

Mrs. John R. Gilpin, Sr.
Russell, Kentucky

Temptation is the fire that brings up the scum of the heart.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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

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How Pure Church Life Is Menaced

By Roy Mason
Tampa, Fla.

He puffs and flakes and substitutes in the realm of religion. He introduces things into church life that there is no Scripture warrant for. He adulterates the true Gospel so that many are fooled and deceived. The pure church life set forth in the New Testament is contaminated by Satan. We need to be constantly on our guard as we seek to preserve a church life like unto that laid down in the Scriptures. What, let us ask, are some of the things that menace church life?

The Appeal Of A False Broadness

Pressure is brought to bear on churches and preachers to be "broad." Doctrines are to be thrown aside for the sake of fraternization with other denominations. During a stay in Yosemite National Park we found the so-called "Yosemite Church"

sponsoring Christian Science, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant services. What a conglomeration! An organization promoting teachings violently contrary to each other! One must assassinate his brain in order to become reconciled to such —yet the whole union movement of this day is based upon just such mental assassination.

The Appeal Of The Flesh

Churches — and Baptist churches included — are more and more entering the entertainment and amusement field. Under denominational encouragement, churches are going into the movie business and the Sunday evening party business. In multitudes of our Baptist churches there is a "fellowship" on Sunday evenings following the service, which is nothing but a thinly disguised Sunday eve-

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Christians Should Maintain Daily The Morning Watch

For over forty years now I have observed the Morning Watch. I begin by reading the Word of God, remembering the words, "As new-born babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). Then in obedience to Psalm 5:3, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up," I turn to prayer.

When I was saved I was saved for my Bible by a personal worker, who wrote on the fly-leaf, "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." And I have found it to be true. The two cannot go together.

The reason so many do not enjoy the Bible is that they do not know the Author. It is one thing to meet Jesus Christ at the time of conversion; it is quite another to become acquainted with Him by spending time in His presence.

The Bible should be read daily just as the manna was gathered daily. We would not dream of taking only one meal a day, much less a week, since our bodies need to be nourished. Yet some of us, I am afraid, neglect the spiritual food that is even more essential. I have read the Word of God for over forty years, 365 days in the year, and I expect to read it every day until I see my Lord face to

face. I read the Word of God as I would read a letter, or as I would eat fish. When I get a letter I start at the beginning and read to the end. That is the way to study the Word. Start with the first chapter of Genesis and read to the last word of Revelation, reading two or three chapters a day; and then do it again. I do not know how many times I have read the Bible through.

If I come to a verse I cannot understand I do not cast the Book aside any more than I would throw away my plate of fish because of a bone. I simply lay it aside and go on reading, as I would go on eating. Then when I read it again some of the statements that I thought were bones I am able to digest.

When you read God's Word He talks to you. When you pray you talk to Him. After a time with the Book, I turn to prayer, and thus I become acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have found three enemies to the prayer life:

First, **interruptions**. I discovered that I had to have a time and a place for prayer. My time is in the morning. I would never dream of going to my work before first meeting God. My place for prayer is my study, when I am at home. We have time for everything else; we must take

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Fourteen Good Reasons Why Evolution Isn't True

By Boyce Taylor
(Now In Mansions Above)

There are 14 distinct statements in Genesis 1:1—3:24 (get your Bible and read these first three chapters of Genesis), that

A STUDY OF CHURCH BABIES

It is astonishing how many people there are in the churches who have to be nursed. Instead of being spiritually strong men and women, they are mere babes and have to be cared for. Through their infirmity, the church, instead of being a workshop, becomes a nursery, a hospital. Paul said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." But many who profess to be mature believers are still playing with spiritual rag dolls. Spiritual babes, instead of doing work, make work for others. The difference between a child and a man is that the man works and the child makes work for others. Most churches of today are full of babies. They do not learn to walk, but they have learned to talk. Some of these church babies are a whipset, and the church finds under constraint of running a nursery for many of them. The preacher must spend much of his time cradle-rocking to keep them from whining.

Some of these babies are thirty, forty and fifty years old. Did you ever see a gray-headed baby? I have. Many of them never get out of spiritual babyhood. They have never cut their teeth. Permanently dwarfed in spiritual infancy! What a

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give the lie to evolution.

1. The Bible says God created the heavens and the earth. That proves that matter is not eternal, that it was not begun by blind force, that it did not start itself, that it came into existence by the creative fiat of God. That prevents a belief in evolution.

2. The Bible says God created animal life. That proves that animals did not evolve up from vegetable life by inherent or resident forces. It proves that it took God's creative fiat to bring them into existence. That prevents a belief in evolution.

3. The Bible says God created man. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that men came from the lower animals.

4. The Bible says that God made man's body out of the

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THE LIFE I SEEK

Not in some cloistered cell
Dost Thou, Lord, bid me dwell
My love to show,
But 'mid the busy marts,
Where men with burdened
hearts
Do come and go.

Some tempted soul to cheer
When breath of ill is near
And foes annoy;
The sinning to restrain,
To ease the throb of pain—
Be such my joy.

