

No one ever backslid on his knees.

MISSIONARY

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The Baptist Examiner

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"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah 8:20

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Five Crowns Which The Believer May Have In Eternity

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

A number of times we have the word "crowns" spoken in connection with Christian people in the Bible, and we have been asked questions concerning the significance of the term as used in several different connections. This is a good subject for investigation and study. There are at LEAST FIVE CROWNS for which Christians may be eligible. Now a "crown" in the New Testament symbolizes REWARDS. It does not symbolize salvation. Let us keep clearly in mind that salvation and rewards are two different things entirely. But the crowns—

I. The Incorruptible Crown (I Cor. 9:25).

Reference here is to the Grecian games for which men trained long and strictly. In order to win they refrained from certain foods—they went into training in other words. A modern prize fighter does the same. He gives up certain indulgences and foods, etc., in order to win out. Grecian runners were crowned with a laurel wreath of victory, which of course withered in a few hours. It was "corruptible," but the crown of reward of the Christ is "incorruptible." That is, it will never fade—never pass away. The question is—if an athlete can afford to surrender

harmful things for the sake of a small and perishable reward, should not Christians give up harmful things for the sake of eternal reward? Study the above Scriptures carefully.

II. The Crown Of Life (James 1:12).

See also Rev. 2:10. The crown of life does not mean eternal life, for that is a GIFT and not a reward. But this means a definite reward for enduring trials and temptations. We may not know exactly what all this reward shall consist in, but it will probably be places of rulership and honor and greatness with Christ during His

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"THY WORD IS TRUTH"—John: 17-17.

✓ The Rich Man And Lazarus

(Read Luke 16:19-31).

In this passage of Scripture the Son of God pulls aside the curtains and lets us have one glimpse into the unseen world. This was His testimony as to the reality of Paradise and of Hades. He had seen both before He came to this world and His testimony was that of an eye witness. In this passage He answers practically every modern heresy at its vital points in His own testimony. So that the issue is clearly drawn as to Whom you will believe—Christ or these false teachers. You can't believe both. If the Son of God spoke the truth they are all found to be liars and that upon the testimony of the Son of God, who is to be their judge. From His verdict there is no appeal to a higher court. His decision will be final and He will not reverse Himself. Let us examine what He said,

1. Modernism

Modernism denies the accuracy of Moses. Christ here endorses it and elsewhere He bluntly says: "If ye believe not Moses' writings, how shall ye believe My words?"

Modernism teaches that man evolved from the brute and when he dies, that he dies like a brute. The Son of God's answer to that is the picture of this rich man in hell. It matters not how brutish a man may be here. He may like a brute live to eat, drink and fare sumptuously every day; but he doesn't die like a brute.

There is a hell of conscious torment to which all such Materialists go.

Modernism denies the reality of sin and of the punishment of sin. The Son of God's answer to that is this rich fool's prayer to Abraham to send Lazarus to his father's house to tell his brothers that is a lie and warn them not to follow him into hell.

2. Christian Science

Christian Science denies the reality of sickness. The Son of God herein testifies to the reality of Lazarus' sores. They were no delusion of mortal mind. Christian Science denies the reality of death. The Son of God testifies that the rich man died. Christian Science denies the reality of sin and of hell. The Son of God testifies from His own personal eye-witness of men in hell as to the reality of sin and the certainty and eternity of the punishment of all whose sins have not been washed away in His atoning blood.

3. Russellism

Russellism denies that death ends all probation. The Son of God here plainly teaches there is no second chance. Russellism denies the reality of hell. The Son of God here bears testimony to its reality and the awful suffering in conscious torment of all who go there. Russellism denies that hell is

real fire. The Son of God plainly speaks of its flames and of the cry for water by the damned who are there.

4. Spiritualism

Spiritualism teaches that men come back to this earth after they are dead. The Son of God gives the lie to that by showing that neither Lazarus in Paradise nor the rich man in Hades could come back here and warn his brothers.

Spiritualism teaches that men pass from heaven to hell to minister to the unfortunates in that world of woe. The Son of God plainly says that is false because there is a great gulf fixed, so that men can go neither from heaven to hell for any purpose nor can the wicked ever escape from hell. Spiritualism teaches a second chance. The Son of God denies that, when He testifies that men in torment can neither escape to Paradise nor can they come back to this earth. Spiritualism teaches that the spirits of our

departed dead communicate through spirit mediums with their loved ones back here. The Son of God here shows that neither the righteous nor wicked dead can come back to this earth, and elsewhere God's Word shows that all such communications are with "seducing spirits." "Seducing spirits" are demons, not the spirits of dead men.

