

The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries

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

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Catholicism Is Contrary To The Scriptures

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida



The doctrines of the Catholic church are in the main both erroneous and deadly. There are doubtless saved Catholics, but they are saved IN SPITE of the church — not BECAUSE OF IT. Let us take a look at some of their doctrines as set forth in their literature. Cardinal Gibbon's book, "Faith Of Our Fathers" is perhaps the best popular explanation of Catholic doctrine.

1. The Catholic view of salvation.

The church makes baptism the instrumental cause of justification. The grace purchased by Christ's death according to their

view, can only flow through the hands of the priesthood. To the contrary, the Bible teaches that Christ's work on the Cross is com-

plete and sufficient for all who will trust in Him, and no mention is made of any priesthood. (See Rom. 3:24-26; Coloss. 1:14; Acts 13:39).

2. The Catholic Doctrine of Purgatory.

The church teaches that Christ's work on the Cross does NOT clear up one's whole sin account. One must go to a place called "purgatory" and there must suffer for sin. This doctrine was not introduced until late in the 6th century, and was not made an article of faith until the Council of Florence 1439 A.D.

There is no such place as purgatory. (Continued on page eight)

1. I would like to know where there is Scripture for the age of accountability.

So would I. It is an expression which is used by most preachers, and yet there is not one place in the Bible that it can be found. Jokingly, I might say, as I often do of the sprinkling of babies, that you will find it in the thirty-seventh chapter of Hezekiah and the second chapter of Jude.

2. Where in the Bible do you find that Peter was crucified head downward?

Not only is it not in the Bible, but actually we have no history to this effect. It is Catholic tradition that one follows when a preacher says that Peter was thus crucified head downward. It may have been true, but we certainly have no Scripture nor reliable history to prove it.

3. Since Baptists were formerly called Anabaptists, and at later times Mennonites, is the Mennonite church of today to be thus called a sound New Testament church?

Definitely not, for the modern day Mennonite church is almost as much removed from the ancient Mennonites, Anabaptists,

and Waldenses, as day is removed from night. There is practically no similarity at all as to their doctrinal position.

4. Would you say for a Baptist to join a Mennonite church if no Baptist church is near his community?

Under no conditions would I favor such an alignment. If there were no Baptist church in the community, a true Baptist ought to start one. Often I have heard Baptists say, "If I were not a Baptist, I would be a . . ." I have heard some say that they would be Presbyterians, others Nazarenes, still others Methodists. Well, I wouldn't be. If I were not a Baptist, do you know what I would be? I would be ashamed to tell it. In other words, I would just be a Baptist, and if there were no Baptist church in the community, I would still be a Baptist, and would not in any wise unite with any church of any other denominational affiliation.

5. Is the Scofield Bible, with its explanations and references, to be followed?

Quite often through the col- (Continued on page eight)

Say, What Is Wrong With The Modern Testimony Meeting?

One of the most popular practices in Evangelical churches today is to sponsor testimony meetings without any thought of whether or not the custom is Scriptural. Like so many other things which have crept into our churches this practice needs to be carefully evaluated in the light of the Scriptures. The kind of testimony meeting we are weighing is familiar to most people—the kind which involves women speaking in the church.

1. The origin of the practice.

Unrestricted testimony meetings have become so popular that many preachers and churches feel that they cannot do without them and still have an inspiring and edifying church service. Obviously this is not true because edification results from feasting on the Word of God and not from ignoring its authority as do the advocates of the modern testimony meeting.

The earliest invention of this modern novelty can probably be traced to the Methodist movement in the Northwest. According to Dr. John Broadus, "Mr. Wesley's 'class-meetings' consisted of a small number of persons of both sexes, under a 'class-leader', and in these meetings, which were strictly private, the female members were expected to speak of their recent experiences, as well as the men."

Many of the later evangelical took up Wesley's methods so that (Continued on page three)

For the past several weeks, since the Supreme Court handed down its decision on segregation, we have had many inquiries as to our position relative to it, and many have asked if there is anything said within God's Word concerning the issue.

With all my heart, I believe that segregation is the law of God, and I am positive that the Supreme Court has erred most grievously in their ruling.

I think that there is no white preacher who has more friends among the colored race than myself. This paper is read by many Negro preachers and laymen every week. Some of them have been unusually good supporters of this paper for years. Every colored friend who knows me personally, knows that he can count on me as a friend, and what I have to say hereby is in no sense a reflection upon them or any member of the Negro family.

Doubtlessly the ruling of the Supreme Court will suit the Negroes of the North, but it will not in any wise appeal to those in the South. In the South where the Negro people are proud that they are Negroes, I am satisfied that the majority of them do not desire to be forced to go to the same school as whites. Such would be a social imposition and would make for a real burden to the majority of Negro families.

In God's Word we read in the

very first chapter of Genesis an oft repeated statement that everything is to reproduce "after his kind."

In the book of Leviticus, we see also this statement: "Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender (mate) with a diverse (different) kind."—Lev. 19:19.

Here are two Scriptures that the Supreme Court and all the advocates of anti-segregation need to ponder and consider.

When God made the Negro black and the rest a different color, it wasn't any accident. I

IT IS A LION

Spurgeon said: "You talk about defending the Bible! It's a lion! Open the cage and let it out!" Our Lord Jesus Christ, "the lion of the tribe of Judah," who is the living, incarnate Word, opened the cage and let the Bible lion out when he quietly said, "It is written," as His counterattack against the onslaught of His "adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion," who sought to devour Christ by the temptation in the wilderness. Satan is described as a lion, and Christ is described as a Lion; and the lesser one has no chance whatever against the Greater One. And when we remember that God's written Word is as perfect as His incarnate Word, we need fear no attacks against either.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"An Exposition Of Ezekiel"

(Read Ezekiel Twenty-six)

In this twenty-sixth chapter of the Book of Ezekiel, we have the prophecy concerning the city of Tyre. It is very different from the prophecies that we studied on last Sunday morning. Then, it was, we studied, in the twenty-fifth chapter, prophecies concerning the countries of Ammon, Moab, Edom, and the Philistines. In studying the prophecies against these four countries, we find that God used just one chapter, and a brief chapter at that—a chapter of only seventeen verses—to pronounce His woe upon these four countries of Ammon, Moab, Edom and the Philistines. However, when we come to study this prophecy concerning the city-state of Tyre, in

contrast we find that God uses three whole chapters, or 83 verses, to discuss the destruction that is to fall upon the city of Tyre. Since God has taken so much more time and space to discuss the destruction of the city of Tyre, surely there are some lessons here that are most important for you and me to learn.

I

In view of this fact, I would like for us to go to the Bible and study briefly the history of this city of Tyre.

The first time that the city of Tyre is mentioned in the Word of God is in the book of Joshua, when Joshua speaks of it, saying: "The strong city Tyre."

Josh. 19:28. Now, beloved, this was written almost fifteen hundred years before Jesus Christ came to this world. It was written approximately a thousand years before the days of Ezekiel, so you can see that approximately a thousand years before the days of Ezekiel the city of Tyre was a great city of antiquity, for Joshua referred to it as "the strong city Tyre."

Then another Scripture, that you might understand the history and strength of the city of Tyre, is found in Isaiah 23.

"Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honor- (Continued on page two)

Here Is A Parable Which Answers The Objectors To Election

An eminent minister gave, in one of his sermons, the following illustration of the divine dealings with sinners: A clergyman sitting in his study saw some boys in his garden stealing some melons. He quietly arose, and walking into his garden called them. "Boys, stop, do not be afraid. You may have as many melons as you want. I have more than I know what to do with." The boys, urged by the consciousness of guilt, fled with increasing speed. They did not like to trust themselves in the gentleman's hands, neither did they exactly relish the idea of receiving favors from one whose garden they were robbing.

The clergyman continued to entreat them to stop, assuring them that they would not be hurt, and that they might have as many melons as they wished for. But the very sound of his voice added wings to their speed. They scampered on in every direction, with as determined an avoidance as though the gentleman was pursuing them with a horsewhip. He determined, however, that they should be convinced that he was sincere in his offers, and therefore pursued them. Two little fellows who could not climb the fence were taken. He led them back, telling them they were welcome to melons whenever they wanted any; and, giving to each of them a couple, allowed them to go home. He sent by them a message to the other boys, that whenever they wanted any melons (Continued on page eight)

BAD BARGAINS

A Sunday School teacher once remarked that he who buys truth makes a good bargain, and inquired if any scholar recollected an instance in Scripture of anyone making a bad bargain.

"I do," replied a boy. "Esau made a bad bargain when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage."

A second said, "Judas made a bad bargain when he sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver."

A third replied, "Ananias and Sapphira made a bad bargain when they sold their land and then told Peter a falsehood about it."

A fourth observed, "Our Lord tells us that he makes a bad bargain who, to gain the whole world, loses his own soul."

THE EDITOR'S RADIO MINISTRY

For the past few weeks we have been off the air over the several stations we have been broadcasting over for the past year. Not feeling quite up to par, and with plenty of other duties requiring all of the editor's time, it became necessary to discontinue these programs. However, we are happy to announce that we are now broadcasting once weekly over the new radio station at Ashland, Kentucky — WWKO. This is a powerful 5,000 watt station and should be heard 125 miles in each direction.

WWKO is located at 1420 on your dial, and we respectfully insist that all of our readers with-in listening distance attempt to pick up our programs each Sunday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

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JOHN R. GILPIN — EDITOR

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"An Exposition Of Ezekiel"

(Continued from page one)
able of the earth."—Is. 23:8.

This prophecy tells us that Tyre is a crowning city, a city of great importance, or, in other words, a city of great antiquity, and it tells us that their merchants and their traders were honorable throughout all the earth.

I might say, beloved, that the city-state of Tyre with its inhabitants, the Phoenicians, became the great traders of early times, so secular history tells us. They were the mariners. They were the ones who taught the world how to sail ships. They were the ones who taught the world about commerce. They were the ones who taught the world that one nation ought to trade with another, so that there would be a balance of food and power and trade.

