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We may tremble on the Rock of Ages, but the Rock will never tremble under us.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

An Invitation!

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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RUSSELL, KENTUCKY SEPTEMBER 13, 1952

WHOLE NUMBER 711

Why Salvation Is Apart From Baptism

By Roy Mason
Tampa, Florida

is essential to salvation. What about this claim?

A Dangerous and Deadly Falsehood

The teaching that immersion is essential to salvation is one of the most deadly falsehoods ever taught in this world. It will send the soul of every person who believes it as straight to hell as the crow flies.

What This False Doctrine Does:

1. It destroys the New Testament doctrine of grace. Baptism is a form of works, and the Scriptures tell us that salvation is not by works. (See Eph. 2:8-9; also read Rom. 4:4).
2. It makes salvation to be through water instead of thru blood. (See I John 1:7; Heb. 9:22; Matt. 26:28). The substitution of the water of immersion

for the blood of the Saviour is a wicked thing.

3. It denies the finished work of Christ for salvation, teaching that WE have to finish the plan of salvation through the works of baptism.

4. It makes for two ways of salvation. Church of Christ people teach "falling from grace," but teach that one can be re-saved. When a supposedly re-saved person comes "back into the fold" they don't re-baptize him. First, he is saved partly through baptism, but he is re-saved in a different way—this time immersion is not necessary! What an absurdity!

5. It ignores specific cases of the New Testament in which persons were saved without being baptized. Note some instances:

- (1). The woman at Simon's (Continued on page four)



PASTOR JAMES H. SIMS

On Monday evening, September 22, the Tri-State Baptist Bible College will convene for the beginning of its second annual session, with the principal message of the evening, being delivered by Eld. John R. Gilpin.

Please accept this as an urgent invitation first of all to be present for the opening service, and also, may I invite you to enroll with us for this year's study. We'll be happy to see you and talk to you about our school.

James H. Sims

More Reasons For Not Being A Catholic

I am not a Romanist because the Scripture teaches that it is the privilege of every individual to confess his sins directly to God, and not to a priest. What the Lord Jesus say when he spoke of the publican and Pharisee? The publican had a priest: all he did was to cry the bowed head—because he would not look up—"God be merciful to me a sinner." He did not go to a confessional: he went directly to God—and went down to his house justified. (Luke 18:9-14).

The Bible abounds with that teaching. For example: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9). Confess your faults one to another. If you have wronged anyone, you had better go to the one you have wronged. If it is a public offense, the acknowledgment of your repentance ought to be as public as the offense, that people may know that you are repentant. There is no warrant in the Scripture for the practice of circumlocution or the living confession. It is confession to the Scripture. The Word of God does not require us to use foundry words. Tell them to God, and He will forgive you.

I am not a Romanist because the Scriptures teach that baptism and the Lord's Supper are

merely symbolic ordinances of remembrance, and not efficacious sacraments. The Roman Church teaches emphatically, unmistakably, that it is not possible for even unconscious infants to be saved as to enjoy the felicities of Heaven unless they are first baptized. Because of that, they have invented means of prenatal baptism. Otherwise, an unborn child, that has done neither good nor evil, would fail to enjoy the delights of Heaven.

My soul recoils from that teaching, rebels against it, because it is such an infamous caricature of God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of a Saviour who took the little children up in His arms and blessed them, and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

(Matt. 19:14). I proclaim with all the vehemence of my soul that the doctrine that the sprinkling of water upon the head of a child is indispensable to salvation, is a horrible doctrine that is not taught in the Bible. It is as contrary to the Word of God as anything could be.

No one ever was saved by baptism. A man may be baptized a thousand times, and go to Hell. It is only an outward symbol of that inward grace.

But the Roman Church teaches there is a saving efficacy in baptism, and teaches furthermore that one cannot be saved without it.

The Lord's Supper is a memorial feast. The bread is only bread, the wine is only wine. When the Lord Jesus Christ, standing before His disciples took the bread and said, "This

is my body," can any rational man think He meant that while yet His body was unbroken, He meant the bread was His literal body? Or when He took the cup and said, "This is my blood," can any reasonable man suppose He actually meant that that was the veritable blood of Incarnate Deity? Of course He did not mean it. "This do in remembrance of me . . . for as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew (proclaim) the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor. 11:24-26). We do not thus repeat the sacrifice, but proclaim it. It is a memorial feast designed to keep us everlastingly in remembrance of our glorious Lord who died and who rose again to redeem us.

Rome has not only made the mass a sacrifice, but a perpetual sacrifice. Against that we set the fact that the Scripture teaches

that the death of Christ effected a complete and final atonement.