5. Adventism

Adventism teaches that the souls of the wicked sleep between death and the judgment. So do the Christadelphians and some Russellites. The Son of God in this passage proves that teaching to be a lie. The rich man is conscious in Hades in real fire as soon as his spirit leaves his body. His mental faculties are as good as ever. He recognizes Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. (Continued on page three)

WE EXPECT TO PRINT EIGHT PAGES SOON

Every week some of our readers inquire as to when we expect to begin printing eight pages each week. I only wish that I knew the answer so that I might set a definite date.

The first of the year we launched a campaign to raise \$6,000, with which to purchase another linotype and press. We have been able to raise about a third of this, thus far. We borrowed \$1,500, which we added to what we had raised and secured our linotype. We want to get this \$1,500 debt paid off as early as possible, and then as God enables us, we will secure our new press.

We are thus waiting on the Lord and as He moves upon the hearts of His people to supply our needs, we shall advance. If you believe in the ministry of this paper, we invite you to share its responsibilities.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"The Law Of The Least"

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."—Mt. 5:17-19.

Let me remind you that the whole Bible is of value to God's people today. Never for one moment, beloved friends, doubt that the entirety of God's Word is of value for your own soul.

When the New Testament was being written, not all of the Bible was complete. In fact, the most that they had was just the Scriptures in the Old Testament. Though this was true, when Paul wrote to young Timothy, he said:

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof,

for correction, for instruction in righteousness."—II Tim. 3:16.

If that were the only verse in the Bible, I'd know that the whole Bible was profitable for God's people to read and study, but there are many, many more verses which tell us that the Word of God is not only profitable from the standpoint of the Old Testament, but all the Word of God is to be accepted, believed, preached and taught.

Every once in a while I hear someone say relative to some Scripture, "Why, that is in the

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Not long ago we saw a sign on the outside of a Baptist Church which read somewhat as follows: "Pork Supper Tonight. Tickets 75c." On still another occasion and on another Baptist Church we saw one that read: "Turkey Dinner. Tickets \$1.25." In each case these signs were on the outside of large churches. In the first case there were over five hundred people in the membership and in the second, over seven hundred. Even if we conceded that such commercialism were necessary in a small struggling church (which we do not) it would not apply to such churches as these. They have memberships which should be both able and willing to sustain their worship by means of their free will offerings.

Of course such things are characteristic of churches all

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"The Law Of The Least"

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Old Testament, isn't it?" Some people seem to think that if they relegate some verse to the Old Testament, they just cast it into oblivion and there is no reason for us to accept it.

These verses of Scripture which I have read to you, show us the proper attitude toward the whole Bible. It isn't for us to say that if it is in the Old Testament, therefore we are not to accept it. It isn't for us to say any portion has already been fulfilled, therefore it is of no value to us. It is not for us to say that part of the Bible will do for us to study and live by today; the balance was for yesteryear and it is of no value to us today. Rather, my text would tell us that the whole Bible is profitable for you and for me.

I

WE ARE TOLD HOW LONG THE BIBLE IS GOING TO LAST.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."—Mt. 5:18.

A jot or a tittle were mighty little characters of the Hebrew alphabet. They would correspond roughly with the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t" in our English language. Though the jot and the tittle were very small parts of the Hebrew alphabet, our Lord said that not as much as one jot or one tittle out of the whole Bible would fail. In other words, this Word of God is to last and last forever.

Every once in a while I'll receive a letter from some preacher who is alarmed lest the Bible will be destroyed. One preacher told me sometime ago that he feared the Word of God would soon become as popular as witchcraft in the days of the founding of this country, for he said, "We think of those who believe in witchcraft a couple of hundred years ago as being foolish, but I am afraid that the Word of God is soon to be considered about on a par with witchcraft."

No, no, beloved. My text tells us how long this Bible is going to last, for it says that not even one jot or one tittle shall pass from the law. Jesus taught this all the way through the Bible.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY."—Mt. 24:35.

Here are two positive declarations. One is that the Heaven and the earth are going to pass away. Some of these days this world is going to be burned over, and every vestige of sin is going to be burned away.