Lord, make me quick to see
Each task awaiting me,
And quick to do;
Oh, grant me strength, I pray,
With lowly love each day,
And purpose true.

To go as Jesus went,
Spending and being spent,
Myself forgot;
Supplying human needs
By loving words and deeds—
Oh, happy lot!

—Robert M. Offord

Infant Sprinkling Neither Valid Nor Scriptural

"The Church of England, together with the rest of the Church, holds that immersion is the normal mode of baptizing, but that affusion or aspersion are sufficient." So states the Dictionary of the Church of England by E. L. Cutts. This is confirmed by the Book of Common Prayer, which says: "If they shall certify him that the child will endure it, he shall dip it in the water discreetly and warily." The Methodist Book of Offices also allows for immersion: "The Minister shall sprinkle the child with water, or pour water upon it, or dip it in the water." If, then, immersion is the normal mode of baptism, and its validity beyond all question, why have not ministers insisted upon it rather than allow the custom of sprinkling to gain precedence? Sprinkling is an un-

warrantable innovation. The Church of England practiced immersion down to the beginning of the seventeenth century. Why was it ever changed? It is human intrusion into a di-

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THE VALUE OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. Children brought up in Sunday School are seldom brought up in court.

2. Children disobedient to parents will seldom be obedient to God.

3. Our hope for to-morrow will be determined by what our children are taught to-day.

4. A nation runs a terrible risk which educates a generation mentally, neglecting the moral and spiritual instruction.

5. Home, more than school or church or amusement center, determines human character, and it is personal character in the mass that determines the nation's future.

6. Lack of Religious Training is responsible for juvenile crime.

7. Tests have proven 80 per cent of the Church is recruited from the Sunday School.

8. Child Conversion—60 per cent of all conversions take place before 13 years of age.

9. 30 per cent of all conversions take place during ages of 13 to 21.

10. Only 10 per cent of all Christians have been saved after they have reached the age of 21.

11. The Sunday School is the greatest evangelistic opportunity of the Church.

12. "And they that be teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (See Daniel 12:3).

The First Baptist Pulpit

"Plain Prophecies For Plain People"

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if ye believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with

the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."—1 Thess. 4:13-18.

This is the fourth and last of a series of four messages on prophecy. In the first of these messages, we studied prophecies concerning the Jews, and only the Jews, and only those prophecies which relate themselves to the Jewish family. In the second

of these, we studied the prophecies which had to do with other nations which lived round about the Jews at the time that the Jews were a powerful historical nation. Then on last Sunday evening, for the third message, we studied a number of prophecies which had to do with the Lord Jesus Christ, showing you the prophecies that had been given about Jesus prior to His coming and also showing how these prophecies were fulfilled in the coming and in the life and death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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"Plain Prophecies For Plain People"

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Now tonight, I want to show you prophecies which have to do with you and me from this time on until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, or, in other words, the prophecies which relate themselves to the church age, or this Gentile age, in which we live.

I prefer, as I have often said, to refer to this age as the church age, because the institution which is most paramount in this age is the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. I call it the Gentile age because the majority of people who are being saved today are Gentiles rather than Jews. So this is the church age and the Gentile age in which we live, and I want to show you the prophecies which are going to be fulfilled in this age until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.

I

I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO NOTICE THE PROPHECIES WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS AGE.

The Word of God tells us that opposition to God and to God's people will never let up until Jesus Christ comes back again.

"Then shall they deliver you up to be AFFLICTED, and shall kill you: and ye shall be HATED of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall BETRAY one another, and shall HATE one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."—Mt. 24:9-11.

This would indicate to us that until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back again, opposition to God, and to God's people will never, never let up.

I used to think when I was just a boy preacher that surely the time would come some day that it would be popular for a man to preach the whole Word of God. I thought surely the day would come that in most any community a preacher would be ultimately able to get around him a group of people whose hearts the Lord had touched to such an extent that he would be able to preach without any difficulty at all the entirety of God Almighty's Word, but, beloved, one day a long time ago, I read this Scripture with the realization that here is a characteristic that is laid down concerning this age in which we live, wherein the Lord Himself said that opposition to God and to God's people would never, never let up until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.

If you are inclined to desire a life of ease, and if you are inclined to desire an easy time, then I would suggest to you that so far as you are concerned, you

are going to be sadly disillusioned in what you desire.

The old song says:

"Must I be carried to the skies,
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the
prize,
And sailed through bloody
seas?"

Remember, beloved, how that song goes on to talk about how there shall be fighting for you and for me. As surely as God looks down upon us tonight, we can rest assured, and we can be mighty certain from the Word of God, that there will never be a time but what there will be opposition against God and God's people until Jesus Christ comes again.

A second characteristic of this day is that religious contentions and religious controversies will never let up.

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."—Mt. 24:23-26.

This would tell us that there are going to be religious controversies that will continue right down to the time when Jesus Christ comes back again. Some are going to say, "This is Jesus; He is already come," and some are going to offer other statements, so that there will be controversies and contentions religiously until our Lord shall come again.