The city of Tyre was also a sort of a scattering agency, for Tyre as a trading center traded with Asia and Europe, and when Europe was still a barbaric civilization, and the country of Tyre trading with Asia, brought from Asia the civilization of Asia, and scattered among Europe some of that civilization. Even the alphabet that you and I use today was brought from Asia to Europe and was scattered by the Phoenicians, the mariners of this country of Tyre. I mention these things that you might see that Tyre was not an ordinary country. It was not an ordinary city in any wise at all, but rather they were the mariners, the traffickers, and the traders of the world, who scattered the civilization of Asia throughout Europe. They are not only spoken of in this chapter as merchants and traffickers, but even the honorable citizens of the earth.

Let us notice another Scripture that you might see just a little history about this city of Tyre:

"And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house."

—II Sam. 5:11.

Here is a passage that would indicate that Hiram, king of Tyre, was a friend to David, king of Jerusalem to the extent that Hiram sent cedar trees, his carpenters and his stone masons and built a house for David in the city of Jerusalem. Beloved, this was very little in comparison to another of the acts on the part of Hiram, for we find that he did even more for Solomon than he ever did for David. Listen:

"And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the Lord this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people. And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea; and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving

food for my household. So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together."

—I Kings 5:7-12.

From this you can see something of the prosperity of this city-state of Tyre. Hiram and Solomon made a league together whereby Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat each year. A measure was ten bushels, so you can see that Solomon gave to Hiram a considerable amount of food each year for his country, and in return Hiram had his servants cut cedar and fir, and raft them together, and float them down the seacoast so that Solomon might use them in his mighty building program around the city of Jerusalem.

Let us notice another Scripture that you might see the bigness and the prosperity of the city of Tyre:

"And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Elath, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom. And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon."

—I Kings 9:26-28.

This tells us that Solomon and Hiram made a league among themselves whereby Solomon furnished unto Hiram food, and in return Hiram furnished unto Solomon ships and men to man the ships, and taught Solomon's men of the navy how to sail those ships.

Beloved, you can't read these verses of Scripture which I have read to you from Isaiah, II Samuel, Joshua, and I Kings without realizing that this city-state of Tyre was one of the great countries of antiquity. I have often referred to Tyre as "the England of antiquity." When we speak of England today, you know what the world thinks of England so far as a nation is concerned. You know how England has dealt commercially with all the world, and how England has traded and has possessions all over the world. Well, beloved, the England of antiquity was none other than the city-state of Tyre, and when you read about Tyre in the Bible, you can turn to the pages of secular history and find everything that is written in the Bible, is corroborated in the pages of secular history, and that Tyre was the outstanding nation in antiquity 1500 years before the birth of Christ.

II

Now having noticed a little about the history of the city of Tyre, let us notice next the sins of the city. In the second verse, we read:

"Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me; I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste."

Beloved, there is an awful lot of truth tied up in those few words of that second verse. Go back to the days of David and you will find that there was a league of friendship between David on the one hand and Hiram on the other. When David died, Solomon, his son, became king, and that league of friendship still persisted between Solomon, the son of David, and Hiram, king of Tyre. Years passed by, and the king of Tyre, in the days of Ezekiel, heard what had happened to Jerusalem — how that Jerusalem had fallen as a result of her sins, and that the people were being destroyed. Some of them had already been carried captive into Babylon captivity. Ezekiel, himself, was already a captive in the land of Babylon, and when the king of Tyre heard about it,

the jealousy in his heart came out, and came to the front. Surely, beloved, if ever anybody could be sung about as being jealous hearted, it was this king of Tyre in the days of Ezekiel. He said, "Aha, Judah is destroyed. Jerusalem is broken, and now I will be replenished. She is laid waste. She will not be able to take care of herself, and I will be able to slip in and carry away whatever treasures the king of Jerusalem has allowed to remain in the city."

So you see, beloved, the sin of jealousy was a sin that came over this city of Tyre, at least in the person of the king who controlled the city thereof, to the extent that he personally planned to secure whatever wealth that was left in that city of Jerusalem. Instead of remembering his league with the city of Jerusalem, and instead of living up to the league that he had made in the past, he desired to bring to himself whatever wealth there may be left in the city, and to thus fill his coffers thereby.

But, beloved, that is not all of the sin of Tyre. The sin of the city of Tyre is far more deep-seated than that. Go back and read the story of one of the kings of the land of Israel, a king by the name of Ahab. Surely there was never a more iniquitous, sin-cursed woman in all this world than Ahab's wife, Jezebel. The Word of God tells us how she brought the worship of Baal into her own home, and how she caused God's people to turn away from God, and serve and worship Baal in their idolatry. Now, beloved, what was the native land of this woman Jezebel? Where was she from? If you will go to the Bible, you will find that Mrs. Ahab, Jezebel by name, was the daughter of the king of Tyre, and that she had brought her idolatry from the city-state of Tyre, and was responsible for the breakdown of the religious life of Israel.

Now, beloved, we have some folk in this world today who pride themselves that Hiram knew how to put a keystone into an arch. We have some people who boast about the fact that Hiram, king of Tyre, was a master mason, and that he knew how to put into the arch a keystone, that had a certain and a peculiar meaning. Beloved, listen to me this morning, if I were of that group and knew all that Hiram and his successors brought into Jerusalem by way of the worship of Baal, and by way of the idolatry which they brought in, I would stick my head down into a gutter this morning and never bring it out to get light again. I tell you, my brother, if a man were to study the Bible and were to see out of the Word of God, all the idolatry and all the heathenism, and all the sin that came, as a result of the league that was made with Hiram, king of Tyre—knowing all that I did, I would never lift my head up again to say that Hiram, king of Tyre, taught David all the meaning of the keystone of the arch.

Well, beloved, that is the sin of this country. No wonder God said, "I am against her." In view

of all that the city of Tyre did in their jealousy in striking at Jerusalem when Jerusalem had fallen, and all that they did prior to that time by way of corrupting the religious life of the land of Israel, it is no wonder that God said, "I am against it."

III

Let's see how God was against the city. In verses 3-5, we read:

"Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea."

Beloved, I ask you, did it ever come to pass? Suppose we turn from the Bible this morning and turn to the pages of secular history. You will recall that when Nebuchadnezzar was king over Babylon, he came against the city-state of Tyre and encamped against it for thirteen long years. We are so used to blitzkriegs and lightning warfare and the use of hydrogen bombs and atomic bombs—we are so used to warfare being over in just a few minutes or in just a few days time, that it seems impossible for a siege to go on in one city for thirteen years. To show how well fortified that city of Tyre was, they withstood the siege of Babylon for thirteen long years. They had food supplies that lasted for thirteen years. They had water that lasted for thirteen years. They had everything they needed to withstand the siege for thirteen long years. Finally, my brother, after Nebuchadnezzar had encamped against the city for thirteen years, their supplies ultimately ran out. When their supplies ran out, instead of opening up their gates and surrendering to Nebuchadnezzar, under cover of night, for weeks and months, the king of Tyre had been moving the city from the mainland to an island half way out in the sea. To be sure, part of the city before this had been built on the island, but most of the city had been built on the mainland, and now, under cover of night, the king of Tyre moves the people and everything they had from the city on the mainland to the city on the island. One morning when Nebuchadnezzar awakened, he saw the white flag waving, and upon entering, he found nothing but an empty city to reward him for the thirteen years siege he had waged.

I say to you, beloved, there was no city in all the world the equal of that city of Tyre. It was the wealth of the world in its day. It was "the" city in its day. It was New York in its day, or Paris in its day. Nebuchadnezzar expected, when he conquered that city, to take from it the wealth of the world, but instead of doing so, he found that the city was absolutely desolate, the wealth was gone, and the people were gone. All that Nebuchadnezzar got for his trouble was a city with buildings, with foundations, and with stones,

but without any wealth for him to carry away. History tells us that Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he put his army to work tearing down and completely demolishing that city, to the extent that he left not one stone on top of another. Then, in his rage, he marched away. He got nothing for his thirteen years of siege and toil, but he destroyed the city and left it flat on the ground.

Beloved, God is not through with the city of Tyre. History says that the city of Tyre passed into a state of oblivion for a time. God tells us about that oblivion right here in the Bible. Listen:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years."—Isa. 23:15.

God said that it was going to happen. God said that she was going to pass out of importance for seventy years. History says that for a period of time after the city was destroyed on the mainland, that nobody paid any attention to it. However, seventy years passed by, and that city that was upon the island began to flourish again. Not only history, but the Bible, tells us that that city on the island became more wicked, more sin-cursed, and more deceitful than it had ever been on the mainland. You can turn to the twenty-third chapter of the book of Isaiah and read of those sins of the city of Tyre out there on the island. You can turn to the pages of history and read all that the historians have said, but, brother, you will never find a better description of the sins of the city of Tyre on the island than you will find here in the book of Isaiah.

Now, what happened? They passed out of prominence for seventy years and then became more wicked, more powerful, and more sin-cursed than ever before. A century passed by, two centuries passed by, and forty years more. Two hundred forty years passed, following the destruction of the city on the mainland. Two hundred forty years after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city on the mainland, when the island city was flourishing and powerful and sin-cursed, a new military figure became dominant on the scene. Alexander the Great—called great because he was warlike—called great because he was powerful in murder and butchery in war—came to the city of Tyre on the island, a half mile out in the ocean. He called upon the city of Tyre to open her gates to allow him to enter. They knew that that meant surrender to him. They knew that when they opened their gates and Alexander marched in, that he was going to carry out their wealth from the city of Tyre, so they refused to allow Alexander to enter. What happened, beloved? Before it ever came to pass, we have it in prophecy. Listen to God's Word in verses 4 and 5:

"I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God."

When that island city thought it was secure and that Alexander would have no opportunity whatsoever for their destruction, Alexander the Great picked up the stones, the dust, and all the debris of the ruined city on the mainland and built a causeway in the sea, a half mile out to the island, and marched his army over that causeway to the complete destruction and demolition of that island city of Tyre. Listen, beloved, the Bible says that she shall be scraped and made like the top of a rock, and so completely did Alexander do this that there is no man who knows the exact location of the city of Tyre.