On the other hand, when

Those who are true to the word, never think bold preaching against sin absurd.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE REVIVAL OF NATIONAL LIFE IN THE NATION OF ISRAEL

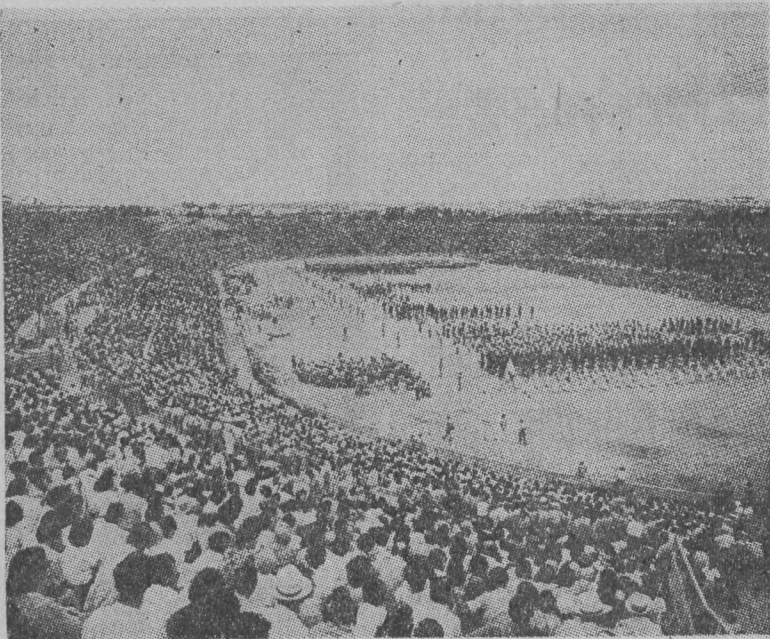


Photo above shows gathering of nearly eighty thousand spectators at Tel-Aviv, Israel, assembled to witness an Israeli version of the Olympic games. Regathering of Jews in Palestine is today's miracle in fulfillment of God's ancient promises.

Top athletes from 18 nations vied for championship honors at the new Ramath-Gan Stadium in Tel-Aviv, Israel. This Israeli version of the Olympic Games, called the Maccabiah, attracted the athletes from countries throughout the world to compete in the stadium that will hold 80,000 spectators.

Around the stadium are the flags of the participating nations, and the contending teams stand in attention in the middle of the field.

The four winning teams came from four different continents. The home forces of Israel topped the list with the US squad close on their heels. South Africa placed third and Great Britain was fourth.

Striking to the Bible scholar is this revival of national life in the new nation of Israel. He reads these prophetic words in both Old and New Testaments.

"For the Lord shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody (Isa. 51:3).

"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered and I will give you the land of Israel (Ezek. 11:17).

"At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all

Jesus made this prophetic statement that the Heaven and the earth shall pass away, in the same breath He also said, "But my words shall not pass away." I know that when the earth is on fire and the Heavens are being renovated, this old Book is still going to last. This old Book will stand when all else has come to naught.

Paul likewise tells us this truth, for we read:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOR EVER."—I Pet. 1:23.

The Bible has had a lot of critics and folk who prophesied direly its destruction. Voltaire tried to destroy it. He said, "I have gone through the Bible just like a woodsman goes through a forest and fells the trees. Here lies the books of the Bible. The preachers may try to resurrect them, but they

people of the earth, when I turn your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord" (Zep. 3:20).

"I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land . . . Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about; thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord" (Joel 3:2,11).

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matt. 24:32,33).

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:11-14).

will never succeed." He said that within fifty years the Bible would be an nonentity and nobody would accept it. It would be forgotten. Yet today the very house in which Voltaire penned those words is now a depository for the American Bible Society in France, and the very table upon which Voltaire wrote those words is now doubtlessly stacked with thousands of copies of the Word of God, proving that the Word of God outlasts the foolish prophesies of men.

I think often of that early Roman emperor who thought that he had succeeded in the destruction of Christianity, so much so that he had a medal made in his honor. On it was this inscription: "The religion of Christianity is destroyed, and the religion of the gods is restored." I wonder what that heathen Roman would think if he could come back to this church this morning and see

the Word of God here within the pews. I tell you, beloved, though men may cavil, and though men may rant, and though infidels may scoff and jeer at the Word of God, the Bible is going to last.

"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."—Psa. 119:89.

Beloved, there is a copy of the Word of God on file in the registry office in the skies, and though you might be able to burn up every copy of the Word of God down here, and though you might be able to destroy every allusion to the Word of God in poetry and in literature, and though you might be able to remove every reference to the Word of God from our songs, even then you couldn't destroy the Book.

I like the words of that little poem, which says:

"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in upon the floor,
I saw old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter these hammers so?"
"Only one," said he,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so I thought the anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon;
And though the sound of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unhurt—the hammers gone."