I am not expecting that the whole world will ever be in unity concerning the things of the Word of God. There will be increasing activity as the days go by as to unionism, but, beloved, there is a world of difference between the denominations uniting in theory, and unity in principle. I say to you, fraternalism and unionism will continue, but as far as unity of principle and doctrine is concerned, it will never take place within this world until Jesus Christ returns. Mark it down, there will be controversies, there will be debates, there will be religious contentions, and there will be religious dissensions right down to the time when Jesus Christ comes back to this world.

Another characteristic of this age in which we are living is that human nature is going to continue and is going to remain the same until the Lord Jesus comes back.

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, unto the day that Noe entered into the ark."—Mt. 24:37, 38.

Here is a statement showing that human nature is going to continue just the same right down to the time when Jesus comes, as it was in the days of Noah. There isn't going to be a bit of difference to what it was in the days of Noah. They married, they gave in marriage, they ate and they drank. In other words, here is a statement as to the fleshly appetites of those people in the days of Noah, and Jesus said that it is going to be just the same when He comes back to this world.

Oh, brother, sister, mark it down, science and education may have done wonders in improving some things, but science and education will never, never improve human nature. Human nature will be the same, and society will ebb and flow just

as it has since the flood. People may become more refined, civilization may advance to a higher stage, and science may be able to make life easier, but listen to me, beloved, it will never make human nature better than it was in the very beginning at the time of the flood.

Furthermore, it is prophesied here within God's Word that society will become more and more corrupt until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, for we read:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark."—Mt. 24:37, 38.

"For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."—Mt. 24:28.

Many times I have spoken in the past to remind you that the word for "eagle" is the word "buzzard." Whenever you see a buzzard floating around in the air, you can know that there is something dead down here upon the earth. Jesus said that society will be just exactly like an old, putrefying carcass here in this world. In other words, moral conditions of society will get worse and worse until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know I never could in any wise at all become a post-millennialist, because the post-millennialists believe that until Jesus comes, everything is going to get better, and finally we are going to get the world in such a good condition through education and civilization and science that God will look down from Heaven and say, "My, Russell is such a wonderful place; I think I would rather live there than live up here in Heaven." Accordingly, He is going to come down and make this His residence.

Listen to me, beloved, I never could be a postmillennialist, for I don't believe the world is getting better. I believe, in contrast, what our Lord said through Paul to Timothy:

"But evil men and seducers SHALL wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."—II Tim. 3:13.

I believe as surely as there is a God looking down upon us tonight that conditions will be worse tomorrow than they were today, and that conditions will be worse a year from now than they are now. I definitely believe that we can expect society to become more and more and more corrupt as the days pass by, looking forward to the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me fall back to the Old Testament story in that respect. You remember the time when Nebuchadnezzar had that vision. He dreamed and in his dream he saw a great image, with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and mirey clay. When Daniel came to interpret that dream, he said, "Nebuchadnezzar, as king over Babylon, you are represented by the head of gold." Then he said, "That chest and arms of silver is to represent the kings of Media-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass are to represent Alexander the Great of Greece; the legs of iron are to represent Rome as a divided country, divided into the Roman Empire; those feet of iron and mirey clay, going out into the ten toes, are to represent the nations on down to the time when Jesus Christ shall come again."

Notice that this dream started with gold and decreased in quality, on down to iron and mirey clay. This vision that Nebuchad-

nezzar had was nothing more nor less than a dream of history. He saw history unfold page by page until the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and seeing it unfold, he saw a decrease in finer qualities—gold, silver, brass, iron, and iron and mirey clay.

I contend, beloved, that we are now right down to the end of the toe, looking forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ at an early date, and as surely as we are here, society will become more and more corrupt as we wait for the return of our Lord back to this world.

II

LET'S NOTICE SOME PROPHECIES WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE CLOSING OF THIS AGE.

First of all, Jesus is coming back. I always like to preach about the second coming of Jesus. I like to tell any congregation that Jesus is coming back. I don't say that maybe He is coming, or I don't say it is rumored that He is coming, but, beloved, I say it is a fact that Jesus Christ is coming back.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN."—John 14:1-3.

Then we read in Acts 1 of that day when He ascended back to the Father, how He went out to the mount of Olivet and lifted Himself up little by little into a cloud, and on into the skies. As His disciples stood there gazing at Him up into the skies, the angels of God said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN."

Then when the Apostle Paul gave to us the institution of the Lord's Supper, he said:

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death TILL HE COME."—I Cor. 11:26.

Every observance of the Memorial Supper is a silent sermon that our Lord is coming back again. Every time that the bread is broken and the wine

is poured, it is a silent sermon that Jesus Christ is coming back to this world a second time.

The Word of God tells us the same thing in the Scriptures which I read as my text. Listen: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with shout, with the voice of archangel, and with the trump of God: and the DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST."—I Thess. 4:16.

Thank God, He is coming back! I don't try to tell you when He is coming. To tell you the truth, I don't know when He is coming, for we are explicitly told that nobody knows the time of His coming.

"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour when he is not aware of."—Mt. 24:36.

"And he said unto them, ye know not the day, nor the hour, which the Father hath put in his own power."—Acts 1:7.