Beloved, it required two kings, Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great, to fulfill this passage. It required the combined effort of two great armies of two great countries to fulfill this Scripture. It required the siege of thirteen years on the part of Nebuchadnezzar and 240 years afterward it required the strength of Alexander the Great and his army. My brother, eventually this passage of (Continued on page seven)

GOD KNOWS

By GRACE NOLL CROWELL

God knows how desperate is His children's need
For beauty down the highways of the world—
Beauty on which the soul of men may feed
For strength and solace; so He turned and hurled
The mountains into place; He caused the sea
To take the vivid colors of the dawn;
He made a flower, and He shaped a tree,
And bade the emerald meadow grass sweep on.

He knows our crowded days, our troubled nights,
So He gave the far blue distances that lie
Like happy beacons with their misty lights
Signaling us a message on the sky,
Bidding us take the far-look, bidding us cease
Our cares and fears as pilgrims down the land;
Bidding us seek and find the road to peace,
Outlined with breathless beauty from His hand.

Testimony Meetings

(Continued from page one)

Today of all places we have this innovation in many Baptist churches.

Later, Finney, a prominent revivalist, gave a great impetus to this innovation by encouraging women to speak and pray in public meetings.

The people that are largely to blame for the evil today are the preachers who believe the practice to be a great lever for usefulness. They are victims of the old, yet new, utilitarian philosophy that "the useful is the good." Loyalty to the Scriptures must always be the higher consideration of those who will truly seek to glorify God.

II. Objections to the practice.

1. It ignores the Scriptural injunction prohibiting a woman to speak in the services of the church. This objection alone should be sufficient for the Bible lover. Despite the objections of men and the multitude of perversions invented to destroy its message, I Cor. 14:33,34,35 still reads: "As in all the churches of the saints, let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak . . . For it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

The fact that the prohibition is binding upon all the "churches" (plural) should forever answer the objection that it was only the church at Corinth that needed a local situation corrected. Those who ignorantly argue that the prohibition of Paul was grounded in the local situation at that time should note that the Bible bases the prohibition upon the priority of Adam in creation and the deception of Eve (the woman) in the Fall. I Timothy 2:11-12. Any preacher that is interested in learning more in this respect need only consult the great commentaries to find this practice fairly and uncompromisingly exposed. Notable among these are John Calvin's Commentaries, Matthew Henry's Commentary, Charles J. Ellicott's Commentaries, Meyer's Critical and Exegetical Handbook to the Corinthians, The Pulpit Commentary and a host of others too numerous to mention.

2. It encourages "sin-sharing." It must be granted that this will not be true in every case but there have been several examples of this evil. The Oxford Group Movement was largely characterized by "sin-sharing" in the public confession of sin at informal meetings. The modern "revivals" of late in some notable Christian colleges have been practically dominated by a public and unscriptural testimony of sin which is

equivalent to boasting of evil. If any group feels justified in pleading innocence on this cause, it will at least have to be admitted that the door was left wide open for the entrance of this evil by those who practice the "testimony meeting."

3. The testimony meeting often sponsors and encourages a false or superficial spirituality. In many cases the individual feels that he or she must say something in the testimony meeting or it will appear that they are not spiritual. In most cases this results in a show of religion or saying something not worth saying under pressure of the leader.

4. The testimony meeting seldom edifies the church. The Apostle's rule was: "Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Cor. 14:26). When the testimony meeting becomes ritual, as it so often does, there is little hope that the church may be edified. Most testimony of this nature is nothing but meaningless repetition of catch phrases. At times it may result in improper and embarrassing statements in a mixed audience as has been witnessed. Many preachers feel that such meetings are a novel means for momentary excitement, but the fact remains that good Bible preaching will do more for edification and will not involve any evils. Very often everyone has a little of nothing to say and so much time is consumed that there is little of the Bible taught and explained in the service.

III. Objection answered.

1. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." This is usually the basis upon which all testimony meetings rest when seeking to justify them by Scripture. But let it be remembered that this Scripture has its boundaries prescribed by other Scriptures. "There is a time and place for everything," and the services of the church are never the place for the women to testify. It may be edifying at times to have a man testify but it is never edifying for the women to make herself "a shame." (I Cor. 14:35). Witnessing to individuals is the duty and responsibility of both sexes but the public proclaiming ministry, in all of its aspects, God has committed to men.

2. "It's all right for women to testify in church but not to preach." The Bible says nothing about prohibiting a woman to "preach." It wasn't necessary and the message would have been superfluous. They are never allowed to "speak" in church and so consequently they cannot preach or TESTIFY. Often-times the testimonies women give in church are actually sermonettes. A sermon in any form consists of teaching the church spiritual truths

A REMARKABLE STORY OF HOW GOD WORKS WHEN HE ACTS AS BANKER

This story appeared in the Gideon some time ago, but is again published by request.—The Editor.

"I am not a strong believer in dreams," the drummer remarked, as he drew his chair closer to the stove, "but I can tell you a little circumstance that happened a few years ago, which has remained a mystery to me to this day."

"I have been traveling for a large wholesale drug company in St. Louis for a number of years, and I have met all sorts of customers, and have had a varied experience with many of my patrons. On one of my runs in the southwest I had one very parti-

regardless of its length. When a woman attempts to do this in the form of a testimony, she not only violates the prohibition of I Cor. 14:33-34 but also the prohibition in I Tim. 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." There should be no issue about whether it is right for a woman to preach or testify because the question is already settled by the sacred Scriptures in prohibiting their speaking in church, teaching men, or usurping authority over the man.

IV. Suggestions.

In pointing out the evil of the modern testimony meeting we are not claiming that there is no value to a testimony. The Apostle Paul continually testified of his own experience as a means of teaching others. The "testimony" itself is not inherently evil, but may be used in a sinful way. The safest policy to follow might be to forego using the public testimony for the truth's sake. However, if some will persist in using it, the following suggestions will make it more useful and not violate Scripture.

1. Supervise the public testimonial. The Pastor, whose business it is to lead the church, may call on any male members to share a special blessing or experience. In this way such persons are usually notified ahead of time and can give some earnest thought as to what they will say and it will be worth while. Neither the Pastor or anyone else is ever justified in calling on the women members in the same way. To open the meeting for anyone to testify is just as wrong as directly asking the women to speak or testify.

2. Avoid testimony ritual. Many of us are quick to condemn the more formal denominations for their ritualism, but the testimony meetings in cases have become a regular part of the church's ritual. Keeping in mind the suggestion on supervision it will be obvious that this may be the exception rather than the rule in the worship of the church.

Conclusion: It is our conviction that most women do not desire this innovation of testifying and the few who do have divested themselves of their womanly characteristics and ambition. The crowning glory of the woman as well as the man is her willing obedience to God's Word. By that obedience God is glorified and she is exalted. She has equal rights with the man but not identical rights. It would be totally false for anyone to assume or argue that women are inferior to men or that they do not have equal spiritual endowments, but we must agree with Marcus Dods that "whatever be their endowments, there is a womanly mode of exercising them and a sphere for women which she ought not to transgress."

By taking direct action on this abuse of the testimony meeting, the other mentioned evils will be indirectly taken care of, the authority of the Word respected more and consequently we will have better churches with better believers in them.

cular old friend whom I will call Bro. Benton, because everybody in that section calls him by that name. He nearly always had an order for me; but whether he did or not, I always felt better after making my call, on account of his cheerful ways and pleasant words. I could see my customers only twice a year, at best, and I looked forward to my visit with this old customer as one of my best days.

"On one visit, I sold him a much larger bill than he had ever made before, but I did not hesitate to recommend the House to fill the order. I had learned that he was universally loved and respected in his town as a sincere Christian. He would not keep ardent spirits, nor would he hear for one moment of giving space in his house to tobacco in any shape. 'My Bible,' said he 'condemns both whiskey and tobacco, and I will have nothing to do with them.' No amount of persuading or liberal discounts could induce him to deviate from his rule.

"About six months after I had sold him the large bill, I was notified by the House that the bill was unpaid, and that I should call as soon as possible and collect it. I hastened over my territory and called in person to look after the matter. I found a new face behind the counter, and I learned that a short time after I sold that bill, my old friend had taken the smallpox and he and his family had been under quarantine for a long time. His sickness had lasted for several months and he was still confined to his home. I did not see him but he sent me word that the matter would come out all right in the end.

"He had suffered more losses than he thought, and six months went by and the bill was still unpaid. I wrote the House and told them the condition of things, and they were holding up all proceedings against him. Six months went by again, and I was ordered to go at once and collect the bill or enter suit. I had but one thing to do though I confess I had some rebellious thoughts. The night before I arrived at his town I spent several weary hours rolling and tossing on my bed trying to contrive some plan to avoid closing out my old friend. He lived eight miles from the railroad, and I must see him on the morrow. I knew that if I brought suit, in all probability others would do the same, and a good man would go to the wall for no fault of his own. While tossing on my bed, I must have fallen asleep. I thought I had called on my old friend, and we were sitting in his family room, with all his family around him. He turned to me and said, 'We are just about to have our morning prayers, and we shall be glad to have you join with us.' I replied, 'With pleasure.' He said, 'We will read the 23rd Psalm.' He began to read but I was astonished at the words I heard. I had learned that psalm in Sunday school when a boy, and while I had not read my Bible as much as I should have done, still I will never forget that 'The Lord is my shepherd.'

"The words were read in a clear voice, and my heart rejoiced, though I had never heard it that way before. He said: 'The Lord is my banker; I shall not fail. He maketh me to lie down in gold mines, He giveth me the combination of His tills. He restoreth my credit; He showeth me how to avoid lawsuits for His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk in the very shadow of debt, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me; Thy silver and Thy gold they rescue me. Thou preparest a way for me in the presence of the collector; Thou fillest my barrels with oil; my measure runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will do business in the name of the Lord.'

