lead a married life in conformity with the teachings of the Catholic Church regarding birth control, realizing fully the attitude of the Catholic Church in this respect;
5. that no other marriage ceremony shall take place before or after this ceremony by the Catholic priest.

In testimony of this agreement (Continued on page four)

## Where Is The Prenuptial Contract One Must Sign To Marry A Roman Catholic

"I, the undersigned, not a member of the Catholic Church, wishing to contract marriage with the Catholic party whose signature is also affixed to this mutual agreement being of sound mind and perfectly free, and only after understanding fully the import of my action, do hereby enter into this mutual agreement, understanding the execution of this agreement and the promises therein are made in contemplation of and consideration for the contract, marriage, and consequent change of status of the herein-mentioned Catholic party and I, therefore, hereby agree:

1. that I will not interfere in the least with the free exercise of the Catholic party's religion;
2. that I will adhere to the doctrine of the sacred indissolubility of the marriage bond, so

## CUT BLOOD OUT

Dr. Torrey in a sermon on the Atonement says: "When Mr. Alexander and I were holding our meetings in Royal Albert Hall in London, someone took away one of our hymnbooks and went through it and cut out every reference to the blood; and then sent it back to me through the mail, saying: 'I have gone through your hymn-book and cut out every reference to the blood. Now sing your hymns with the blood left out and there will be some sense in them!'" Then Mr. Torrey goes on to say: "If any of you should take your Bible and cut out of the New Testament and the Old Testament every passage that referred to the death of Christ, or to His atoning blood you would have only a sadly torn and tattered Bible left, a Bible without a heart and a Gospel without saving power. The death of Jesus Christ is mentioned more than 175 times in the New Testament. Besides this there are (Continued on page four)

## A Parable Concerning Tobacco, Showing Why The Use Of It Is Definitely Wrong

Then shall the kingdom of Satan be likened to a grain of tobacco seed, which, though exceeding small, being cast into the ground, grew, and became a great plant; and spread its leaves rank and broad, so that huge and vile worms formed a habitation thereon. And it came to pass, in the course of time, that the sons of men looked upon it, and thought it beautiful to look upon, and much to be desired to make lads look big and manly. So they put forth their hands and did chew thereof. And some it made sick and others to vomit most filthily. And it further came to pass that those who chewed it became weak and unmanly and said, "We are enslaved, and can't cease from chewing it." And the mouths of those that were enslaved became foul, and they were seized with a violent spitting; and they did spit, even in ladies' parlors, and in the house of the Lord of Hosts! And the saints of the Most High were taken suddenly with fits, and they did sneeze with a great and mighty sneeze, inasmuch that their eyes were filled with tears, and they did look exceedingly silly. And

yet others cunningly wrought the leaves into rolls, and did suck vehemently at the other end thereof, and did look very grave and calf-like.

And the cultivation thereof became a great and mighty business on the earth; and the merchantmen waxed rich by the commerce thereof. And it came to pass that the saints of the Most High defiled themselves therewith; even the poor, who could not buy shoes, nor bread, nor books for their little ones, spent their money for it. And the Lord was greatly displeased therewith, and said, "Wherefore this waste, and why do these little ones lack bread and shoes and books? Turn now your fields into corn and wheat, and put this evil thing far from you; and be separate, and defile not yourselves any more; and I will bless you and cause my face to shine upon you."

But with one accord they all exclaimed, "We cannot cease from chewing, and snuffing, and puffing."

Is Tobacco Using A Sin?

We are sometimes asked by (Continued on page three)

## Here Is A Good Question As To The Enlargement Campaign Of This Paper

Will THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, when enlarged to eight pages, be used for advertising books, cards, and all kinds of church supplies, or will it be as in the past, for the preaching of the Word?

Definitely, it will be for the preaching of the Word!

It appears that one religious paper, which used to be four pages, but which is now eight and twelve pages, has become an advertising medium for about anything you want to buy. Many of our readers have called attention to this fact, and have asked thus as to our future plans.

During the first fourteen months of the history of this paper under its present editor, we carried advertisements, but since April 1940, we have had no paid advertisements. Any item that might appear as an advertisement, is run with the compliments of the editor, in order to help some friend or organization. There have been very few of these.

We will be carrying small notices and advertisements of the books we print, in order to

promote them, as we have in the past. However, I am sure our friends know by past experience that very little space has thus been consumed.