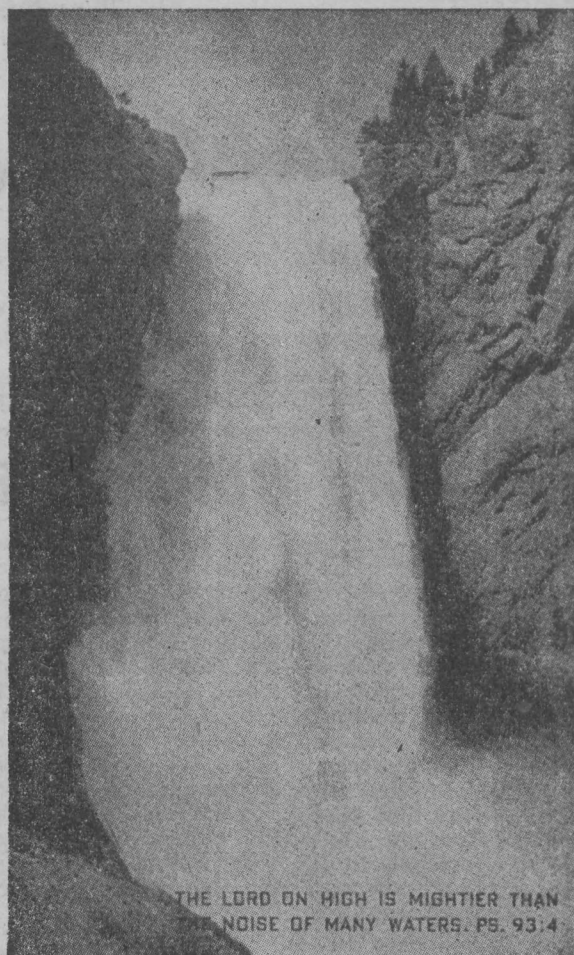
In the Greek, the word "times" means "the longer periods," and the word for "seasons" means "the shorter periods," and He says that it is not for us to know the long periods and the shorter periods which the Father has put in His own power. In other words, it is not for you to know when He is coming; it is just for you to know that He is coming.

"Be ye therefore ready always for the SON OF MAN COMING AT AN HOUR WHEN YE THINK NOT."—Luke 12:40.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall be rolled up, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."—II Pet. 3:10.

When a thief comes, he does not send you word that he is coming to your house; he comes when you least expect him. When a thief comes prowling around your place, you haven't any idea that he is coming. He doesn't write you a letter and send it first class, special delivery to tell you to be on the lookout for him at such and such an hour. He comes when you least expect him. My brother, that is just the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming, but I don't know when He is coming.

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THE LORD ON HIGH IS MIGHTIER THAN NOISE OF MANY WATERS. PS. 93:4

"Plain Prophecies For Plain People"

(Continued from page two)

We have another prophecy that when He comes, all the sleeping saints are going to be resurrected out of the ground.

Sometime ago I was driving along with Brother T. P. Simmons. We drove by a cemetery and Brother Simmons said, "Some of these days, Brother Gilpin, that cemetery is going to look a lot different to what it does now."

Beloved, that is the truth. Some of these days every cemetery is going to look a lot different to what it does today. Every child of God who has died is coming out of the ground when Jesus Christ comes in the air. Oh, I can't speak it forcefully enough and I can't speak it with enough emphasis, but I would remind you that when He comes in the air, every redeemed child of God who has died is coming out of the ground to be caught up with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, brother, sister, doesn't that thrill your heart to know that the loved ones who have died in Christ, who fell asleep with a hope in Christ, are some day going to come out of the ground when the Lord Jesus Christ comes in the air for His own! Let me read it to you.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, and they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." — Rev. 20:4-6.

Oh, let me emphasize it, beloved. If you have had some one close his eyes upon this life's scene for the last time, and if you have seen that individual put down within the ground, thank God, you can go out to that grave and can say, "Victory is coming, because Jesus is coming." When Jesus comes, there is going to be a resurrection of those who have died in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember at the time of the raising of Lazarus when Jesus stood beside the tomb, that he spoke and said, "Lazarus, come forth." He specifically designated Lazarus by name, and Lazarus did come forth. I think there is a reason why that Jesus called Lazarus' name at the beginning of that statement. I think there is a reason why he particularly spoke to Lazarus. I think, beloved, if Jesus had merely said, "Come forth," that every individual within that cemetery would have come out of it, but He was specifically raising Lazarus and Lazarus only, and He didn't want any others to arise at that time.

Beloved, when Jesus comes again, He is going to specifically call the righteous dead. All those who have died in Christ shall be raised and made alive in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only are the righteous going to be raised from the grave, but all living believers are going to be translated and transformed in a moment's time. You don't know what you are going to look like when that day comes. I have often tried to imagine

myself shaving and combing my hair, getting ready for a day's work. I have often tried to imagine myself going through a little simple maneuver in the early morning, to make myself somewhat presentable for the day. I have tried to imagine my Lord coming just in that hour. Oh, beloved, if He does, there will be a transformation as I stand before that mirror that morning. There will be a transformation taken place, the like of which you and I could never, never, never imagine.

