

It is better for a pot to boil over than never to boil at all.

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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Carnal Members—A Church Liability

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

There are many church members who are just plain lost. They have somehow gotten into the church without being born again. Then there are others who are saved, but who are what the Bible calls "CARNAL." They are fleshly in their outlook and behavior and desire rather than spiritual. This carnal group is the largest group in most every church. Churches are worldly and unspiritual because of the influence and leadership of such persons. Often the pastor is of this stripe. Often the most active "church workers" belong in the carnal class. For it doesn't take spirituality to be a "church worker." Church workers are usually devoted to denominational organizations, getting up programs, putting on parties, and things of that kind.

MARKS OF CARNALITY

Inability to take strong doctrine. (I Cor 3:1-2). Many church members just have conniption fits if they are fed a little doctrine. They never get beyond the "bottle baby" stage. Election or predestination would throw them into spasm. We had a family to take out of the church once, the first time we

even mentioned election in a sermon.

Envy is a mark of carnality. (I Cor. 3:3). Church members blow up because somebody is elected to the position which they desired. Such are envious of others who are more prominent than they.

Strife is a mark of carnality (I Cor. 3:3). It is the carnal people in a church who stir up trouble, and who "keep the pot boiling" with their talk and gossip. When a church is continually in a stir, it is a sure sign of carnality. Spiritual people don't want to be in a fight (Continued on page four)

The Dead Sea—Richest Spot In All The World

This body of aqua lies at the southern end of the Jordan rift which is the deepest continental depression on the face of the planet. In the course of the 65 miles from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea the Jordan River falls from 680 feet above sea level to 1,290 feet below sea level. But in the quaint language of a local Palestine official many years ago, "the River Jordan is the crookedest river what is." The result is that in its meanderings the length of its flow is increased to 200 miles. Its waters empty into the Dead Sea, the deepest part of the great Jordan depression.

The present Dead Sea is 47 miles long and has a maximum width of 9.5 miles. Its surface is 340 square miles in area, with a maximum depth of 1,300 feet.

The Dead Sea owes its origin to one of the oldest cosmic catastrophes known to mankind. That catastrophe is described in the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah: "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from . . . out of heaven." (Genesis 19:24).

Then, too, the Biblical student will at once identify this body of water with the names in the Bible of "The Salt Sea", (Genesis 14:3) or, "The Sea of the Plain". The earliest secular records describing the exceptional character of the Dead Sea date from about 65 B. C. when two Greek historians and geographers made record of it in their travels.

For many centuries this salt sea region was regarded as "dead". Owing to the excessive salinity of the waters, no finny tribes inhabited its depths; there was nothing to draw men to its uncomfortably hot shores. Summer temperatures reach 65 to 75 degrees Centigrade (149-167 Fahrenheit) during the day and it is impossible to work then.

The crystal clear waters of the Jordan disappear dramatically into that witch's brew, the Dead Sea, or Yam Ha-Melach (the Sea of Salt), as it is called in Hebrew. According to one authority the salinity of the Dead Sea can be explained by the fact that as the Jordan flows south from Lake Kinneret, (Continued on page four)

Pertinent Paragraphs For All Our Preacher Readers

PREACH TRUTH EARNESTLY

A minister visiting a penitentiary one Saturday was invited by the Christian warden to speak to the inmates the next day. That evening the minister felt impressed to go to the penitentiary and learn the details regarding the service. Noting two chairs draped in black in the main assembly room, he inquired as to the reason. Said the warden, "Those two chairs are draped for death. Your sermon will be the last that they will ever hear." You can realize that Browning and Emerson figured very little in the sermon that was delivered on the occasion. There are chairs in most audiences draped for death.

SOME MUST'S

This is the day of "must" legislation, and in keeping with the times, here are a few

PRAISE WHEN IT IS NOT APPRECIATED

A church known to me once buried its pastor, and on the following Sunday held a memorial service in his honor. A large congregation overflowed the house. One speaker told us of his worth as a preacher, another of his tender administration as a pastor, others spoke of him as a citizen. Finally they called on me to speak. I said, "All you have said of my brother is true. He was a man out of the ordinary and gave his remarkable powers to your service without stint or reserve. But if you had, while he was yet alive, filled these pews as you have today, and said of him what you have just said, he would not now be dead. Empty pews broke his heart, and he did not know of the love of which you have been speaking. He died for lack of the things you have today so beautifully said and done." And it was—Copied

"must's" for the preacher:

He must distinguish between prejudice and principle.

He must not accept remuneration without work.

He must not mistake motion for progress.

He must not mistake knowledge for character.

He must distinguish between faith and superstition.

He must not professionalize, but humanize his ministry.

He must not encourage worship without sacrifice.

He must not mistake emotionalism for spirituality.

