

# The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries

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

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WHOLE NUMBER 702

## Putting First Things First In Church

Roy Mason  
Tampa, Florida

A very excitable man's house caught on fire. He had an old grandfather's clock and he became concerned about getting out of the house and to safety. He tugged and pulled and bare-ly got it out in time, and the clock was practically worthless, it was all that he saved

from the building. He could have saved his clothing, and a number of valuable things had he not forgotten everything else but the clock. He didn't put first things first. Many church members are like that. They get all heated up over some matter which is not of first importance, and they lose sight of the main thing.

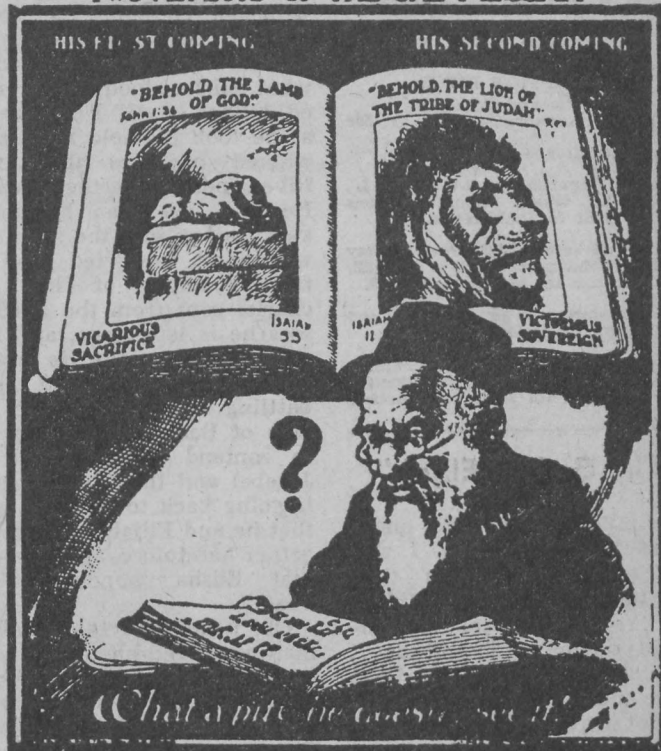
What is the main thing?  
The main thing is the preach-

ing of the gospel and witnessing for Christ, and the winning of lost people to him.

Paul kept on the main track. He said, "I am determined to know nothing among you, but Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2) Look into the context and you will see that Paul speaks about the divisions that existed among the Corinthians. (See 1 Cor. 1:10-13) Paul de-

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## TWO ASPECTS OF THE ONE MESSIAH



## You Believe In Salvation By Grace—Pass The Lodge

First of all, the Bible is hard against believers and unbelievers being yoked together in anything, especially worldly organizations: the Masonic Lodge of the world, worldly.

Now the Bible says, "Can we walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3); also, "Be not unequally yoked together"; and brethren, don't tell me there are no unbelievers in the Masonic Lodge. One of their teachings is, I hope to live so as to reach the Eternal City and be a member of the Grand Lodge above. When one is taking his first degree he is asked, in whom he puts his trust, and he says, God (not Jesus Christ). When one is asked to square and compass is he is to say, to square my work and guide me so I will that Grand Lodge on

Now brethren, you that are Masons, heed this: When one is examined for his first degree, the Master demands of the candidate from whence he came and whither he is traveling. The candidate answers, from the west and traveling to the east." Then he is asked, "Why do you leave the west and travel to the east?" His answer, "In search of light." And they do not point him to the Light of the World. All of this takes place in his shirt off and one pant's leg rolled up and a rope tied around his middle; he is lead-

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## AN APPRECIATED LETTER

Dear Brother Gilpin,

I praise and thank the Lord for the Baptist Examiner. It is certainly appreciated in our house. The messages contained in its pages are so edifying and enlightening.

May the Lord richly bless you and strengthen you in your love for the truth. We have in our church who call themselves Christians but do not read your paper because they are compromisers and do not appreciate the truth.

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## Here Is An Opportunity For Laymen And Preachers To Study At Home

No doubt there are many young men and women, and some not so young, whom God has called into His work in some form or other, Sunday-school teachers and others; who feel that they can not attend Bible school or college in person and who need more adequate training to fit them for life's most important work.

God calls whom He wishes impressing upon their hearts and minds the messages or teachings He wishes them to proclaim but He leaves it to each one to acquire training to fit him or her for the work and God does expect each one to be as well prepared in literary and Bible studies as it is possible for him to be. Paul wrote Timothy that he should STUDY to show himself approved unto God, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. Any workman can get along with poor tools or dull tools, if he uses edged tools in his trade, but his work will be more or less inferior and it will be doubly hard for him to do. Now acquiring train-

ing is like sharpening the edged tools or replacing the poor ones: training fits one for the task.

Now for those who are employed and who would humbly make the best of their talents, I propose to favor with correspondence courses in English Grammar, New Testament Greek, and homiletics. I feel that next to your Bible, these are probably the most necessary for the Christian worker.

I can offer you no degree, either literary or theological, who favorably complete these studies. I am an individual and not a school. Almost any Bible school will allow credit for any work already completed with good grades provided the student will take examinations on the studies and passes with a favorable grade.

Whether employed part or full time, whether pastoring churches, engaging in some other form of christian work or doing secular work to make a living, I will help you.

You can take a subject at a time, spend ample time preparing your lesson and writing the

recitation without losing time from work or avocation. If you have arrived at an age in life which it would be embarrassing for you to take elementary subjects in school among your people or children taking the same work as you, correspondence study will relieve of all such embarrassment, giving you full freedom to think of the work in hand instead of being chagrined by juniors poking fun at you for taking such elementary work. Of course, this would not be the case with any of the subjects except English. No one need know about your work unless you tell them.

