

The Baptist Examiner

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

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The Meaning Of Creation

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

There was a time when the things of creation did not exist, but the Creator has always existed. The Creator is far greater than His creation, and must not be identified with it. WHEN did God create things? The Bible says (Gen. 1:1) "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." When was the "beginning?" No man can say. It is not necessary to assume that this earth is only about 6000 years old, as some seem to suppose. God may have created the earth and the stars and planets millions of years ago. Christians need have no quarrel with geologists who affirm that the earth has existed for millions of years. But when it

comes to MAN, the Bible certainly doesn't indicate that he has been here for millions of years. Scientists have done their very best to prove that man has had life on this planet for millions of years, but they have not been able to do it. The so-called "Piltown Man" was assumed to be the bones of a man who lived back in that ancient past. But scientists of the British Museum a few months ago exploded the Piltown Man hoax, showing that bones were stained and chemically treated to simulate age.

Men were so anxious to date man's origin back millions of years ago, that they deliberately trumped up a lie in order to put their claims over.

What Is The Extent Of Creation?

To the human mind creation is infinite. Astronomers say that there are great solar systems out yonder in space thousands of light years away. They say that the number of heavenly bodies run into millions. That is in accord with Isaiah who said, "The stars of Heaven cannot be numbered." ARE ANY OF THE PLANETS OF SPACE INHABITED? We don't know—but why not? (That would (Continued on page eight)

1. Does not I Cor. 7:10-11 absolutely forbid second marriage until death parts the unity?

It does not. This passage deals with the rule, Matt. 19:9 gives the one exception to the rule. It is just as needful that we accept Matt. 19:9 as it is that we accept any other Scripture. It is not ours to make rules; it is ours to accept the Bible as our rule. When a man becomes stricter than the Bible, he is just as wrong as the man that is less strict than the Bible. Truth is a highway with a ditch on either side, and one ditch is just as deep as the other.

2. Is there any Scripture that says specifically to witness to the unsaved for whom one is praying?

No. The Scripture merely teaches that we are to witness to the lost in general. However if the Holy Spirit lays it upon our hearts to pray for the salvation of a person, perhaps He will always also give us a desire to have an opportunity to witness to that person.

3. I should like to know what basis in Scripture the church has to vote on a person who comes forward upon the invitation to accept Christ.

Acts 9:26; Rom. 14:1. This basis is also found in the fact that the government of a New Testament church is democratic. See below. Someone must pass upon the credibility of one's profession of faith. In New Testament churches, the church, the body of Christ, does this. In other churches the preacher or a board of elders or the like does it.

4. Also what Scripture is there for calling or firing a pastor?

The following Scriptures show that the government of a New Testament church is democratic: Acts 6:1-5; I Cor. 5:1-5; (See also II Cor. 2:6); II Cor. 8:19. Moreover the church is the body of Christ. See I Cor. 12:27. The church alone, therefore, can properly decide whom the Holy Spirit is pleased to set over it as an overseer or Bishop. See Acts 20:28. The only way a church can decide anything is by a vote taken in some manner. Thus a church has Scriptural ground for voting on calling a pastor or on dismissing one.

5. If two or more come for baptism, can both be accepted on the same vote of the church? (Continued on page eight)

The Fake And Fraud Of Christmas

By CHARLES HALFF
San Antonio, Texas

The apostle Paul in writing to Timothy says in II Timothy 4:1-4: "I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables."

My friends, that time is here now when people are turning away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables, that which is not true. I often wondered why the apostle Paul made the statement, "Be instant in season and out of season" but after careful study I believe I understand what he meant by "in season and out of season."

"In season" is when the people like it and "out of season" is when they don't like it, and with many people the Word of God is out of season! It is not liked very much. Nevertheless the apostle Paul said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." That is, give it to them when they like it and when they don't. Preach the Word when they smile and when they frown. Therefore, I want to honestly and earnestly present the truth and nothing but the truth.

A great many people ask why do I continue to bother the doctrines of men. "Don't you know you can't stop preachers from preaching what they are preaching?" Well I can do like a man told his wife about a calf that was running away with him. He couldn't stop the calf, and his wife told him to turn him loose, but he said, "I may not stop him but I can slow him down."