He must not mistake soliloquy for prayer.

He must not confuse presumption and faith.

He must be a voice and not an echo.

STRAIGHT TO CHRIST

Dr. Alexander Whyte says in the "British Weekly": "When the — (a certain journal) cast up to Spurgeon that there was never anything new in his sermons because he was always (Continued on page four)

STRONG DRINK, ALWAYS THE CURSE OF MANKIND

WHAT WHISKEY WILL DO

A temperance orator was being constantly interrupted by a man in the audience. When the speaker condemned whiskey, the interrupter broke in with: "But it is a medicine. A strong glass of hot whiskey and water will break up a cold." "And eight glasses will break up a home," the orator retorted.

WHY DID THEY WRITE?

A young man some years ago was found drowned in the Mersey. On a paper found in his pocket was written: "A Wasted Life. Do not ask anything about me; drink was the cause." Within a week of the publication of these particulars the coroner of Liverpool received two hundred letters from all over England asking for a description of the young man.

BOTTLES AND RAGS

An old junk dealer who used to call out from alley to alley, "Bottles and rags," was asked why he thus classified the things (Continued on page four)

Just What Is Involved In Living The Christian Life?

By HARM RUST
Worthington, Minn.

The apostle Paul foretold how things would be in the last days. He wrote, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2nd Tim. 3:1-5). Farther on he tells of his doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions which had come to him in his journeyings as an apostle and Missionary. Then he adds a meaningful statement. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2nd Tim. 3:12-13). That is what we must expect if we will "live godly in Christ Jesus."

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE MAY BRING PERSECUTION. But Jesus said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matt. 5:10 to 12). According to reports there are Missionaries who suffer persecution for Christ's sake and the gospel. The apostle Paul declares that any one who "will live godly in Christ Jesus" will suffer persecution. If all of the Lord's people really lived consistent Christian lives they would experience much more persecution in their communities and even in their churches. Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me (Continued on page three)

COME APART, OR FALL APART

(Mark 6:31)

In the service of Christ today it is essential that we learn the art of coming apart before we fall apart. The Lord provides working places as well as resting places. If our lives are to be bright, our labors fruitful, and the tasks before us conducted in the joy of God then we must be "fit for the Master's use." How lovely to behold a busy life for God yet balanced by wise discretion in the care of the spirit, soul and body. Far too often workers in the vineyard over-strain, over-tax, and finally undermine their health so that their usefulness for God is greatly hindered.

Our Lord has graciously revealed His mind and deep concern for all who serve. It is a much needed exhortation and divine call to all who are engaged in any work for Christ. Life (Continued on page four)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"Pleasing God"

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."—Rom. 8:8.

On Wednesday evening of each week, just prior to our prayer meeting, we have a meeting of the Sunday School teachers of our church, and with your pastor as teacher we go over the lesson of the following Sunday for the benefit of our teachers. In other words, I aim to teach the lesson on Wed. evening to our teachers to be of help to them in teaching the lesson to you on God's day. Last Wednesday evening as we were studying in this eighth chapter of Romans, preparatory to the Bible school this morning, somehow the Lord laid it on my heart to lay aside the message which I had already planned for this morning and to preach to you the message that I am bringing to you at this hour. In an unusual way, this text made a tremendous impression on me last Wednesday evening as we studied it in our teachers' meeting.

As I began to turn this text over in my mind, I asked myself this question: Is it possible that people might live in this world a lifetime, and die, and go out of this world, and never please God one single time in an entire lifetime? As I pondered this verse of Scripture I felt a tremendous urge that I should, this morning, bring this text to your consideration. Man, woman, I say, it is possible that a person might be born in Russell, live seventy years in Russell, die in Russell, go out into eternity to face God without having pleased God one moment of his life. (Continued on page two)

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"Pleasing God"

(Continued from page one)

I

WHO CAN'T PLEASE GOD?

Beloved, if you are depending on lodge membership, church membership, your works, your religion, your baptism, your goodness, your morality, or if you are depending in any wise on anything other than Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you need to heed especially this text when it says, "They that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Suppose we look at it from this standpoint. There are lots of folk who are good people. They please their bosom mates in life; they please their children; they please their neighbors; they please their friends, yet, beloved, the very one that they ought to aim to please every day, even God, they have never pleased one time.

Lots of times there are people who have unusual voices, who are the possessors of an unusual talent when it comes to the matter of singing. Suppose this morning that we bring some unsaved person who has never received Jesus Christ as his Saviour into the house of God and have that individual sing some one, or more of these great hymns, in this hymn book. I ask you, beloved, would it be pleasing to God? Maybe that individual might have a voice that is so wonderful that he might be received gladly at Carnegie Hall. Maybe that individual might have a voice to such an extent that he might be received anywhere with open arms in the musical world. Beloved, God's people ought never have such an individual sing the praise of God for one reason: "They that are in the flesh cannot please God."