"Having read this Scripture, he knelt down and prayed. I thought I had never heard such a prayer in all my life. He fairly took my (Continued on page four)

Segregation

(Continued from page one)

the ruling of the Supreme Court. They are all in favor of good schools and equal opportunities, but the majority of the thinking Negroes realize that the ruling of the Supreme Court will work hardships on their race as well as upon the white race, and that ultimately it will lead to complete amalgamation of both races.

Years ago, I preached one morning on "Fulfilled Bible Prophecy." I cited, as an example, Genesis 9:24-27:

"And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a SERVANT of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his SERVANT. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his SERVANT."

From this Scripture we learn that Japheth became the father of the Gentile people, while Shem became the father of the Jew, and Canaan became the progenitor of the Negro and black races. It is obvious from this text that the Negro is to be a servant unto both Jew and Gentile.

God has seen to it that that has been fulfilled all down through the ages. The most servile type of work that is done by men in any shop, is done by Negro men. It is Negro women who are cooks and the cleaning women who do the most servile tasks—working in the homes of both Jew and Gentile.

I got on a train in Louisville, Kentucky, going to Paducah one night some years ago. As I crawled into my pullman, a Jew was retiring in the pullman berth opposite from me in the car. Each of us kicked our shoes off and were soon sleeping our way to Paducah, while back at the other end of the car the Negro porter shined our shoes, and made them ready for us for the next day. Thus, three descendants of Noah—a son of Ham, Japheth and Shem—fulfilled this portion of God's Word that very night.

On the morning that I preached from this text a number of years ago, a Negro preacher from Louisville, Kentucky, "by chance" was in the service. He was representing an orphanage that he was the head of. Our church used to always give him a contribution every time he visited us. He was very complimentary both to me and to the church, but I think he was sincere in what he said and did. After he had listened to my message, he said publicly that he considered my exposition and application of the Scripture as "most superb." He expressed then my belief as to the proper position of Negroes and whites, when he said, "Give each race the best opportunity that you can to develop itself, but let white people go on being white people and Negroes continue as Negroes."

Regardless of the decision of the Supreme Court, and irrespective of the fact that many of the religious denominations, even including Baptists at the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, have endorsed the ruling of the Supreme Court, I still believe, in the light of the Bible, that segregation is here to stay.

WHY NO BAPTIST SHOULD EVER AFFILIATE WITH ANY LODGE

The Bible contains a complete rule for the whole life of man.

It tells a man how he should conduct himself with reference to God, to the Lord Jesus, to the Holy Spirit, to the Word which God has given, and to the Church He has established.

It directs him how he should treat his wife, and care for his children; how much he should pay his hired man, and when he should pay him. It teaches the hired man how he should conduct himself with reference to his employer. It tells men how to loan money and how to collect debts as well as how to worship.

It teaches a man what kind of a citizen he should be, how he ought to vote, if he is in a self-governing country. If he is a magistrate, it directs him how he ought to exercise authority, and says that God will call him to account for the manner in which he executes his office.

We are apt to narrow down the

teachings of the Bible and the business of the church, and to suppose that they have to do chiefly with the work of the Lord's Day, and that they have little or nothing to do with our pleasures, our business, or our political and our industrial relations; but the testimony of the Word of God is that this Book is given by inspiration of God, and that it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in right doing, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work," not simply to some good works.

Men act as if God had never told them how to live and the result is that our churches are being flooded out with vice and crime. The reason we have trouble of all kinds in the world is simply because men have either wholly neglected this Word, or because they have chosen certain portions of it, and have pushed whole continents of revealed truth out of sight.

Turn On The Light

The church, the minister, the Christian, is a watchman on the walls, and it is his business to see the threatening enemy when his spear-points come over the top of the wall, that the gates may be shut, the walls manned, the men armed, and women and children protected. It is the business of the watchman to look out, not for pleasant but for injurious things, and to point them out. If you go into a dark room filled with vermin, you cannot see anything, but if you light a match, you see some of those creatures; if you light a lamp, you see more; and if you turn on an electric light it reveals the good and the evil in sharp contrast. "That which doth make manifest is light," and the Christian is the light of the world. The church establishes the moral standard for men who never go near it, and for communities who reject it.

Some say that the way to destroy evil is to proclaim the good. God does not do this. It is necessary both to root out the evil and to establish the good. God commands us not to profane His name, not to steal or kill or commit adultery, and then gives positive commands to honor our fathers and mothers, to remember the Sabbath, and to love God and man. No farmer is fool enough to try to kill weeds by planting good corn. He relies upon the plow and the hoe.

It is the duty of the church to point out the evil not only of some sin, but of all sin. Yet in every age there are evils which men instinctively avoid mentioning. The wrong is so widespread, so deep rooted, so powerful, that the minister naturally passes it by to deal with some comparative trifle. When slavery was the law of the land, the church did not even name it. Yet it included theft, adultery, murder, and all other crimes. As John Wesley said, it was the sum of all villainies.

In our day no one objects to good, pious people saving drunkards. Liquor men like to have it done. They have no use for a drunkard. The besotted, bleary-eyed, ragged victim of the trade is a discredit. But they don't want their trade meddled with. They want the privilege of making drunkards. Give them this and they are glad to have you take the "finished product" off their hands.

A Mighty Factor For Evil

At the present time, in a Scriptural church, in a newspaper, or on a public platform, almost never will you find a secret society mentioned. Many do not like to say so, and yet the secret society system is one of the strongest factors for good or evil in our country. There are five hundred thousand Masons in this country, and as many Odd-fellows. The majority of these men are not in true churches; they tell you

plainly that they don't care for the church. The secret society system of the United States, which puts up such temples as there are in Boston and Philadelphia and New York, which puts up its lodges in every town, and seeks to attach to itself every young mechanic and merchant and lawyer, and tells him that, if he joins a secret society he will be able to serve his country better, or will be helped in his industrial pursuits, or receive a life insurance—such an organization is a tremendous power for good or evil, and the church of Christ should find out which it is, and then should see that every young man may be warned if it is evil, and urged to join it if it is good. There are lodges for almost every purpose under Heaven. They are drawing in young men by hundreds of thousands, yet the pulpits, the religious press, and the platform is, in general, as silent as the grave. Now we are told to examine I Thess. 5:21, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good," and to inform men. "Ye are the light of the world."—Matt. 5:14.

Ignoring The Example Of Christ

I submit to you a few doctrines which determine absolutely the character of these secret lodges.

They all require members to disregard the example of Christ, and His example is just as binding as His Word. Assume that the Good Templars are an excellent organization for promoting temperance, or that the Freemasons promote faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity to all mankind. What right then has a Christian man to hide that work from his wife and children?

Christ told His disciples to proclaim on the housetops what He had told them in private (Matt. 10:26,27). Now a man is initiated into a lodge. When he comes home his wife says, "Where have you been tonight?" "I have been initiated." "I didn't know you were going to join. Tell me about it." "I am not permitted to tell you." "Was there anything wicked?" "No." "Anything ridiculous?" "Nothing at all, my dear; it was very solemn." "Well, then, why can't you tell me about it, if there is nothing wicked in it, and nothing ridiculous?" He is compelled to say, "I have obligated myself not to."

The question as to whether it is good or bad may be a matter of taste. Jesus Christ knew how to promote the temperance cause, faith in God, the hope of immortality, and charity toward all men; the Saviour that turned His head on the cross to say to John, "Take care of My mother," and said to the mother, "John will look after you," is not unmindful of the needs of the wife after her husband has been taken from her and she is left to provide for herself. Jesus knew how to promote friendship and love and liberty, and you and I, if we are Christians, are bound to do Christ's work in Christ's way. Christ said, when asked as to His teachings, that He spoke openly to the world in the synagogue and in the temple, and that in secret He said nothing. No man can be a secret society man and follow the example of Jesus Christ.

But not only does a lodge man necessarily disregard the example of Christ, but he is compelled to violate his express command. He said to the disciples, "I am the light of the world," and "ye are the light of the world;" you are to show mankind the difference between right and wrong. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Suppose that every secret lodge is doing good; put in the Jesuits, the Ku Klux Klan, the Knights of the Golden Ring, the Whiskey Ring, and assume they are all doing good.

Are men in secret societies letting the good which they do shine out? They go into the second or third stories, curtain the doors, and let no one come in unless he



will obligate himself not to tell those outside what they do inside. Christ says, "Let your light shine," and I go off and join a Mason's or Odd-fellow's lodge. I meet my neighbor the next day, and tell him that it is a good organization. He asks me what it is for. "To promote faith in God, the hope of immortality, and charity to all mankind; we are trying to build up the temperance cause."

"What do you do?"

"Go and pay our secretary twenty-five dollars to be initiated, and you can find out." Unless he will do that, he can know nothing of the good we are doing.

Having Fellowship With Unbelievers

Again, in these organizations you have good men and evil men together. I had a very pious and worthy elder in a church in which I was preaching, who was an Odd-fellow. I said to him one day, "How many Christians are there in your lodge?" He said, "I and Brother Woods." "How many members?" "About a hundred." "Don't you feel rather unequally yoked? Can you and Bro. Woods pull against so many men? When they had that ball last winter, did you want it?" "No." "Why did they have it?" "Because we were out-voted." You may join any lodge you please and you will find anywhere from seventy-five to eighty per cent are not professing Christians.

In many towns, I know of not one prayer-meeting man connect-

ed with the Masonic lodge. Here is a Christian man, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and desiring to be a man separated unto God and His service, and yet he joins with men who are unbelievers and some of whom are profane, and they are all brethren together. When a man enters a lodge, he takes his chances; he yokes himself with unbelieving men.

A Christian ought not to do that. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?"—II Cor. 6:14. The church is God's light to shine out in the world, that men may see the ditch before they fall into it; that they may see the trap before the foot is fast.

Teaching Immorality

Once more, the morality taught in these organizations is un-Christian and wicked. Take for example the Masonic oath, which binds the Mason not to wrong or defraud a Mason, knowing him to be such; or the other clause which binds the Mason not to have illicit carnal intercourse with the wife, mother, sister, or daughter of a Master Mason, knowing them to be such. I was once lecturing in a university, and met a number of the ladies, among them the lady principal.