Beloved, this old Book is going to last. I don't care how many infidels may arise. I don't care how many folk may scoff at it. I don't care how many individuals may rise up and say that the Word of God isn't so, that they can show contradictions and inconsistencies within it. I'd still remind you that Jesus said:

"The Scriptures cannot be broken."—John 10:35.

II

WE ARE TOLD JESUS' RELATION TO THE LAW.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."—Mt. 5:17.

The law and the prophets as used here, refers to the Old Testament.

Some years ago in Louisville, Kentucky, I paused before a terminix demonstration and saw in a window, pieces of wood that had been eaten by termites, and various objects that had been put within that window, showing the destructive power of termites. In the center was a copy of the Bible that had been eaten by termites. Over it was this inscription: "Termites have no regard for even the Holy Word of God."

I have thought of it many many times through the years that have passed. Termites may try to destroy the Word of God, but, beloved, Jesus didn't come to destroy. There are a lot of termites in pulpits today. There is many a pulpit that has a termite instead of a prophet standing within it. There is many a termite who is supposed to be preaching the Word of God where there ought to be a prophet foretelling God's Word. There is many a pulpit that has been eaten away so far as the Word of God is concerned — modernistic termites, evolutionist termites, and false preachers who are termites. Even of recent date, I heard one sneer at the Old Testament

when in my presence. He said, "I don't want to go back any further than Acts 2:38 to get my religion." I need not tell you that he was a follower of Alexander Campbell, for you would know that.

Listen, beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ never made any statement about finding His doctrine this side of Acts 2:38, for the Lord Jesus didn't come to destroy, but to fulfil. Oh, how He fulfilled it! He corrected the corruptions that the Jews had allowed to grow up around the law and the prophets. He completed the conceptions of the law and the prophets, for we read:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."—Mt. 5:27,28.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."—Mt. 5:43, 44.

Beloved, the Son of God never came to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfil them. He fulfilled them by removing the corruptions which the Jews had allowed to accumulate around the Scriptures, and giving to the Scriptures of the Old Testament a greater conception, enlarging the truth that had been taught in the Old Testament.

Brother, sister, doesn't it make you love your Bible more just to know that from Genesis 1:1 to Rev. 22:21 that the Lord Jesus Christ put His stamp of approval upon it? Doesn't it make you love this Book more just to know that Jesus said that it is to be read and studied and accepted? Thank God, He didn't destroy one verse of the Bible, but He enlarged it and made it richer for your life and for mine.

III

WE ARE TOLD HOW THIS BIBLE IS FINAL IN EVERY PARTICULAR.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."—Mt. 5:18.

Our Lord said concerning this Bible that if you do and teach what He has said within it, that you will be great in Heaven; but if you do and teach contrary to what He has said, that you will be least in Heaven. In other words, beloved, the Bible is final and we are to take what it says.

About every week somebody wants to argue something about the Bible, and usually the fellow who knows the least about it, wants to put up the strongest, loudest argument. I often think when people come to talk to me from an argumentative standpoint, of the English essayist, when he said, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." While I was in a barber shop recently, the fellow who was ahead of me in the chair wanted to argue concerning God's Word, and his knowledge of God's Book was so limited, it was pitiful. He knew nothing at all about it. His idea was that this old Book is nothing but a bunch of folk tales and folk lore that has been handed down, and to think that it was the Word of God was the last thing he could accept. When I said to him that the Word of God is final, he almost blew a fuse in the clippers that the

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"The Law Of The Least"

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barber was using. I insist, beloved, that the last word on every subject that it touches upon is right here within this book. Somebody may say, "I think so-and-so." What you think isn't worth one bit more than what I think. It is what the Word of God says that is final.

"And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I CANNOT GO BEYOND THE WORD of the Lord my God, to do less or more."—Num. 22:18.

"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt NOT ADD thereto, NOR DIMINISH from it."—Deut. 12:32.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ADD THOU NOT UNTO HIS WORDS, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."—Prov. 30:5, 6.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."—Isa. 8:20.

Beloved, do you want to know whether a preacher is God's man and is preaching the truth? If you will read the financial statement of that church at the end of the year, that won't tell you. If you will count the number of noses in the congregation each time they have services, that won't tell you. If you will go by how popular he is, that won't tell you. If he gets along well with the people, that won't tell you. If you want to test whether a man is God's man and is preaching God's Word, test him not by his popularity, not by the finances of the church, not by the attendance of the church, but test him by the Word of God. Beloved, if he isn't preaching this Bible, it is because there is no light in him.

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of this prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."—Rev. 22:18, 19.

We are not to add to, nor take away from, the Bible. That is why it is that we Baptists

are a lot different from other people. Other people add to and take from the Bible to suit themselves.