The same thing is true so far as teaching is concerned. We will imagine that here is an individual, perhaps a teacher in the public schools, maybe talented, gifted in all probability—an unusual teacher. Maybe there is someone who has an unusual ability in teaching children, and because that one has such an unusual ability in teaching children we will have that individual teach in our Bible school. Mind you, beloved, that person has never professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That individual may be able to teach the history of the Bible; that one may be able to teach the literature and the geography of the Bible; but, beloved, that individual is unable to interpret the spirit of the Bible, and accordingly, in the light of this text of Scripture, that individual couldn't please God and the act on our part of having such a one to teach would be displeasing to our Heavenly Father.

I was telling my Sunday School class this morning of an

experience of a few months ago when one of the officials here in the local yards told me that he was very much displeased with the way that the preachers of America preached. I don't know why he should be so much displeased because I am satisfied that he has never heard but mighty few, for I know that he goes to services very rarely. He made this suggestion: He thought that there ought to be added over at Washington a board of religion, and there ought to be some half dozen or so individuals who would make up that department of religion, who would prepare the sermons that would be preached on Sunday throughout America. He said that in his opinion it would be a fine thing if there would be a Jew, a Protestant, a Catholic, and perhaps two or three others who were not connected with any particular religion at all, and let those individuals as a board prepare the sermons that would be sent out to the preachers of America to be preached on Sunday, and in the course of the conversation, he even went so far as to say that he didn't think that it was even necessary that a person be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ to serve upon such a board.

Now, beloved, to me that is a ridiculous, preposterous, absurd suggestion in every particular. The suggestion that he made might please some, but there is one thing certain. It couldn't please God, for my text says, "They that are in the flesh cannot please God."

We have another Scripture of like nature. Listen:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him." — Heb. 11:6.

Now let me ask you, sinner friend, one simple question, have you ever exercised faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Have you ever trusted Jesus Christ to save your soul? You say, "Nay, Brother Gilpin. Never once have I trusted Him as my Saviour." Then, beloved, you have never once pleased God. Without faith it is impossible to please Him.

I am thinking this morning of a man who was born in Russell, who lived in Russell seventy-three years, who died in Russell, and who on his deathbed told me that he had never believed in Jesus Christ. I am satisfied that he died and went out into eternity still an unbeliever. Beloved, when I meet that man at the judgment bar of God, I expect to meet him — an unsaved man. Beloved, that man who lived seventy-three years in this town died an unbeliever, and he never pleased God one time in all of his life.

My text says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Beloved, if you haven't exercised faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and if you haven't trusted Him as your Saviour, you have never pleased Him one single, solitary moment of your life.

How old are you this morning? I am not meaning to pry into your age or your personal affairs, but I am going to assume that you are forty, forty-five, or fifty years old. I want to say that whether you are five, or whether you are twenty-five, or whether you are forty-five, or whether you are seventy-five years old, if you have never believed in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have never pleased God one single moment of your life. Without faith it is impossible to please Him.

I am not saying what you may do to someone else. You may be very pleasing so far as your personality is concerned. You may be very pleasing to your wife or your husband or to your children. You may be very pleas-

Modernism, Communism

Benj. F. Dotson, Elkhart, Indiana

Modernism, Communism, Siamese twins,
Hard to decide which have the greater sins;
Both conceived in unbelief, rejection of God,
Are as near alike as peas in a pod.

Communism rejects the existence of God,
Ruling its subjects with an iron rod;
There is no freedom, privilege where it exists,
The state is supreme, Malenkov insists.

So, Modernism likewise questions deity,
For truth there's little of sincerity;
The modernist does not believe mankind is lost,
Or that Jesus by His death paid the cost.

Modernism and Communism see alike
The doctrine of the Cross, they both dislike;
Both reject the doctrine of Christ's substitution,
Say church is a human institution.

Modernism, Communism, deify man,
Reject Bible teaching as to God's plan;
Embalm their "gods", place bodies in mausoleum,
In public square where people can view them.

Lenin and Stalin had no power over disease,
Death cut them down like woodmen cut the trees,
Neither were able to destroy Christianity,
Both will face judgment and eternity.

But position of modernist is about as bad,
At judgement bar will be sorry he had;
Modernism, Communism, you all know well,
According to Scripture are headed for hell.

ing to everybody that you come in contact with. Your friends and your associates may rejoice in your fellowship, but, beloved, one thing remains true, you can't please God without faith in Jesus Christ.

While turning through God's Word and studying various Scriptures, I came across one passage of Scripture that I had never seen before in this respect. Listen:

"Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men." — I Thes. 2:15.

