

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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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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THE LODGE CROWD SAYS . . .

## "Every Bit Of It Is In The Bible"

By R. F. HALLFORD  
Montgomery, Ala.

How often, when someone asks for information about or makes an attack upon Masonry, do we hear the claim concerning it: "Every bit of it is based on the Bible!" It is not surprising that its adherents and advocates make such a claim because the "Masonic Creed" says: "The Holy Bible is the Great Light in Masonry, and the Rule and Guide for all faith and prac-

tice."

No doubt most of those who echo this claim are honest and sincere in the conviction that they speak the truth. If there are those who make the claim while knowing that they are not speaking the truth, we leave the benefit of the doubt to them. It has been my experience, in conversing with lodge members, to find that the average one of them does not know enough about his Bible or the lodge

teachings to discuss the matter intelligently.

It is the purpose of this brief treatment to show that, instead of "every bit" of lodge teachings and practice being "based on the Bible," very little if any of it has any basis there. The ideas as to what the lodges teach are not a product of my own imagination, but are derived from their own sources of information. If any reader

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## How The Character Of God Prohibits Christians From Union With The World

By JAY GREEN  
Madisonville, Kentucky

The first chapter of Romans will show you what manner of thoughts about God you would have had if left to your own reasonings. The only way that you have of knowing what kind of person God is lies in the Holy Scripture. God has breathed out His own description for us so as to guide us. God is Holy, and Good, and Pure. "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou ONLY ART

HOLY."—Rev. 15:4. A close communion with the thrice-holy Lord will indeed take us up on mountain peaks of joyful experience, but it will surely declare that we have obeyed His command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

How do such statements affect social functions of the church for a mixed company? "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Cor. 7:1). "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." (Gal. 5:17). As noted before, we cannot have these mixed gatherings without setting forth fleshly fare. This is so obvious that I have heard no one try to call these church affairs spiritual, though they claim a spiritual end. To avoid equivocation, however, let's have the next "party" with a program like: opening prayer and hymn. A study of God's Will in our lives. Then open conversation, the godly engaging the ungodly in conversation to present Jesus as Saviour. There will be no refreshments.

You say, why people won't

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## APPRECIATED COMMENTS

"I'm an old man past four score years and not much money, but am sending my little with a prayer that those who have more will come to your rescue, as we can't do without THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, as it is the best ever."

E. L. Saunders,  
Talcott, W. Va.

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"I love your paper and don't want to be without it."

Mrs. L. B. Harrell,  
Corapeake, N. C.

\*\*\*

"Am sending you a small gift to help carry on the grand work you are doing for the Lord."

Mrs. M. I. Wood,  
Dalton, Ky.

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"I am enclosing a small gift to help along a little bit. I surely do enjoy reading your paper and thank God for it. May you as its editor and God's messenger continue in the good work of helping the rest of us to know the truth."

Don Anderson,  
Marion, Ohio.

## Yes, The Bible Clearly Teaches The Eternal Punishment Of The Wicked

By ROY MASON  
Tampa, Florida

Recently a woman who hears our radio broadcasts over a station in Georgia, wrote a letter commending most of a sermon she had heard, but expressing surprise that we should teach such a thing as the future eternal punishment of either the devil or any of mankind. Several days later we received a letter from a man who was in rebellion against the same thing. Now the question is not what we "think" or what we "like" or what we want to believe, but that the Lord tells us in His Word. However, if we for the moment lay aside the Word of God, the doctrine of eternal punishment for the devil and his followers is perfectly reasonable.

### Why Reasonable

Because justice demands that sin be punished. To assume that Satan, after all of the misery that he has caused through centuries, will just be blotted out, is an absurd assumption. That would mean that he would never be brought to justice.

And many of the followers of

Satan never get their just deserts in this life. They live in defiance of God, yet enjoy good health and often the wealth that they have gotten in an evil way. Sometimes a heart attack comes, and they die with only a momentary struggle. Unless there is a future reckoning, then they have gotten along better than if they had lived righteously. Just recently we talked with a man over eighty years of age. He told us that he had never been sick a day in his life. Did

## SOME "I WILL'S" FOR S. S. TEACHERS

1. I will conscientiously prepare my lesson each week by making both mental and spiritual preparation.
2. I will seek to be more than a Sunday School teacher. I will seek to become a personal friend of each of my pupils.
3. I will make a careful study of the spiritual needs of my class with the intention of doing "personal work" wherever possible.
4. I will pray daily for each member of my class.
5. I will strive to be a genuine Christian example at all times.
6. I will be loyal and cooperative with the pastor and the superintendent, God being my helper.
7. I will take an active interest in the work and the ministry of the church to build it up.
8. I will seek to get each pupil who is a Christian to become a responsible soul winner for Christ.
9. I will seek to get each pupil of my class to stay for the preaching service by setting a good Christian example myself, God being my helper.

A Sunday School teacher should know that he is responsible to God for his teaching and his conduct, as well as the pupils. God knows and the pupil knows whether a teacher is a genuine Christian in every way. You can't fool God; neither can you fool the pupils.