This paper is for the preaching and teaching of God's Word. It is to promote missions to the ends of the earth. It is to denounce heresies and heretics. It is to stand against the isms and schisms that confront Christendom today. It is to stand for Baptist Churches as the only true New Testament Churches that Jesus has ever had on earth, and is to oppose all others as the work of man and devil. It is to oppose Arminianism, Lodgism, Universal (Continued on page four)

## 100 DAYS OR \$90

Just as the crystal ball said, a Fortune-Teller in Detroit must either start a 100-day jail term or pay a \$90 fine.

She read the sentence in her own crystal ball after Judge Joseph A. Gillis practiced a bit of practical soothsaying.

For \$5, it was charged, her clients all got black futures but for an extra \$10 they got predictions of handsome husbands and families and fine homes.

The fortune-teller's own ball was on the judge's desk. He fingered it, gazed into it for a while, then handed it back to the defendant, asking what she saw.

"It says \$90 or 100-days," she gasped.

"So be it," said the judge. He had lettered the sentence on a piece of paper and pasted it on the ball.

It has always struck us as being strange that fortune-tellers are unable to predict their own futures. If they really know where wealthy life-companions are to be had, and (Continued on page four)

## The First Baptist Pulpit

### "AN EXPOSITION OF THE BOOK OF RUTH"

(This is the first of a series of three messages on the book of Ruth. Read Ruth 1).

The book of Ruth is one of the most interesting of all the sixty-six books of the Bible. From the first to the last verse, it is filled with human interest. Aside from the element of love, it is a remarkable presentation of three unusually great characters—Naomi, Ruth and Boaz.

Benjamin Franklin, though himself not a believer, was at least reverent toward the Word of God. He went as a repre-

sentative of our country to the Court of France shortly after our Republic was born. He was shocked beyond measure at the skepticism and infidelity displayed in the French capitol. The Bible was continually mocked at and spiritual things came in for a great measure of scorn. One day Benjamin Franklin invited a number of these French skeptics to his house that he might read to them from an ancient manuscript. He had taken the book of Ruth and had slightly edited it, leaving out the name of God;

and thus making some other very minor alterations. He had a trained elocutionist to read the entire book of Ruth to this group of French skeptics. When he had finished, they were loud in their acclaim as to the literary worth of the manuscript, and each wanted to know if it were possible to secure a copy of the same. You can imagine their chagrin when Benjamin Franklin announced to them that it was the book of Ruth—one of the sixty-six books of (Continued on page two)

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tion unless renewed or special arrange-  
ments are made for their continuation.

## The Baptist Digest

Here is a paper which is published monthly and which ought to be read by every Baptist. It is what its name implies — a digest of all Scriptural Baptist publications.

It is not only informative and worthwhile, but spiritually uplifting. It contains the best of material. In view of the fact that there is no other paper of its type in existence, it really is a "must" so far as every Baptist's reading is concerned.

Let me suggest that you write the editor for a sample copy. It will be a real blessing to you and will enlarge your life by way of good literature.

Write to Eld. I. Kiel Cross, the editor, Box 663, Little Rock, Arkansas for a sample copy of the paper.



## TIPPY TALLY

By RUBY DELL BAUGHER

Here is a new book — and doubtlessly her best one — which has been written by one of the most sweet spirited Christian authors today. It is a book of 77 pages and is the story of a little girl and her imaginary male playmate, whom she has named "Tippy Tally."

Like all juveniles, she has lots of questions and if "Tip" can't answer her questions, she takes them to her mother. There are a number of these questions in the book, such as —

Who made God?

Why can't I see God?

Where does the wind come from?

Why does God allow storms?

How do chickens get into the eggs?

Where do babies come from?

What is meant by death?

Why do people marry?

Is there a Santa Claus?

The book is well written and is illustrated by a great number of pictures.

In every home where there are children, there are a number of questions asked. Here is a good opportunity to deal with these questions.

The price of this book is \$1.25 and will prove to be a real blessing to everyone who reads it.

Send your order direct to the author at 907 Judson Street, Evansville, Ind.



## "The Book Of Ruth"

(Continued from page one)  
the Bible from which he had been reading.

I cite this incident that you might note the great amount of human interest which centers about these three great and outstanding characters.

*It may cost something to pay the tithe to the Lord, but it costs a heap more not to pay it.*

## CHRISTIANITY AND NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS COMPARED

### DIVORCE

**CHRISTIANITY.** Jesus said: "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so."—Matt. 19:8. "Let not the wife depart from her husband . . . and let not the husband put away his wife."—I Cor. 7:10,11. Only one ground for divorce is given—fornication. Matt. 5:32.