Beloved, He is coming, and when He comes He is going to change, and He is going to transform all living believers.

Isn't that what He says when He speaks about how we are going to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ?

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be CONFORMED to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." — Rom 8:29.

Isn't that what He means when He says:

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall CHANGE OUR VILE BODY, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." — Phil. 3:20-21.

Isn't that what He meant when He said:

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY." — I Cor. 15:49.

Jesus Christ is the heavenly one and Adam was the earthly one. As we bore the image of the earthly Adam, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly Christ, Jesus Christ Himself.

Isn't that what He meant when He spoke what I consider the grandest verse in all the Bible:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is." — I John 3:2.

Someday when Jesus comes again, not only will the righteous dead be raised out of the ground, but the living saints will be caught up at the same time, and will be transformed to look like the Lord Jesus Himself.

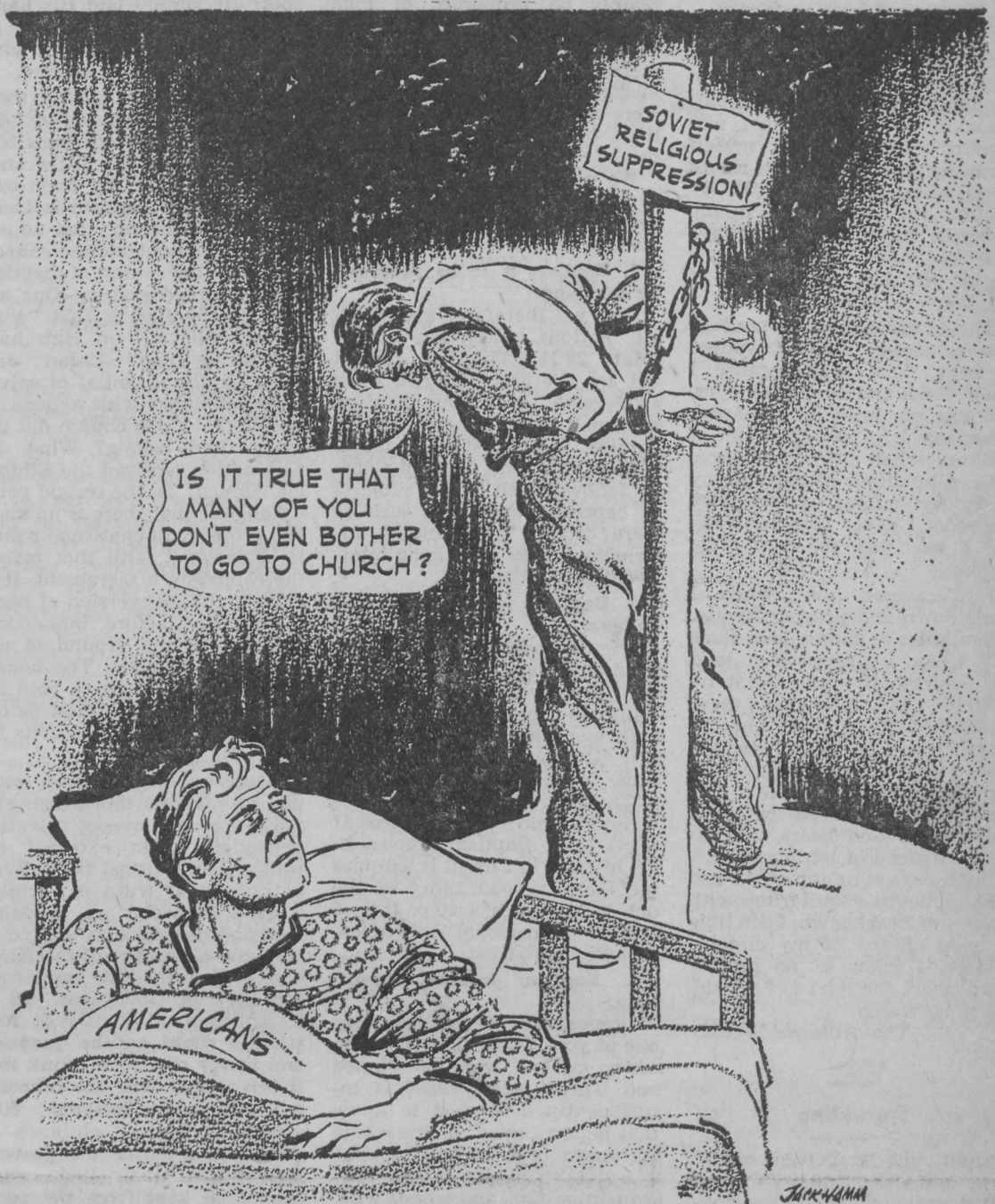
There is one other prophecy that has to do with you and me when Jesus comes, and that is, **every believing child of God is going to get his reward when Jesus comes.**

Paul has been in Glory a long time, but old Paul has never gotten a reward yet. Moses has been up there still longer than Paul. He had a hard time leading that crowd of babies out of Egypt over to Canaan. He had a hard time those forty years experience in the wilderness, but he has never gotten any reward for it yet. Brother, sister, every child of God who has died in Jesus is still waiting for his reward. Let me read it to you out of God's Word.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." — II Cor. 5:10.