—W. C. Denny

## PORTRAITS FROM THE BIBLE

As I was sitting by a table in the kitchen, about 4:00 a.m., this morning; and having completed a two-weeks study — subject: "A Mystery," I Cor. 2:7, I found myself meditating. My mind was turning the pages of the "Western Recorder" and other commentaries that I have been privileged to read.

Before my eyes were the portraits of God's ministry. There was a different expression on the faces of the present day ministry than that of our beloved brethren T. T. Eaton, John A. Broadus, A. T. Robertson, J. R. Graves, Jesse B. Thomas, B. H. Carroll, C. H. Spurgeon and others, of whom, in my estimation, the world is not worthy. I continued to wonder why there was so much difference.

My thoughts continued to turn the pages of history back to the twelfth century. Here, I gaze at the portrait of another Baptist—John Huss. An expression of similarity could be seen, as those mentioned above. But what a great change a few centuries had made between the ministry of John Huss and those named above. John Huss was the prisoner of the Lord Jesus, and burned because he refused to renounce "the faith which was once delivered to the saints," and from John Huss my thoughts turn the pages of history to the days of Abel.

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## The First Baptist Pulpit

### "On Being Missed"

"Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty."

—Sam. 20:18.

Some people, beloved, when the Lord takes them in death, are definitely missed. I look back across the years of my pilgrimage in this world and I think of some whom the Lord has taken in death, that we have most definitely missed. I speak again this morning of our beloved Sister Gayheart whom God has so recently taken from

us. I don't know of anyone that I could have missed more than I have missed her in the last month's time. I learned just this week that the last thing she said when she was going to the hospital, to one of her neighbors was, "Don't forget to stand by my preacher." I miss her this morning.

I think of others through the years that I have missed. Several months ago I was called by a man in Lawrence County, early one morning, to conduct his father's funeral service on Sunday afternoon at the Glen-

wood Baptist Church. I told the congregation that day about my acquaintance, my friendship, my fellowship with the man whose body was in the casket before me. I remembered the times that I had gone there to preach and the many, many experiences that God had given me with this beloved brother, in his home and in the church. I remembered his faithfulness to the Lord, how that he had been faithful through the years and stood by the church of which he was a member. I re-

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PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR





## "On Being Missed"

(Continued from page one)

member that I said that afternoon in conducting the services that the Lord could have taken any six men from that community, but they wouldn't have been missed as much as the man that God had taken.

I tell you, beloved, some people, when God calls them hence, are definitely missed because of what they have meant and because of what they have stood for through the years.

I

IN CONTRAST, THERE ARE SOME FOLK WHO DIE AND ARE NEVER MISSED.

We have an example within the Word of God, for God's Word tells us of one man who died, and even though he was king, he was never missed.

"And after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers. Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed WITHOUT BEING DESIRED. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings."—II Chron. 21:18-20.

Those last words in the original Hebrew are most expressive. In the King James version it says that he "departed without being desired," but in the original Hebrew it says that he died and nobody missed him. What was wrong with King Jehoram that when he died nobody missed him? There must have been a good reason why this man as king died and wasn't even missed after his death. Beloved, the Word of God tells us what the reason was. In fact, there were three reasons.

The first reason that he wasn't missed was his marriage. He married a heathen woman who was a follower, religiously, of Baal, and she being a follower of Baal, led him in the same direction.

The second reason why that he wasn't missed was his own religion, for he espoused the religion of Baal and worshipped the sun god Baal and the sun goddess Astaroth rather than Jehovah.

The third reason why that he wasn't missed was his own influence, for he did everything that he could contrary to the things of God and nothing in the light of God Almighty's revelation. His marriage, his religion, and his personal influence were such that when he died, nobody cared that he had died. Other kings had died and

they had made burnings for them. That is, they had piled up great heaps of aromatic spruce wood and great heaps of wood that were highly spiced, and had burned those heaps of wood from whence fragrant aroma had ascended up to Heaven, and had said concerning these kings for whom burnings had been made that the life of that king was symbolized by the burning of the wood, and that the aroma of the spice wood was emblematic of the life that the individual himself had lived. But not so with Jehoram. When he was thirty-two years of age and his father, Jehoshaphat, had died, he turned definitely and completely from the teachings of his father, served idols, and allowed his influence to be definitely contrary to the things of God the rest of his days. Through the providence of God the country was spared from a long reign of this man Jehoram, for he only reigned for eight years. At the end of six years God saw to it that he was stricken with a disease in his bowels. For two years he lingered thus, until finally God took him, and when he died the Word of God tells us that he "departed without being desired, or literally, he died and nobody missed him.

Beloved, that would be a good funeral text for a lot of Baptists. If the preacher were to use the most appropriate text that could be found in all the Bible for a funeral text for many church members, he couldn't use one that would be more appropriate than this: "He died and nobody missed him."