I could say I am not a Romanist because it teaches the doctrine of purgatory. That, I affirm, is an intolerable assumption that is absolutely without scriptural warrant, but is wholly a Romish invention. It is an invention which a Roman priest described as "The Church's Klondyke," because it enables the priest to wring the last penny from the hands of the superstitious on the assumption that the souls of the departed are in agony in purgatorial fires, and may be released, or their terms of suffering shortened, by prayers said by the priest for a price! Purgatory is an atrocious doctrine which so blasphemously caricatures God, that only the Devil himself could have invented it. The Scripture teaches that salvation is eternal life, that you and I may enjoy here and now, and know it, and be sure of it. To the praise of the glory of God's grace, I dare to say I am as sure of salvation this night as I shall be when I have been in Heaven a million years. Why? Because salvation is all of God's grace, and by the Word of God who cannot lie, it is assured to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, (Continued on page four)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"The Light Of The World"

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."—John 8:12.

I imagine that most everybody here is cognizant of the fact that Russell has some new street lights. If you haven't been out in town for the last two evenings, you owe it to yourself, and it would behoove you this evening, to walk from one end of the town to the other and notice the new street lights on Bellefonte Street.

On Friday evening when I first noticed them, my first impulse was that this is the best and the biggest improvement that I have noted in the town, materially, in the years that I have lived here. I can say frankly and truthfully, that there is no city that I have been in ir-respective of size, that is better lighted or that has more light on sidewalks and streets and yards than our city has today. Certainly it is a remarkable transformation to what we have been used to through the years.

Now, having said that, beloved, may I remind you that the

Lord Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and may I emphasize in the very beginning of this message that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes into an individual's heart, he brings an even greater transformation into the life of that individual, than the street lights of Russell have brought transformation to this town. I would like to insist, beloved, that there isn't anything in this world that will bring a transformation into the life of an individual like the Lord Jesus Christ's coming into that individual's soul. He, as our (Continued on page two)

TRY A HOME STUDY COURSE

"Study to show thyself approved unto God."

Home courses in New Testament Greek, Homiletics, English grammar, etc. If you can't attend school, study at home. For full details write C. O. Baker, 2810 Denver Blvd., Pueblo, Colorado.

WORLD'S GREATEST RACKETEER

Romanism, in a word, is a system which makes merchandise of the souls of men. The Roman Church insists that she has been given an exclusive right to license; and that salvation cannot be obtained directly (Continued on page four)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN — EDITOR

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"The Light of the World"

(Continued from page one)

text says, is the light of the world, and surely, beloved, as the light of the world, He transforms and transfigures and illumines our lives.

I

ALL LIGHT IS OF GOD.

Go back yonder with me 6,000 years ago, at least, to that day when God spoke and a nebulous mass took form. Stand with me this morning, and in your mind's eye, picture that first world as it was brought into existence, and see it, beloved, without one ray of light shining upon it. Can you imagine a world in a chaotic state, in such a chaotic condition, that there is not one particle of light that has ever shone upon it, that there is not one ray or one gleam of light that has ever diffused the darkness? Go back yonder, I say, 6,000 years to that day when the Spirit of God began to move upon the face of the waters and hear God Himself say:

"Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."—Gen. 1:3, 4.

Beloved, there wasn't one particle of light in this world until God made it. The light that we enjoy today came from the creative hand of God.

A little later the Word of God tells us that He made the sun and the moon, for we read:

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."—Gen. 1:14-16.

I would remind you that when God spoke and a world came into existence, that it took that same God to bring light out of darkness. When you stand today and look up into the skies to behold the sun riding majestically in the heavens, you can remember that it took the same God to put that sun in the skies that it took to make this world. You can notice tonight that when the moon takes its place within the heavens and when the stars file out one by one as the golden sentinels of the night — you can remember, beloved, that the same God who put them in the sky is the God who made this world — the God who created light.

I tell you, beloved, light did not come by chance. Light did not come by accident. Light did not come as an invention of man. Light came because of God's spoken word. He said, "Let there be light: and there

was light."

Now, beloved, what is true of natural light is likewise true of spiritual light. As there never would have been natural light for this world apart from the initiative that was taken by God Himself, so there would never have been any spiritual light for you or for me had not God taken the initiative. It says in Genesis 1:2 that "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." In other words, the Spirit of God moved before the natural light was formed.

I would remind you this morning, beloved friends, that the Spirit of God has to move today in the hearts and lives of men and women before spiritual light comes to illuminate darkened souls.

We read:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."—John 1:4, 5.

Oh, hear me today, beloved friends, life comes as light comes, and only as the Lord Jesus Christ comes into your heart to bring light, only then does spiritual life come within your soul.

To me this is a blessing, and to me this is that which brings a spiritual thrill to my heart, just to remember this morning that there wouldn't have been any light in this world materially if God hadn't taken the initiative. So if God hadn't taken the initiative there wouldn't have been any spiritual light within your soul this morning.

Let me ask you, is the Light of the World, the Lord Jesus Christ, dwelling within you, and is the Light of the World, the Lord Jesus Christ, shining through you this morning? If so, then, beloved, it is because that God took the initiative in your behalf. There never would have been one particle of spiritual light within you if the Lord Jesus Christ hadn't taken the initiative, for all light is of God.