She said, "I know nothing about this subject. I have been thankful many times that my brother was a Mason. I have been self-sup-

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Prayer Is The Breath Of God

By BENJAMIN BEDDOME

Prayer is the breath of God in man,
Returning whence it came;
Love is the sacred fire within,
And prayer the rising flame.

The Christian's life with it concludes,
And with it doth begin;
'Tis this invigorates the soul,
And is the death of sin.

It gives the burdened spirit ease,
And soothes the troubled breast;
Yields comfort to the mourners here,
And to the weary rest.

When God inclines the heart to pray,
He hath an ear to hear;
To Him there's music in a groan,
And beauty in a tear.

The humble suppliant cannot fail
To have his wants supplied,
Since He for sinners intercedes
Who once for sinners died.

Lodge

(Continued from page four)

porting from my girlhood, and, when I left home, my brother gave me a Masonic token, and told me to wear it when I was alone. Three times I have been approached by men, apparently with evil intent, and three times they have turned away at that sign." The unthinking man says, "Isn't that splendid?"

That is as splendid as the devil. The devil is satisfied with a morality of that kind. God says, "Thou shalt not steal." Jesus Christ says, "If you look lustfully, you are an adulterer; you must not only abstain from outward crime, but you must have a clean heart, a clean eye." Masonry says, "Don't steal from a Mason; don't commit adultery with the relative of a Mason." A church deacon once said to me, "Is that so very bad?" "How old is that boy who put out your horse?" I asked: "Twelve years." I said, "If you were to say to that lad, when he was starting for the city, 'You must not take any watches from the store on the right hand side of the street,' what would he understand about the watches on the left side?" "Why," he said, "I suppose he would understand that I wouldn't be very much offended if he took some of the watches from the left side."

An organization that binds a man to partial morality speaks against Jesus Christ and imperils the moral standards of the community.

Charity Miscalled

The charities of these orders are utterly un-Christian. They have not the first inkling of Jesus Christ in them. Their plan is to keep out anyone who is likely to need anything. Anyone who wants to join must be a good and true man, sound in mind, and with sufficient means for the support of his family, and for the support of the order.

They shut out the maimed and the halt, the women and the children, and pick out the able-bodied men, and propose to give charity to those who have paid, and the friends of those who have paid, and nobody else; this is called charity. It is not charity, it is absolute selfishness.

Denying God's Plan Of Salvation

Once more, these organizations put the plan of salvation aside, and in its place put mere moral teachings enforced by material symbols. This whole system is a plan to do away with the atonement of Jesus Christ, and to lead the poor sinner to trust man in the awful day of judgment, with no hope except what his miserable, paltry righteousness has been able to get for himself.

We have members of lodges by the million, learning to believe that they can be saved without the blood, by practicing temperance, or friendship, and then they teach such morality as is involved in those obligations of the Master Mason. Good works are indeed necessary, but are not sufficient.

Excluding Christ

These lodges not only exclude Jesus Christ by inference, they exclude him by form. In Masonic rituals, they choose readings which do not contain the name of Christ at all. They have two passages which contain the name of Jesus Christ, one of them II Thess. 3:6. Here the name Lord Jesus Christ occurs twice, but if you will take the Masonic book you will find that whole name deliberately stricken out, that name which is above every name, and which is the only hope of the believer. When you ask the reason, conscientious members do not believe in Jesus Christ, and it would offend them. So that a man who goes into a Masonic lodge not only leaves his wife and children at the door, but he leaves his Saviour there, too.

Cowering Before This Foe

Why does not the church take this matter up, and warn young

men who by the thousands are being ensnared every year.

What does God care for our religion if it does not lead us to protest against these evils? If we will not open our mouths to do away with evil and bring in the good, ought not the church to die? God calls the Christian to a life of faith, and a great many of us are looking around and wondering what will happen, and how God will manage to have things turn out right. But the thunderbolts in His right hand are plenty in number.

When He sees fit to wipe out iniquity, He will do it and if we do not do our part in fighting against evil, the judgment, when it comes, will take some of our blood with it. God make us faithful.—Tract.

If You Want To Live Forever, Here Is God's Way To Life

By FERRELL GRISWOLD
Birmingham, Alabama

Emphasis today is upon natural life. People will spend a fortune and travel the world over to escape natural death and to prolong life for just a few days. But: have you ever given consideration to spiritual death? The Bible is very clear on the subject of death; there is physical, spiritual, and eternal or the second death. "It is appointed unto man once to die" (Heb. 9:27); this we all will experience if the Lord delay His coming. But we can escape these other deaths (spiritual, eternal) today if we would. Here is the reason why we should and the way that we can live.

1. ALL ARE DEAD.
"And you hath he quickened WHO WERE DEAD in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

"Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, **THOUGH HE WERE DEAD**, yet shall he live" (Jno. 11:25).

2. DEATH THE RESULT OF SIN.

"Wherefore as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so **DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN**, for all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

"For **ALL HAVE SINNED** and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

"For the **WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

3. JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.

"For he (God) hath **MADE HIM** (Jesus) to be **SIN** for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21).

"For Christ also **HATH ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS**, **THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST**, that he might bring us to God, **BEING PUT TO DEATH** in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Pet. 3:18).

"Who his own self **BARE OUR SINS** in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Pet. 2:24).

4. ACCEPT HIS DEATH FOR YOU AND LIVE.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **HEARETH MY WORD** and **BELIEVETH** on him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but **IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE**. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead (spiritually dead) shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear **SHALL LIVE**" (Jno. 5:24-25).

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have **EVERLASTING LIFE**" (Jno. 6:40).

5. RESULT OF THIS LIFE.

(a) IT IS ETERNAL: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in

A WAR MOTHER AND CHILDREN BY CHARRED RUINS OF THEIR HOME



This represents the world of today, but not the world of tomorrow — when Christ shall reign.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."—Is. 2:4

From This Bible Study We Are Convinced That There Is A Definite Falling Away

By BOB THROWER
Lanett, Alabama

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

—II Thess. 2:3.

Let me say that I believe with all of my soul we are living in the last days. The budding of the fig tree is upon us. The signs are coming to pass fast, and this is bringing our Lord nearer to His coming in the air after His saints.

We are living in a time when men and women are running over one another to get to some sin and their souls are being heavily vexed by doing so. Yes, beloved, people are running into Hell by the millions. In the days of Noah they had no respect for God, and they don't today.

In this verse, Paul is telling us that the Lord is not coming in the air until there comes a falling away. I do not know of a period of history when people showed any less respect for God than they do today. I can not name any sin — shape, form nor fashion that people are not doing. I warn you, beloved, people are on the falling away march, and the road to Hell is packed to capacity. One of the greatest and yet most sorrowful facts in the Word of God is that when our Lord comes, He will find the world unsaved and speeding its way to a Devil's Hell.

Before I go into the body of the message, may I say that it is not the beer and whiskey crowds that

the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; That whosoever believeth in him (Jesus) should not perish, but have **ETERNAL LIFE**" (Jno. 3:14-15).

(b) IT GIVES PEACE: "Therefore being justified by faith WE HAVE PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

(c) IT ASSURES NO CONDEMNATION: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ" (Rom. 8:1).

"He that believeth on him (Jesus) is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jno. 3:18).

give Godly, Bible-loving Christians so much trouble. It is the crowds that call themselves Christians, but deep in their hearts they are nothing but haters of God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and the perfect inspired (God-written) Bible. These are the ones to whom Jesus said, "Ye are full of dead man's bones. Ye are the blind guide leading the blind."

When I preach such sermons as this, it may be that many of you members will say, "I wish Bro. Bob would not preach such sermons. I have a brother or sister in a faith where they don't believe in a personal heart-felt salvation or a Hell to escape." Let me warn you, beloved, you ought to cry out against that relative of yours every time you come in contact with him. We need to cry aloud like Ezekiel did and than watch the power of God.

Some preacher at the Southern Baptist Convention last year asked the question, "What are we doing about this falling away?" Another preacher spoke up and said, "I can not tell you how to stop all of it, but I can tell you how to stop some of it. We need to go back to our local church and stop soft-peddling the Word of God and preach the truth, if all Hell turns upside down." In other words, beloved, this preacher said, "Don't be compromising the Holy Word of God."

A born-again child of God can not please the God of the Apostle Paul and scratch every person's back that comes along. We need more God-saved and God-called preachers who will stand in the gap and call a spade a spade, no matter who it hits and where it falls. I plead with you with all my burning soul, watch and beware of this falling away.

I

THERE IS A FALLING AWAY CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD.

This thing called the New Bible is not a Bible, but a book out of Hell. You know you will have to agree with me that the men who wrote this book took a crack shot at Jesus Christ, the virgin-born Son of God. Beloved, they had an unregenerated and un-Christian spirit toward our powerful Saviour. Some people believe part of the Bible, but they will not believe all of the Bible. Well, if you are sitting in

this congregation this morning and believe such a Hell-given belief as that, I am going to say to you, I doubt that the grace of God has come unto you. You can not believe in Heaven without believing in Hell. You can not believe that God is a lover of holiness if you don't believe He is a hater of sin.

Some people do not believe the Bible at all. My wife and I were sitting at the table eating lunch a few days ago when a lady knocked at the door. When I went to the door, I found that it was one of our church members. She came in and we were talking about God and the Bible. She said, "Brother Bob, I carry my Bible in the car." I told her, "That is a good place to carry it. I carry my Bible with me everywhere I go." Then she went on to say that a person saw the Bible in the car and started making fun. The person called it a fairy tale or a man-written book. Listen to me, my good neighbor, multitudes of people are going to burst Hell wide open who think that the Bible is just another fairy tale. The Bible is God-written and God-protected. I plead with you to be careful; there is a great falling away concerning the Word of God.

II

THERE IS A FALLING AWAY CONCERNING GODLY LIVING.