The word for "judgment seat" is the little word "bema," and the bema was the bench on which the ruler of the Olympic game sat to hand out the rewards when the Olympic games came to an end. In other words, this man would sit on the bema, or judgment seat, and each person who had competed in the game would come by and the reward would be handed to that

SUNDAY MORNING



individual, by the man who was seated on the bema.

Paul uses that same Greek word that was so familiar to the Greeks of his day—that same word which was so common in usage then, and he says that everyone of us are going to compete and keep on competing—that we will keep on in our service for the Lord until we come to the end of the day. When the end of the day comes, then it is that we are going to come up to the "bema," to the judgment seat, and the rewards are going to be handed out. When is this going to take place? When Jesus Christ comes again.

Every once in a while you will read in the paper where so-and-so has passed to his reward. No, beloved, he has passed, but he hasn't gotten his reward, and he won't get his reward until Jesus comes again. Thank God, beloved, when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, every believer in Christ will receive the reward that is waiting for him in view of his service for the Lord Jesus that has been rendered here within this world.

I wonder about each of you how many rewards you are going to get for your faithfulness and for your service. I know one thing: you have never done a thing in this world that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to overlook. Not even the least thing will be overlooked by the way of rewards.

"For God is not unrighteous to FORGET your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." — Heb. 6:10.

No, beloved, He is not going to forget your service for Him. Maybe you have tried to be faithful to Him to the best of

your ability. Maybe you have done the best you could to stand for His Word. Maybe you have never held a position of any prominence. Maybe you have never been elected to any position of authority in any wise at all, but you have been faithful to Jesus in the best way that you could. Beloved, He will not forget even the slightest labor of love that you have wrought in His name.

CONCLUSION

I come back to this fact: Jesus is coming back again. Are you ready for His coming? Would you be glad to see Him tonight? Would you be glad to see Him in the skies, or would you say, "I have a few things I would like to do before He comes."

Listen, beloved, a true child of God, I think, ought to be looking up, wistfully expecting, and prayerfully desiring the return of Jesus Christ to this world every day. May our prayer be that of the man of old, who said, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

May God bless you!

Evolution

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dust. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that man's body ever was different to what it is now and that it was not evolved up through millions of years of time from an anthropoid ape to its present form.

5. The Bible says ten times that God's law for vegetable life, for animal life, for all created things is "after its kind." That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that one species developed into another and higher species. The mule is a living witness that evolution is a lie. He is a

cross between the ass species and the horse species and he cannot propagate his kind. He has no kin. He is a cross between two kinds and is not a distinct species and is an indisputable witness to the truth of Gen. 1:11-25.

6. The Bible says the days of Creation were days that included day and night; that they were ruled by the sun and by the period of light; that the sun had divided between the day and the night; that these days were regulated by the sun and moon just as the seasons and years are. All that prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that he was not made at all, but evolved up from the lower animals in the image of an anthropoid ape.

7. The Bible says that Eve was the mother of all living. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that man evolved from the lower animals unless God worked a greater miracle than creation. For God to have so controlled the process of evolution that Eve would be the only woman that would evolve from an anthropoid ape would be a great miracle and require more credulity than to believe in creation. If evolution is true then many female anthropoid apes evolved into women and Eve was not the mother of all living. But the Bible plainly says that Eve was the mother of all living; therefore evolution is an impossible lie.

8. The Bible says that God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. That prevents a be-

The Morning Watch

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time for prayer.

Second, **wandering thoughts:** I used to have all kinds of thoughts, plans and programs come in upon me when I was praying, and I found myself thinking. How did I get rid of these wandering thoughts? By praying out loud, by putting my petitions into words. I always pray out loud, and have done so for the last forty years of my life.

Third, **drowsiness.** I used to become sleepy when I wanted to pray. That was because I knelt down and closed my eyes, and put my head on my arms. Years ago I formed the habit of walking when praying. I have walked hundreds of miles in my study. By walking up and down the room I never become drowsy. I am able to keep wide awake.

I discovered that when I knelt down and prayed silently, ten minutes seemed a long time, but when I prayed out loud and walked, the time went by quickly. By following these methods I have been able to spend hours in prayer, and I have found the morning watch my strength and my stay. The problems are solved before I meet them. God hears and answers. Instead of letting my circumstances get on top of me and sending me to a sanitarium with a nervous breakdown, I am able to keep on top of my circumstances. I know of no greater thrill than the thrill of the Morning Watch.

—The Alliance Weekly



Sprinkling

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vine ordinance.

It may be correct that sprinkling obtained from 250 A.D., but occurrences were rare, and, as Eusebius, the Early Church historian, states, it was only admitted in cases where grave illness precluded immersion. Even then such "baptism" was considered imperfect, and those who were baptized in their beds were counselled, upon their recovery, to "go to the bishop that he might supply what was wanting in their baptism." Tertullian condemns sprinkling as an unwarranted practice.

Let us listen to a few testimonies out of the many which may be quoted against sprinkling:

Mede: "There was no such thing as sprinkling used in baptism in the Apostolic times, nor many ages after them."