**BRAHMANISM.** Divorce may be expected when the religious books of this system instruct the young man to seek a wife as follows: "Let him not marry a girl with red hair, who talks too much or has a barbarous name; but marry a girl without defects, whose walk is like a flamingo or elephant."—"Manu."

**HE WILL NEVER TALK WITH REAL SUCCESS TO MEN FOR GOD WHO HAS NOT LEARNED TO TALK TO GOD FOR MEN.**

**HINDUS.** Even after marrying a girl according to rule, the husband may abandon her if he finds her blameworthy, sickly, very corrupt or married to him by fraud."—"Manu." It is an easy matter for a man to divorce his wife when he believes she has no soul, nor any rights which he is bound to respect.

**BUDDHISTS.** "In China, divorce is everywhere accomplished with little formality and upon the most trivial pretexts." "In Burma, any man desiring to be rid of his wife has only to enter a monastery for a month or more, after which he can leave and marry another wife."

**KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING. GOD WILL PUT IT WHERE IT WILL BE SEEN.**

**TAOISM** exercises but little influence on moral questions. It allows its followers to continue in their own way and winks at the looseness practiced on all sides in domestic life. There can be no moral standard or backbone in a system which worships demons.

**CONFUCIANISM.** The husband's power of divorce is limited under seven justifying causes, "barrenness, lewdness, jealousy, talkativeness, thievery, disobedience, and loathsome disease." No man can send away his wife for any of these reasons, however, unless her parents are living to give her a home.

**NO MAN CAN BE NEAR CHRIST AND NOT DESIRE FORGIVENESS FOR HIS BROTHER AS WELL AS FOR HIMSELF.**

**ZOROASTRIANISM.** Divorce was forbidden. The crimes of fornication and adultery were very severely punished. The fewness of divorces may be accounted for by the care of the parents and priests in selecting a companion and by the impressions to be faithful which had been inculcated from childhood.

**PARSEEISM.** Divorce in Persia is not as common among the Parsees as among Mohammedans. In case of trouble, the offended party goes to the priest and requests divorce. If reasonable, the offender must pay a sum to the one gaining the divorce. In India, the Parsees seem quite contented and divorce is less common.

**THE FIRST ESSENTIAL IN ALL MORAL REFORMATION IS TO CALL SIN SIN.**

**SHINTOISM.** Marriage being only a civil contract, in the past, and the fact that the matches were usually made by parents, guardians, relatives or friends, without the parties becoming personally acquainted with each other, has made divorces common and easy to obtain.

**MOHAMMEDANISM** teaches that a man may divorce his wife at pleasure twice, but cannot marry her a third time until she has married another man and been divorced. The husband must pay dowry to the divorced wife according as he is able. The "Koran" everywhere presumes that the divorce is the sole prerogative of the husband.

It is the story, first of all, of a man named Elimelech who, with his wife Naomi, left Bethlehem and sojourned in Moab at the time of famine—a time when God was testing His people.

I

So the story thus begins with an experience of backsliding. It is highly conspicuous that when they left Bethlehem they went to Moab. The word "Moab" means "at ease."

"Moab hath been at EASE from his youth, and he hath settled on his less, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed."  
—Jer. 48:11.

Bethlehem, in contrast, means "the house of bread." Thus in a time of God's testing they left "the house of bread" and went to a land of "ease."

Elimelech and Naomi sinned in the sight of God when they went to Moab. We are not told

how long they remained in Moab, yet the implication is that they were there quite some time. Verse two declares that they "continued there."

Eventually the hand of God fell with chastisement upon the family. Elimelech died. Beyond any shadow of doubt this was chastisement in view of their departure from Bethlehem and their continuance in Moab. This is nothing new, for all the way through the Bible God tells us how He chastens those who depart from Him.

"If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail."  
—Psa. 89:30-33.

"For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."  
—Heb. 12:6.

Even after the death of Eli-

melech, Naomi continued in the land of Moab. It would appear that after God took her husband in death and she was chastened thereby, that she would have returned to Bethlehem. Doubtlessly the ease of Moab had come to appeal to her, and so she stayed on with-in that land. Ultimately her two sons were grown and it was only logical that they should marry heathen girls in this pagan land of Moab.

This in itself was wrong. God had decreed that in order to keep their religion intact the Jews were not to marry outside their own race.

"Neither shalt thou make marriage with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."  
—Deut. 7:3,4.

In contrast to what God had said, we find Naomi's two sons marrying these heathen girls — Ruth and Orpah.