When God saves a person, He gives that person an holy nature. That person should thirst after righteousness, and if he or she is saved, he will do that. God called us unto holiness. When I speak of holiness I do not mean this business of running over the church pews and jumping around, nor do I mean speaking in some kind of out-going language called the unknown tongue. I mean simply living for God twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and fifty-two weeks in a year. The Bible says, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

I have been your pastor for thirteen months. If I want to, I could name at least thirty people

(Continued on page six)

YES, THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIST IS SCRIPTURAL

By TOM DILLON
Mt. Eden, Kentucky

Today churches are using a term perhaps more often than ever before. That term is an office—Evangelist. Often times to the sorrow of church, pastor, and Lord, the title is a misnomer. It has become such a "catch-all" that a review of its Bible meaning is in order.

The term in the New Testament means a missionary. The Evangelist is one whose gift and calling is to proclaim the Gospel to the children of wrath. A church is doing missionary work of first order when she reaches the local unbelievers with God's Word. If any church walks with her Lord, she will engage in Evangelism 365 days a year. We read in Acts 1:1 of what Jesus began to do as referring to the Gospel of Luke. What Jesus continued to do is unveiled in the phenomenal spread of the Word in the Acts; it is being unveiled in the churches now.

The Bible speaks of the office of Evangelist in II Tim. 4:5 ("But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."); and of the gift of evangelist to the church in Eph. 4:11 ("And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers . . ."). The gift is highly necessary to the church. If the Spirit would cease in the call and leading of Evangelists, His people would fail in their commission. Churches ought to pray earnestly for this gift.

It is improper and disastrous for a man to exercise the office of evangelist without the call and gifts the office demands. The reason for so many fruitless church revivals, so many heartbroken disappointed pastors, and so many unsaved church members is a re-

sult of this very thing. Covetous crowd pleasers and denominational dandies are masquerading as New Testament Evangelists. The masquerade often takes the form of good men who have a place in the church, but who are neither called nor gifted for the office they attempt. Result—an America with 53 per cent of her population professors of religion and few enough preachers who even know what the Gospel is. Result—a Southern Baptist Convention, one-third of which evidently belong to the invisible church. They are not to be found. These lamentable conditions have other causes to be sure. Faulty and false evangelism have had more than their share in the matter.

The reason many pastors are unhappy in their work lays at the same door. They have called a man for evangelist that the Spirit has not called. They have done so for political reasons. Such tempting of the Spirit of the Lord, God will not tolerate. He will depart from the work of the man who is guilty. Malachi preached that the people were "cursed with a curse" because they had robbed God. Mal. 3:9. So it is with men who rob the Spirit of the leadership that is His alone. This commonplace masquerade and pretense is breaking the hearts of pastors and draining the power of churches. It should be stopped.

The Evangelist need not necessarily be an ordained preacher. Phillip was a deacon as well as evangelist; Epaphras, evangelist to the Colossians, may have been ordained. We know of certainty that Timothy, the loved Pastor-Evangelist was ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

The sins of the day—its apostasy, talented temptation, and sham religion—make imperative demand for this gift. Such men must know the Word and be able to make clear the Gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4), "Moreover, Brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand, by which, also, ye are saved if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he arose again the third day according to the Scriptures." The Evangelist must be able to isolate man's only hope as did Peter in Acts 4:12, when he preached to the Rulers, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." He must know and follow the direct leading of the Lord. The Macedonian call, now glamorized into obscurity, needs to be a reality to the herald of God's Grace. The Evangelist must be able to sound the trumpet in clear tones that will pierce the mind and heart. He must be able to get his message to the ear of the masses even as did the 120 on the day of Pentecost. An evangelist must believe in the lampstands of this age—the churches and their witness. Rev. 1:12. He who cannot work with pastor and church, building harmony and unity should examine his calling.

The work of the Evangelist might be briefly summarized in the outline of Sam Jones: 1. Make the issue. 2. Draw the line and unite the force. 3. Fire the shot. 4. Reap the victory.

Present conditions often demand a prophetic revival before the Lord in justice can add to the number such as should be saved. Such was the case in Acts 5:3-4, "But Peter said Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast

not lied unto men, but unto God." After the hindrance of covetousness in Ananias and Sapphira were removed, we read that "believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." If the pastor and people have not made this adjustment, the evangelist needs to work toward revival among the members first. This makes it necessary that the Evangelist be familiar with the problems and responsibilities of the pastor. Most great Baptist Evangelists have had pastoral experience.

A true revival and the soul winning power in a revived church is a wonderful and thrilling scene. The church takes its place in the community. The pastor receives his place in the church. To see pastor and people united and marching out to successfully invade the kingdom of darkness is a sight akin to the final triumph of Christ in Rev. 19:11-16. May God grant that we witness more such scenes.

TWO BOOKS WE RECENTLY PRINTED

It is with joy that we announce two books which we have recently printed in behalf of Brother Harm Rust (deceased) and Brother C. W. Howell of Columbia, Tennessee.

The book for Brother Rust is published by his widow and consists of several sermons which he had submitted to us for publication during the last year of his ministry. The book gets its title, "Unto Him That Loved Us," from one of the sermons.



ELD. C. W. HOWELL

This book of almost 100 pages has eleven choice and readable sermons which will not only bless and stimulate your own spiritual life, but will, at the same time, provide a great deal of material for other preachers, who carry on the same type ministry in preaching as that of Brother Rust.

The book sells for 75c and should be ordered directly from the following address: Mrs. Harm Rust, Worthington, Minnesota.

The second of these books is of a prophetic nature, based upon an earnest study of the Word of God, and is entitled, "Russia's Downfall." Under the four questions, when, where, why, and how, the author Scripturally and simply tells the story of Russia's defeat as outlined in God's Word.

It is indeed and in truth a joy to have printed this book for Bro. Howell, especially since the truth of it is needed so much at this present time.

The price of this book is 50c per copy, or five copies for \$2.00, postpaid.

Order this book direct from: C. W. Howell, 305 14th Street, Columbia, Tennessee.

These are two of the best small books it has been our privilege to print in a long time. May God bless the ministry of each of these books as they go forth in print to serve our ever living and adorable Lord.

An Old Question, "Where Did Cain Get His Wife?"

In an issue of the Cincinnati Post (Ohio's greatest daily) was a question asked of, and answered by S. Parkes Cadman, whose daily column then appeared in this, and other papers over the country. Cadman is a man of ability, but his subtle attack on the Word of God is well known by all lovers of the Bible. The question was directly from a puzzled reader, but indirectly from Ingersoll, Paine, critics of the

early centuries and last from the devil. It is so old that it is threadbare. But here is the question: "How am I to believe this story of Adam and Eve and their sons, Cain and Abel? When Adam, Eve, and Cain were the only three people on earth, Abel being dead, Cain married. Where did he get his wife?" Here is the answer by Cadman: "So long as you read Genesis literally, there is no rational explanation for the origin or where-about of Cain's bride. The moment you clearly see that these ancient stories are symbolic and not historical, your difficulty disappears. I have repeatedly said this in this column."

Falling Away

(Continued from page five)

who have gone in a horrible, unholy way. All of these people are adults and members of our church. You may say, "Bro. Bob, were they saved?" I don't know, and at the same time may I say that if they were saved, they have fallen away from the truth. I believe in our Southern Baptist Convention there are 28,000 churches. In these churches there are 7,000,000 Baptists (or so-called Baptists). Out of this number we have 2,000,000 that cannot be found. Are they lost, or have they fallen away concerning Godly living?

III

THERE IS A FALLING AWAY CONCERNING SALVATION.

We are living in an age when people everywhere are trying to work their way into Heaven. We have forgotten that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and brought condemnation and death to the whole human race. Yes, beloved, men everywhere are lost outside of Christ. They are dead outside of Christ, and all the works in the world will not save them. I want you to listen as I read from the Word of God:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."—Eph. 2:8,9.

Listen as I read again from the Word of God:

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

Now, beloved, there is one thing sure, you can't mix grace with works. It must be that you go to Heaven by grace, or split Hell wide open with your works. People are not saved by works, but by the grace of God. All the do's that you can do are not good enough. There is not one thing that you can work up or down and call it salvation.

Before I move to the fourth and final point of this message, I wish you would think about all the false conceptions of salvation. I want you good neighbors to keep in mind that anything apart from the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is a false conception of salvation. You must be saved by the blood of the Cross. I warn you to beware of this falling away concerning salvation. I plead with you to stay away from everything except the blood of the virgin-born Son of God.

"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

IV

THERE IS A FALLING AWAY CONCERNING LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE.

There are many in this day in which we are living who do not believe in a glorious Heaven and a burning Hell. They think that when a person dies, he or she is

just as a dog or a cat. The only place to find out about life beyond the grave is the Bible. No person can tell you about Heaven or Hell. When I want to find out about Heaven or Hell, I turn to my Bible. Jesus was a Hell-fire preacher. In other words, he never compromised this doctrine beyond the grace? Now, my dear one, we will have to take the words of Jesus on this matter. Listen to what He had to say:

"And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

—Mt. 5:29,30.

"But whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."—Mt. 5:22.

As I come to the close of this message, I want you to know that I believe in a life beyond the grave. Beloved, I believe in a saved person going to Heaven and an unsaved person at death going to Hell.

I hope God has shown you this Lord's Day morning that there is a falling away. Then, beloved, hope you will leave your seat during the invitation and come to the Saviour. I beg you not to be in this falling away crowd, but be in the crowd of the blood-bought saints. Come to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

GIFTED PREACHER WHO IS AVAILABLE FOR GOD'S WORK



T. C. JOHNSON

Brother Johnson is available for evangelistic meetings and supply work. His last pastorate was in Phenix City, Alabama. He resigned there because of opposition against his stand for the truth. Because he opposes the modernistic phases of the Program, the associational missionary in the vicinity of Phenix City, running true to form, is doing everything in his power to keep Brother Johnson from being called to another church. Brother Johnson was formerly a Methodist pastor. Six years ago he was led by deep conviction to become a Baptist. He is a tireless worker, and a man of ability, good judgment, pleasing personality, and doctrinal soundness.