II

LET'S NOTICE WHO IT IS THAT IS IN DARKNESS.

I would remind you that those who have never heard the Gospel are in darkness today. That might mean the man who lives in the uttermost part of the jungles of Africa. It might mean the individual who bows down before an idol of wood and stone in the remotest part of India. It might mean a Chinaman who looks back across his shoulders and worships his ancestors, and looks to his forebearers who have gone before him for spiritual guidance. It might mean that individual also who lives next door to you — the man or woman to whom you speak every day. It might mean that individual that you work with. It might mean that individual with whom you sat down in intimate conversation this past week. I tell you, beloved, every individual who has never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this day is in definite darkness. It could even mean a college professor. There are those who are learned in this world and after the rudiments of men have knowledge that most common mortals don't possess, who have never heard the Gospel story of Jesus Christ. I am persuaded to believe that there are multitudes, yea, thousands of people, in America today who have never one time heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, they are in darkness today if they have never heard it. Don't you let anybody deceive you. If a man hasn't heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that individual is definitely in darkness this morning.

Maybe he has gone to church all of his life and still hasn't

Strange Paradox

A lily, immaculate, with heart of gold,
Slenderly exquisite, in bridal sheath,
She stands outside the rail, outside the fold,
And gives her troth to one of differing faith.

There are no prayers, no blessing for these two;
No nuptial music as they turn to go;
Only the question and the soft I do.
Clear eyes of youth! How can love blind them so!

Knowing by the shadow of things to be
Her proud young spirit, or her heart, must break,
We who have loved her long and tenderly
Stand mutely by -- her happiness at stake.

Religious freedom for her is not denied;
Yet to a document she signs her name
Denying freedom of worship to her child,
To her descendants, till the end of time.

To creed and rites her own beliefs gainsay,
She binds her child and his immortal soul.
Appalled by this strange paradox, I pray:
God keep these two, and make their union whole!

Lois M. Gemeny

heard the Gospel. I know a lot of churches, so-called, at least, that are nothing short of playhouses. I saw a budget of a church a few days ago, a church, beloved, that spends \$27,000 a year for the carrying on of their local work. The pastor himself doesn't get any enormous salary, but the various salaries that are paid for the putting on of plays and pageants, and the various salaries that are paid to those who serve meals in that church, and the money that is spent for food in that church, brings the budget of that local church up to the staggering sum of \$27,000 a year. Can you imagine a local church spending \$27,000 on itself and at the same time spend less than a thousand dollars a year for the cause of Christ to the uttermost parts of the world? I can say frankly, beloved, I don't believe that there is one-tenth of the membership of that so-called church who has ever heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If they have heard it, they have heard it some place else except the church of which they are members.

Beloved, the man who has never heard the Gospel is in darkness today. There are preachers who stand before their congregations on God's Day, there are deacons who even administer the so-called sacrament on God's Day, there are Sunday School teachers, and there are laymen of all kinds who take part in the various activities of the church who have never heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. I tell you, whether a man lives in the darkest part of Africa or whether that individual lives in the most cultured region of America, if he has never heard the Gospel, he is in darkness.

I am ready to grant that there may be quite a difference of degree of guilt, depending upon where he is and the advantages. The Word of God would tell us that irrespective of the degree of guilt, that all are guilty in God's sight, for we read:

"For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law."—Rom. 2:12.

This would tell us that those who have lived in the regions where the Law of God is preached, will be judged by the Law, whereas the man who has lived in the darkest section of the

world and has never heard the Gospel, will be judged apart from the Law; but all will be guilty in God's sight just the same.

Listen, brother, sister, the man who has never heard the Gospel is in darkness today. Now that isn't any compliment to people who claim to be civilized and righteous, and who claim to be refined and cultured and educated. It is the truth of the Word of God. If a man has not heard the Gospel, he is in darkness today.

He isn't the only one that is in darkness, for there are those who mix water and blood who are in darkness. There are churches where you might attend where you will be told that a man has to be baptized before he can be saved—a mixture of water and blood.

A friend was telling me this last week of being in another town — miles removed from here — and one evening, thinking that he was going into a Baptist church, slipped into a building which was occupied by another denomination. Since the service was already in progress and since he had gotten into the main auditorium by a side door, rather than disturb by getting up and leaving, he sat down to go through the service. He said the preacher started out with a glorious statement, for he declared that nobody could be saved apart from the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This preacher said, "This is one place where we believe that a man has to be saved by the blood." Then this friend said that the preacher proceeded in his sermon by declaring that nobody could be saved unless he be baptized. Beloved, this friend who was telling me of his experience said that he sat there wondering which end of the sermon to believe, and as the sermon progressed, he came to realize that the preacher was preaching a mixture of water and blood for salvation.