I mean to tell you that I am trying to preach the truth and call the people's attention to the mistakes preachers are making. Many honest souls are being misled and when these honest people learn the truth, they are going to demand of the preachers that they preach the Bible as it is written. We won't stop them but we will slow them down. You can do as a lady told me a few days ago. She said, "I realize I can't stop the church I am a member of from teaching false doctrine, but I can stop myself and come out of it and not take part in it." That is the way to do. If you can't stop

them, you can stop yourself.

Does Christmas really celebrate the birthday of Jesus? Was He born on December 25th? Did Paul, the apostles, and the early Church of the New Testament celebrate Christmas? Do you know what the Bible says about the Christmas tree?

Christ Not Born In Winter

Stop and think! Very few know why we do the things we do—where our customs came from! We were born into a world filled with customs. We grew up practicing them, taking them for granted, but never questioning why!

Let me read from Luke 2:8, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." Now this one text alone is practically sufficient evidence that we might know that Christmas, or the birth of Christ, could not be December 25. This verse tells us that shepherds were in the field and their flocks were pasturing there the night of the birth of Christ. As the shepherds were watching their flocks, the message came to them of the birth of Jesus. Now it is a well-

known fact that December is the rainy season in Palestine and the sheep are kept in the fold at that time of year.

Jesus was not even born in the winter season! When the Christ-child was born "there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This never could have occurred in Palestine in the month of December. The shepherds always corralled and brought their flocks from the mountain sides and fields not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold rainy season that followed that date.

Heathen Custom

But what about Christmas? The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ," or, as it later became shortened, "Christ-Mass." It came to us as a Roman Catholic mass. And where did they get it? From the Heathen celebration of December 25th, as the birthday of Sol the Sun-God! It is, actually, an ancient rite of Baalism, which the Bible condemns as the most abominable of all idolatrous worship!

It is not so much as mentioned anywhere in the New Testament. It was never observed by Paul, the apostles, nor the early true Christian church!

The idea Jesus was born December 25th is one of the fables the apostle Paul prophesied (II Tim. 4:4) would deceive the world in these latter days.

The plain truth is, Christmas is not Christ's birthday at all! And this festival, important as it seems

to so many, is not of Christian, but of pagan — Babylonish — origin! But does that make any difference? Isn't it all right to go ahead and observe it anyway? Isn't the "Christmas spirit" a good and splendid thing, regardless of how it got started? We shall see! Any encyclopedia? We shall see! authority, will tell you that Christ was not born on December 25. The Catholic Encyclopedia frankly states this fact.

With this I would like to read to you some facts taken from the Catholic encyclopedia on "Christmas." "Christmas was not in the early church. Birthday observances were forbidden. Bible proof of the date contradicts December 25; reference to birth of Mithra—son of light." Then it goes on to compare the birth of Mithra with the birth of Christ and says that there is no proof for December 25 as the birth of Christ. Mithra is the pagan god of Persia. I wish that sometimes you would read (Continued on page four)

MODERNISM AND PAGANISM

"In America we are dealing with a country, the majority of whose inhabitants are pagans," declared Caleb R. Stetson, rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal church of New York City, in discussing the problems of marriage and divorce. Bro. Stetson recently caused a stir by expressing his opinions in periodicals concerning a proposed revision of laws. He is a member of the commission on marriage and divorce. "Atheists and Communists are exerting a wide influence in America today," he said. "Their activities are supported by large amounts of money. Only forty per cent of the population acknowledges affiliation with any church. Since marriage and monogamy are fundamentally Christian, it is difficult to make the institution a success in a country comprised of so many pagans."

Mr. Stetson is right. Every modernist is a pagan. Any man who does not believe the Bible is pagan. All evolutionists are pagan. Evolution was the creed of pagan Rome and pagan Greece 2000 years ago. Every man who denies miracles is a pagan. All who deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His bodily resurrection, or His vicarious atonement, are pagan. All idolaters are pagan and Paul classes all secret orders as idolaters. Read I Cor. 10:16-21 and the comment on it in the Expositor's Greek Testament.

WATCH OUT FOR THE SLOW LEAKS

Prayer, a hastily swallowed breakfast, bags and books grabbed in a second, coats buttoned on the way to the car—the Lord's workers were ready to start early for a busy day in His service. Then came the discovery: "We have a flat tire!"

"But we checked the tires last night."

"There must have been a slow leak."

Out of the car they sprang; some went to work on the culprit tire while others held umbrellas over them in a drenching rain.