Brenner, a Roman Catholic writes: "Thirteen hundred years was baptism generally and ordinarily performed by the immersion of a man under water; and only in extraordinary cases were sprinkling or affusion permitted."

Dr. Wall, in answering the objection that to immerse a child in cold water was inconvenient and harmful, writes: "Our climate is no colder than it was for those thirteen or fourteen hundred years from the beginning of Christianity here to Queen Elizabeth's time; and not near so cold as Moscow and some other countries where they do still dip their children in baptism, and find no inconvenience in it."

Sprinkling, even when allowed, has always been a questionable exception to the undoubtedly Scriptural mode of baptism by immersion.

Are you satisfied to submit to what is plainly an ordinance of man when it is so easy to be baptized the Bible way? Jesus was immersed, the apostles were immersed, and the early Christians were immersed: can we do less than follow such clear examples?

We now turn to the question of infant baptism. In this connection let us consider four important points:

1. Baptism is to be preceded by teaching.

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them" (Matt. 28:19). This was carried out by the early church, even as Jerome says: "Our Saviour hath not simply commanded to baptize; but first said **teach**, then baptize, and baptism rightly follows faith." The subjects of baptism were to be such as were capable of receiving instruction, those possessing intelligent perception.

2. Baptism is for those who believe.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). "But when they believed Philip — they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). "If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest" (Acts 8:37). "Many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). Baptism follows an act of faith in Christ. It assumes the moral responsibility of the one taking such a step. It is a matter of personal conviction, of individual trust.

3. Baptism follows repentance.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you" (Acts 2:38). It is the action of one who has sinned and whose moral sense is insufficiently developed to know that he has sinned; of one whom the grace of God has brought to a state of penitence and consequent pardon, and who is willing to submit to all the will of God.

4. Baptism is a matter of conscience.

"Baptism—the answer of a good conscience towards God" (I Pet. 3:21). It is therefore performed by one whose moral judgment is enlightened by the Word of God, and who feels under obligation to do what Christ has commanded.

Is an infant of days capable of all this? Can a babe in arms receive instruction, or sin, or repent, or believe? Is conscience so innate that it is manifest even before the dawn of intelligence? This is too much for us to believe.

Mark you, we say this of infants, not of children. When boys and girls come to an age of responsibility they may be baptized upon confession of their faith in the Lord Jesus. The practice of the early church was to admit the children of Christians as catechumens as soon as they were capable of receiving instruction, but they were not baptized until they had given fullest evidence of their faith in Christ. Water baptism is not a question of years but of faith; how soon a person may be baptized depends on how soon he truly believes.

There are many objections brought forward to our stand against the baptism of babies, chief of which are:

1. Christ Blessing Children.

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 19:14). It is a pity that so moving a passage should be made the battleground of theological argument. Still, we cannot allow the despoilers of truth to turn this incident to wrong purposes. The children came to be blessed, not baptized. Jesus did receive disciples by baptism at that time (John

4:2, 3). Why did He not, then, immerse these children on the spot? He simply laid His hands on them, thus showing that infants may come to Christ without baptism, and be blessed.

The real reason behind those who use this as a proof-text for infant baptism is not their tender regard for the little ones, but jealous care for their own dogma. Infant baptism is based on a two-fold error; that no one can be saved outside the church, and that the water of baptism produces regeneration. Our answer to the first is that "whoever believeth on Him hath everlasting life." Union with Christ is the essential of salvation, not union with a body of people. To which church did the dying thief belong? What denomination received the Ethiopian eunuch? To the second point we answer that there is no magical property in baptismal water. It is personal faith that makes the ceremony a sacrament. It is evident that conversion of heart takes place before immersion, for faith is the ground of admission to baptism. The household of Cornelius were both regenerated and sanctified before they were baptized (see Acts 10:47, 48).

Baptismal regeneration completely reverses the teaching of Scripture and makes salvation dependent upon external act rather than internal faith. What a travesty of truth to sprinkle a drop of water on a child's face and declare it is a child of God and a member of the Kingdom of Heaven! How many such "children of God" grow up to be children of the Devil! **And what a slight on the goodness and mercy of God to think that if this is not done the innocent will not go to Heaven!** Why should unbaptized children be buried in unnamed graves? Thank God, their little souls cannot be kept from the presence of Him who said, "Suffer them to come unto Me."

2. Household Baptisms.

Three households are mentioned as having been baptized—those of Lydia, of the Jailer and of Stephanos (Acts 16:15, 33; I Cor. 1:16). It is improbable that Lydia would have travelled so far from home with a babe in arms. The household was her retinue of servants employed in the purple trade. In the Jailer's case it is definitely stated that he believed in God "with all his house"; meaning that all the members of the household became believers in Christ. The household of Stephanos is spoken of in I Cor. 16:15 as "the first fruits of Achaia," that is, the first converts in the district. We may thus assume the whole family old enough to believe. **It cannot be proved that there are infants in any of these families.** All arguments in such a direction are based on supposition.