I was talking this last week to one of the most cultured, refined, outstanding personalities that I know. You couldn't help from loving the man to know him. I have known him myself for quite a long period of time, and I declare to you that he is an unusual individual from the standpoint of his personality. Beloved, that man believes and

teaches, Sunday by Sunday, the blood of Jesus Christ, the water of the baptism washes away a man's sins, he told me personally that staking his hope of Heaven on what he preaches. I am just sure, beloved, that that man is going to Hell as I am sure that individual is still in darkness. He is mixing water and blood, he is mixing water and blood.

I care not who the individual may be — any man who is engaged in anything other than the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary is lost and in darkness. He has never yet truly seen the Son of God as his Savior. If I didn't believe that I would never give another dime to missions. I would never support the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth. I would never be a particle concerned about any missionary endeavor if I didn't believe entirely what I am preaching to you this morning.

Not only those who have heard the Gospel are in darkness, and those who are mixing water and blood in darkness, but those who are mixing grace and works are in darkness.

The Lord Jesus Christ has just one plan of salvation. He never has had but one plan of salvation. If you will go back in the Old Testament, you will find that the Jews' plan of salvation was that of salvation by blood. He would kill an animal, and as the blood of that animal would flow out he would stand at that blood, and then he would ed down the avenue of time to the day when Jesus Christ would come to die for his sinners as he did so, beloved, that you were saved. He was saved for and solely as he looked forward to the shedding of the blood on the Cross.

My brother, you and I, years after the Lord Jesus Christ, look back to the day that Jesus Christ did die for our sins. There is only one plan of salvation. He never has but one way for any man to be saved in all the ages of earth's history, from the time Adam sinned down to this hour. He has had but one plan of salvation and that is salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The man who mixes grace and works is in darkness today.

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work."—Rom. 11:5, 6.

Paul says that you are either saved by grace without works or you are saved by works without grace. He gives his conclusion in the preceding verse when he declares that "there is no remnant according to the election of grace."

Beloved, listen, you just can't mix grace and works. Grace and works won't mix. It's just as simple as water and oil. Grace and works just simply won't mix. There is no rule of mixture in the sight of God. God says we are saved by grace, but there are thousands of people today who are basing their hope of Heaven on a mixture of grace and works.

A man and his wife from a land worshipped with us a short time ago. That night he preached on "Salvation by Grace and Safe-keeping in the Lord Jesus Christ." The man had nodded his approval to me continuously while I was preaching. After the service were over they went out to stand on the corner to wait for a bus to ride back to Ashland and as they stood there waiting for a bus, one of the members

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The Light of the World"

(Continued from page two)

our church went over and talked to this man and his wife. He told them that she was in need of the services, and invited them to go to the church again. The man said, "Yes, we enjoy that kind of teaching. We believe in salvation by grace. We believe in it enough that we believe you have to live it." The wife spoke and said, "Yes, we believe that a person has to live just exactly like Brother Gilpin preached tonight." That opened a tremendous conversation that lasted for an hour. Two hours passed by and these three stood on the corner still talking. What did it amount to? Simply this: They believed that the Lord Jesus Christ saved you to start with, and you kept yourself saved by your works there-

Beloved, if that be true, the Word of God is a lie from beginning to end. There isn't anybody in this world who believes more strongly that God's people ought to work than I. I tell you, you are one of God's people, you ought to work every day, for love to the Lord Jesus Christ for what He has done for you. The Word of God says we "created in Christ Jesus many good works." We ought to love Him, we ought to work for Him, and we ought to put Him first in every way that we can; but, beloved, we will never be saved one particle, for his sin will it ever add one particle to our salvation by anything that you and I ever do, by way of our works. I tell you, we are saved by grace, and not by works.

A man that believes in a mixture of grace and works is in darkness today. The light of the world has never shined into his soul. He is in darkness. When I remember that practically every Protestant denomination preaches a mixture of grace and works, I am declaring thereby that the majority of Protestants today are lost—they are in their sin—they have never seen the Truth—they have never heard the Gospel—they are still in darkness. The majority of Protestant churches that you may attend will tell you that salvation is something like this: You believe in Jesus Christ, you live a good life, you join the church, you are baptized, you do the best you can, and when you come down to die, just before you say, "Oh, God, forgive me for any unconfessed sin."

Oh, brother, sister, if you are a saved man, a saved woman, you are not in darkness. You have been called out of darkness into the marvelous light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yours is a wonderful position in which you stand today, and, beloved, it is going to be more wonderful tomorrow. Listen:

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."—Rev. 21:23-25.

Isn't it wonderful to know that that is your position today? Isn't it wonderful to know that you and I who have been saved by His matchless grace, by His sovereign choice—Isn't it wonderful to know that we have been taken out of the realm of darkness and transferred into the realm of light, and that some day we are going to enter into that city which has no need of the sun to shine, for the Lord

you up through the efforts of your friends here on this earth, and you can get out of Limbo into Purgatory and out of Purgatory ultimately into Heaven. Beloved, I say to you today, there is not one particle of hope for the man who has died without Jesus Christ. If that man has gone out into eternity without the Son of God as His Saviour, he will never have a second chance. He will never get out of the place to which he has gone. He was in darkness in this life, and he has gone to a place of outer darkness, and he will never be any place else but in a place of darkness throughout eternity.