Here is a verse of Scripture which tells us that the Jews killed Jesus Christ and they pleased not God. Can it be possible that the implication of that verse of Scripture is that the entire Jewish nation has rejected Jesus Christ and that every individual Jew who has refused to believe in Jesus Christ stands today with this accusation resting upon him—that he doesn't, and never has, pleased God. That is exactly what it means. I tell you this morning, every time you stand face to face with "Jakey" or "Ikey," or "Rebecca" or "Rachel"—every time you see a Jew who has never believed in Jesus Christ, remember there stands a man that the Word of God says has never pleased God.

I can understand why that is true, for the Lord Jesus Christ further says:

"That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. HE THAT HONORETH NOT THE SON HONORETH NOT THE FATHER which hath sent him." — John 5:23.

Beloved, a man can't honor God who doesn't honor God's Son. The Jew doesn't honor God's Son. The Jew doesn't accept God's Son. Therefore, the Jew can't honor God in view of the fact that he doesn't honor the Son of God.

What is true of the Jew, is true of the Gentile, and is true of all others. Every man in order to honor God, has to honor God's Son. Every man to please God has to believe in

Jesus Christ. Every man has to believe in Jesus Christ as his Saviour and have faith in Him in order to be able to please God, for without faith it is impossible to please Him.

II

HOW CAN WE PLEASE HIM?

Now, beloved, remembering that there are individuals in this world who have never pleased Him, and remembering that there are those who can't please Him because they have never trusted Him as their Saviour, then let's ask ourselves a question—how can we who are believing children of God please Him? The great multitude of this world has never pleased Him. A vast multitude will die and go to Hell without ever having pleased Him. The whole nation who have rejected Him, will die and go out into eternity to a Devil's Hell without ever having pleased Him one day. The only person who can please Him is the man who has been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. How then can we who are saved please Him?

First of all, we can please the Lord by praising Him.

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs." — Psal. 69:30, 31.

What does the Psalmist David say? Here stands two individuals side by side to worship God. One of them has brought an ox or a bullock with horns and hoofs—a perfect specimen—nothing wrong with the sacrifice in any wise at all. Side by side with that individual stands another. This one is of a different spirit. He comes not with a sacrifice in his hands, but with a song of praise upon his lips and with thanksgiving within his soul. David says that the man who praises the name of God with a song and magnifies God with thanksgiving pleases God better than the man who brings a perfect ox or a perfect bullock for sacrificial purposes unto

God, but brings it without praise for God.

Now, beloved, it is well for people to make sacrifices. I judge so; I never did make one. I rather imagine if you would be honest, that the most of you would admit the same thing. I don't believe an American Christian knows the meaning of sacrifice. Suppose you did know the meaning of sacrifice. I am sure you, beloved, there is one thing better than a sacrifice, and that is a song of praise unto the name of God. God says that it pleases Him better than your sacrifice.

Beloved, you as a Christian, a saved person, as a believer, a child of God, ought to be praising the Lord every day. Instead of most of us are worrying, fretting, and most of us are doing every thing else except what the Lord tells us to do.

I think of the words of the little poem:

"When the weather is warm we must not storm,
When the weather is wet we must not fret;
When the weather is cold, we must not scold;
But be happy together whatever the weather."

How few of us do it! Most of us, beloved, scold. We storm, we fret, and we fail to remember that we are to be "happy together whatever the weather."

What do you suppose would please God most so far as you are concerned? Go down in your pocket and get every penny that you have and lay it up on the altar of service for the Lord, or go out this afternoon and spend the entirety of this afternoon knocking at the doors of people in this town, telling people about Jesus Christ and praising God, for what He has done for you? Now, beloved, it would be a whole lot easier for you to make the sacrifice, but to do something that would please God more, in the light of this text, is for you to praise His name and give a song of thanksgiving unto Him for His goodness. That is one way that we can please Him.

Then again, God's people can please Him by walking with Him. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