Almost imperceptibly through the night the tire had grown soft from escaping air until by morning it was useless. Only a slow leak! Many Christians permit such leaks in their spiritual life. For one reason or another—but never for a valid reason, because there is none—they neglect daily prayer and Bible reading. Or they habitually excuse a "little" sin as a weakness. There has been one day's failure, two days' failure, then probably a week's or a month's, and their spiritual strength has slipped away imperceptibly but surely. Then there arrives an opportunity to witness for Christ, or a need for the prayer of faith, or an emergency calling for Spirit-empowered conduct; but they are not equal to it. They are as useless as a flat tire.

Some day all our omissions and (Continued on page two)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

"The Security Of The Saved"

This sermon was preached twenty-two years ago. Considerably more than 100,000 copies have been sent out in tract form, previous to this printing.

When I was seventeen years old, I was called into the ministry. For the past ten years, I have been trying to preach the Gospel. All of these 27 years have been spent in school: grammar, high college, seminary, and the school of practical experience. During these years of schooling, I have learned only three lessons that are really worthwhile.

I was born a totally depraved, vicious sinner; but I did not know it. My parents say that evidences of that sinful disposition began to manifest themselves before I was three days old. The first day I went to school I rebelled at the authority of the school. I had numerous disputes with other students. Some of these disputes ended in blows. I did not know why it was that I preferred to lie rather than to tell the truth; nor why it was that I rebelled at all authority, and defied anyone that opposed

me. I went to church, but I was not interested. I was never able to understand myself until I read:

"The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

—Psa. 58:3.

Then I read Psalm 51:5, which says:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Later, as a beloved brother of the cross read:

"For we have all sinned and (Continued on page two)

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\$ A-MONTH-CLUB \$

With deep gratitude to God, and appreciating the helpfulness of our friends, we record the growth of the Dollar-A-Month Club, so that it stands today at \$288, which amount will be applied against our note and interest, on the new press, when such comes due next June 27.

Those contributing since last week are:

Mrs. C. E. Benjamin, Orange, Texas.

Roy J. Bucher, DeSoto, Mo.
B. R. Matheney, Clendenin, W. Va.

Mrs. Darlyle Watters, Lansing, Mich.

Truly as this fund continues slowly to grow from week to week, we rejoice and thank God, and take courage, realizing that God has given us lots of good friends who love the Truth for which this paper contends.

BOUND VOLUMES

The 1954 bound volumes of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER will be ready for distribution very shortly after the first of January, 1955. The cost will be \$5.00 per volume.

In view of the fact that we will only have about 25 of these, and since we have several reservations already, I would suggest that if you want a copy, you had better send in your order, accompanied by the \$5.00, or else place your order, and ask us to send the book to you on either open account or COD. This 1954 volume will contain the entire series of sermons on the book of Ezekiel, preached during the current year.

I might say that we have three volumes of the 1953 copies of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER remaining of those which we bound this year. When these are gone, there can be no more, as we used up all our copies in making these books.

SECURITY OF THE SAVED

The message of this issue is a message preached years ago by the editor and has been reprinted several times in this paper. It will be available in tract form just as soon as we can print it. Considerably over 100,000 copies have been thus distributed. Call on us for whatever number you can prayerfully and carefully distribute.

We make no charge for our tracts, but remember that the only way we can keep them in print is by the contributions we receive for this purpose. Hence any financial help you can give us in printing or distributing these tracts will be appreciated. However, if you want such and haven't a penny to contribute, don't hesitate to make your request known, and the tracts will be mailed you.

FOR SALE

The editor has two recorders, one tape and the other wire, and a camera for which he has no use,

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and therefore they are for sale. The wire recorder is in good condition and can be bought for \$50.00 including five spools of wire.

The tape recorder is a professional model, known as Ekotape. Buying it wholesale, it cost us about \$425.00. It and fifteen spools of tape can be bought for \$300.00, with terms arranged to a responsible person. This recorder was bought when we were broadcasting over several stations, and actually has had less than 20 tapes made on it. It is the same as a new machine and is sold unconditionally guaranteed to give splendid satisfaction. Someone can really get a wonderful bargain in this machine.

The camera is a Burke & James, and cost over \$300 when new. It has had a good deal of use, but is still an excellent camera. It has a brand new flash gun on it, which cost alone approximately \$30.00. We will sell the entire outfit, including 15 cut film holders for \$75.00.