Ere we censor these boys too greatly, we need to remember today that many are doing likewise, for many of God's own are marrying the unsaved of the world, which is definitely forbidden by God in the Bible.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"  
—II Cor. 6:14.

"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; ONLY IN THE LORD."  
—I Cor. 7:39.

It is highly conspicuous that this last verse speaks of the remarriage of a widow. While it says that she is at liberty to remarry, there is one restriction placed upon her,—namely, that she marry "only in the Lord." If that restriction be placed upon a widow, then surely in the light of other teachings in God's Word, it would likewise be placed upon one who had never married. Therefore, we can see that it was not only wrong for these Jewish lads to thus marry these heathen girls, but it is just as definitely wrong for saved people to marry unsaved folk today. Let me remind you that whenever this takes place, there will be trouble in store for the child of God. As I have often said: Whenever a child of God marries a child of the Devil, the said child of God is sure to have some trouble with his father-in-law.

All the time Naomi was getting farther from the Lord and farther from Bethlehem — "the house of bread." It was bad enough that she ever left Bethlehem and that she and her husband continued in Moab. Now it is even worse since her sons have married heathen girls. Since she has thus become more and more divorced from Bethlehem and more and more joined unto Moab, she therefore remained in the latter land ten years after the marriage of her sons.

II

Ultimately the God who had taken her husband by way of chastisement, reaches down and takes her two sons in death, so that now Naomi mourned not only because of the death of her husband, but likewise because of the death of both of her children. While she had come to Moab expecting to find

ease and plenty, her lot had become just the opposite. Her experience is well described by the prophet Amos.

"As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him."  
—Amos 5:19.

From this experience we can see how Naomi as a backslider had dragged her whole family down with her. Instead of repenting of her backsliding at the death of her husband and returning to Bethlehem, she continued in her backsliding until God had taken her children. Refusing to judge herself for her sin and backsliding, God was compelled to judge, and in return she was chastened of the Lord. This reminds us of Paul's letter to the church at Corinth. Listen:

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."  
—I Cor. 11:31,32.

Whenever God's people backslide and then judge themselves for their backslidings and turn back to God, it is not necessary for Him to judge them. However, when God's people sin but do not turn to Him, it is necessary that they be judged of the Lord, and whenever God judges, He always chastens. Thus it was with Naomi. God had judged her and thus God chastened her.

Naomi realized that she had done wrong, that God had chastened, and that God had judged her. She said: "The hand of the Lord is gone out against me." She knew the reason why her husband had died and why her sons had died. She knew that it was her own backsliding that had caused three deaths within her family. No one is ever chastened for his backslidings but what he realizes why it is that the chastisement has come.

No one could have been much more miserable than was Naomi now that God had dealt with her in chastisement. It reminds us of many individuals throughout God's Word. Look at Samson after that he had backslidden. You remember the long hair that God gave to him. This was a sign of his consecration to God. His unusual strength wasn't in his hair. Instead, his strength came from God. The long hair was just a sign of his consecration. When he sinned and his hair was shorn from him, the sign of his consecration was gone, just as actually his consecration itself was gone. I can see him when his eyes were gouged out by the Philistines and when he was bound with fetters of brass and was used as a slave to grind in the prison house of the Philistines. Surely this old blind slave couldn't be the same Samson whose deeds we read of within the Bible, yet it is. It is the very same. He is a blind prisoner now, all because of his backslidings from the Lord. Like Naomi, he has learned that the chastening hand of God is resting heavily upon him because of his sin.

The experience of David serves as another good illustration. Read the story of his misery as he suffered beneath the chastening hand of God. "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit."  
—Psa. 51:12.

"When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through roaring all the day long. For day and night THY HAND WAS HEAVY upon me."  
(Continued on page three)

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### "The Book Of Ruth"

(Continued from page two)  
moisture is turned into the drought of summer."

—Psa. 32:3,4.

Or, notice the experiences of Simon Peter who followed his Lord afar off on the night of His arrest and who later warmed himself around the enemies campfire and who denied his Lord three times, even punctuating one of these denials with profanity. When our Lord looked at him, just as the cock crowed the third time, Peter, knowing that he had sinned, went out and wept bitterly.

You can see, beloved, that the experience of Naomi is the common experience of all those who backslide from our Lord. She was chastened and she suffered as a result of her backslidings. Samson suffered when he backslid. David suffered when he backslid. Simon Peter suffered when he backslid, and thus with all of God's people, both inside and outside the Word of God.