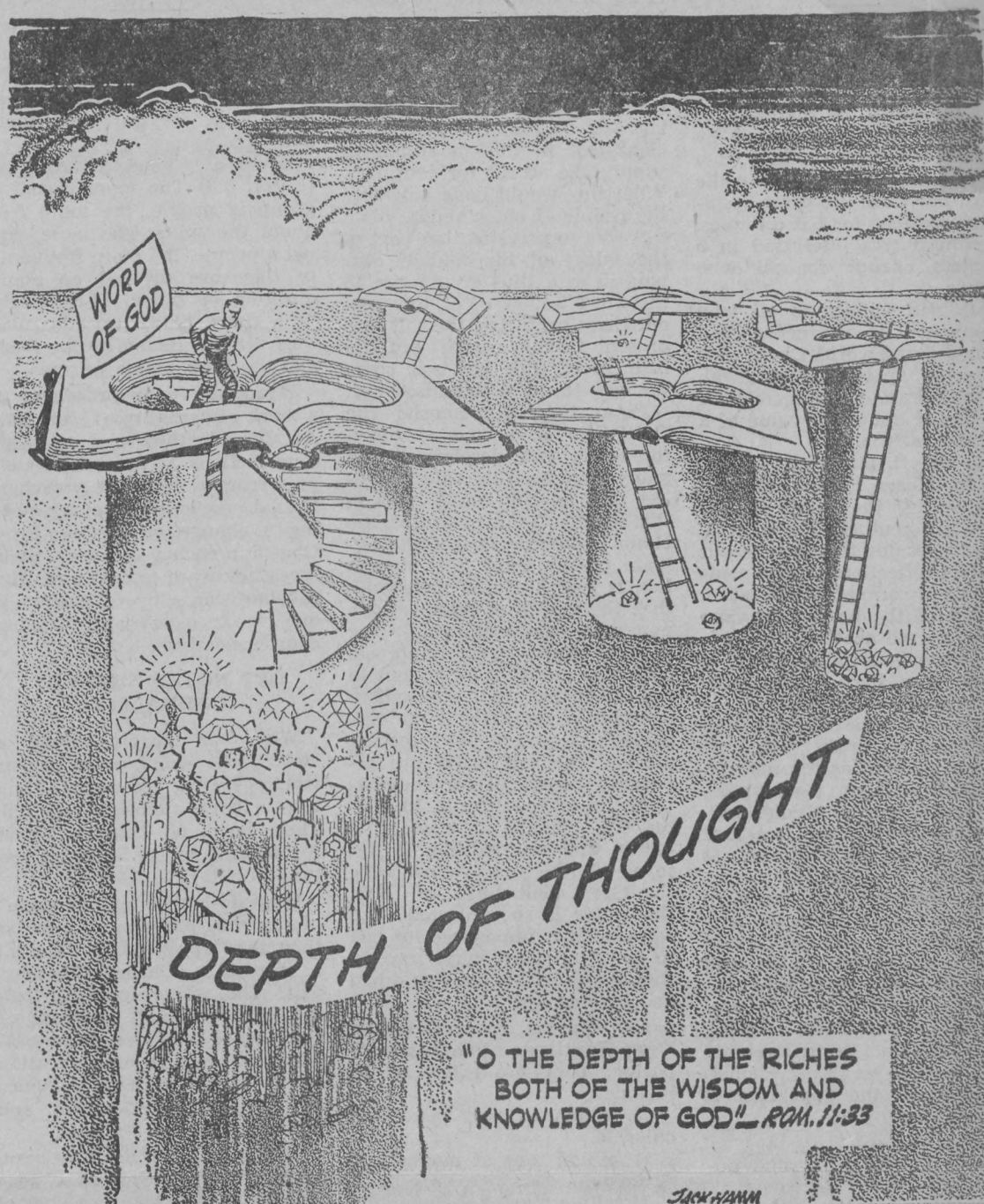
Heb. 11:5.

Now, beloved, here is a man of whom it is said that he pleased God. When did he have the testimony given concerning him? It wasn't the day that he was translated, but before he was translated. God had already given His own personal word that Enoch was pleasing to Him. Now what was it about Enoch that caused him to be pleasing to God? Listen:

"And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him." — Gen. 5:24.

Beloved, Christian people are the only people who can please God, and Enoch pleased Him by walking with Him. I am satisfied that there were plenty of folk back in those days who Enoch could have walked with beside the Lord. I am sure that there were just as many who lived in sin and lived for the world in Enoch's day as there are in this day. Beloved, Enoch didn't walk with any of the crowd; he walked with God. The people didn't do exactly what he thought they ought to do, but he went on and walked with God just the same. One of the best things that I know today is the fact that a lot of people will just simply draw themselves in a knot and refuse to do anything if everything doesn't go exactly their way. Now that wasn't Brother Enoch's style.

SHAFT OF PRICELESS WISDOM



The Word of God tells us that one day David didn't do like his son Solomon. David failed to walk by faith with God.

"And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel." — I Chron. 21:7.

What was it that displeased God? Beloved, David was getting ready to go forth to battle. He learned that the opposing army had a certain number, and he sat down and figured the number that he had to see whether or not with his number that he would be able to meet the number that was approaching with the other army. Listen, beloved, God didn't want David to count noses, and depend upon his men. God wanted David to look up and trust Him and depend upon God.

Brother, sister, God doesn't want you to depend upon this world's wisdom and reason. God wants you to depend upon Him. When David didn't do it, it did not please God.

CONCLUSION

I repeat, beloved, unsaved people can't please God. Only God's people can please Him, and we can do so by praising Him, by walking with Him, and by walking with Him by faith, depending on Him.