COMMENT ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Beginning with the next issue, we will carry each each week a comment on the Sunday School lesson, following the outline of the International Lessons. Many times in the past, our readers by the dozens have urged this feature, and now we are glad to accede to their requests.

I would still insist that it would be much better for a church to take the whole Bible and study it chapter by chapter, and verse by verse, each Sunday. However, many of our readers are members of churches that have been pickled in the brine of the Convention, and can do nothing more than go along with the majority, in their study of God's Word. It is to be of help to them in furnishing sound lesson helps that we are endeavoring to carry a weekly discussion of the Sunday School lesson.

The International lessons for the first part of 1955 will be in the Gospel of Luke — at least through April the tenth. The first lesson is on John the Baptist.

Our discussion on this first lesson will appear in the next issue of this paper, under date of December 27, 1954.

"Security Of The Saved"

(Continued from page one)
come short of the glory of God."
—Rom. 3:23.

I saw myself as I was—depraved from birth, with vicious desires and unholy passions: condemned before God. Thus I learned my first lesson.

Just what to rid myself of the sin I possessed, I did not know. I had attended a church of another denomination and had heard men speculate about the plan of salvation. I had heard them say with emphasis: "No man can know that he is saved until he gets to Heaven." I had heard them read:

"'Tis a point I long to know
Of it causes anxious thought.
Do I love the Lord, or no?
Am I His, or am I not?"

That type of religion made no appeal to me. If I had possessed that kind of religion I would have been no better off than I was; I was already in a state of indecision. Then, one night I sat in a Baptist Church and heard the Scripture:

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."
—I John 1:7.

Like a drowning man grasping at a straw, I laid hold of this; and sang that night with others that trusted in the same Saviour:

"Happy night, happy night, when
Jesus washed my black heart white;
He taught he how to sing and shout, and be a Christian out and out,
Happy night, happy night, when

MY SHEPHERD LEADS

By MRS. HALEY HUGHES

Sometimes the path that I must tread is dark,
The way I cannot see;
The pathway, to my faltering feet is rough,
But still He leadeth me.

Not always by the sparkling waters, still and clear,
Nor in the pastures green;
Sometimes dark and grim shadows of Death's Valley
In my path are seen.

And tho' I may not always understand the way
That He would lead,
I know 'tis safe to follow in His steps,
His calling heed.

Let me not question, Lord, why 'tis thus so;
Thy wisdom far transcends my own,
And tho' sometimes the way be dark and rough the path,
Thou wilt lead me home.

Jesus washed my black heart white.

Then I could say with Paul:
"I know whom I have believed."

—II Tim. 1:12.
There was no guess-work about this. I could say with Naaman:
"Now I know there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."

—II Kings 5:15.
As my second great lesson, I had learned that I was a sinner saved by grace.

I was so happy in the Lord that I felt this experience just could not last. I concluded that it must end some time. But, lo, it has not ended; but has grown sweeter with each passing day. Thus I learned my third great lesson—that I was saved eternally, and could never be lost. This was the greatest lesson of all. Now with Paul, I say:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ."

—Phil 1:6.
Or, with Peter:

"Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."—I Pet. 1:5.

Or still again with my blessed Lord:

"No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
—John 10:29.

It is this third lesson I set myself to the task of proving.

The problem of the oldest book in the Bible—the book of Job—is the eternal security of the believer. The Devil was the first preacher of apostasy when he lied to God, saying that Job would apostatize under his difficulties. God gave the Devil more advantage with Job than the Devil ever has had with a believer since. Job had no one to intercede on his behalf—no Christ to pray for him that his faith fail not, yet we hear him declare:

"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

—Job 1:21.

If the Devil couldn't cause Job to "fall from grace" under adverse circumstances, without a high priest to intercede on his behalf, how can the Devil cause a believer to "fall from grace" today, when each child of God has an intercessor pleading for him in glory?

Thus God proved through Job that the Devil lied when he preached apostasy.

In a sermon a short time before his death, W. H. Griffith-Thomas said:

"(1) Physical life is the union of body with spirit.

"(2) Spiritual life is the union of spirit with God.

"(3) Eternal life is the union of the spirit with God forever."

It is the last of these that I am interested in just now. And at the outset, let me say that I do not mean to say that a Christian will never fall into sin. To say that one never sins is to brand one's

self as a liar:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."—I John 1:8.