A man was telling me just recently that they took their little girl to Ashland and had her sprinkled. They hardly thought that it would be right to have her sprinkled here in a little town like Russell, that they wanted to have her sprinkled by some larger divine such as they might find in Ashland. I said to him, "Brother, where did the big preacher find one word of Scripture for what he did?" He said, "Oh, that didn't make any difference."

Beloved, it does make a difference. This old Book is final. That is why we are not allowed to add to God's Word, and we are not allowed to take away from God's Word. That is why Baptists do not practice sprinkling. That is why Baptists don't sprinkle babies. That is why it is that Baptists practice close communion. That is why it is that we stay away from union meetings. That is why we stand up for the teachings of the Word of God as laid down in this Bible.

I remember a woman that used to come here to church, but who now lives in Huntington. One Sunday morning I preached on a woman's place in a New Testament church, and, as most of you know, I believe that a woman's place in the church is a position of silence. During my message I read I Cor. 14:34, which says: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." I also read I Tim. 2:12, which says: "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." This woman hadn't been a church member but a short time, and this was the first time that she had ever heard this preached. After the services were over, she said to me, "Brother Gilpin, that is the most ridiculous thing I ever heard of in my life." I said to her, "Sister, when you were saved, you asked me for the best book that I could give you to read so you could find out what God's will was for your life, and I gave you the Bible. I told you the Bible was final. Now, out of what book did I read that Scripture?" She turned around and walked out. I have seen her occasionally through the years and she believes this doctrine just like I believe it. Why? Because this

Bible is final.

Beloved, if you are a saved man or a saved woman, you are going to take this Bible as final for your life. The man or the woman who won't make the Bible final in his life proves thereby that he doesn't know the Lord Jesus Christ. God isn't going to give you a revelation that is contrary to this Book. This Bible is final.

IV

WE ARE TOLD WHAT THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATION IS TO THE LAW.

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."—Mt. 5:19.

Notice what God says will happen if we break one of the least commandments. He does not say that a person will lose his salvation if he breaks one of these commandments, as a lot of folk believe and teach. Rather, beloved, He says that whoever violates one of these commandments and teaches men so, he will be mighty little in the kingdom of Heaven.

You may say, "Brother Gilpin, what is the least commandment?" Beloved, I'll be frank with you, I don't know, but let's look at a few commandments which some people think are least.

Some people think that the question of a person's tithe is a mighty little thing. Beloved, I believe that every person in this world ought to bring his tithe to the Lord. We read:

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."—Mal. 3:8-10.

Maybe this is the least commandment in the Bible, but, beloved, even if it is, I'd be mighty careful that I lived up to it.

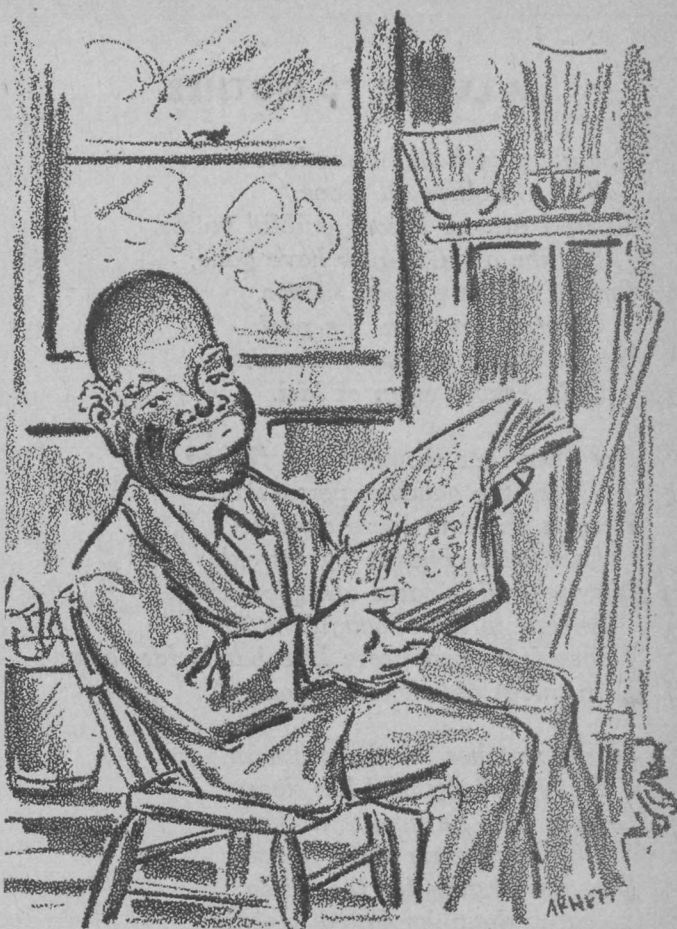
Or somebody may say, "Bro. Gilpin, I just don't understand why it is that you don't think it is right to be a member of anything but a Missionary Baptist Church." Beloved I don't. I just don't think it is right for any preacher or any Christian to be a member of any fraternal organization where he must take an oath contrary to the Bible. Listen:

"But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black."—Mt. 5:34, 36.