We have a marvelous promise here within this Bible which ought to be the goal of every person who is saved — a marvelous promise for that individual who does succeed in pleasing Him. Listen:

"When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." — Prov. 16:7.

Beloved, this verse of Scripture means something to me. When a man's ways please the Lord, God makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

We have been studying of recent date on Wednesday night in the book of Genesis concerning Jacob. You remember how Jacob came back to Bethel. The Word of God says as a result of a rash act on the part of his sons in killing all the males of the city of Shechem, that the nations round about were rising up to slay Jacob. They were going to kill him, and all of his people, and wipe them out of existence. Just at that time God called Jacob back to Bethel. The Word of God tells us that Jacob went back to Bethel — back to the place where he had first known God — back to the place where he had first begun to walk with God. He had gotten away from the Lord for thirty years. He had been mighty careless and negligent in his service of the Lord for thirty years. Now he goes back to the place where he first walked with God.

"And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob."

Two or three verses before this we read how the armies were rising up against Jacob to wipe him out of existence. When Jacob turned back to God, what happened? The terror of God came down upon those cities round about, and God gave Jacob protection all the way back.

This text in Proverbs says that when a man's ways please the Lord, that God even makes that man's enemies to be at peace with him. I don't know anything that ought to be more of an encouragement, or that ought to cheer the hearts of God's people more this morning. If you are a child of His, I know it is your desire to please Him, and one thing that grows out of trying to please Him, is that God just takes care of our enemies. He just causes our enemies to be at peace with us when we are pleasing Him. This is one

preacher that can speak from experience. I have seen God, beloved, shut up one enemy after another. I know God keeps His promise in regard to this.

Let me ask you a simple question as I bring this message to a close. Are you trying to please God today? I am afraid that most people are trying to please man. Oh, might it be today that God will help you to go out from this place and that you will live not to please man, but please God.

After I came to the house of God this morning, by chance humanly, I stumbled upon this passage of Scripture which I think very, very definitely tells us how that we ought to seek to please Him. Listen:

"But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband." — I Cor. 7:33,34.

Here is a verse of Scripture that ought to cause every person within this house of God to go home to ponder in your heart — are you trying to please your husband — are you trying to please your wife? Are you trying to please your family or are you living for the glory of God? The only way that you can please Him is by walking with Him by faith every day. Are you trying to please Him?

May God bless you!

The Christian Life

(Continued from page one)
before it hated you. If ye were

of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:18-19). If professing Christians were not so often conformed to the world and could let their light so shine, they would experience far more hatred from the people of the world and from merely nominal Christianity. It is so necessary that Christianity of the present realize what James writes.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4). We must not forget that the world is against Christ whom we profess to love. But if we do as the world does our profession is not true. Paul writes a warning word. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Are we seeking to be conformed to this present evil world or are we endeavoring to live transformed lives? The Christian life is a godly, transformed life.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE MAY INVOLVE POVERTY. When our Saviour was on earth, in spite of His poverty, some were superficially attracted to Him and said, "Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." I do not believe we have a single instance where Jesus urged or even encouraged any one to follow Him who came of their own accord like this man. He seemed to give him a very discouraging answer. Jesus said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of

man hath not where to lay his head." (Matt. 8:20). Our Saviour knows that those who lightly undertake the Christian life, have not really experienced a change of heart, and cannot and will not endure. When Jesus sent out the twelve two and two he said, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." (Matt. 10:22). Jesus reserves His right to choose His followers. This is His prerogative. He said to His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16). Are we as followers of Christ anxious to give and do all we can or are we thinking of an easy life and getting all we can?

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE INVOLVES SELF-DENIAL. Christ alone suffered for man's sin and made a complete atonement. But all who have part in the atonement provided by our blessed Redeemer, are afterward to become His followers. When Jesus had made known to His disciples how He must suffer, die and rise again the third day, He also instructed them. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 16:24-25). There

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Come Apart

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moves on in high gear and the pressure of meetings, rallies, committees, socials and teas, tend to rob us of that quality of service that is approved by God and acceptable to men. Can something be done? Yes! In the life of our Lord He gives specific instructions for His disciples.

1. Christ was interested in a **complete change** for all who serve.

This still applies to all who are engaged in the needs of a lost and dying world. Christ bids us "come apart" for renewal, for recuperation, for recreation.

2. Christ knew the value of a **spiritual retreat**.

The **desert place** was necessary for Moses, Elijah, Paul and more so for the saints of the Twentieth century. There is an urgent need for taking time out for quiet reflection, private meditation and serious consideration in view of the brevity of time and desperate need of the age.