A child of God may, through Satan's subtlety, fall often into sin, but a fall does not always kill. Many have fallen from great heights and lived to tell the story. Many also have fallen into sin and lived to tell of their redemption through grace alone.

"Rejoice, not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me. He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness."—Micah 7:8,9.

David committed adultery and then murdered a man to cover it. Surely no one puts a premium on these two black sins. Yet by and by we hear him say:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand."—Psa. 37:23,24.

Peter likewise fell when he denied the Lord and punctuated his denial with profanity. Still the fall didn't kill him, and presently we hear him speak:

"You who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."—I Pet. 1:5.

I grew up on a farm where we used to raise cattle, sheep and hogs. In preparing the hogs for the show ring at the fairs, I used to wash them weekly, trim their nails and polish their bristles. When I had finished, I used to say, "Now, Mr. Hog, stay clean." Did he mind? Immediately he would make his way to the first convenient mudhole and lay down on one side. Then, as if not content with the damage done, he would roll over to completely ruin my hour's work. Why was the hog content in the mud? It was his nature and he was only acting accordingly.

I saw a pet lamb fall into the same mud-slug one day. Strangely, the sheep did not wallow therein, but got out at once, acting very much ashamed of himself. Why didn't the sheep wallow there as the hogs did daily? He was a sheep and it was contrary to his nature.

Whenever one falls in sin and wallows there, it proves he has never been saved—the old hog nature is just manifesting itself, in spite of church membership, baptism, and reformation. God's dear sheep may fall in sin, but he won't remain there long, but ashamed of himself, will seek out the Lord, confess his wrongs, and repent of his sins. Accordingly I say that a saved sinner can never lose his salvation since:

1. He is kept by the power of God. Jude 24—"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." I Peter 1:5—

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." Heb. 7:25—"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." II Tim. 1:12—"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." These texts teach us that the power to keep lies outside the sphere of personal ability, and that God keeps us from the power of external, internal, and infernal agencies. When the jewel of my soul is surrendered to God's keeping, He is responsible for my eternal security.

"Firm as His throne the promise stands,

And He can well secure,
What I've committed to His hands,
Till the decisive hour."

I would be unsafe to attempt to walk the streets of any town with \$1,000 in my pocket. I hand it through the bank window to the cashier and he keeps it since he has the ability to do so. I haven't the power to keep my salvation, since the Devil is stronger than I, but I can commit myself unto God, who is "able to keep." Then do I realize:

"There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."—Rom. 8:1.

2. The Devil can not take one out of God's hand.

The Devil exerts a powerful influence. He has had 6000 years' experience. Yet he can go no farther than God permits him. God permitted Satan to touch Job's property but he could not harm a single hair of Job's head. Cf. Job 1:12. Later God permitted him to touch Job's body, but he could not take his life. Cf. Job 2:6. Since Satan can go no farther than he is permitted of God, a believer can never be lost, for God will not permit the Devil to pass the sacred precincts of God's saving grace.

"But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that WICKED ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT."
—I John 5:18.

If Satan can overcome one of God's children, he can overcome all. If he has the power to get all and yet allows one to go to Heaven, would not that one be saved by the grace of Satan? Yet the Bible plan of salvation is by the grace of God through faith.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."
—Eph. 2:8.

3. Each of the redeemed is a new creation.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation)."—II Cor. 5:17.

This world and all that is therein is God's creation. Can man uncreate that which God has created? Perish the thought! Each of the redeemed is created of God. Since that which has been created can not be uncreated, then each believer is eternally secure.

4. Each believer is born of God. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."
—I John 5:1.

When a child is born into this world it can never be unborn. Since that which is born can not be unborn, then everyone who has been "born again" is forever saved.

The Bible speaks of the natural birth as the first birth; it speaks of the spiritual birth as the second birth; there is none other birth spoken of. If one might be lost, after being saved, he would (Continued on page three)

Slow Leaks

(Continued from page one)
excuses will confront us. At the judgment seat of Christ we shall understand how often the Lord wanted to speak and to work through us but He could not because we had neglected to attend to the slow leaks in our spiritual life.

"Security Of The Saved"

(Continued from page two)
be lost eternally as the Bible does not mention the third or fourth, or any birth after we are once born of God.

John R. Gilpin, Jr., is my son since he was born such. Regardless of what he does he will always be my son. I am a child of God, by the new birth (John 3:7). I shall always be a son of God (I John 3:2), irrespective of what the Devil may do in my life.