I would to God that I could preach a different Gospel when I look out and see this audience. I recognize the fact that some of you have had loved ones to die outside of Jesus Christ. I realize that there is not a family here this morning but what there has been someone closely related, or more remotely related, to you that has died without the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I would to God that I could hold up some hope, that I could say that in some manner there would be some way provided for those individuals yet to believe; but, beloved, in the light of the Word of God, I can be nothing more than true to you if I preach this Word. Beloved, if I preach it, I must declare that those who were born in darkness and who continued in darkness in this life, are still in darkness and will always be in darkness throughout eternity.

Beloved, I ask you, who is in darkness? Those who have never heard the Gospel are in darkness. Those that mix water and blood are in darkness. Those that have mixed grace and works are in darkness. Those who have died and gone out into eternity unsaved are in darkness. All of these are in darkness today.

III

WHAT A GLORIOUS POSITION IS OURS AS SAVED PEOPLE.

If you have been saved this morning, you have been taken out of the realm of darkness into the realm of light. Listen when Peter said:

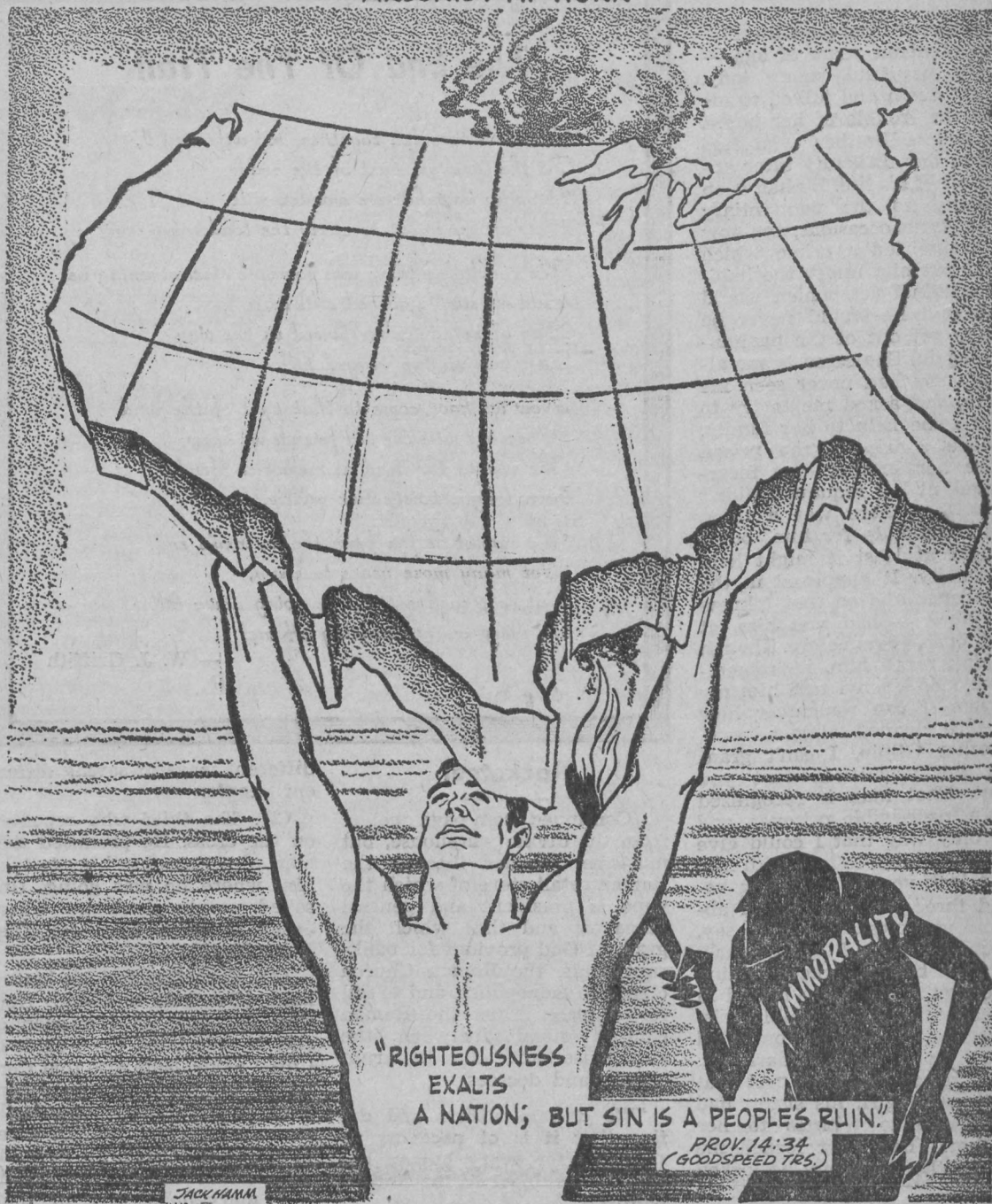
"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT."—I Pet. 2:9.