As the Holy Spirit directs, churches and preachers who love the whole truth should honor Brother Johnson's stand by using him. His address is General Delivery, Phenix City, Ala., telephone 8-0920.

"An Exposition Of Ezekiel"

(Continued from page two)
Scripture came to pass just like God said that it would, and so complete was the destruction of this city that it has never been rebuilt, and the exact site is undeterminable today.

God says in the twenty-first verse:
"I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be NO MORE: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou NEVER BE FOUND AGAIN."

God said that this city would not be found again, and what God said came to pass.

IV

Now from this twenty-sixth chapter of Ezekiel, let's get some lessons.

God does not get in a hurry.

Remember, beloved, the God we serve and the God we preach does not get in a hurry. He does not balance the books every day. The God I preach to you, and the God we serve, is a sovereign God, who is controlling the destinies of this world, and He never, never gets in a hurry. He waited 240 years between two kings to see this city destroyed. You and I, beloved, are so impetuous and so nervous that we want things done right now, and we want things done immediately, and we think that everything has to be completely taken care of day by day. I would remind you this morning that the God I preach to you is a God that never gets in a hurry.

There is only one incident in the Bible where God is ever described as being in a hurry. When you read the story of the Prodigal son, you will find that when the father saw his son returning, and he ran and kissed him. That old father is a picture of God the Father, and the only time that God is pictured as getting in a hurry is when a repentant sinner repents and comes home to God. There is not another time in the Bible when you see a picture of God getting in a hurry. Why should He? He knows the end from the beginning. Why should He? He planned it all. Why should He? He is a sovereign God and everything has to work according to His plans. Why should He get in a hurry? We are not sovereign. We are just little, puny individuals, and because of our weakness we get in a hurry and get nervous, for fear that our plans will not work out according to our purpose and design; that brethren, the God of the universe, the God of sovereignty, knows just what is coming to pass. He knows all that is going on in the world today. He knows it is going to work out for His glory. He knows how He is going to destroy Catholicism and Communism. He knows how He is going to destroy those arch-enemies, these greatest enemies of our times today. He knows, my brethren, how He is going to put an end to the Devil. He has it planned out, and as a sovereign God, He is waiting for His time to come for the completion of the fulfillment to every one of these problems.

Judgment is in store for every individual and for every nation that forgets God. Judgment was in store for the city of Tyre, and judgment is in store for any nation or for any individual that forgets Almighty God. Listen:
"God is angry with the wicked every day."—Psa. 7:11.
God may wait, and He may wait His time, but He is angry with the wicked every day.
They provoked him to anger in their high places."
—Psa. 78:58.

Lin, beloved, provokes God to anger today, and God—the same God that judged the Jew back in the city of Tyre—that same God judges you and me today, and the same God is going to judge every person and nation that forgets God.

God uses human agents to carry out His work.

We read in the seventh verse:

"For thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people."

From this we see how God employed the human agent of Nebuchadnezzar to do His work. I will remind you that in everything that is taking place within this world, God is just employing human agents to take care of His work today. I believe that just as surely as we are here that Hitler was an agent of Almighty God—that God used Hitler to His own glory. I believe that there is not a worldly agent in this world but what God uses him for His own glory. Bad men are often impressed into God's service and to do God's work, and God uses them. He does not put His stamp of approval on what they do, but He uses them and overrules what they do for His own glory.

I'll give you an illustration of that:

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."—Luke 2:1-5.

Cyrenius, the Roman governor, sent out an edict that every one was going to have to be taxed, and he was going to have to go to his home city to be enrolled or assessed for the taxation. He did not know that he was doing God's will when he did it. He did not know that he was fulfilling Scripture when he did it. So far as he was concerned, he did it as an ungodly man, without any thought of God in any wise at all. No thought of God went into it, so far as he was concerned. Notice where Joseph and Mary were living at that time. The Word of God says, beloved, that they were living in the city of Nazareth. It says, further, that Mary was great with child, which means that Mary, which was soon to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, would have given birth to the Son of God in the city Nazareth, where she and Joseph were then living, if it had not been that Cyrenius, this Roman governor, made an edict that everybody had to go to his home town for taxation purposes. The result was that she and Joseph had to go to the city of Bethlehem, six miles south of the city of Jerusalem, in order to pay their taxes. When they got there, the Lord Jesus Christ was born. If it had not been for this worldly, ungodly ruler, He would have been born in the city of Nazareth, but, beloved, God had already said where He was to be born. Listen:

"But thou, BETHLEHEM Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
—Micah 5:2.

God had already said that Jesus Christ was going to be born in Bethlehem. In order to keep Him from being born in Nazareth, God caused an ungodly governor to make a law—an edict, that everybody had to go to his home town to be assessed for taxation, and both Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem in spite of her condition. While they were there, the Lord Jesus was born. The prophecy, accordingly, was fulfilled.

Notice again:

"Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, MY SERVANT."
—Jer. 25:9.

Notice that God refers to Nebuchadnezzar as "my servant."

He was an ungodly man who knew nothing of the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour. God calls him "my servant," because God used him in the working of His purposes.

Listen to me, beloved, the God we preach to you is a God of sovereignty and a God of might, and He uses human instrumentality, even the wickedest of men, to bring to pass His purposes here within this world.

The Bible is going to be fulfilled.

Don't you think that if God fulfilled this one prophecy that He will fulfill the rest of them? He said that He was going to destroy the city of Tyre, that He was going to scrape the dust and the timber and throw them into the sea. Beloved, God did exactly what He said He was going to do. I cannot read this Scripture without my heart trembling, without my soul filled with overflowing, to know that God kept His Word. It took thirteen years on the part of one king, and it was 240 years before the second king came on the scene to fulfill this Scripture.

Every word that God has said is going to be fulfilled. I tell you, beloved, He has kept His word here, and I believe that He will keep His Word every place else. I have not one doubt in my mind but what God will keep His Word.

That is why it is I believe so strongly in the security of the saved. I know that God is going to keep His Word. Listen:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
—John 10:28,29.

I believe that if God kept His word back here, God will surely keep His word about you and me and all the rest of the redeemed. Yes, beloved, He will keep His word. He is going to fulfill this Bible. There isn't a prophecy in this Bible that He isn't going to fulfill.

Do I speak to some Christian

BOOK OF BOOKS

"ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS" II TIM. 3:16



this morning who needs the assurance that God will stand by you, and that God will take care of you? Then listen to this Scripture:

"And EVEN TO YOUR OLD AGE I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."
—Isa. 46:4.

Listen again:
"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."
—Heb. 13:5,6.

I tell you, beloved, it blessed my soul when I saw how God kept His word concerning the city of Tyre. He kept His word concerning Tyre, and He will keep His word concerning you and me.

Sinner friend, do you believe that God will keep His word concerning you? Listen to this Scripture:

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."—Ps. 9:17.

Oh, man, woman, who is lost this morning, listen to what God says. He kept His word about Tyre, and He will keep His word so far as you are concerned. Tyre forgot God, and Judah forgot God. God destroyed Tyre to the extent that she will never be rebuilt, and nobody knows exactly where her location is today. Beloved listen, the same God who kept His word back here is going to keep His word this morning, and when He says that the wicked shall be turned into Hell, you can be certain of one thing, that is where you are going.

He is going to keep His word relative to His second coming. I believe that Jesus Christ is coming back to this world. I do not believe in the United Nations because God was ruled out of the initial session when they said that no prayer could be offered. Brother, there is no room for any organization to succeed when it rules God out of existence. I do not have any hope that all the problems of this world will eventually be worked out. The only hope I have in this respect is

in the thought of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ back to this earth. Jesus said, "If I go, I will come again," and if God kept His word concerning the city of Tyre, He is going to keep His word concerning all the balance of the Book.

V

There is a Heaven and a Hell. Notice the twentieth verse:

"When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the PIT, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the LAND OF THE LIVING."
Ezek. 26:20.

Beloved, listen to me this morning, there are just two places for you to spend eternity—either in the pit, or else in the land of the living. Just two places for you to go today—either you go to Hell, or you go to Heaven. I doubt if there will be a single individual out of that ancient civilization of Tyre that will be in Heaven, but I rather imagine that without exception, everyone will be found in Hell. God talks about the pit, and in contrast talks about the land of the living.

Let me ask you this morning, what is your hope today? What hope do you have? Where are you going to spend eternity? Some of these days you are going to leave this world. Where are you going then? Are you going to the pit, or are you going to the land of the living? Beloved, I tell you, there is only one way that you can go to the land of the living, and that is by the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. You will never go to Heaven because you are a church member or a good man. You will never go to Heaven because of what you do for somebody else or because of anything that you do. Salvation is on the basis of (Continued on page eight)

I Should Like To Know

(Continued from page one)

umns of this paper I have said that Scofield was a dangerous heretic and had done more to weaken Baptist position on church truth than any other individual because of the popularity of the Scofield Bible. The majority of the explanations and references to be found in the Scofield Bible are most helpful. At the same time, there is not one thing that Mr. Scofield has ever said relative to the church and her ordinances that is sound. He was a universal church heretic, and as such, his notes on Revelation 2 and 3 are positive absurdities, and yet the majority of Baptists follow them in toto. In every instance where he speaks of the church he is always wrong.

I use a Scofield Bible and recommend it to others in view of the many fine helps to be found therein. At the same time, I caution our readers that all of Scofield's notes on church truth are definitely heretical.

6. Sometime ago, you said Seiss' "Lectures on the Apocalypse" was the best commentary ever published on Revelation. Where is it available?

This question keeps coming up quite often. I am not sure that it is even available as a new set of books today. The last time that I knew of it being printed, it was published by the Approved Book Store, 1721-27 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They brought out the fourteenth edition, consisting of 34,000 sets of three volumes each, or, all in all, 102,000 copies of these books in this edition. I don't even know that this book store is still in existence, but if interested in securing a set of these books, you might write them.