Then an entire family can benefit from such a course or courses; because a whole group may study the lessons. Only the one enrolled may submit recitations and be graded but there are no restrictions as to how many may study the lessons. I believe it would be possible for members of a group to get credit for such work completed provided they take examinations on the subjects covered and pass

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## The Priority Of The Word Of God In All Conceivable Fields

Hold on tight while we list through the evidences to prove that the Bible is unique — first in every realm.

1. *It is first in Popularity.* The Bible is the oldest and the longest book in common use. It is still the world's best seller. Not only so, other books often make phenomenal sales because of their impure contents, whereas people turn to the Bible because it answers in such unforgettable fashion the deepest questions of the human heart.

2. *It is first in Literature.* It is so much more than a book. It is an institution honored the world around. It is the miracle of literature. Certainly, the Bible has been more widely translated than any other book. In its entirety, it may now be read in 188 languages. Besides that, it has appeared in some substantial part in almost a thousand more tongues. No other book even faintly approximates this record. For the past forty years missionaries have been translating the Scriptures into new languages at the rate of one every thirty-two days.

3. *It is first in History.* Think of the impressive and majestic opening sentence of the Word of God, "In the beginning God created" (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning of human history and experience—God. Thus we have history with a purpose—history from a divine standpoint. Other books? To be sure, some of them plow deeply into history for weal or woe—Plato, Kant, (Continued on Page Four)

## The First Baptist Pulpit

### "Where Is The Lord God Of Elijah?"

"And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."—II Kings 2:14, 15.

For approximately thirty years Elijah has been the faithful prophet of God to Israel. He was a prophet at a time when it cost men to stand for the Word of God. Ahab and Jezebel were reigning monarchs, and no two more sin-cursed people ever lived and no country was ever cursed with a more sinful king

and queen than was Israel when Ahab and Jezebel reigned.

I say, it cost for a man to be a faithful prophet of God in those days, and for thirty years Elijah had been just such a faithful prophet. Now the time of his usefulness has drawn to an end, and the Lord's time has come to take him home to Glory.

Just remember this morning, the Lord has an allotted time for your life and for mine, and an allotted span and an allotted sphere, and when that span of time and that sphere of influence is over, the Lord will call us hence in His own appointed time.

So it was with Elijah. Though he lived a life of unusual usefulness for thirty years as a faithful servant of the Lord, the days of his pilgrimage in this world have about come to an

end, and God makes a special revelation to him that he is going to be called hence from this world.

Now, for about ten years Elijah has been grooming Elisha and has been preparing for him to become his successor. I rather imagine that he wanted to test Elisha, knowing that he is going to be taken from him. I rather imagine that he was anxious to see how Elisha was going to stand after he was gone, so he suggested to Elisha that he tarry at Gilgal while he, Elijah, goes on to Bethel. Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee," so Elisha accompanied Elijah on to Bethel. At Bethel Elijah proposed the same test again, for he said, "Tarry here in Bethel and I will go on to Jericho." Elisha said again, "As the Lord liveth, (Continued on page two)"

## "THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT"

This is the title of a splendid small book written by our good brother, Elder L. G. Whitehorn. This is the fourth edition of the book. It sells for 25 cents per copy, or five copies for \$1.00, postpaid.

It is one of the best small books ever printed on church history, and the editor would urge all of our readers to secure a copy of this book by all means. Send your order direct to:

Elder L. G. Whitehorn,  
Box 9  
Waynesboro, Tennessee.



# THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN — EDITOR

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## "The God Of Elijah"

(Continued from page one) and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." When they came to Jericho, Elijah said again, "You tarry here. I am going on down to the Jordan." Elisha said again, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee."

I wonder if Elijah's heart did not overflow out of gratitude to God when he heard Elisha's statement. I have often wondered as I have read this Scripture, if Elijah, inwardly and secretly within his soul, didn't thank God that his successor was proving true.

So on to the Jordan River they went, and when they came to the west side of the Jordan, Elijah said, "You tarry here. I am going over on the other side." Elisha said, "Not so. Wherever you go, my master, I am going with you as long as I can. You have been preparing me to be your successor. I am going to stay by your side on this, your last day on earth." Standing there by the Jordan River, Elijah worked his last miracle. His life was one that had been given over to miracles—the supernatural. Many, many miracles had been wrought at his hand. Very much of the supernatural had his followers seen in his life. Now, standing there beside the Jordan River, he works his last miracle, for he takes his old shaggy, well-worn mantle, or overcoat, wraps it together, and smites the waters. The Word of God tells us that when he did so, the waters parted hither and thither, and these two servants of God, Elijah and Elisha, went over dry-shod to the other side.

Now Elijah said to Elisha, "If you have a request to make of me, you had better make it. The Lord is going to take me away. You make any request that you wish; perhaps I may be able to grant it." Elisha said, "I have seen the power of God and the Spirit of God as it has rested upon you. The only thing that I want is that a double portion of your spirit might rest upon me." Elijah reminds Elisha that he has asked for a hard thing, but says he, "If you see me when I go away, it will be granted."