It reminds me of those two old timers who had been separated for thirty or forty years, who met again and of course began talking about days gone by and things that had happened in yester years. Finally, the name of a third one was brought into the conversation, and one of them said that he was dead. "He is dead? What was the complaint?" "Why there was no complaint. Everybody was perfectly satisfied."

Beloved, that was Jehoram. There wasn't any complaint. Everybody was perfectly satisfied when he died.

There are plenty of Baptists today who if God were to call them hence, wouldn't be missed one particle by the church of which they are members.

II

THERE ARE OTHERS WHO DIE AND ARE MISSED.

Jonathan said to David, "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty." It was customary on the part of David to attend every religious festival, so much so that he had a particular seat; and since he always sat in that particular seat at every religious festival, Jonathan knew that they would notice his absence when he wasn't there. Hence he said, "Thou shalt be missed."

I might say by way of digression that God's people in God's house are likewise missed in the same manner. Some of you are so regular and I see you so often that I miss you when you are not here in your accustomed place. Then there are some that the pastor can miss without even noticing their absence because they miss so much it is more unusual to see them present than it is for them to be away.

Beloved, there are some people contrary and unlike Jehoram, who, when they die, are definitely missed.

Take Josiah for example. "And Jeremiah LAMENTED FOR JOSIAH: and all the singing men and the singing women SPAKE OF JOSIAH in their

The most miserable people are those who make pleasure a business.

## ANOTHER REASON WHY WE WANT TO KEEP THIS PAPER IN THE MAILS



"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection . . ."—II Tim. 3:1-3.

lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations."

—II Chron. 35:25.

Here is a man who was a good man, and when he died they missed him. Let's see what he did that they missed him. The Word of God tells us when he first became king, the first thing that he did was to open up the house of God and began to repair it. Some people would just let God's house fall into disuse and some people, beloved, if it were left up to them to keep the house of God open, would allow it to be closed, and the bats and the owls would nest in it. There were people like that in the days of Josiah and before him. They had allowed the house of God to be closed for months and years. When Josiah became king he opened up the house of God and repaired it, and the strange thing was that he found a book in the house of God that had been lost for a number of years. The book? God's Book—the Bible. Imagine God's Book being lost in God's house, but it was so. Now when Josiah was cleaning out the house of God and they found that Book, he had them read to him and he said, "Great is the chastisement upon us, because our fathers have not kept the Word of the Lord." Immediately he had that Book read publicly before everyone and instituted a reform which resulted in a revival with the king making a covenant publicly before God to put God first and to put the Bible first and to put God's house first. The result of that reform of Josiah's and the revival that came thereby continued throughout the entire lengthy reign of good King Josiah.

Beloved, it is no wonder that when that man died that they missed him. The Word of God tells us that when he died that even the prophet Jeremiah wept because of it and the singing men and the singing women spoke of Josiah in their lamentations. Why? Here was a man who loved God, who loved God's Word, who loved God's house, and who put God, God's Word and God's house above

everything else throughout all the years of his reign as king. When he died, they missed him. Even the prophet of God wept because of his death. Even singing men and singing women made lamentations because of his death and continued to sing about this man who had done so much as king of Israel.

Let's notice another one in the Bible of like nature, who was missed when he died.

"And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made GREAT LAMENTATIONS over him."—Acts 8:2.

Who was Stephen? If you will go back two chapters, you will find that the church at Jerusalem was in a bad state materially. The widows were being neglected. The poor people were being neglected. They were not being properly fed and cared for. The church elected some deacons for the purpose of looking after the benevolent phase of the church and Stephen was one of the first deacons. He did the job so well that when he died, they made great lamentations over him. He did the job so well and stood up for the things of God so well that his enemies stoned him to death.

Beloved, I love to read that seventh chapter of Acts which was Stephen's defense against the crowd of Jews who were waiting to kill him for his defense of the Word of God. It shows us a man who loved God, who loved God's Word, who didn't care what happened, but who stood for the things of God regardless of what the cost. When they took his old body out and buried him, the Word of God says that they made great lamentations over him. Here was a man that was missed.

Sometime ago I attended a funeral service for a preacher. He had been one of God's greatest, humblest, noblest gentlemen in my opinion. I doubt seriously if there has ever been a man in Eastern Kentucky who has stood for God's Word, who has contended for God's Book, and who dared to stand for the things of the Lord as did the man of whom I speak. I sat off to one side and noticed the members of the church as they filed around the casket and

looked down into the face of their pastor for the last time. I saw strong men bowed with emotion. I saw strong men stand beside his casket with tears raining down their faces. They had lost a leader; they had lost a shepherd; they had lost a man who cared for their souls; they had lost a man who, in the main, had led the most of the church to the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, as I sat there I thought of Stephen when he died. Just as they made great lamentations for Stephen, so they did for this preacher friend.

Sometimes the women folk of our church might think they are slighted. When I speak of Josiah and Stephen who were missed, you might wonder if there were ever a woman in the Bible who died and was missed. Listen: In the Book of Acts we have the story of a woman by the name of Dorcas, and the Word of God tells us that when Dorcas died, they missed her.

"Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them."—Acts 9:39.

Here was a woman who served God. She never one time got out of place making a motion, seconding a motion, praying in public, leading in prayer, offering any public discussion, or preaching a sermon. The Word of God doesn't say she ever did one of those things.

I understand that one woman who some years ago left us because she got mad at her pastor, says of recent date that she quenched the Spirit for nineteen years as she sat under my ministry, but she is now thankful that she is free to speak and testify and pray at the church where she is a member, whenever she pleases. Beloved, I am just as thankful as she is.

Not one time does the Word of God tell us that Dorcas ever made a motion in the house of God, but, beloved, I'll tell you what she did do. Dorcas looked around the corner from where she lived and she saw a poor widow woman who was badly in need of clothes to take her through the winter. She looked around the corner and saw some poor orphan child who needed somebody to look after her. She saw other people here and there over town who stood in need of clothing against the winter's blast. Dorcas said, "I can't pray in public, I can't preach, I can't take an active part in the house of God, but I have two hands and I know how to use the needle." Dorcas took the needle and made coats and garments for the poor folk of her community. Then one day Dorcas died and when they sent for Simon Peter, Peter found the widows weeping and lamenting because she had died. They were grieved over her death because of the deeds which she had done when she was alive.

Beloved, Dorcas won the hearts of God's people by serving them, and the saints of God shed tears when she was gone because she had served them in the service of the Lord.

III

I WANT YOU TO NOTICE WITH ME WHAT CHARACTERISTICS A PERSON HAS TO POSSESS IN LIFE IN ORDER TO BE MISSED WHEN HE DIES.

Some people never try to do good, in this life, to others. Some people never seem to think that their deeds ought to be counting for God as they go through life.

I talked to an individual (Continued on page three)



## "On Being Missed"

(Continued from page two)

sometime ago about living for Jesus now. He told me how that he was laying aside some money that would live on for him after that he had left this world. I said, "My brother, God doesn't want your post-humous deeds; God wants your deeds while you are living."

Beloved, it doesn't make a bit of difference what you do after you are dead. God isn't going to reward a man for what he does after he dies; God is going to reward men on the basis of what they do when they are here in their flesh.

Josiah, Stephen and Dorcas were all missed and lamented for and grieved over because they won the hearts of the saints of God by what they did while they were here in this life. Brother, sister, some of these days you and I are going to come down to the same place in life. If someone is going to miss us when we die, it will be because of the deeds that we have done while we were living here within this world.

We have some wonderful examples of people who lived like they ought to have lived. In Acts 4 we have the story of Barnabas, who sold his property, and laid the money down at the feet of the apostles for the on-going of his church, who loved his church more than he loved his property; that man Barnabas who was sent later by the church of Jerusalem over to Antioch to learn about this new mission movement that had begun at Antioch; that man Barnabas as a layman who went to Antioch and spoke and exhorted and comforted the disciples at Antioch. The Word of God tells us that they loved him because he was a good man.

Then later Barnabas was called of God not to be a layman any longer, but to be a preacher.

*"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."*

—Acts 13:2.

Let me tell you something, brother, when a man lives like Barnabas, that man is going to be missed when he is gone.

Take that man of whom little is said within the Word of God — that man by the name of Epaphras. What a wonderful character he was! What did he do to make him stand out as one of God's noblest men?

*"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."*

—Col. 4:12.

Epaphras journeyed with Paul, but he was originally of the city of Colosse. When Paul writes to the church of Colosse, he speaks of him as one "always laboring fervently for you in prayers."

Beloved, the man whose life is given over for prayer in behalf of his church that God will bless the church spiritually, that man is going to be missed when he dies.

Do you ever think of that man Gaius of whom we read in John III? Gaius, to me, is one of the outstanding laymen of the Bible. There were preachers and missionaries, who came to the church of which Gaius was a member, and Gaius was the man who looked after the visiting preachers.

The Word of God tells us that in that church of which Gaius was a member, there was a man by the name of Diotrephes — a domineering individual who controlled the church and didn't want those missionaries to

preach within the church. When he thrust them out, Gaius took them to his home and befriended them.

When John wrote his Third Epistle, he said:

*"The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."*

—III John 1:1,2.

What a prayer! How few people would want a prayer prayed like that in their behalf, for if we prospered physically and materially on the same plane that we prosper spiritually, the most of us would be physical and material paupers by midnight.

Gaius was a big-hearted man, a man who loved the Word of God and who loved God's preachers, whose soul prospered to the extent that John prayed for him that his physical and material prosperity might be able to catch up with his spiritual prosperity. Beloved, when a man lives that kind of life, he can be certain of one thing — the saints of God are going to miss him.

There are some others in the Bible that the Word of God indicates wouldn't be missed. Take Diotrephes, as spoken of in John III, who wasn't missionary-minded, who was, as we might say, a Hardshell—a member of a Missionary Baptist church but was a Hardshell in practice. He didn't want the missionaries to speak in the church, and he didn't want anybody to support them or have fellowship with them.