Oh, brother, sister, if you are a saved man, a saved woman, you are not in darkness. You have been called out of darkness into the marvelous light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yours is a wonderful position in which you stand today, and, beloved, it is going to be more wonderful tomorrow. Listen:

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."—Rev. 21:23-25.

Isn't it wonderful to know that that is your position today? Isn't it wonderful to know that you and I who have been saved by His matchless grace, by His sovereign choice—Isn't it wonderful to know that we have been taken out of the realm of darkness and transferred into the realm of light, and that some day we are going to enter into that city which has no need of the sun to shine, for the Lord

ARSONIST AT WORK



God Himself is the light thereof? What a wonderful position you and I occupy as God's children this very day!

But not everybody is in that position today. Sinner friend, listen to me closely, I will draw you a picture of your position this morning. In Genesis 19, Lot had some visitors come to his home. Those visitors were angels. The men of the city decided to molest those heavenly visitors that had come to the home of Lot. When Lot interfered with their unholy and ungodly plans, the people of the city said, "Who is this man Lot that we should listen to him? He is trying to take the position of a judge over us. We will deal worse with him than we would have with them." The men of the city started after Lot and the Word of God says that the angels of God reached out and pulled Lot back into the house, and shut the door on the men of the city, and blinded them, so that they wearied themselves, trying to find the door. We see that crowd of men who are suddenly stricken with blindness as they feel around, groping about, trying by the sense of feel to find their way from the house of Lot.

Oh, listen to me, lost man, lost woman, the most pitiable picture that I could draw you today, is to paint you as you really are, with the aspect of blindness—spiritually blind, spiritually groping for the door in your blindness.

Let me give you another illustration from God's Word. Do you remember King Saul of the Old Testament who came that night to see the witch of Endor, and who, after she had called Samuel from the grave for a seance, or a communion, for

Saul, cooked dinner for him? The Word says that Saul ate in silence and then went out into the night. There wasn't any joy about that visit. There wasn't any joy about that meal that Saul had in that home of the witch of Endor, but rather, the Word of God says that he ate in silence and rose up and went out into the darkness.

Sinner friend, that is your position this morning. You are in darkness now. When you go out of this building, you will go out into darkness. My brother, my sister, there isn't one bit of joy in your heart. There couldn't be any joy, for the only joy that any man can have is the joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to draw for you another picture of darkness. The Word of God tells us about that night long ago in the land of Egypt when God brought a plague of darkness over all the Egyptians. There was light over in Goshen where the children of Israel dwelt, but there was nothing but darkness in the land of Egypt, so Exodus 10 tells us.

Beloved, in the heart of the believing children of God there is light today, comparable to Goshen, but in the heart of that man who is outside of Jesus Christ, there is nothing but darkness, comparable to the land of Egypt.

Let me tell you of another experience. The book of Revelation tells us of that day which is to come, wherein God is going to plague this world. Some of these days this world that has never had any place for God, that has been in rebellion against God—some of these days this world that has continually boasted of its own efficiency apart from God—some

of these days God is going to pour out vial after vial of His anger upon this earth. Listen:

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was FULL OF DARKNESS; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.—Rev. 16:10.

You talk about darkness, beloved, the greatest darkness that this world will ever know is that day when God pours His wrath upon a world that has ever been in rebellion against Him, and right here in this world, men will gnaw their tongues for pain.

I saw an individual in a hospital some few weeks ago whose tongue had to be clamped, to keep him from chewing his tongue, because of his pain. Oh, brother, can you imagine a world that is brought into darkness—no light by day and no light by night, no sun to shine, no stars and no moon by night—then see them suffer until they gnaw their tongues with pain? That isn't Hell; that is just the Tribulation period, that comes here on this earth, in a world that has been in rebellion against God. What will that be in comparison with the Hell of suffering into which men shall go forever!

Last summer a year ago, I was called upon by a family in Ashland in an endeavor to help one of their sons who was in trouble. I had never known the family before, nor had never seen any of them. One day a sister of that man who was in trouble came to see me—a young lady (Continued on page four)

"The Light of the World"