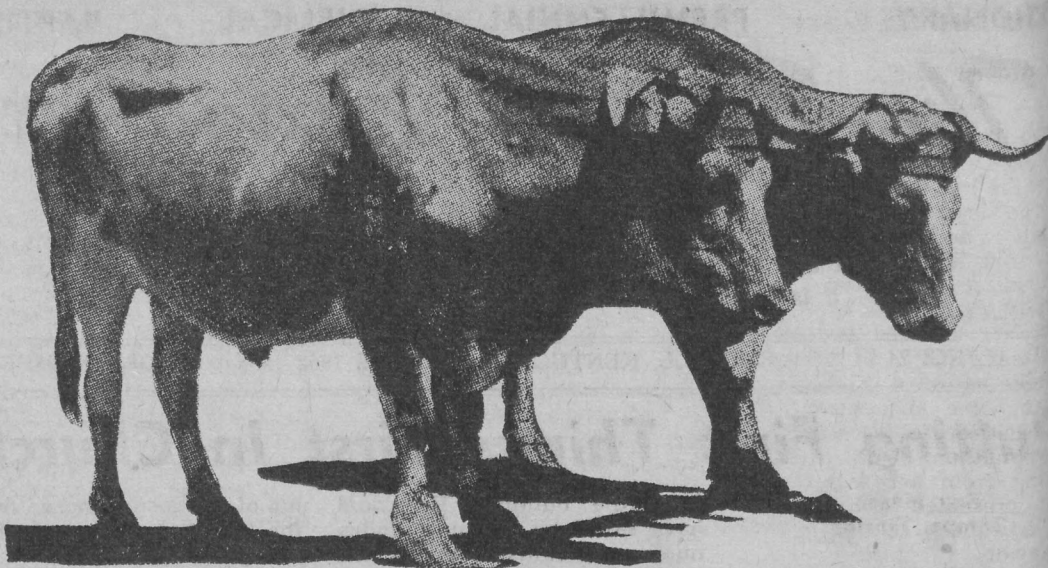
In a moment's time a chariot of fire, with horsemen of fire, came down out of the skies and separated them, driving between them, so that the two prophets, Elijah and Elisha, were separated. In a moment's time a whirlwind of God caught Elijah up into the skies, and as he went up, Elisha saw him as his coat fell from him, back to this earth. He was caught away and Elisha saw him go.

I have often tried to picture Elisha when he walked over and picked up that old shaggy, well-worn mantle, or coat, that Elijah possessed, and looked at

it. I am sure that he looked in the direction that the whirlwind had gone and then looked back at that mantle, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised but what Elisha stood and wondered, "What next?" I can see him as he took that old mantle and walked back to the Jordan River, pondering the situation. He had just seen his master swept away into the skies by a whirlwind, escorted by the flaming angels of God, in a chariot sent from the Lord. He sees he is left alone, and he is going back to fight. He is going back to that unfinished task of battling against the false worship of Baal. He is going back to contend against Ahab and Jezebel and their influence. He is going back to face the world that he and Elijah had faced together heretofore, and I imagine that Elisha wonders, "What next?"

Oh, I dare say that if ever a man wondered about the power of God and questioned whether he had the power of God, it was Elisha. He knew that he and Elijah had battled together. Now he wonders as he goes to battle by himself, what is going to be the outcome. As he pondered the matter, wondering if he could face the odds, he soon came to the Jordan River. There wasn't any bridge; there wasn't any ferry; but I imagine that Elisha said to himself, "Well, here is a good time and a good place to settle the matter." He took that coat, just like Elijah had done a little while before, and wrapped the mantle together and smote the river, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" Beloved, the waters opened up for him just like they opened up for Elijah. He found that the Lord God of Elijah was right there with him. He found, though Elijah was gone, the Lord God still remained.

Beloved, he wasn't the only one that found it out that day. When he walked back across that river dry-shod, the matter was not only settled in his mind, but in the minds of others, for



"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my YOKE upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." — Mt.11:28-30.

there were fifty sons of the prophets standing up there on the hillside watching. As soon as they saw this miracle at the hands of Elisha, those sons of the prophets cried, saying, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." They knew, though Elijah was gone, that the God of Elijah was still there.

I

LIKE ELISHA, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION.

If ever there were a time when God's people were overwhelmed with overwhelming circumstances, it is today. We are living in a world when it seems that the world has all but forgotten God. The average man thinks only of God when he is in trouble and in difficulty and has to call upon Him. It seems, beloved, that every time a difficulty arises in some form, that when that difficulty is settled, two more arise in its place.

As I look back across the years of my pastorate, I am reminded of the statement that

I read in mythology years ago of the hydra-headed monster of the marshes of Lerna. It was said that everytime the gladiator would cut off one of the heads of that hydra-headed monster, that two others would grow out in its place. It seems to me, beloved, that as I look backward across the years of our experience together, that every time we have solved a problem, two more were soon to arise. Every time we have had a difficulty that has been settled, we have had two more to arise in its place.

I am thinking this morning of the overwhelming opposition that is manifested today concerning the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are not many of them that try to be faithful and true to His Word. Those that do, certainly have problems, opposition and difficulties to face.

I was thinking after I came to the house of God, of some of the difficulties that confront us. Your children and mine have problems by way of evil, pernicious literature that ought not be put into their hands. Why, beloved, the present day literature that most children have to read is nothing but an avalanche of filth, a landslide of corruption—a verbal cesspool.

I stood, a few weeks ago, at a newsstand and followed with my eyes along the rows of magazines and books and comic papers that were exhibited there for sale, and though I counted nearly a hundred different magazines on sale, I did not see even one in that newsstand that would be the type of literature that your child ought to have within its home.

You talk about the difficulties that we face today, beloved. Look at the situation so far as crime is concerned. There is a crime wave on that has become so great within our nation that even a federal committee has been appointed for the study and the investigation of crime. We have come to the place where that crime wave, seemingly, is backed by the very winds of Hell itself—a crime wave, beloved, to the extent that people laugh at law and moral order, and actually we have come to the place within our nation when respectable citizens defend the violation of the law and the violators of the law.