Beloved, there will never be a saint shed a tear for Diotrephes.

Or look at Alexander, the coppersmith, who is spoken of when Paul writes to young Timothy.

*"Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works. Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."*

—II Tim. 4:14,15.

Notice those expressions: "did me much evil," "the Lord reward him according to his works," and "be thou ware also." Beloved, no saint of God will ever shed a tear over the death of such a man as Alexander, the coppersmith.

You remember that man named Demas of whom Paul spoke, when he said:

*"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."*

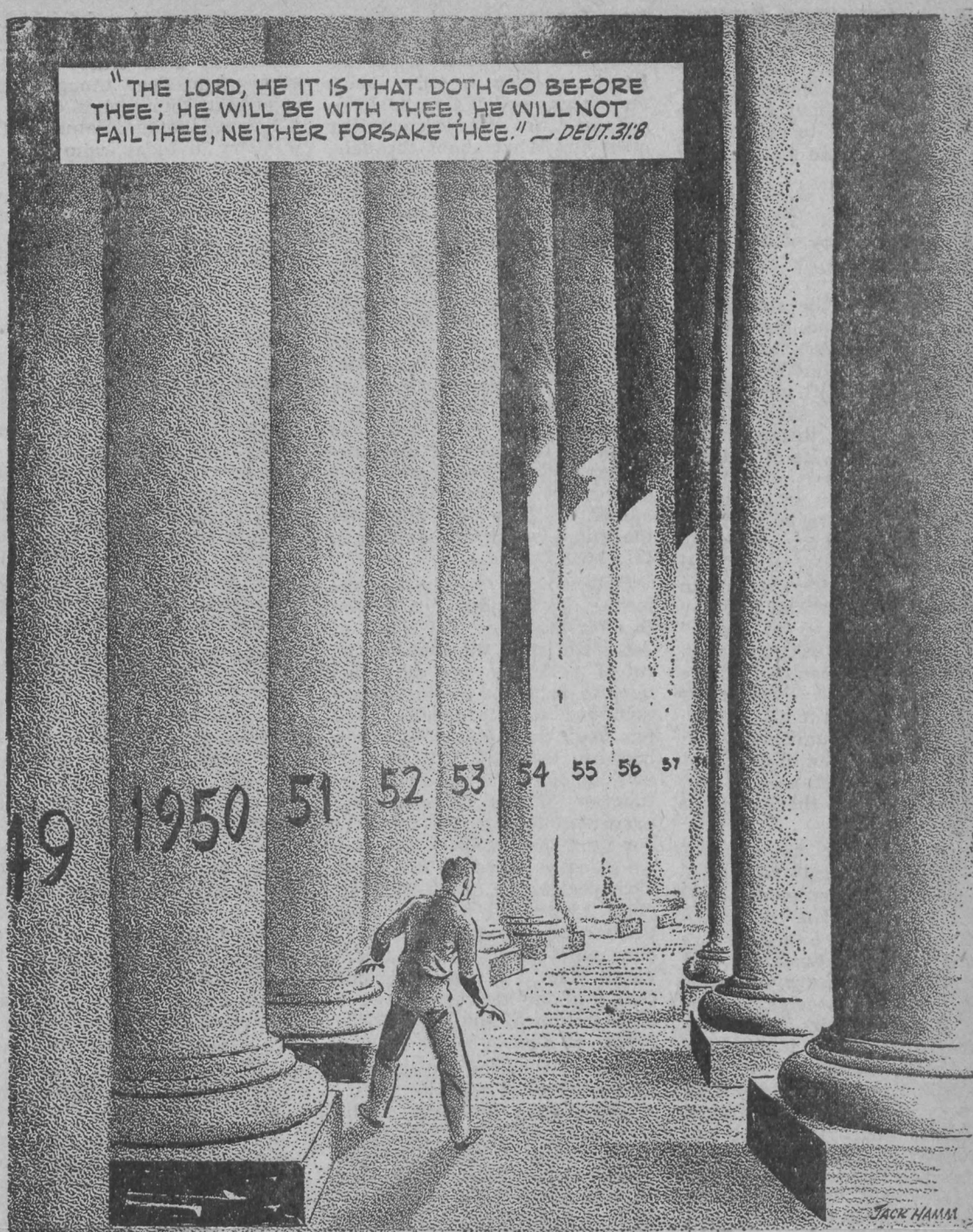
—II Tim. 4:10.

Demas forsook Paul. Paul was standing for the Word of God and contending for God's Book, but as he got older, his burden became heavier and he needed help all the more, but Demas, the man that he has depended upon, — the man that he 'as trusted,—and the man that he expects to uphold and share his burdens, forsakes him because he loves the world.

Beloved, nobody will ever shed a tear when Demas dies. The saints of God don't shed tears over worldly Christians. Saints of God don't shed tears over Alexander the coppersmith. Saints of God don't shed tears over Diotrephes. Saints of God, beloved, shed tears over men and women like Josiah and Stephen and Dorcas, and men and women whose lives are given over to good deeds in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ right now while they live.