### III

Ultimately Naomi learns that there is plenty of bread in Bethlehem. It has been many years since she was there. She had left the town at a time of God's testing, but instead of finding the ease which she sought in Moab, she had found heartache, and now she learns that God is visiting and blessing His people in the very place from whence she had departed. God had been visiting her, but had not been blessing her. Thus, the best news that ever came to Naomi was the news of God's blessings upon her old home which she had left. No better news could have ever fallen upon her backslidden ears.

Likewise, dear backslidden friend, no better news could ever come to you than for you to learn that if you want God's blessings, you must be in the place where God is pouring out his blessings. God's blessings are not poured out upon you when you are backsliding in Moab. His blessings are for those who "trust and obey."

When Naomi learned that there was food and blessings to be had in the place which she had forsaken, she immediately resolved to return to Bethlehem. It was an unusual wel-

come that she received when she arrived in her old home. Listen:

"So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?"

—Ruth 1:19.

Notice the expression, "THEY said, Is this Naomi?" The pronoun "they" is most interesting. In the Hebrew it is the feminine gender, which would give an indication of women gossipers who gathered about Naomi on her return. These folk remembered Naomi though she had been gone from Bethlehem for many years, and when they inquired as to her experiences, she refused to allow them to call her Naomi.

The word "Naomi" means "pleasant," while the word which Naomi chose for her name, "Mara" means "bitter." It had been a bitter experience through which she had passed. There hadn't been anything pleasant about it.

May we remember that whenever God's chastening hand falls upon us, it is always a bitter experience, with nothing pleasant.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but GREIVIOUS: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."—Heb. 12:11.

Naomi declared that she had been brought home "empty." (Vs. 21). She had gone away expecting to find ease and worldly goods in Moab, but now had come home in worse condition than when she had left Bethlehem years before. She had made a worldly attempt to better her condition by departing from the Lord, which resulted in still further chastening from the hand of God. As it was true with Naomi, so it is true with all of God's children that one's worldly attempt will always be found barren. Paul refers to this when he wrote to the worldly church at Corinth. He said:

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; YET SO AS BY FIRE."

—I Cor. 3:15.

This is a remarkable Scripture. The context likens a Christian's salvation to the

foundation of a house. That foundation is put in by the Lord. Then we are commanded to build upon it. Little by little our life's temple rises upon the foundation. Sometimes we build with gold, silver, and precious stone; other times when we sin and when we are living in disobedience and when we backslide, we put in wood, hay, and stubble. Probably no saved person ever builds completely of either the good or the bad. There is a great deal of mixed materials that go into this building of our temple. Some day at the judgment of the believers' works, all the wood, hay, and stubble will be burned away. Then it is that Paul speaks of those who are saved, as saved "so as by fire." Many will be saved, yet their life's work will be burned away.

This was Naomi's experience. She had backslidden in going to Moab and had continued in her backslidden state while there. She said on her return that she came home "empty." Many, like Naomi, that come to the end of life's experience find themselves "empty"—saved so as by fire.

How remarkable, though it is that Naomi came back to Bethlehem to the land of blessing, to the people of God and to God Himself. Even though she came home empty—it is good that she came home.

If this message comes to one who is backslidden, may it please the Lord to speak to that individual that he return from his backslidings unto the Lord.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

—I John 1:9.

### CONCLUSION

While in this message we have been studying particularly the backslidings of Naomi, it might be well that we notice the choice of that beautiful character, Ruth.

When her mother-in-law Naomi started to return to Bethlehem, Ruth forsook her idols and heathenism of the pagan land of Moab. She forsook her people for Naomi's people. She forsook her gods for Naomi's God. Hear her as she said:

"And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

—Ruth 1:16.

May it please God to call some sinner today to repentance and faith, and may that one now make the God-given choice which Ruth made, which means salvation for time and eternity.



### Tobacco

(Continued from page one) tobacco users where in the Bible tobacco is condemned. They wish "chapter and verse" which, of course, we cannot give. But we remind our inquirer that the Bible is not a set of rules governing all the details of daily conduct, but of great principles controlling and giving direction to inward feelings, desires, motives, etc., and as such applies at all times and to all moral beings.

For illustration, the Bible does not condemn human slavery, but when the principle of the golden rule began to operate in the hearts of men, they felt that slavery ought to be abolished, and it was.

In this article we are appealing to professed Christians

whose only rule for faith and practice is the Word of God. Shall we come reverently to the Book?

### One

The first principle we will consider is that which condemns needless or sinful waste.

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not." Isaiah 55:2; Hab. 2:13.