3. Christ believed in **times of leisure** for the indefatigable worker soon breaks down.

Even in a time of relaxation there can be profit from the spiritual as well as the natural. All work and no play makes life monotonous and colorless.

4. Christ well understood that **our frame** was made of dust, not cast iron.

Many had no time for even eating and so He points the way to a beautiful and purposeful life. To follow His plan and adopt His methods leads to continued renewal and holy zeal pressing on from faith to faith, and from strength to strength, and later on to praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.



The Dead Sea

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hot springs and other tributaries empty their deposits of sulphur, potash and other salts into its water. The composition of the Dead Sea surface brine is as follows:

	Grams per quart
Chemical name:	
Potassium Chloride	11.8
Sodium Chloride	82.4
Magnesium Chloride	142.4
Calcium Chloride	33.0
Calcium Sulphates	1.3
Magnesium Bromide	3.9
Total Salts	274.8

This analysis shows that the waters of the Dead Sea contain, roughly, 275 grams per quart, while the average concentration of other sea water does not exceed 35 grams of salt per quart, making the water of the Dead Sea eight times saltier than ordinary sea water—the saltiest in the world. We illustrate this by filling a quart bottle with water and allowing it to evaporate. When the water is entirely gone we will find one-half pint of solid matter still in the bottle.

It is interesting to note that this great body of water, which has no outlet, grows smaller each year because the evaporation is greater than the inflow which is estimated at 200 million gallons a day.

At the southern end of the sea there is a natural wonder—the Mount of Salt—a solid mountain of salt which is thought to mark the site of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. This mountain is about six miles long, three miles wide and 1,000 feet high. On top of this

mountain of salt there is a covering of several feet of earth, but the rest of the mountain is solid salt, 98 per cent pure. In the centre of this mountain of salt there is a vein of pure transparent crystal salt. Scientists tell us that there is sufficient salt in this mountain to supply the world for centuries. What this would have meant to the people of olden times, when salt was so precious that part of the salary of the soldiers was paid in salt, thus giving rise to the word "salary". Yet, throughout these centuries, the salt was present in this mount, but the fullness of time had not come for man to make this discovery.

From time immemorial the Dead Sea has been a synonym for death and desolation, and many have been the tales claiming that no life could exist in this region. Contrary to this, the claim is now made that the climate of the Dead Sea, though hot, is healthful and beneficial; that the health of many of the men who were employed in the potash works was improved. This was due to some extent to the fact that the atmosphere contains an unusually large percentage of oxygen. Both the sea air and the salt water are especially beneficial for rheumatism and other ailments. In winter the climate is warm and balmy and sea bathing is enjoyed all the year round. Like the Great Salt Lake in Utah, the water is so saturated with salt that it is impossible for one to sink, but alas! what tragedy should one let his head go down and his feet up!

The mineral resources of the Dead Sea have often been reported. They are estimated to include:

- 2 billion tons of potassium chloride.
- 1 billion tons of magnesium bromide.
- 11 billion tons of sodium chloride.
- 22 billion tons of magnesium chloride.
- 6 billion tons of calcium chloride.

Extraction of potash from the Dead Sea was Palestine's most important chemical industry before the establishment of Israel as a state, with 1,040,000 tons processed by the end of 1947. Revival of the potash works at the southern end of the sea is, of course, one of Israel's major developmental projects at the present time, and a road is currently under construction to make possible transport of potash products from the now isolated works to other parts of the country. We are told that there is sufficient potash in the Dead Sea to supply the world for 2,000 years.

The Dead Sea is probably the world's richest natural source of bromine, which has an important role in the manufacture of anti-knock fluids for high-octane gasoline, as well as in the making of dyes, medicinals, and photographic reagents. The almost unlimited supply of magnesium salts, hitherto unexploited, may become important if world-wide shortages of critical materials intensify. Israel's chief difficulties have been the lack of cheap power for electrolyzing the salts and the enormous capacity for magnesium production developed elsewhere during World War II, especially in the United States.

Claude, the French chemist, estimated that it also contains gold in sufficient quantity to make it profitable to produce 12,000,000,000 dollars' worth in some 15 years.

It has been estimated that the chemical wealth of the Dead Sea at current prices is a staggering 1,388,000 million dollars, or the combined property wealth of the world.

Carnality

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or a quarrel. Spiritual people are more concerned about the Lord's work than about having their own way, or carrying their point.

Divisions a mark of carnality. (1 Cor. 3:3) The more carnal a group of people, the more frequent the splits. The more carnal a people, the more frequently they are divided on some question or other. They easily "get their blood up" because they are dominated by the flesh and the flesh is quarrelsome.

Wrangling over preachers is a mark of carnality. (1 Cor. 3:4). At Corinth they had at least four factions, with each faction preferring a different preacher. Carnal people are forever wanting a change of pastors. First time a preacher steps on their toes, they want to oust him. The constant changing of pastors is due to base carnality among church members.