Listen to me, beloved, this might be a mighty little thing, but you are going to be a mighty little preacher or a mighty little Christian when you get to Heaven if you violate it.

Here is the question of baptism. Some people say it doesn't make a bit of difference whether you are baptized or not, you will go to Heaven. Beloved, that is right. I believe that everybody will go to Heaven that has been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, regardless of what church he is a member of, or what kind of baptism he has had, or whether he is a member of any church or not, or whether he has been baptized. Our

A PAGE FROM "MUSED UNCLE MOSE"



Dat ole ox de Lawd talk erbout—you can push 'im in de ditch so many times dat he git so he jes' want to lay dar.

"Mused Uncle Mose" is a 64-page book, of over 200 philosophical sayings, similar to the above, containing 20 full-page pictures. It costs \$1.00 postpaid, and is worth every penny. Order from us.

Lord gave us an example of baptism when He Himself went down into the water and was baptized. If He gave us that example, we had better not violate it.

Another question is that of church membership. Some people think that they can move to town and leave their church letter miles and miles away. They think whatever they do relative to their church membership is all right. Our Lord said for us to put our candle on the candlestick. Revelation 1 tells us that the candlestick is the church and the candle is our light. Beloved, we ought to have our light shining for the Lord in the community where we live.

Another question is that of the Lord's Supper. Some people think it is up to them whether or not they take it. Jesus said:

"This is my body which is given for you: THIS DO in remembrance of me."—Luke 22:19.

There used to be a woman in this church who wouldn't take the Lord's Supper with us because we used one cup. She was afraid she would catch some disease. Beloved, after a hundred of us have drunk out of it, would you please tell me what disease it would be? You may say that it is so much more sanitary to have individual cups. Beloved, it isn't a question of what is nice or what is sanitary, it is a question of what is scriptural. Our Lord said:

"The CUP of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."—I Cor. 10:16, 17.

CONCLUSION

The law carries with it a

curse. We read: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."—Ezek. 18:4.

Paul said: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."—Gal. 3:13.

The curse comes by sinning, and we can get rid of the curse through the redemption that is ours in Jesus Christ. I ask you, have you gotten rid of the curse? If you haven't, when you come down to die physically, being dead spiritually, you will stay spiritually dead throughout eternity. You can get rid of that curse, for Jesus Christ became our curse at Calvary and died for our sins, that He might bring us to Him.

Oh, may it please the Lord to reach down and pick up someone that has the curse resting upon him, and save his soul, and add him to the church, that he might live in the light of this Bible and live up to even the least of God's commandments.

May God bless you!

Rich Man And Lazarus

(Continued from page one) ham's bosom and talks to him. He cries for water to cool his tongue. He thinks of his younger brothers back in this world and tries to get word to them not to follow him to hell. The facts as testified to by the Son of God all show the wicked very much awake, active, conscious, tormented and yet not questioning the justice of their punishment during the intermediate state between death and the judgment.

(Continued on page four)

THANKFUL

We should be thankful for what we have—
Some people aren't, are you?

We should be thankful for the things we can do—
Some people aren't, are you?

We should be thankful for everything—
Some people aren't, are you?

We should be thankful for the birds that sing in the sky so blue—
Some people aren't, are you?

Answer these questions and tell the truth—
Some people won't, will you?

This was composed by Peggy Swindell, a little girl in the church of which the editor is pastor. Thank God for devoted, consecrated young Christians.

A LETTER TO MOTHER

Far away in twilight shadows
Sits a mother all alone;
Ceased are all those youthful voices,
For the children now have gone;
And in all the gloomy silence,
Only echoes from the past
Now resound in empty chambers;
Only echoes reign at last.

Far away her thoughts are flitting
Where the children now abide,
Here is one and there another.
Each with children by his side;
Busy with life's cares and pleasures,
Seldom in their thoughts is she
Whose frail arms were love bands for them,
In sweet childhood's memory.