7. To whom does the number "666" refer in Revelation 13?

This refers to Revelation 13:18 and is a reference to the Anti-Christ. I think he will be a definite human being — an unusual personality. Daniel 8:25 and Daniel 11:43 indicate that he will be a commercial genius, which is the teaching of this Scripture in Revelation.

Nations of the world are about bankrupt, and the financial condition of all the nations of the world is becoming more and more pitiful. The world is in need of a commercial and financial genius today, and is becoming more and more desperately in need of such every day. That is why it is when the Anti-Christ arises, the unsaved of the world will be glad to wear his number in order to buy and sell.

8. How much of the book of Revelation has already been fulfilled?

Only a very, very little of the book has been fulfilled. Beginning with the fourth chapter, the majority of the balance of the book is yet in the future and is to be read and accepted not as history, as the heretical Post-Millennialists and A-Millennialists would teach, but as future prophecy which is yet to be fulfilled.

9. Should teachers be elected by the church or appointed by the pastor?

I think it well that a pastor, Sunday School superintendent, and perhaps a committee should study together the needs of the Sunday School and then recommend to the church such individuals as the committee unanimously thinks would be able to efficiently and Scripturally serve as teachers. Then let the church elect those who have been recommended, or else show cause why they should not be. In the final analysis, they should definitely be elected by the church.

10. Will Heaven be located on this earth after it is renovated, or

on another planet?

Of this I am not positive, nor would I speak dogmatically. My personal conviction is that when the earth is renovated and all evidence and trace of sin is removed therefrom, that God is going to set up His kingdom and we will have then Heaven where earth is today. I think this is the position taken by J. R. Graves in his "Seven Dispensations." It is the position of many commentators. However, I would not be dogmatic concerning it.

11. Is it wrong to watch television?

It is just as wrong to watch television as it is to listen to the radio, read a newspaper, or listen to a phonograph. You can read that which is wrong, and listen to that which is wrong, thru any of these agencies. At the same time, you can see and hear that which is not wrong, but rather helpful. I personally have a television set and am thankful for it.

12. Is John R. Rice a sound Baptist preacher?

He is as sound as any union evangelist can be, which is, of course, not saying too much for him. He is an union evangelist and holds revivals for all denominations. Any man who does so, is bound to compromise the truth. He tries to be sound on some doctrines, but on others his compromising is pitifully weakening to the truth. He definitely believes in, and teaches the universal church. He is not a Baptist, although he claims to be such. He is a compromiser on all church truth and the church ordinances. A few years ago, he even had membership in the Bible Church of Wheaton, Illinois, which is an undenominational organization.

13. Explain Acts 22:16.

In the baptistry, one's sins are figuratively washed away. Actually, the individual is saved before he goes into the baptistry, and his baptism is but a picture to the world of what has already taken place within his own heart. The expression, "wash away thy sins," is a figure of speech, just like Jesus spoke in explaining the parable of the tares, when He said, "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one."—Mt. 13:38. What Jesus actually meant was that the field represented the world, and the good seed and the tares represented the children of the kingdom and the Devil. Well, in Acts 22:16, our Lord used figurative language again.

14. Why don't Baptist churches like the doctrine of election when the Bible is full of it?

Baptist churches are filled with lots of unsaved people. Then again, even some who are saved are carnally minded. Unsaved people and carnal-minded Christians can never love spiritual truth. Read Romans 8:7. Yes, the Bible is full of election, and spiritually minded Christians rejoice in the teaching of it. A person has to have a definite experience with the Lord to enjoy any of the teachings of God's Word. Since the majority of Baptist church members have never had such, you needn't expect them to like the doctrine of election or any of the balance of the great doctrines of God's Word.

15. If after a man has often been preached to on the subject of tithing and he refuses to obey God, but rather steals God's money, is he saved?

Many saved folk are carnal to the nth degree and accordingly will not tithe nor follow the teachings of the Lord as to any of the truths of the Bible. It could be that such a one is saved but is in such a backslidden condition that he will not listen to what God has to say.

On the other hand, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice."—John 10:27. I have a pretty definite conviction that any supposed-to-be saved person who continually rebels against the doctrine of

tithing or any other teaching of the Bible, proves thereby that he is not one of God's sheep. If a man hears the Word of God preached faithfully and will not accept it, I would doubt very seriously if such a one has ever been saved.



"An Exposition Of Ezekiel"

(Continued from page seven)

Jesus Christ dying on the Cross. Beloved, that is grace. He did it all. Salvation is a free gift of God. God does not save us for one thing that we do, but rather, God saves us for what Jesus Christ did on the Cross of Calvary. May you trust Him this morning and be saved.

May God bless you!



Catholicism

(Continued from page one)

gatory mentioned in the Bible—it is a figment of the imagination. The only purging taught in the Bible is the purgation of our sins by Jesus in His death. (See Heb. 1:3).

Purgatory is a graft carried on by the church. Money is charged for masses said for the dead, so as to shorten purgatory for them. Several things are wrong here, as follows:

1. There is no purgatory.
2. If there were a purgatory, the chattering of Latin wouldn't get one out.
3. If there were such a place, then it would be an inhuman and dirty shame to charge people to help get loved ones out of such a place. What a graft!
3. The Catholic church teaches that confession should be made to men.

This perversion was not started until after the Lateran Council in 1225 A.D. This practice gives an often corrupt priesthood opportunity to pry into the most delicate matters, and leads to all sorts of abuse. It is wicked presumption to assume that a sinful man can forgive sin. What does the Bible teach about the forgiveness of sins (See Acts 8:22; James 5:16; Prov. 28:13; Psa. 32:5). There is the exhortation indeed for Christians to confess to each other their faults and they may mutually pray for one another, but no intimation that confession is to be made to a priesthood, or that man can forgive sins.

4. The Catholic church teaches people to do penance.

The Catholic Bible wrongly translates "repent ye," "do penance." There is a world of difference in those two things. If Jesus made a sufficient atonement for our sins—if he paid our sin debt—then why should one need to inflict self-punishment in order to make up for wrong things done? The doctrine of "do penance" denies the completeness of the atonement of Christ. God gets no satisfaction or glory out of a person wearing peas in their shoes, or doing without meat, or abusing their body in some way.

5. The Catholic church manufactures "sacraments."

Among other things they make marriage to be a "sacrament," and teach that it "confers grace." They teach that marriage is invalid unless contracted in the presence of a priest. Thus the church teaches that Protestant children are in God's sight illegitimate. They teach moreover that marriage is indissoluble. Jesus didn't so teach. He taught that there is one exception. That is given in Matt. 5:32.

6. The Catholic church teaches the doctrine of indulgences.

An indulgence is a remission granted by the church to those who are free from the guilt of "mortal sin" of a whole or a part of the punishment due for sins already forgiven. This doctrine was not propagated until 1096 A.D. and it is wholly unscriptural and a colossal graft. The priesthood prescribes how indulgences may be obtained. Such

things as visiting certain churches, bowing at certain altars, praying to certain saints, kissing certain crosses, PAYING MONEY and a lot of other things. St. Peter's Cathedral was largely built from the proceeds of the sale of indulgences. The Protestant Reformation was partly induced by the sale of indulgences.

The whole fabric of Catholic doctrine is infiltrated with falsehood of the worst sort.



Election

(Continued from page one)

ons they were welcome to them if they would but come to him. The other boys, when they heard of the favors with which the two had been laden, were loud in the expression of their indignation. They accused the clergyman of partiality, in giving to some without giving to all; and, when reminded that they would not accept his offers, but ran away from him as fast as they could, they replied, "What of it? He caught these two boys, and why should he have selected them instead of the rest of us? If he had only run a little faster he might have caught us. It was mean of him to show such partiality." Again they were reminded that the clergyman was ready to serve them as he did the other two he caught, and give them as many melons as they wanted if they would only go and ask him for them. Still the boys would not go near him, but accused the generous man of injustice and partiality, in doing for two that which he did not do for all.

So it is with sinners. God finds all guilty, and invites them to come to him and be forgiven, and receive the richest blessings Heaven can afford. They all run from Him, and the louder He calls the more they try to escape. By His grace He pursues, and some He overtakes. He loads them with favors, and sends them back to invite their fellow sinners to return and receive the same. They all with one accord refuse to come and yet never cease to abuse His mercy. They say, "Why does God select some and not others? Why does He overtake others who are just as bad as we, and allow us

to escape? This election of some and not others is unjust and partial." And when the minister of God replies, "The invitation is extended to you; whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely," the sinner heeds it not, but goes on in his sins, still complaining of the injustice and partiality of God in saving some and not saving all.

—Clergy of America



Cain's Wife

(Continued from page six)

years; and he begat sons and daughters." (Gen. 5:4). In the course of 800 years, he certainly should have many goodlooking daughters. Cain would probably have gladly married any of them after he became an outcast and a wanderer. Ladies didn't have much choice in those days. Adam lived 930 years (Gen. 5:5). This was the usual age of the antediluvians. Cain might have been like some of our modern men, "in no hurry to get married," then he could have waited a "small spell" of about 700 years and married one of his brother Seth's great-granddaughters; or he could have married one of his eighteen-year-old sisters. Evidently it was not as much trouble for Cain to get married as for some folk nowadays.

Brother it is a bad idea to be too much concerned about another man's wife. Cain could not have gotten his wife had she not existed. The Bible says he got her in the land of Nod. I believe that. I am satisfied with that, when it can be so clearly explained. And I cannot see why any man would not be satisfied with a reasonable answer.

Brother, you had better be more concerned where Seth got his wife, because through Seth's wife the Saviour came.

Cadman said: "I have repeatedly said in this column." So it is no slip or mishap with him. But we are not alarmed. This is only a fulfillment of II Timothy 4:2-4. The Word of God teaches that His word will be a reproach to some (Jer. 6:10). It will be rejected by some (Jer. 8:9). It will be scoffed at (Jer. 17:15).

RUSSIA'S DOWNFALL

WHEN
WILL IT HAPPEN

WHERE
WILL IT HAPPEN

WHY
WILL IT HAPPEN

HOW
WILL IT HAPPEN



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