OFT NOTED SIGNS OF CARNALITY

Why will people attend a "feed" who won't go to prayer meeting? They are carnal. They want their stomachs stuffed. They have no concern about the feeding of the spiritual nature.

Why does the "supper room" of churches prove more popular than the "upper room?" Carnal... Carnal... Carnal is the answer! The whole feasting, frolicking, amusement program of churches is grounded in the basest carnality. The multiplication of that sort of thing is evidence of spiritual deterioration and descent into the carnal.

Why are people more concerned that a new pastor be a "good mixer" than a true preacher of the Bible? They are carnal. They want the flesh pleased above everything.

Why is there more interest in the expenditure of money around a church to increase creature comforts, than there is in the spread of the gospel? Carnality is the answer! People had rather sit in a nice soft pew than to send the gospel to the lost, because they want to pamper the flesh.

Why do people respond to the sensational in religion as they do? Carnality. They are much more concerned to hear something sensational—something that will make their eyes pop, than to hear the plain truth of God's Word.

REMEMBER: "The carnal mind is enmity against God."



The Christian Life

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seem to be thousands who profess Christianity but show no desire to deny self, nor to take up their cross to follow. It must be they have not been "born again." And it must be they do not belong to Christ. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24). Do we profess Christianity, while we walk after the flesh? "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:15-16).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE INVOLVES TRIBULATION. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). Tribulation

means, "severe affliction; deep sorrow; acute trial." Many of the Lord's people are enduring tribulation. Of truly justified persons we read, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience, and experience hope: And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3 to 5). But we shall not "glory in tribulations also," which is a part of "the Christian life", as long as we are lovers of pleasures more than "lovers of God", or like so many others "lovers of their own selves."

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS CONNECTED WITH SUFFERING. Of the Apostle Paul we read, "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16). It was not that he was to be an isolated instance of suffering. It is to be so with all God's children. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:16-17). Suffering for Christ's sake and the Gospel is not counted a hardship by those who are earnest surrendered Christians. When Peter and other Apostles had been beaten and forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus they let them go. "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Acts 5:40 to 42). To the Philippians Paul wrote, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me." (Phil. 1:29-30).

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
NO: there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me."

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE REQUIRES SEPARATION. When I was asked, many years ago, whether it would be wise for a church group to separate from modernism in doctrine I tried to make it plain that it is not sufficient for Christians to separate from modernism, but also from worldliness, immorality, carnality. To pretend to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" and at the same time love the world and the things that are in the world, is not the Christian life. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15). Separation must be in two directions. A Christian must be separated unto God and the Spiritual, and be Spiritually minded and he must be separated from the things in the world and that are carnal. When the Thessalonian people had heard the preaching they "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven." (1 Th. 1:9-10). There are so many professing Christians who are not willing to separate themselves from worldly lusts. But the Lord is beseeching, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and

touch not the unclean thing: I will receive you, and will be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty." (2nd Cor. 17-18). Dear brethren, let us get up the world with its fun, games, its organized competitive sports, its liquor, its tobacco, theatres and its dances and other things which interfere with the Lord's people being "filled with the Spirit." If we are Christians let us live truly Christian lives.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE REQUIRES OUR TESTIMONY AGAINST THE WORLD AND THE WORKS THEREOF AND EVIL. A truly separated Christian life is in itself one of the strongest testimonies against that is evil. There was a time when Jesus' own brethren did not believe on Him. But he tried to advise Him. "Then said Jesus unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is now ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." (John 7:7).

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they wrought in God." (John 3:19-21).

I have a deep yearning that all the Lord's people should be at their very best, and all the more so because the world is becoming worse and our Lord's coming cannot be very far away. I feel I have much more to say. There are many others whose testimony we desire to need. I say from a heart of love: God bless you all.



Whiskey

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he wanted to buy. He replied, "Well, you know, where you find bottles you always find rags."

THE BRAND

"Everybody's Magazine" tells of a police court magistrate who was approached by a distiller who asked him if he had ever tried his special brand of whiskey. "No," said the judge, "but I tried three men in court this morning who had tried it."



Preachers

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saying the same thing over and over again, the great preacher replied that the charge was quite true. For wherever he took his text in the whole Bible, it was his principle and it was his practice, he said, to make across country as fast as possible to Christ."

THE OLD PREACHER

All his life
In kindly gentle ways
He toiled
To mend mankind:
Preached mercy,
Fed the poor,
Gave off the welcome hand
To passing strangers,
And in his daily course
Comforted sad lives.
But when his hair grew gray
And his thin voice
Reached only to the middle
Of the church,
His congregation
Generously
Gave him
The key to the street!