Listen to me, beloved, we have plenty of problems today that are astounding and staggering so far as God's people are concerned. Look at our churches — worldly as can be, for, as you well know, the majority of churches today are literally given over to worldly practices and worldly schemes, for the enthusiasm and the activity of most of our churches

are definitely chilled by worldly activities within the churches. The majority of our churches are positively dead — a form of godliness, but none of the power of the Lord. I ask, this morning to go any place you please and worship in majority of churches and you will be compelled to say that the power of God just isn't to be found.

A preacher friend of mine took a three months' vacation sometime ago, being weary of health and body. He drove home and there, with no particular thought in mind as to where he was going. Every Sunday service, and every Wednesday night for three months he worshipped in a different church. He told me when he came back from that three months' vacation that there was only one church where he attended where the building was crowded, and there here an unusual spectacle was demonstrated that would appeal to the flesh was put from the pulpit, and that in every other instance the churches were desolate and destitute of worshippers, and that the power of God just simply was not to be found.

I am wondering, beloved, if the midst of a situation like that, it wouldn't be a good thing for us to just stand still and, as Elisha, say, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

There are all kind of dangerous, damaging philosophies being preached today from pulpits. As you well know, the Bible itself is under fire. Theological seminaries are teaching and training students with a rotten, pernicious, hellish doctrine that is not at all in accord with the Word of God to the extent that near-intelligent are being graduated from seminaries and sent forth to preach to the churches.

Our churches are not of the world from the standpoint of the pew, but worldly from the standpoint of the pulpit. I believe that I can safely bring this accusation against the ministry when I say that the tremendous majority of preachers today are nothing but servers and paycheck hunters, looking for an easy position of life rather than being a prophet of God to stir the souls of men and pronounce the doom of men upon men and women who are living in sin.

Brother, sister, if ever there were a time when you and I were a church, seeking to do the will and striving to stand as the New Testament church ought to stand — if there ever were a time when we ought to stand like Elisha and cry out, saying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" it is this very hour.

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## IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH INTOLERANT?

Can you imagine what life in America would be like without freedom of worship?

The following statement from a Jesuit paper, the "Civiltà Cattolica" issued in Rome in April, 1948 is a declaration of Roman Catholic policy concerning religious freedom:

*"The Roman Catholic Church, convinced, through its divine prerogatives, of being the only true church, must demand the right of freedom for herself alone, because such a right can only be possessed by truth, never by error. As to other religions, the Church will certainly never draw the sword, but she will require that by legitimate means they shall not be allowed to propagate false doctrine. Consequently, in a state where the majority of the people are Catholic, the Church will require that legal existence be denied to error, and that if religious minorities actually exist, they shall have only a de facto existence without opportunity to spread their beliefs. . . . In some countries, Catholics will be obligated to ask full religious freedom for all, resigned at being forced to cohabit where they alone should rightfully be allowed to live. But in doing this the Church does not renounce her thesis, which remains the most imperative of her laws, but merely adapts herself to de facto conditions, which must be taken into account in practical affairs. . . . The Church cannot blush for her own want of tolerance, as she asserts it in principle and applies it in practice."*

## HOW MUCH DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO YOU?

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## "The God Of Elijah"

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II

### LET'S NOTICE WHAT KIND OF A GOD ELIJAH HAD.

First, he had a God that could raise the dead. Elijah was called into the home of a Shunammite where a son, miraculously and supernaturally, had been born, but which later on had grown up as his teens and had suffered a stroke and died. Elijah went that home and raised that dead boy back to life. I can see one happy mother, with a smile beaming from her face, when Elijah presented an erstwhile dead boy back to his mother alive again.

Beloved, I say the God of Elijah was a God who could raise the dead. We have that kind of a God today. We have a God who can raise the dead today. Whenever He saved and me, He raised up a sinner and gave him life. The Word of God tells us that every person outside of Jesus Christ is dead — not just sick, but spiritually dead. Listen:

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." — Eph. 2:1.

Beloved, if you are saved, you are alive today, but you were dead before the Lord saved you. If God saved you, He has made you alive.

I'll go further and say that we have the same God that Elijah had, not only in that He can raise a dead person to life, but a God who can raise a dead church to life again. In Revelation 3:1, the Bible talks about a dead church. Beloved, God can raise a dead sinner, and He can raise a dead church. I wonder what the first instance is that you can remember in life. When I was just a wee lad, I remember that in 1912 the Titanic, supposedly the greatest ocean vessel up to that time, had been built and was sunk. It was sunk with a loss of 1600 people on board that vessel. After they had struck the iceberg, which caused the vessel to sink, when the morning came and the sun shone down out of the skies, the sun was shining on a few pieces of timber floating here and there in the water, and upon a few lifeboats and individuals which were filled with humanity trying to survive. That is the first thing that I can recall in life, but there is another side to that story which I like to think about. I remember reading since that time that the iceberg which the Titanic struck was only one-tenth sticking out of the water. 75% of it was submerged, that is why they underestimated it when they ran into it. I like to think, beloved, how as the sun shone down out of the skies upon that cruel mountain of ice, 75% of which was submerged beneath the water, that as the sun shone, the rivulets of water began to run down the side of that mountain of ice. I like to think that iceberg, as the sun shone upon it, the water began to trickle in rivulets until that iceberg was entirely melted.

Listen, beloved, the same can be true of the cold heart of this preacher, or with the cold heart of that layman that sits out in front of me on Sunday after Sunday. The same can be true of cold homes. The same can be true, beloved, wherever there is no love and no sunshine and none of God's Spirit.