### CONCLUSION

Let me ask you a question this morning. In view of the fact that Jehoram died and wasn't



missed, in view of the fact that Josiah and Stephen and Dorcas died and were missed, in view of the fact that other men and women through the ages have died, some to be missed and some not to be missed, and in view of the fact that sooner or later you and I are going to die, I ask you this question, will you be missed? If God this morning were to reach down and pick up your soul from your body and transport your soul on to Glory before this service came to a close, I ask you, would you be missed in the church of which you are a member? Would the saints of God shed tears over you as they did over Stephen because he stood for the Word, or over Dorcas because of the deeds that she did? Would you be missed? In view of your stand, in view of your position before God as a member of this church, would you be missed? Would God's saints miss you if you were to die? Do you suppose your pastor would stand beside your casket, look down into your face and inwardly within his soul grieve because that one of his staunchest supporters had been taken? Do you suppose that the friends and the acquaintances that you have had would look upon your cold remains and say, "I don't know how we are going to carry on?"

Oh, may your life from this hour henceforward on forever be the kind of life that is given over in service to God out of love to Him for having saved you, and may you stand for His Word and for His church, and may you uphold the arm of your pastor; and when you come to the end of your way, may it be true of you, as it was of Josiah and of Stephen and of Dorcas,

that when you die you will be missed because of the deeds that you did within your life.

Primarily, nobody will ever be missed if he hasn't done something worthwhile and if he didn't have Jesus in his heart. I ask you, is the Lord Jesus Christ reigning within your soul today? Is the Son of God living within you? The only individual whose life will ever mean anything in the service of the Lord is that man whose heart has been cut to contrition by the Spirit of God and has been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God help you, sinner friend, to see the truth and may you trust Jesus Christ who died on Calvary's Cross. May you trust Him as your Saviour and take your stand for the Son of God. Believe Him, receive Him and take your stand for Him today.

May God bless you!



### Union With The World

(Continued from page one) come to such a program as that. The young people wouldn't dare bring their friends to such a program. You say, why can't we have parties, and good clean fun, good wholesome entertainment for the folks? You say, it is "our duty" to provide them with a way of enjoying their evenings in a "Christian" manner. In answer to such I say, do you believe everything that the Bible says? Do you believe the Bible is the all-sufficient governing rule of faith AND practice? You say, yes, all Baptists believe that. Then can you prove by God's Word that you would be honoring Christ in all the social programs for a

mixed company?

The social affairs, and the friendly, godless conversations that we have with the heathen, are in fact not aimed at obedience to the Almighty. The plain fact is the churches are aiming at results more than obedience. We forget the Lord hath said, "The foolishness of God is wiser than men." We forget because we beat a path to that man who has hundreds of "decisions" for Christ. Ninety-nine per cent of these great renowned evangelists have union sponsors and they adopt unscriptural methods to pull in a large crowd, then decline to state the whole counsel of God so as not to offend anyone (especially their union sponsors). They think nothing of offending God by acting as if He provided us with only half a Bible! Some poor poverty-stricken, bed-ridden soul over here in shanty-town who obeys what revelation of God he has had as he reads his Bible (putting God's commands first, never willingly disobeying) will have a greater reward in Heaven than the great evangelist who mixes the world's wisdom with God's Revealed Wisdom in order to get results.

God has clearly marked out the means to be used in the propagation of the Gospel of Christ, and it is not necessary for us to exercise our own understanding as to what to preach, or how to preach it; or what to teach, or how to teach it; or what kind of character we

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## Based On The Bible

(Continued from page one) should desire proof or additional information about any of it, he may feel free to call on me for it, and reliable sources will be furnished.

Let us notice some of the more outstanding lodge teachings and practices which claim to be based upon the Bible. But are not:

First, look at the statement: "There is one God, the Father of ALL men." Certainly, there is only one God, but He is NOT the Father of ALL men; He is the Father of only such as have been born again through faith in His Son. That He is not the Father of all men is made clear by the accusation of Jesus in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil." There were some people in Ephesus of whom God was not the Father, prior to their conversion: "And were by nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3b). It is still true that, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil" (I John 3:10a). There are only two families in the world—the children of God, and the children of Satan—and God definitely is NOT the Father of the latter group!

Second, another statement of the "Masonic Creed" says this: "Character determines destiny." The idea involved in this statement—and it re-appears throughout the teachings and ceremonies of Masonry—is that good, moral character, which may be possessed by almost any unsaved person, is that which determines his eternal destiny. It must be perfectly obvious to the weakest, humblest believer in Jesus Christ that such an idea flatly contradicts the clear, repeated declarations of the Bible. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6). Again, we read: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).