The enormous waste entailed by the use of tobacco is now (1944) \$2,700,000,000. This is vastly more than the former waste for liquor. But it is as much a sin to waste money, time, and health for one as for the other. The New Orleans Christian Advocate states: "One tobacco firm alone had a net income of \$26,000,000 in the year 1937. Twenty-six million dollars is a stiff price to pay for smoke and ashes, jangled nerves and hearts, sore throats, and bronchial inflammation."

Nay, does He not rather exhort us to "Touch no unclean thing," in order that He may "Dwell in us," and "Walk in us?" 2 Cor. 7:1.

### Two

The second principle is that class of passages which makes it a sin to abuse or misuse the body.

"Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God. And ye are not our own; for ye were bought with a price; glorify God therefore in your body." 1 Cor. 6:19-20, R. V.; Rom. 6:12-13.

Many more passages might be given to show the sacredness of the redeemed body, in fact one is almost startled if he will take the trouble to search, to find how much the Scriptures have to say about the body, and the high valuation God places upon it.

The Superintendent of the

### A PAGE FROM "MUSED UNCLE MOSE"



De reason ouah chu'ch cain' git nowhars is dat w'en we goes to move de piano, ev'ybody wants to carry de stool.

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### PHEIDIPPIDES WAS QUITE A RUNNER!

Would to God that Christians might be as zealous!



He ran for two days and nights to obtain aid for the Greek Army at the Battle of Marathon. He returned to fight valiantly and then ran the 22 miles to Athens, dying as he delivered the famous message, "Rejoice! We Conquer."

Illinois Reformatory says that cigarettes are tenfold more injurious to youths under fifteen than intoxicating liquors, and they, more than any other factor start them on the road to criminal life."

In the Fifth edition of the National Dispensary, page 1576, is this bald statement of a fact.

This fact is that Nicotine stands next to prussic acid in the rapidity and energy of its poisonous action.

"Prussic acid is probably the most deadly of all known poisons. Habitual users of tobacco are men and women who are systematically poisoning themselves. Their livers, kidneys and other vital organs, whose activities keep the blood free from poisons, are permanently damaged by continuous overwork against narcotic intoxication."—Bernarr MacFadden.

"The tobacco smokers, especially the one who inhales the smoke, is slowly, yet surely committing suicide on the installment plan. The man who dies at the age of 40 or 50, of some disease of degeneracy, when he could have lived to the age of 70, 80, or 100 years has, as verily committed suicide as the one who turns on the gas jet."—Dr. H. Bress.

Let me tell you how tobacco kills. Smokers do not all drop dead around the cigar-lighters in tobacco stores. They go away and, years later, die of something else. From the tobacco trust's point of view, that is one of the finest things about tobacco. They go away and when they die, the doctors certify that they died of something else—pneumonia, heart disease, or what not.

In other words, tobacco kills indirectly and escapes the (Continued on page four)

## 100 Days Or \$90

(Continued from page one)

where riches can be secured, why do they not act accordingly, become wealthy and close shop?

It is not in our province to advise a person how to become rich in this world's goods; but we are authorized to say to everyone in quest of spiritual and eternal wealth that it is to be found in Christ. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Not only will a believer be enriched with deliverance from judgment, and the forgiveness of sins, and the possession of eternal life, but he will also be heir "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven."

One becomes a child of God through faith in Christ. (John 1:12) And a child of God is an heir of God and, a joint-heir with Christ. (Romans 8:17) Who can estimate the wealth of an heir of God? There are no "black futures" for the children of God. The future of each believer is as bright as the un-failing promises of God!



### Tobacco

(Continued from page three) blame. What killed General Grant? Cancer. But what caused the cancer in his throat? Smoking! General Lee could not get Grant, but tobacco got him.—Luther Burbank.

Thomas A. Edison said: "Cigarette smoke has a violent action on the nerve centers, producing a degeneration of the cells of the brain, which is quite rapid among boys. No man or boy who smokes cigarettes can work in my laboratories."

Jerry McAuly, the rescue mission worker, said: "Converts in the mission backslide as a rule if they do not give up tobacco."

And a word of solemn warning should be sounded to smoking mothers. Dr. Charles L. Barber recently said before the American Association for Medico-Physical Research: "A baby born of a cigarette smoking mother is sick. It is poisoned, and may die within two weeks of birth. The post-mortem shows degeneration of the liver, heart, and other organs. Sixty per cent of all babies born of mothers who are habitual cigarette smokers die before they are two years old."

Christians are exhorted to "Abstain from every form of evil." (I Thes. 5:22 R. V.).