So she watches for the postman,
Daily walking past her door;
Seldom does he turn in thither:
Oh, the waiting heart is sore,
Looking longing for the letter
Son or daughter failed to write;
Stop, my friend, is this a picture
Of your mother dear tonight?

Honor father, honor mother,
First command with promise given,
Fiat firm absolving no one,
Till by death the ties are riven;
Throw aside your cares and pleasures,
Once each week a letter write
To the parents God has spared you:
Write that letter now, tonight.

--Selected

The Believer's Crowns

(Continued from page one)
Millennial reign on the earth.
And it is true that there are NO trials and temptations impossible to bear with the help of God. (Read I Cor. 10:13). Trials and testings do for a genuine Christian what storms do for the trees — root and ground them more firmly. What are YOUR trials — your testings — your special difficulties. They may be different from most others, for different things affect different persons differently.

III. The Crown Of Glory (I Peter 5:1-4).

This is a special reward for ministers of the Gospel. And to receive this one must be faithful. Note what this Scripture says:

1. He should serve in the ministry willingly. If unwillingly — no reward for it.
2. He should not serve just for the pay.
3. He should not be a boss.
4. He should be an example — and lead by example rather than force.
5. He is to receive his reward from the Chief Shepherd at His coming.

Is this reward ONLY for preachers? No! Others may share in it as indicated in Matt. 10:41.

IV. The Crown Of Righteousness

(II Timothy 4:7-8).

This is reward for putting up a good fight and for keeping the faith. Many never wage any warfare against sin, and are loose when it comes to doctrine. In fact most churches are not at war against the agencies of the devil at all — to the contrary, they support these. Moreover, they readily throw the doctrines of the Bible away for the sake of popularity or peace.

V. The Crown Of Rejoicing

This is reward for soul-winning. In other words for leading other people to become Christians. Read Luke 16:9 and Daniel 12:3 and Psalms 126:6 in this connection. How many church members ever win anybody to Christ? How many of YOU? The greatest thing any person can ever do is to win somebody else to Christ. Lots of so-called "church work" is a failure because it is a substitute for the winning of others to Christ. We are not responsible to win a certain number, but we are responsible to TRY to win a great number. How many of you are doing some work along this line?



Rich Man And Lazarus

(Continued from page three)

Adventism teaches the final annihilation of the wicked. The Son of God elsewhere testifies that the "smoke of their torment goeth up forever and ever and they have no rest day and night."

6. Hardshellism

Hardshellism teaches that men are saved by the Holy Spirit without the word.

The Son of God here testifies that only those will escape hell who hear the Word of God and repent of their sins and trust Christ to save them.

"If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, tho one rose from the dead."

7. Campbellism

Campbellism teaches that men can not be saved without baptism. So do Mormonism, Adventism and Catholicism. The Son of God here teaches that the Old Testament Scriptures, written by Moses and the Prophets, teach a sinner how to be saved, and baptism isn't mentioned in the Old Testament. With this agrees also the testimony of Peter where he said: "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth on Him shall receive the remission of sins." And to this agree the words of Paul to Timothy: "From a babe thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus."

8. Catholicism

Catholicism teaches that prayers to the saints are answered. This rich man prayed to Abraham; but his prayer was not answered. Catholicism teaches that the popes and all others go to purgatory; that even babies have to go to limbo, especially unbaptized babies, and that none go at once into the presence of God. The Son of God here teaches that the righteous go at once into a state of rest and bliss; and that the wicked go at once into a place of conscious torment. He also teaches that there is no escape from the place into which they go by any who go there. If, as the Catholics teach, when they say masses for the dead, their popes and cardinals and other high muck-a-mucks go to purgatory when they die: then they are all still in hell; for there is no way to get out when they once get in. The Son of God said so.

9. Mormonism

Mormonism teaches that prayers for the dead will avail, as do the Catholics and High-Church Episcopalians. In other words, they all teach a second chance. The Son of God gives the lie to all such teaching in this passage when He testifies that there is no escape from the place into which men enter at death. A fixed gulf prevents their passage from hell to heaven. This Scripture forever proves to be false in toto the Mormon idea of baptism for the dead. They teach that if some living man is baptized for some dead one that the dead one may thus pass from hell to heaven. The Son of God in this passage proves that to be false when He says there is a great gulf fixed so that they can not pass from torment into Paradise, even if they would.