Third, where, in the Bible, does one find any basis for the blood-curdling oaths which must be taken in order to get into the membership of a Masonic lodge? Space does not permit us to quote more than one of these oaths; however, this should be sufficient to show how unscriptural they are. The Entered Apprentice degree, which is the first degree, requires the candidate to take the following oath: "Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried under the rough sands of the sea at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly and willingly violate this my solemn oath and obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason. So help me God and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same."

Look at this in the light of what Jesus commanded: "Swear not at all" (Matt. 5:34). Too, what right does any child of God, whose body is made sacred by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, have to take such an oath to have his body mutilated in such a manner? "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of

God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Cor. 3:16,17).

Fourth, let me ask another question: What about the deliberate mutilation of Scripture quotations in the lodge ceremony, by leaving out the Name of Jesus Christ wherever it is found in them? The reason for it is quite obvious: the use of our Saviour's Name would be quite offensive to the good Jewish and Mohammedan members of the same lodge! But what about such a procedure in the light of Rev. 22:19: "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."

Fifth, would you say that the matter of forbidding a person to offer prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ in the lodge room, or of rebuking one who had done so, is "based on the Bible?" And yet, that is exactly what has been done plenty of times, because, according to Masonry's own scholars, "It is not Christianity." If we do not offer prayer to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, how are we going to approach Him? The clear declaration of the Bible is: "For through Him (Jesus Christ) we both have access by one spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18). "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5).

In conclusion, let me say that we could go on and cite plenty of cases from both the teachings and practices of Masonry to show that its claim of being based on the Bible is false, but these should be sufficient to convince any open-minded person.

Dear reader, if you have already been led off into this system, may God give you grace to renounce those sinful vows, sever your connections with it and come out of it forever! If you have never joined such a movement, I plead with you never to do so. Rather, make sure of Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, and seek fellowship in a New Testament Church, the institution and organism which offers more than all others combined, and is Scriptural in what it offers!



## Portraits

(Continued from Page One) The pages are stained with blood. I rise to my feet: oh my God: why is there so much difference.

The portraits of the modern day preachers have a most pleasant smile on their faces. With those mentioned above there is imprinted firmness and determination in their faces, as though they were on a battlefield, facing a great crisis. The contrast in my thoughts was not that of ridicule or slander. God is my witness. He knows it caused me to weep even as I thought of myself.

Permit me to say, I am a million miles from the belief any child of God should be wearing a sour puss face as the Pharisees did when they mourned. I am convinced I do not smile enough.

But as I continued to meditate this morning on the portraits mentioned above, my thoughts drifted out on the battlefields of the "Civil War." I beheld the portraits of my two favorite generals; Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. What joy and pride I always experienced, as I gazed on them.

They stood erect and faithful to the task which had been committed to their trust—standing emersed in deep thought with swords in their hands.

But my thoughts return to the ministry of today, who have so pleasant a smile in contrast with names mentioned above, who do not. Brother it is plain to see there is a great difference and why? You think for yourself.



## Eternal Punishment

(Continued from page one) he thank God for it? He did NOT! He has no time for God. Will that man never have to give any account for his life-long ingratitude? It violates one's sense of justice to even think such a thing. No, there must be a reckoning time and place, where all of the injustices and tangles of this life shall be straightened out.

### What Does The Bible Say About It?

It says that Satan shall be punished forever and ever. (See Rev. 20:10). Examine this passage and you will find that Satan is cast in, where the Beast and False Prophet have been for a thousand years already. That proves that they were not annihilated. And the statement is that the devil shall be "tormented day and night forever and ever." This would be utterly impossible if the devil were annihilated. How can one misunderstand such language?

The Bible says that the followers of Satan shall share the same fate as their father. (Rev. 20:15).

And why not? If they preferred to live for Him in this life, and would not break with Him, then should they not be given the privilege of being with Him in the forever and ever?

The Bible says that Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. It does not say that it was prepared for men. But if men cast in their lot with the devil, they can't blame God if they are allowed to share the same fate as the devil. (See Matt. 25:41,46). Why does it say "everlasting fire" unless there is to be everlasting punishment? Indeed, it says plainly in verse 46 that they shall go away into everlasting punishment. No use to try to argue that everlasting is NOT everlasting. That is a wicked perversion of God's Word. The same identical word that is used to express the duration of the life of Almighty God, is used to express the duration of the unbeliever's punishment.

The comparative terms used in the Bible clearly indicate eternal punishment. (See Matt. 11:20-24). How could it "more tolerable" for certain ones than others, unless there is judgment and punishment according to just deserts? There is no answer to this question.

We could go on with Scripture after Scripture, if space afforded. The idea that Satan and his followers will not be punished—that they will just be blotted out, is man-originated, and is propagated by several heretical sects which warp some Scriptures and ignore others in order to bolster up their theories.