I say to you this morning, there is one power that can take these cold hearts and change them, and that is the power of the Spirit of God. The Holy

Spirit takes cold hearts, and cold-hearted preachers, and cold-hearted laymen and fills their souls until they can feel the very power of God. As surely as God lives today, we have the same God today that Elijah had — a God who can raise the dead. He raised a dead sinner the day He saved you, and every time He has revived your heart since, He has revived the heart of a dead, cold-hearted child of His.

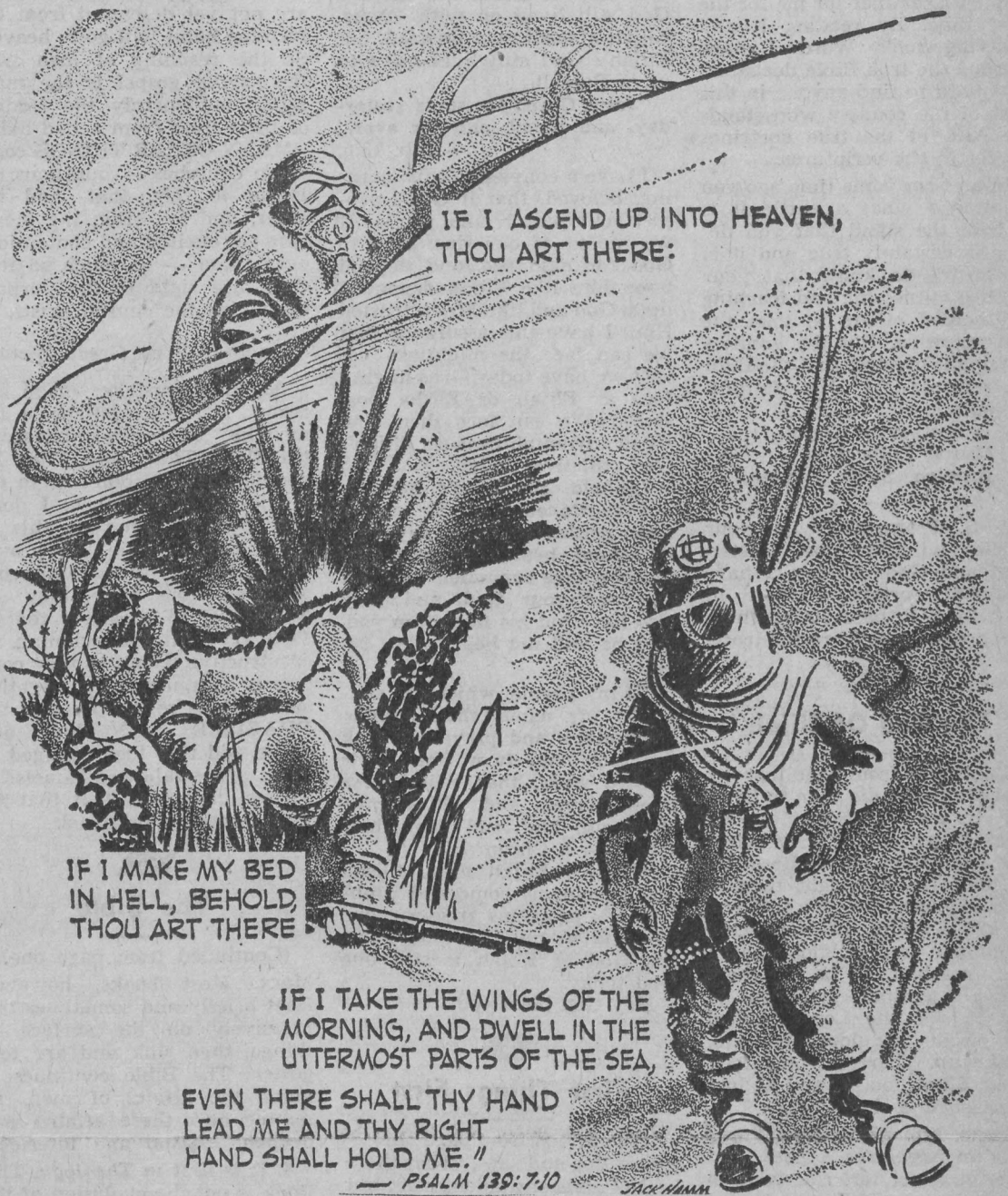
A few nights ago I had impressed upon me an incident that had slipped from my memory. Brother Swindell and wife went with me to services at Wurtland when Brother Castleberry was holding a revival there. In making a little statement by way of welcome to me, Brother Castleberry made mention of an incident that had slipped from my memory entirely. I held a revival in Vanceburg, Kentucky, some twenty-odd years ago, when Brother Castleberry was then doing work of a missionary-pastor in Vanceburg. It was a glorious revival that God gave us. When I went down there, the church was all to pieces and torn up, and everything that could be wrong with a church, was wrong with that one. I do not believe that I ever saw any town where there was much more evidence of the Devil at work, both inside and outside the church, than I saw in that revival meeting. For one week's time Brother Fred Nowak, singing, and myself preaching — for one week's time we battled with our heads against a stone wall. Night after night we met to pray. Night after night before the services we would meet and talk to God about that meeting. Beloved, God gave us a revival, and, as Brother Castleberry said the other night at Wurtland, it was one of the greatest revivals that he was ever in, in his life. As I look back over it, I think I can truthfully say the same thing. Why, beloved? Just this: In revivals today, God — the same God of Elijah — can give blessings to cold-hearted Christians, and He can raise dead sinners to life and make them alive to Christ Jesus. We have the same kind of a God that Elijah had — a God who can raise the dead.