10. Sundry Sects

Sundry other sects such as Theosophy, New Thought, Unitarianism, Universalism, Socialism and many Lodges and Fraternal Orders agree in part with the teachings mentioned above and besides teach that God is a God of love and that He is too good to damn anybody for all eternity. The Son of God gives the lie to all they say, in this passage as well as

in many others. God is too good not to damn the wicked. He would not be good at all if He did not tell the truth. He has said He will "by no means clear the guilty" and that "every transgression and disobedience shall receive a just recompense of reward." The Son of God plainly testifies that all such Materialists as this rich man, who live for the present to enjoy the good things of this life, will get their evil things in the next. He even makes the contrast as radical as it could be made. He makes Lazarus have only evil things in this life and the rich man only good things in this life, in order to show men that the worst possible conditions in this world with salvation are infinitely more to be desired than the best possible conditions in this world without salvation. There is a topless heaven and there is a bottomless hell. Every man that ever comes into this world is going to spend eternity in one or the other. The Master draws aside the curtain and lets us see just a little of the rest and bliss of one and of the torment and anguish of the other. He concludes this awful picture with the solemn warning that men's eternal doom will be determined by their attitude towards the Bible. There are no untried means to bring men to salvation here and to heaven hereafter, if they will not heed the warnings of God's Bible. That is God's last and final word to the lost. Hell is the portion of all who reject the Bible and its Christ.



Cheap Chiselers

(Continued from page one)

over the land, both Protestant and Catholic. People have come to expect it as the usual thing. If it isn't a supper, it's a faggot sale, a cookie sale, a garden party, a minstrel show, but whatever it may be it is an advertisement that said church is hard up and in need of money to keep going.

A merchant once told us: "The churches are always coming to us to buy tickets for something or other. They know who to send with their tickets, too—someone who does business with us and if we don't buy we lose their business." His intimation was that they did not dare to refuse to buy for fear of losing their trade. This sort of thing is a mild form of burglary, putting a merchant where he must either lose business or contribute. A gunman could not do it as expertly because these people are quite within the law in all of the demands that they make.

Our second charge was in a church that was almost completely supported by the efforts of the Ladies Aid Society. Every other Thursday evening they put on a church supper in the basement of that building and it was always largely attended by the people of the town. In addition they indulged in baked goods sales, fancy work sales and what have you from time to time as the financial condition of the church demanded it. Among the active members of that organization was a woman whose husband made his livelihood by operating a combination grocery store, meat shop and delicatessen. We walked into his store late one afternoon on a day when the ladies of our church had been conducting a baked goods sale all day long. About the time I

entered the store he was "fed up" and about ready to "blow his top." He didn't do it with us because he knew we were no more in favor of what he was complaining about than he was.

He pointed to a special display of baked goods resting on top of one of his glass show-cases and said, "The women in your church have been competing with me all day, selling their baked goods to people who might otherwise come to my store to buy. Now, at the close of the day, they have had the unmitigated gall to bring what stuff they have left over from their sale to my store, asking me to sell it for them." I sympathized with him. Of course it was his wife's doings, but it was the guilt of the church as well.

We saw that man very deeply under conviction in some of the services that he could be induced to attend, but he never took the step that would have saved him for time and eternity. Is it any wonder??

Now there was no need of that sort of thing in that church. There were plenty of people to pay the bills and some of them were quite well to do, capable of making large contributions if they so willed. This is true of every church that is worth keeping open at all. (Of course some are not.)

What we are attempting to indicate is that the church the living God has her hand out at all times to the people of the community of which she is a part, always insisting that it is the duty of the community to support their church. Then those same people will wonder why the town has little or no use for the message that comes forth from their pulpit! The preacher can preach himself blue in the face without making the least impression upon them.

In the church of which we speak, we baptized several people, but only one of them ever seemed to amount to anything as a Christian. We count it the most unfruitful two years of our experience in the pastorate. Upon our arrival the people came to us with a story about their former pastor who had been with them ten years and had then been asked to resign. They said he just wouldn't do anything, but spent most of his time reading novels. When we first heard the story we were quite critical of him, but after we had been in the church for a year we had more sympathy for his viewpoint. He had gotten to the place where he had said (to himself): "What is the use of trying to do anything here?" We finally arrived at the same place, but we didn't sit down and read novels. We asked the Lord to lead us to another field and He did so.

Let's look at this matter frankly and honestly. The Bible says, "But my God shall supply your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." That is for individual believers. It is also for churches as a whole. That means that God is willing and able to supply all the material needs of His children and the churches to which they belong. So long as churches trust the Lord for that supply He will prove His Word to them. However, trusting the Lord for such things involves something else. One cannot pray very hard for the provision of a need without giving of their means toward it also. A lot of so-called saints have "prayer paralysis." Will God supply the need of a church composed of people who will not do the utmost to answer their own prayers? Certainly not.

—The Tabernacle Trumpet

MISSION

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