## Union With The World

(Continued from page three) are to have, and how we are to obtain it. GOD DIDN'T GIVE US EACH A QUOTA, a result to be obtained, then set us free to mark out our own means of fulfilling it (be it fair means or carnal). I want to tell you,

brother, you are very presumptuous when you leave the path of obedience and use your own reasoning as to what you shall offer to God for obedience; thereby entering on ground God has reserved for Himself. You say you have not done it? I say sit down with your Bible and write me out the Scriptures that could in any way justify these social affairs, this mixing of unbelievers and believers together in such a way that Christ is set back in the corner whilst the flesh is magnified! You might reason it out of a human mind with those results as the aim, but God never tells us to get a spiritual result with carnal means. The Apostles started churches in a time of strict dictatorship, amid persecution and howls of laughter from the world. They did it with a lowly and meek mind, seeking ever the Will of the Lord, using His Spirit for their strength, and personal godliness was thought the least they could do in His service. They didn't adopt ANY of the methods that the churches are using today. Their results were miraculous, and God was certainly pleased. The plain fact of the matter is that we have become so enamored with our "results" that we think perhaps we have improved a little on God's own revealed means of doing things. What does He say?

We are told first to turn our backs on all those old fleshly aims and desires, "to crucify the flesh," to "starve" it to death, to "make no provision for the flesh." Then: "BE HOLY!" Now holiness is not some sort of enthusiasm or zeal for religious work but GOD IS HOLINESS. Just as God IS love, all holiness comes from Him.

"Practical holiness in us then would consist of thinking as God thinks, willing as God wills; God's mind and will are to be known from His Word; and so far as I really understand and believe God's Word, God's mind becomes my mind, God's will becomes my will, and, according to the measure of my faith, I become holy. Now this conformity of mind and will to God, this holiness, is to be shown "in all manner of conversation." Conversation here, as usually in the New Testament, means "conduct."—A. W. Pink.

Satan can't stand to have you honor Jesus Christ and seek after His holiness. He will quote you Scripture to show that you must plunge into a zealous rendering of social service because he knows that while you are getting up programs, making intricate plans for a 'doings,' you cannot occupy your mind with God and Christ. If we spend more time in secret communing with our Lord, we would be known as that man who had "been with Jesus!" If we were diligent to find out the desires of the Lord, we would find ourselves being transformed daily. If we were filled with the "peace that passeth all understanding, we would find the heathen coming to our door to ask a reason for the hope that is in us. (I Pet. 3:15). The restless energy of the flesh demands an outlet, and our hearts are inclined to substitute what passes for service and ignore the matter of obedience to God's commands. It is not pleasing to man to measure himself by the Scriptures, confess his sad failures, and beg God to write His Word upon his heart. No we take the comforting sop for our conscience, persuade ourselves that though our walk is far from being what Scripture says it should be, yet we can do our duty in warning the wicked on occasion, and participating in some church function such as

the choir, the feeding of the crowd, the keeping of the nursery, etc. This is indeed necessary at times, but don't let the Devil whisper in your heart's ear that you are a faithful servant when you do these little piddling things. If we do not worship God in the secret place, confessing our gross disobedience to His Word, and taking the position of a weakling needing His strength, then it is a mockery to go about speaking of Christ to others. If you profess Him as Master, then publicly and continually disobey large segments of His Word, you are no Christian but a stumbling block to all who are looking at you to see what Christ is doing in you.

"The kingdom of God is . . . righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. For He that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."—Romans 14:17,18.

Perhaps you say people just aren't like that and we have to work with the material God gives us. So you've been given a wasteland for your domain? Are you going to make it a vineyard meet for the Master's eye? Then you had best follow the Master's land reform program. He tells you how to do it in His Word. I'm sure Paul's territory was far more stony than yours, but hear his program:

"Through my personal purity, my knowledge, my patience, my kindness, through the Holy Spirit, my genuine love, my message of truth, and the power of God, with the weapons of right doing in my right hand AND my left; . . . sad but always glad, poor but making many people rich . . . possessing all."

The "spirit of the devil" worketh in man, and he is a "child of wrath" so long as he refuses to obey God's command to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. "God is angry with the wicked everyday." Unbelievers are "workers of iniquity," dwelling in darkness, and enemies of God. God does not want us to mix with such as these—He does not command a mixture of good and evil.

"Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds, lest the fruit of thy seed . . . be defiled. Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together. Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts . . ."

God is unmixed good. Satan is unmixed evil. "In these days there is constant, almost overwhelming, temptation to mingle good and evil. With a master hand Satan seeks to blend the human with the Divine, the principles of the flesh with those of the Spirit, and the elements of the world with those of Christianity. In this way he cheats the children of God and dishonors the name of Christ."

We, as God's children, are as the ox—clean and meet for His use. The unsaved, as Satan's children, are as the wild ass—unclean and not to be touched. Let us both resolve to bury ourselves in God's Word, follow His revealed will, so that we may not be led into communion with the evil of this world—not even to attending affairs where there is a mixture "in the name of the church!" Let us cry unto God that He will so deepen His work of grace as to separate us from all that dishonors Him. Amen.



"I sure do not want THE BAPTIST EXAMINER to ever go out of print. I have read several Baptist papers but I think it is in a class by itself."—A. C. Stogner, Evansville, Ind.