### Three

The next principle is contained in those Scriptures condemning conformity to the world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and pride of life is not of the Father but of the world." I John 2:15-16. "With such a starting point as the Cross and such a goal as the Lord's coming how can a Christian love the things of the world, the flesh and the devil."

Surely the craving for tobacco is not from "The Father." Who would dare say it is?

### Four

Next let us consider the principle of the doctrine of self denial as a test of discipleship.

"And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23).

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24).

This is one of the greatest truths of the Bible. We may measure our love for our Lord and Saviour by how much we sacrifice for Him. If we are unwilling to yield a filthy habit for love of Him, oh, how weak and feeble is our attachment to Him!

### Five

But we now come to one of the most powerful appeals of all, namely, that of our personal influence.

"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to them that are weak." 1 Cor. 8:9. "The right course is to eat no flesh, nor drink wine or any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended or is made weak." Rom. 14:21. (Weymouth).

Every man is some boy's hero. The writer recalls how he used to admire men that smoked, and said in his boyish heart, "When I am a man, I will smoke." Now that he is a father and has boys of his own, he has often thanked God that he never got into the habit, but he trembles for his boys, knowing how easily they may be led astray by the example constantly set before them by men — and women, too, alas! Influence carries with it a terrible responsibility—and accountability, also!

The writer recalls a touching incident told by a converted bartender in the old Jerry McAuly Mission, New York. A friend who was very fond of his little boy called on him frequently, and one Sunday afternoon, he said to the little chap, "What are you going to be when you grow to be a man?" Without a moment's hesitation he replied, "I'm going to be a bartender like my daddy." This startled the father to the realization of his evil influence over his child, and he resolved there and then he'd quit the business. "Example is more forcible than precept. People look at my six days in the week to see what I mean on the seventh."

### Six

Again there is the principle of sin as a bondage. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin." John 8:34.

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." 1 Cor. 6:12. Any cultivated appetite against nature enslaves.

"The power ought to be in the hands of the believer, not in the things he uses."—Bengel.

There are thousands of honest souls who confess with more or less shame that they are slaves to the tobacco habit, and they will tell you that they are sorry they ever began it, but that they just cannot quit. The "strong" who boast they can quit whenever they choose to, and who look upon those who cannot as "weak" should remember that many apparently

as strong as they are have said the same thing but they have repeatedly failed in their endeavor to break with their master. Their attitude toward their weaker brothers is contrary to the law of love, which requires that we abstain from everything that would tend to enfeeble him in his fight against wrong. "If thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably, Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died." Rom. 14:15.

The fact is that those who boast of their power to quit rarely ever do so, and if they once made the effort, they would be surprised to find how difficult it is to shake off their chains — the silken threads of habit have forged themselves into iron fetters and it takes more than mere will power to break them.

### Seven

The Bible principle of doing all that we do to the Glory of God, is one that would settle many of the questionable things in our lives, if we would allow it to operate. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31.

Invoking God's blessing upon all we do is one of the great Bible principles of Christian conduct.

Can anyone hold up his tobacco to God and ask Him to bless it just as we ask Him to bless the food at our tables? Why, the very suggestion seems almost sacrilegious, if not blasphemous.

Have we a right to do anything that we cannot do for His glory, or that we cannot ask His blessing upon?

A Christian boy was taken by his mother to dancing school to correct his awkwardness. He made such poor progress that she finally brought him home in disgust, and chided him for his dullness. The boy said, "I am sorry, mother, but I can't do any better. You see it is one of the things I can't pray over." (S. S. Times). A friend tells of a minister who found himself in a crowd and was obliged to deny himself of his accustomed smoke. Some young men were also present but did not have the courage to smoke in the presence of a minister. Their master habit drove them to a shed where they could indulge in a smoke unobserved. Soon they heard some one on the outside, and in looking through a crack, they saw the minister enjoying his pipe. It is evident that each one was convinced it was wrong. To practice deception is sin. The Christian ought not to do it. He brings his deeds to the light, the sinner hides them. John 3:20,21.

### Eight

And finally, let us consider the great sweeping principle of doubtful actions, the last of several that St. Paul gives in Romans 14 in reply to the question as to whether it is right or wrong to eat meats sacrificed to idols.

The Roman idolatrous priests used animals in their idol worship and a part of these were sent to the public market and sold. The more enlightened believers were seen by their brethren, recently saved from idolatry, buying and eating meat sacrificed to idols, and they were shocked, and called them idolaters, while they in turn called them "Weak." The controversy grew so sharp that they wrote Paul to settle it, but in his reply in this chapter, he does not decide for them as to

whether it is right or wrong to eat meat sacrificed to idols, but proceeds to lay down great fundamental principles underlying all moral conduct, the last of which is, that all doubtful actions if persisted in are sinful. Hear the inspired Word.