3. Circumcision.

It is argued that as the Old Testament made provision for the adoption of infants into the covenant by circumcision, so the New Testament makes similar provision by the baptism of babes. This theory is based on two errors. First, it fails to distinguish between dispensations. Under the Old Covenant it was the act that satisfied, the literal observance; under the New it is the motive behind the act, the faith that prompts obedience, which makes the act valid. Ishmael was circumcised, but who would say he was the better for it? Where baptism is likened unto circumcision, it is evident that believer's baptism is intended, and even there it is not merely the act that blesses, but "faith of the operation of God." (Col. 2:12). Secondly, it ignores the fact that birth and not circumcision was the usual ground

of acceptance into the Old Covenant. "We be Abraham's seed." (John 8:33). Circumcision followed as a seal and token of this fact.

It may be asked, "What, then, do you offer infants? Have they no place in God's scheme of salvation?" We believe that the merits of the atonement of Christ are extended to all who have not reached a state of moral accountability, namely, infants and mental deficient, and should they die while in that state, the mercy of God will assure them salvation. We consider it sufficient for Christian parents to dedicate their children to the Lord. And what more pleasing sight than to witness believers presenting their children to God and publicly giving promise that they will endeavor to bring them up in the way they should go!

—Redemption Tidings



Church Babies

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pity! Instead of eating meat, they must in mid-life and beyond be nursed from the bottle.

The reason so many are not strong men and women in Christ Jesus is they do not eat the proper food. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We cannot grow in grace by feasting in sinful pleasures. We must have God's Word. Many are drinking milk who ought to be eating meat.

It is no disgrace to be a baby. But we must not remain babies. Religion is a growing in holiness, a development into the image of Christ Jesus. Therefore, I say, "Quit you like men, be strong."



Pure Church Life

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ning party. Not alone is this true, the church kitchen all through the week is kept busy. Truly the "upper room" has given place to the "supper room." In this connection it is well to read Rom. 14:17, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink . . ."

Churches for the sake of appealing to the "young people" are putting on all sorts of shows and performances. A church organization in Tampa recently put on a church "show" with singing commercials, aping the radio, and dances, and a whole conglomeration gathered from the world. (In contrast see Rom. 12:2.) Do young people have to be "held" by resorting to such? If so, **HELD FOR WHAT?**

The Multiplication Of Unscriptural Organizations

Churches are split up and divided into all sorts of clubs and societies that are not even hinted at in the Bible. These are little churches within the church and they completely overshadow the church itself. They are leeches — miserable parasites that sap the strength of the church. Their existence spells the doom of the prayer meeting. In building the Tabernacle Moses was told to make everything "after the pattern shown him in the holy mount." The church, typified by Tabernacle and Temple, should be likewise built after divine pattern, but the average modern church is nothing like the pattern given us in the Scriptures.

The Modern Resort To Formalism

The wealthier and stronger in

membership a church becomes and likewise the less spiritual the more formalistic it grows. The choir must be robbed, service must be cut and dried, must exhibit a show of learning and MUST have a degree tacked on, like a pig's tail to a name. This is modern Phariseism. A real preacher, called and anointed of God, can't stand a church of this kind. There is liberty in such a place. "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

There is need that a church shall constantly be brought to divine pattern. The adulterations of the Devil must be scraped off like barnacles.



Evolution

(Continued from page three)
lief in the evolutionist lie that man is any kin to the anthropoid ape or the lower animals.

9. The Bible says that beasts of God's creation were brought to Adam, and he named them. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that the man was just a little above the ape in intelligence; but substantiates the idea taught elsewhere in the Bible that Adam was the most intelligent man that ever lived on this earth, except the Son of Man. His knowledge was finite, not infinite; but like God, He knew by intuition. He did not have to study to know. This is one of the curses that came as a result of sin.

10. The Bible says that beasts and fowls were brought to Adam to see if any of them would do for a help-meet to him. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that man himself is an evolution from the beasts. He could have found a help-meet among his ancestral if evolution were true. That shows the degeneracy of mankind today, who prefers association with poodle dogs to little children.

11. The Bible says that God made Adam a wife out of his own rib. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that man evolved from the lower animals; for if man had evolved from the ape state, woman with her quicker intuition would have evolved too.

12. The Bible says there was a personal devil that deceived Eve and led her into sin. This prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that the Devil is only an influence and not personal.

13. The Bible says Adam fell. That prevents belief in the evolutionist lie that the tendency of everything in the world is upward. Plants left themselves degenerate. First blooded stock left to itself degenerates. The fall is written on everything. The fundamental principle of evolution that the tendency of all things is to develop upward is a Hell-born lie. The Devil is the author of the fall, an attempt to hide the fall from man and the curse of it that came therefrom.

14. Thorns and thistles and sweat and toil and pain in travail and the enmity and fear of the snake are God's ever-present witness to truth of the first three chapters of Genesis. Any with thinking people will prevent belief in the evolutionist lie of development from inherent or resident forces being the cause of life. Everything of itself in this world goes backward and downward if left to itself. It is only by intelligent forces on the side of itself, either humane or divine, that there is ever any development in plants or animals or man. Evolution is a lie from start to finish.