(Continued from page three)

about eighteen years of age — a very beautiful young lady. She sat down and talked to me about the trouble of her home. She had a brother who had been in one difficulty after another all of his life. He had been sentenced to the penitentiary on numerous occasions, and now had committed a crime which would put him under the habitual criminal act, which would mean that he would never be able to get out of the penitentiary again. She came to me although she had never seen me before, and asked me to try to be of some help to her family. I made a trip to the prison where her brother was incarcerated, at her request. I didn't know that there was a thing that I could do for him, but I thought at least it might help the family. It happened in the providence of God that I knew the jailer — had met him, at least, once, years before. Though I didn't recall him, he remembered me. When I told him my mission, I can remember how his face clouded when he said, "Brother Gilpin, I can't grant you the permission that you want. That man is recognized as an incorrigible prisoner, and the only way that I could give you permission to talk with him is to lock you up with him behind three locked doors in absolute darkness." I can't say, beloved, that I particularly fancied being locked behind three gates and being locked in a cell with an incorrigible prisoner who couldn't be controlled apart from absolute darkness, but I remembered the fact that that young girl, his sister, had asked me to witness to her brother. That jailer locked me behind the first gate; he locked me behind the second gate; he locked me behind the third gate and locked me in the cell in absolute darkness to talk to that man. To make a long story short, let me say this: I witnessed to that man about Jesus. I don't know whether it did any good or not. He made no move in any wise at all to show even the slightest bit of appreciation for my visiting him. When I walked out of that prison and I heard the last of those doors clank behind me, and my eyes became accustomed to daylight again, I thought to myself, how in the name of God will lost people be able to stand throughout eternity a place of outer darkness? My brother, the darkness of that prison was enough to drive a man of normal mentality insane, but unsaved people throughout eternity will be in a place of absolute darkness forever.

Beloved, there is just one way out. I always say that God has a way out, and that way is the way of Calvary. He said, "I am the light of the world." If you don't want darkness, beloved, you may have the light of the Lord; and if you don't want the light of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is nothing left for you but the darkness of Hell.

May God save your soul this morning!



No more sadness, no more sorrow,
No more pain and grief we'll bear;
All because our Rock of Ages,
Is our Blessed Comfort there.
D. W. Kitchen

The End Of The Trail

*We have traveled together, my wife and I,
To the loneliest part of the road;
In going downhill we wonder still
How we managed to carry the load.*

*We concluded there was someone strengthening us
And we simply obeyed His will;
Day after day, He showed us the way
To climb up the rugged hill.*

*Now we have come to that part of the road
Where we miss the old friends we knew;
We rest at the bend as memories blend
In a long retrospective review.*

*We cannot be far from the journey's end,
Not many more years to roam,
But, oh, such a thrill in going down hill
To know we are nearing Home!*

— W. J. Griffith

Racketeer

(Continued from page one)

from the divine warehouse, but must be obtained through the Roman retail store of which the pope is president and general manager; and that which the grace of God provides for bankrupt souls, the Roman Church claims to monopolize, and to sell for a price. Thus the Roman Church stands between the storehouse and the bankrupt sinner, and decrees,

"We declare, affirm and define that it is of necessity to salvation for every human being to be subject to the Roman pontiff."

The Roman Church is the biggest racketeering organization in the world, and the pope of Rome is the biggest racketeer the world has ever known, professing to sell the things of God for a price instead of proclaiming the freedom of sovereign grace to all. May the Lord help us all to come directly to Christ! Do not come to me, to the church, to any preacher or any priest, with the idea that it is within the power of any human individual or organization to save a soul. All you need to do, if you are not a Christian, is to let your heart cry out to God, in faith, God be merciful to me a sinner, and save me for Jesus' sake, and you shall go down to your house justified.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have their place, but neither of them is made a condition of salvation. Indeed, they have no proper place in any life until the individual soul has been regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ. The faith that appropriates the merit of Jesus Christ alone is the one thing that is indispensable to salvation. May the Lord help us to take the short cut, as the Irishman did, and get past the church, the priest, the bishop, the cardinal, and the pope—and go to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31).—Condensed from "The Gospel Witness."



Baptism

(Continued from page one)
home. (Luke 7:50). Jesus himself pronounced this woman saved upon the basis of her faith, and he didn't even mention baptism. He doesn't have

different ways of saving different people.

(2). The thief who repented on the cross. He promised that man who turned to him, to take him where he was going. Unsaved people don't go where Jesus is when they die. (See Luke 23:43).

(3). Cornelius and his household. (See Acts 10:43-48). Note that in verse 43 remission of sins is postulated upon faith in Christ alone. Note also that Cornelius and the others were baptized because they manifestly were saved, and not in order to salvation. Certainly they did not receive the Holy Spirit in this marvellous way in their unsaved state.

(4). The Philippian jailer. (See Acts 16:30-34). That the way of salvation set forth so pointedly omits any mention of baptism is conclusive. The man was baptized, but evidently because of the fact that he had been saved.

(5). The teaching of Mark. (Mark 16:16). It is stated that the person who believes and is baptized shall be saved, and it could be added that the person who believes and is baptized and eats grapefruit for breakfast every morning, and wears a red shirt and a blue tie and does a hundred other things shall be saved, but the question is, what will cause one to be condemned? The answer is in



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Mark 16:16—the same passage. "He that believeth not shall be damned." Damnation is for unbelief—not for failure to be immersed.



More Reasons

(Continued from page one)
hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24).