I want you to notice also that the God of Elijah was a God who could send fire.

Upon the mountain side Elijah met with the prophets of Baal — 850 of them — and he said, "Let's put this thing to a test. If Baal be God, then we will serve Baal; if Jehovah be God, then let's serve Jehovah." He said, "Let's build an altar, and you put your offering upon the altar and call upon your god. If your god sends down fire to consume the offering, then we will know that Baal is God." Those followers of Baal built their altar, put their wood and offering upon it and started shouting to their god, "O, Baal, hear us." All morning, in a monosyllabic tone, they continued to cry for their god to send down fire from Heaven, but there was none. Then Elijah began to mock them, for he said, "Maybe your god has gone to sleep. Maybe you had better shout a little louder." Or, "Maybe your god has gone on a hunt. Maybe he is out today. Maybe it would be a good idea to shout a little louder and get him on the job again." Finally, they cut themselves with lancets until the blood gushed out of their bodies. There wasn't anything wrong with their enthusiasm, beloved. They had the zeal and the earnestness, but the trouble was, they were just praying to the wrong god. Covered with dust and blood, and hoarse from their exertion, they fell upon

## THE SERVICE MAN'S PSALM

"Whither Shall I Go From Thy Spirit? Or Whither Shall I Flee From Thy Presence?"



IF I ASCEND UP INTO HEAVEN,  
THOU ART THERE:

IF I MAKE MY BED  
IN HELL, BEHOLD,  
THOU ART THERE

IF I TAKE THE WINGS OF THE  
MORNING, AND DWELL IN THE  
UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA,  
EVEN THERE SHALL THY HAND  
LEAD ME AND THY RIGHT  
HAND SHALL HOLD ME."

— PSALM 139: 7-10

JACK HANNAH

the altar which they had made and confessed that their god, Baal, was powerless to send fire from Heaven.

Then the Word of God tells us that Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that had fallen into disuse, and put the wood upon the altar and the bullock upon the wood. Then he stepped to one side and commanded the people to pour water upon the altar, which he did not ask of the disciples and the followers of Baal, until probably 600 gallons of water had drenched that altar with the offering and the wood upon it. Then Elijah lifted his voice to God in a short, simple prayer of faith and called upon God to show His Godhood and to send down fire. As he yet spake, fire came down and burned up the offering and the wood and the altar, and even the stones and the dust round about. Elijah's God was a God that could send down fire.

Beloved, I wish God would send us down some fire this morning — not literal fire, but the fire of the Holy Spirit within the hearts of His people. I would remind you that God has plenty of fire up in Heaven today. He has just as much fire today as He had in the days of Elijah. What He needs is some Elijahs here in Russell, to pray like Elijah prayed back there. Elijah's God can send fire today just like God sent fire in the days of Elijah.

Look at that early church that on the day of Pentecost had only about 120 members, who were discouraged and disheartened and disquieted. Their Master had been taken from them. Acts 2:3 tells us that tongues of fire came down to rest upon those people. Beloved, what was the result? That church that was cold and

discouraged was instantly transformed, and within a few months' time they had 8,000 members. Beloved, God sent fire into that church. What God did at Pentecost, God can do in Russell today.

Elijah's God was a God that could also send showers of blessing.

After Elijah had prayed fire down out of the skies, he went upon the mountain and looked toward the ocean but couldn't see a sign of a cloud. He fell upon his face and prayed and said to his servant, "Look and see," and the servant shook his head. There was no sign of a cloud. He prayed again and the servant gave him the same answer. There was no sign of rain — no sign of any showers — no sign of any cloud. Finally, he prayed seven times, and the servant came back and said, "Master, I see a little cloud rising out of the sky about the size of a man's hand." It wasn't very big but Elijah said, "That is big enough; we are going to have some rain now," and he hurried away. The Word of God, beloved, tells us that God sent down a tremendous rainstorm after three and one-half years without a drop of water upon the earth.

Brother, sister, we have the same God that Elijah had. That God could send showers of natural water, and the God we have today can send showers of blessing in your heart and mine. I think backward of the souls that God has blessed and the showers of blessing that He has given, and I am trying to say to you this morning, that if God has dealt with you and me and has showered us with blessings in yester-day, so He lives today, and the God of Elijah can do

the same for us today.

Furthermore, the God of Elijah was a God that could take care of his prophet when he came to wit's end corner.

Do you know on what street it is located? It is on your street, and I wouldn't doubt but what your house is located close by. Haven't you ever been to wit's end corner, when you did not know which way to turn, or what to do?

Elijah got there. Now doesn't it seem a strange thing that a man like Elijah who could pray and the dead would come to life, who could pray and bring down fire out of Heaven, who could pray until it would rain and the showers would fall from the skies — doesn't it seem strange that a man like that would get scared of one little woman who would point her finger at him and say, "I am going to cut your head off by tomorrow."

I wouldn't have you underestimate that little woman though. That little woman of whom I speak was named Jezebel, and she had a little bit of every wild animal in the world mixed up in her. When she pointed her finger at Elijah and said, "Before tomorrow at this time I am going to cut your head off," Elijah started running and he ran for three day's time. I see him then when he fell on the ground underneath a juniper tree.

Do you ever have any juniper tree religion when you fall on the ground, worn out, and say, like Elijah, "Lord let me die. It

(Continued on Page Four)



## An Appreciated Letter

(Continued from page one)

My pastor subscribed to the Baptist Examiner for me for the first time. By reading it and studying God's Word I have learned the true Bible doctrines. It is hard to find anyone in this part of the country who stands for ALL of the true doctrines taught in the scriptures.