"Hast thou faith? (that is, that your acts, or actions are right). Have it to thyself before God." Do not seek to justify your act by consulting some "weak" Christian, but honestly seek to find by prayer God's will and mind in the matter—"Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God."

Is it not true that many smokers and chewers were in the beginning much troubled in conscience because of the habit, but who afterwards came to like the stuff and then defended its use? Alas, this is but the retributive law of "the voice of God within us," as some call conscience. At first it speaks loudly, then with less and less insistence as its voice is not heeded, until it seems to cease altogether, and the soul is left to pursue his course unmolested. "And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." That's the awakening.

This one principle alone would settle every moral and spiritual relationship between man and God, if men would stop their quibbling and allow it to speak to their hearts.

And we wish to say one word to those who feel that they cannot give up a habit of long years standing.

The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, "Breaks the power of cancelled sin, and sets the prisoner free," and we make bold to say that no man need fear a reaction, who trusts alone in the precious blood of Christ to deliver him from any habit whatever. We have known many to be instantly and permanently cleansed who confessed to God their sin, and helplessness, and looked alone to Him for deliverance. This is the gospel of victory. May every one who reads these lines, who may be in bondage to any sinful or injurious habit, find in Jesus Christ a Perfect Saviour, and tell others of His greatness and love and power.—Tract.



### First Century Churches

(Continued from page one)

And history records that Christianity spread all over the Roman Empire in the first century before they had any distinctive church buildings, or any of the equipment generally considered as absolutely essential today. The Christianity of that day was a FAITH AND A FELLOWSHIP. It was almost wholly of a spiritual nature. As centuries passed Christianity degenerated into a great ecclesiastical system, and Catholicism was the result. Likewise the "dark ages" resulted from the Catholicism.

#### Why The Powerlessness Of Modern Christianity?

Thousands of churches have no converts in a year's time. They do not hold the respect of the world, and society goes to the devil right under the shadow of churches. Why? Some reasons:

1. PERVERTED ORGANIZATION. The simplicity of New Testament organization has been exchanged for complexity, for the sake of "efficiency." But such is not efficient, for Christianity dies under such. The organizations of churches are copied after the world.
2. CHURCHES HAVE BECOME SOCIAL AND AMUSE-

MENT CLUBS instead of religious institutions. This is one of the greatest of all blunders, and it largely explains the powerlessness of modern Christianity.

3. SKEPTICAL WORLDLY MINISTRY. Men trained in many seminaries are not fit to preach, for they have nothing left to preach worth while. They try to be civic leaders and they dabble in politics, etc., but they have no real message. More and more we have our larger churches led by men of this stripe.

4. WORLD CONFORMITY. The average church is so lacking in separation from the world, that their manner of life is not distinguishable from that of the world. Moreover there is a cry of criticism raised if a church dares to raise aloft Bible standards.

All of the above and more is behind the powerlessness of this day.



### Enlargement

(Continued from page one) Churchism, Alien Baptism, Open Communion, Feminism, and Unionism.

This has been our policy in the past and shall continue to be our policy in the future.

If you are interested in a paper which is uncontrolled by the denomination, and which stands for the Word, then editor, I invite you to have fellowship with us, both as to your prayerful and financial support. If you don't believe what we preach, then keep your money, but if you do agree, we earnestly solicit your prayers and support.

Are all our readers poor? Don't we have any readers who are above the class of wage earners? How we wish that someone, or many, might make possible our new linotype today!

Just now we are engaged raising money to buy new equipment so as to enlarge our paper from four to eight pages weekly. We already have our linotype purchased, and each contribution is being applied toward its purchase. The linotype company told us that the machine would be ready for shipment about July 1. They have wired us recently that it is now ready, and can be shipped immediately.

To date we have paid \$1,350 on our linotype, and we need approximately \$2,200 more before we can have it delivered.

How we wish we had it, for we need it badly! Would to God that He might lay this heavily upon the hearts of our readers today that sufficient funds might come in immediately for its purchase!



### Cut Blood Out

(Continued from page one) very many prophetic and typical references to the death of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.—From Tom M. Olson.



### Preuptial Contract

(Continued from page one) ment, I do hereby solemnly swear that I will observe the above agreement and faithfully execute the promises therein contained, and do now affix my signature in approval thereof.