I am not a Romanist because I cannot afford it. I am not a Romanist because the Scripture teaches that salvation is by grace; and that is what I, a poor, bankrupt sinner, need. (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5). The Roman Church teaches salvation by works, and on that ground you cannot afford to be a Romanist, neither can I. And when the Bible teaches us that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23), it means there is nothing to pay; we have only to receive it in simple faith. That is what I meant when I said I could not afford to be a Romanist. I am too poor. Like Jack the Huckster,

"I'm a poor sinner, and nothing at all;
But Jesus Christ is my All-in-all."

I am not a Romanist because the Roman Church teaches that submission to the Roman pontiff is absolutely essential to salvation. That is to say, no one can be saved unless he submits to the sovereign authority of the Pope of Rome. I give you proof of the truth of this amazing Romish claim. I quote from a volume entitled Church and State, printed in London, by "Burns, Oates & Washbourne Limited, Publishers to the Holy See." It bears the imprimatur of the vicar-general, signed at Westminster, February 13, 1936; so this is not an old book, but is quite up-to-date. The book consists of "papers read at the Summer School of Catholic Studies, held at Cambridge, July 27 to August 6, 1935; and the author is Father Alphonsus Bonnar, professor of Dogmatic Theology at Forest Gate, London. I quote from this author on the subject of "Unam Sanctam":

"This document, the Bull Unam Sanctam . . . was a considered pronouncement of a Synod in which there were thirty-nine French bishops. Nor is it a document which the Holy See has ever in any way retracted . . .

"The Gospel tells us that in the church and in its power there are two swords, viz., the spiritual and the temporal . . . The latter is wielded for the church, the former by the priesthood, the latter by kings and soldiers, but by the bidding and consent of the priesthood."

So, in order to bring about submission, the sword is to be wielded by kings and soldiers in the interests of the church, "but by the bidding and consent of the priesthood." That is to say, men are to be compelled to submit to the Roman pontiff "by the sword," which is to be wielded by kings and soldiers, "but by the bidding and consent of the priesthood."

I quote further from the same author, who again quotes from Unam Sanctam:

"For in truth the spiritual power instructs the temporal power and judges it, if it be not good . . . Hence we declare, affirm and define that it is of necessity to salvation for every human being to be subject to the Roman pontiff."

As for myself, I have not submitted to the pope. The

reason I do not submit is the Bible teaches that salvation consists, not in submission to the pope of Rome, but in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have submitted to Him. I fully acknowledge Him as Saviour and my Lord. I want you clearly to understand that salvation is of grace alone through faith in Christ—that without works. I want you to believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin. (I John 1:7-9).—T. T. Shieff



WHY PETER WAS NOT THE FIRST POPE

Catholics say the Lord built His church on Peter, for the word Peter means "rock." The is an apparent play on words in the text, but a careful study reveals this great truth: the word for "Peter" (Petros) means a "fragment of rock, a stone," the word used in the phrase "this rock" is "Petra" and means "a ledge of rocks," or a "rocky peak." (See Vincent's "Catholic Studies," Vol. 1, page 91). It reads: "Thou art Peter (small stone) and upon this huge, rocky ledge) I will build My church." The Lord's meaning is crystal clear: Peter, because he believed in the Lord of Christ (Peter had just made his great confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of God," 16), was one of the many "rocks" or "stones" making the huge "rocky peak," or enormous "ledge of rock," which is CHRIST! Christ most certainly did NOT build His church on the one, small fragment of rock, that He called Peter; He built it on HIMSELF, the mighty ledge of ROCK — Peter, being a believer, was included, as one of many, stone in that ledge.

Peter NOT Infallible

Startling truth: immediately after Peter's great confession we see that Peter is NOT infallible. He erred grievously, not in conduct only but in doctrine. Matthew 16:22: "Then Peter began to curse Him (Christ), and began to chide Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord (to go to Jerusalem and be crucified, and be raised again the third day, v. 21); thou shalt not be unto Thee." Peter held an heretical view on the very heart of the Gospel—the death and resurrection of Christ. So the Lord rebuked him: "Jesus turned and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men." (v. 23).

This, of course, utterly disproves the Roman Catholic theory and teaching that the pope speaking ex cathedra, that is, officially as the bishop, is infallible.

The New Testament shows that Peter never assumed the claimed primacy over the apostles of Christ. He did not preside at the church council (Acts 15:13 and context), James did. After the conversion of Paul (Acts 9) Paul not Peter was the outstanding leader of the apostle in the church! It was CHRIST who has "the keys of death and of hades" (Rev. 1:18; cf. Rev. 3:7). Peter simply claimed to be "an apostle" (one among many), I Peter 5:1. These "elders," as well as himself were to "feed the flock of God" (I Peter 5:2). Peter does not nates the Lord Jesus as the "Chief Shepherd" (I Peter 5:4). Christ is the only Head of His Church (Col. 1:18); we lievers are all "brethren" and are to call no man "father," pope, which means father (Mark 23:8-10).