In an issue some time ago you mentioned what a battle it is to take the stand that you do. This is certainly true and it is comforting to know that your faithful witnessing and teaching has helped others to take the same position. But the greatest blessing is to know that the Lord has rewards for His faithful servants.

A brother in Christ,  
Myron Fillbach  
Ipswich, South Dakota

P. S. Praise God for your articles on Christmas, Easter, Lent and Good Friday. I have obtained reprints of these in book form to pass out to those who are eager to learn the truth.



## "The God Of Elijah"

(Continued from page three)

is better that I die than to live." Did you ever have that experience? Elijah said, "It is better that I die than I live. Lord, let me die." He was right then at wit's end corner. He lay there on the ground with the worst case of juniper tree religion that a man ever had. As he lay there upon the ground crying out to God to die, the Lord touched him on the shoulder and said, "Wake up. There is some food here." Elijah looked and he had an angel for a chef.

Can you imagine a mortal man with an angel for a chef, and with an angel for a servant to give to him food? Elijah ate and then lay down again. When he awakened a second time, there was the angel still there looking after him.

Listen, beloved, I am saying to you this morning, Elijah's God was a God that could take care of a man when he got down to wit's end corner — when he didn't know what to do, or what to say, or which way to turn. Brother, sister, if you have never been in that position, you can't appreciate Elijah. Whenever you look at your problems and your difficulties and your burdens and see your heartaches and see everything is against you, just remember one thing — the God of Elijah still lives.

I like the words of that little poem:

"Said the Robin to the Sparrow,  
I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so?"

Said the Sparrow to the Robin,  
Friend, I think that it must be

That they have no Heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me."

III

THE GOD OF ELIJAH IS STILL WITH US TODAY.

Elisha found that God was still with him when he struck the water with that mantle and the water parted. He knew that the God of Elijah was still with him. Beloved, he wasn't the only person that knew it. Fifty sons of the prophets, standing on yonder hill, had seen what had

happened, and they shouted and said that Elijah's God was with Elisha.

Listen, beloved, Elijah himself may be dead, but Elijah's God still lived on with Elisha. Elijah himself may be dead, but Elijah's God still lives on with us in Russell.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."  
—Heb. 13:8.

I have a conviction this morning, beloved, that if God's people, your pastor, and you — if we repent of our sins, pray to God for guidance, and depend upon him like Elijah depended upon God and like Elijah trusted Him, I have this assurance that we can face the mightiest foes that we have today — as mighty foes as Elijah or Elisha possessed. We can face them and we can triumph because Elijah's God still lives today.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." — Isa. 59:1-2.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." — II Chron. 7:14.

Beloved, Elijah died, Elisha died, problems come and problems go, problems arise in your life and in my life today, but the God of Elijah is still our God today.

May God bless you!



## First Things First

(Continued from page one)

plores this and says, "That there be NO divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together." They were wrangling and bickering over this and that, so Paul declares that he will keep to the main thing and "know nothing among them" but Jesus crucified. The crucifixion of Jesus — his atoning death for the sins of men, would be his MAIN theme.

We heard a man speak recently of a pastor, and this was the remark: "He majors on minors." The devil is highly pleased when he can get a man to do that, for it means that he takes him off of the MAIN LINE, and gets him on a SIDE TRACK.

### Two Mistakes

There are two mistakes that we can make, as follows:

We can ignore some of the teachings of the Word of God. Such for instance as the Word about women speaking and preaching, wearing a covering on the head in worship, the proper mode of baptism, etc. It is wrong to ignore or to carelessly violate any of the Bible.

We can major on these minor things, until we neglect those things that are vital to eternal life. The Bible certainly forbids that women should make speeches, offer prayers, etc., in mixed assemblies of men and women, and in the church that this writer serves as pastor, they don't do such. But to ride that question incessantly, and to give it a prominence above the proclamation of the saving gospel, is to major on a minor.

The Bible tells us to glorify God in whatever we do. (See I Cor. 10:31) Certainly God is not glorified by one blowing cigarette smoke through his nose. We preach against smoking, and many under such preaching have quit the habit.

BUT, we do not sidetrack the gospel to deal with tobacco. We remember that Christ rejectors who don't smoke are going to hell, while some believers who are not yet delivered from the nicotine habit will go to heaven. So the reaching of men with the saving gospel is the main thing—not merely the ridding of their lives from a bad habit.

MANY OTHER THINGS come up in churches — questions relating to this, that, and the other, and too often the members get excited and contentious over these — so much so that they lose sight of the purpose for which the church exists.

### Another Very Great Mistake

Another mistake made by many "strict" Christians, is the mistake of over-emphasizing the NEGATIVE side. They let people know, "I don't go to the movies; I don't dance; I don't play cards; I don't do this or that." They keep in a stew over people who do these things, but at the same time they do NOTHING to speak of that is POSITIVE. No soul winning, no constructive labors — they constantly emphasize the negative side. Let us remember that the PHARISEES did that, and Jesus said that they "gagged at gnats and swallowed camels."

How important is it that we keep properly balanced.



## The Bible

(Continued from page one)

Marx. Most books, however, float briefly and sometimes impressively on the surface of things, then sink and are forgotten. The Bible continues to guide the affairs of man, no matter how these affairs may deepen, expand and interlock.

4. It is first in Theology. This Book is not the evolution of the human mind; it is the revelation of the divine mind. "Thus saith the Lord" is an oft recurring phrase. Bro. Joseph Barker once said, "To describe the Bible as the Word of God is, in my view, to describe the Book by its supreme purpose, which purpose is the revelation of God in such degree and proportion as the human mind is able to receive it."

5. It is first in Prophecy. Throughout this Book there run two threads of prophecy: the golden thread and the scarlet. Holy men in days gone by spoke of the Messiah who would come to suffer and the Messiah who would come to rule. He has come and suffered; history attests that. He will come to rule; prophecy proclaims it. The great day will dawn, and the long-looked for reign of peace and tranquility will truly be a blessed reality.

6. It is first in Influence. The writer to the Hebrews says, "The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). This explains its influence on world culture. No one can successfully refute the assertion that where the Bible is best known, civilization has risen to its highest levels in every aspect of life. The Bible leads in law. The Ten Commandments, if obeyed, would make a paradise on earth. — The Pilot



## Study At Home

(Continued from page one)

with a favorable grade when entering a college or Bible school.

As I have already said, these courses are not designed to

## THE LITTLE COLORED BOY

A little colored boy watched his old mammy's success in bleaching clothes. She would lay them on top of the green grass and they would be so white when she took them up. So he covered his face with soapsuds and lay down on the lawn in the hot sun, hoping to turn himself white. About a couple of hours later his mother saw him, a very uncomfortable and almost baked little black boy, and she caught onto what he was doing. She said, "Lan' sakes chile! Don't you know you can't make white folks out of yourself by bleaching on de outside?" Listen—reformation is just "bleaching on the outside." What is needed is that a person shall truly, genuinely turn to the Lord that He may do His own saving work down on the inside, and that he may be made truly whole.

merit degrees but they are intended to make the student efficient in the work covered. I am a seminary graduate with forty years experience in pastoring churches and other forms of christian work. I am now teaching a class in New Testament Greek. If interested write me for full particulars and requirements concerning these courses. My correct name and address appears at the close of this article. For 60c I will send you postpaid my book, The Seal Of God And The Mark Of The Beast. This deals with the subjects indicated with many interesting details included. May our Heavenly Father guide you in deciding about the studies indicated above. C. O. Baker, 2810 Denver Blvd. Pueblo, Colorado.



A white lie soon gets tanned from exposure.

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Trying to undo a false story after it has started is like trying to gather up a basket of thistle seed after it is scattered.

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Sin has many tools, but a lie is a handle that fits them all.

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When a lawyer lies, he lies still.



## The Lodge

(Continued from page one)

blindfolded to one that is called The Most Worshipful Master,—my Bible says worship Christ, only.

Can one picture a Baptist preacher belonging to an organization like that, where Christ is altogether left out. And too, take an oath that he will not reveal what they are about to reveal to him? Now brethren, that is a secret oath (Lev. 5:4, 5), for he does not know at that time what they will reveal to him. Matt. 5:34-36 teaches us against swearing. The new recruit repeats something like this: if I should reveal what you are about to reveal to me, may my throat be cut from ear to ear, my tongue be torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea at low water-mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast. Brethren don't think I'm crazy for that is the crux of the Masonic oath, and any Mason that is honest, will tell you this is true. Now brethren, can a man who is washed in the Blood of The Only Begotten Son of God walk with a bunch like that? Furthermore, he swears to

protect his brethren in the lodge (not in The Church) against everything, except murder, treason, and he has his choice there. The Bible teaches me to rebuke them that sin before all, that others may be saved (1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:13).

I have had Masons to tell me that they pray (to Christ) their Lodge; in some Lodges they may, but it is not according to Masonic rules. When I try to talk to most Masons about their souls, they will tell me, "If I live up to my lodge vows I believe I will make it." Many of you preachers have had that told you? But, shouldn't a Mason say that when the Masonic Lodge teaches salvation by works. Brethren, you that are Masons don't get mad at me; take your lodge teachings and the Bible and check and see if the things I say are so.

Now Masons say, I hope to enter into the grand Lodge above: the Bible, in Rev. 19:14, tells me I am sure to enter into New Jerusalem. Also, John 5:24 tells us we are sure of life after death. And John 3:18 tells us that he that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned ready, (not because he is drunk, or stole, or committed adultery, is a murderer, or is a good lodge member): But because he hath not believed in the only begotten Son of God. That is the only hope of the world today (2 Cor. 5:19). Now brother, when all our sins we put on Christ, God couldn't look on His own Son. WHY? For he had your sins and mine; He suffered without the Camp, for saken by The Father; for said, "My God, my God, where hast Thou forsaken Me?" He took my sins in "His own blood" on the tree, and He paid my sin debt to The Father to the last farthing. Now I am free from all condemnation, and I am singing, "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." Brethren, this was Grace, when in the courts of eternity the Father gave me to the Son, and in due time the Son came and paid my sin debt IN FULL. Now, me to join one of those lodges and by my actions say to the world, that one god or another church is as good as another is blaspheme the Word, and before I do I hope that my God will take me out of this world. Brethren, my prayer is that all that are saved will come to the lodge, not only the Masonic lodge, but all other lodges, for one as bad as another.

My prayer is that God's children will hear His Word and come out, and be a separate people. For when we stand before Christ to receive our rewards, you lodge members will say, Lord, Lord, we belong to lodge so and so, and did a lot of wonderful works in The Name, and then He will turn to Ephesians 3:21 and read, "Unto Him be glory in The Church"—not in a lodge. For Christ sent His Church to "preach The Gospel" (not the lodge.) If He gave His authority to His Church (not the lodge), and will receive honour thru the Church only; why then, will you bought Baptists want to belong to anything other than The Church that Jesus built? I understand anyone who believes in Salvation by works, longing to a lodge that teaches works for salvation, but to those who say they believe in Grace The Lord says, come out and ye separate, and I will receive you saith The Lord.

Written by  
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