5. The saved are born of incorruptible seed.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, BUT OF INCORRUPTIBLE, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

—I Pet. 1:23.

The first chapter of Genesis ten times declares that everything produces "after his kind." According to this law of Genesis, the new nature which is born of God is incorruptible. Since one is born of incorruptible seed, either the theory of evolution that like begets unlike is true (God forbid), or else our salvation is eternal.

6. By the new birth each child of God partakes of the divine nature.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE."—II Pet. 1:4.

When one is saved the nature of God is placed within. Would it be possible for God to die and for Divinity to have an end? We shrink at the thought. Until God might die, the believer will not die, as each believer has a nature like the nature of God. If the child of God has something of the nature of God then would not something of the nature of God be lost if the child of God is lost?

7. If the death we inherit from Adam is eternal, then the life we inherit from Christ is eternal.

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, EVEN SO MIGHTY grace reign through righteousness UNTO ETERNAL life by Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. 5:21.

Surely no one will deny that we are eternally dead in Adam. Cf. Eph. 2:1. "Even so" we are eternally alive and secure in Christ.

8. Each of the saved is hid with Christ in God.

"For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God."

—Col. 3:3.

We shall let a piece of paper one inch square represent my soul. The backs of my Bible represent God and the pages thereof represent Christ. I put the paper inside of my Bible and close it. I open it and turn the pages of the Book. The piece of paper is so small in comparison with the backs and pages that I can not find it. I am thus hid "with Christ in God." How, then, can Satan rob me of salvation?

9. Believers are sealed until the day of redemption.

"Who HATH ALSO SEALED US, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

—II Cor. 1:22.

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby YE ARE SEALED unto the day of redemption."

—Eph. 4:30.

The Holy Spirit Himself is the seal. We are securely kept by Him until "the day of redemption." The day of redemption is the time of Christ's second coming. Cf. Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:23. We are, therefore, eternally secure in Christ, for no one can reverse the sealing sealed by the King.

"And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose MIGHT NOT BE CHANGED concerning Daniel."—Dan. 6:17.

"Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, MAY NO MAN REVERSE."—Esther 8:8.

10. The covenant between God and Christ secures the righteous.

"Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of

LOVE

By CHARLES FRANCIS RICHARDSON

If suddenly upon the street
My gracious Saviour I should meet,
And He should say, "As I love thee,
What love hast thou to offer Me?"
Then what could this poor heart of mine
Dare offer to that heart divine?

His eye would pierce my outward show;
His thought my inmost thought would know;
And if I said, "I love Thee, Lord,"
He would not heed my spoken word,
Because my daily life would tell
If verily I loved Him well.

If on the day or in the place
Wherein He met me face to face
My life could show some kindness done,
Some purpose formed, some work begun
For His dear sake (then it were meet
Love's gift to lay at Jesus' feet.

the people. Also I will make him my first born, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him forevermore and my covenant shall stand fast with him. HIS SEED also will I make to ENDURE FOREVER, and his throne as the days of heaven. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my loving-kindness, WILL I NOT UTTERLY TAKE FROM HIM, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

—Psa. 89:19,27-34.

This covenant was made with Christ before the foundation of the world. When His children go astray, He promises chastisement and yet declares He will not withdraw His loving kindness nor suffer His faithfulness to fail.

11. The covenant between God and the righteous secures them.

"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I WILL NOT TURN AWAY FROM THEM, TO DO THEM GOOD; but I will put my fear in their hearts; that THEY SHALL NOT DEPART FROM ME."—Jer. 32:40.

In this covenant two ideas are noteworthy: God will not turn away from the righteous. The righteous shall not depart from God. Certainly this can mean nothing but the eternal and final security of the believer.

12. Christ's statement at the judgment.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

—Matt. 7:21-23.

Christ will say to the lost, "I never knew you." Yet the Scriptures emphatically declare that He intimately knows each believer:

"My sheep hear my voice, AND I KNOW THEM, and they follow me."—John 10:27.

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS."

—II Tim. 2:19.

Since the believer is known of Christ, if one should be lost, Christ would be proven a liar (I speak reverently) at the judgment, as there He will say to the damned, "I never knew you." Either we have eternal life when saved, or else Christ will tell a falsehood at the judgment!

13. The promises of Christ secure each believer.

"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."

—John 5:24.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT."—John 6:37.

"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.

"Who shall also confirm you UNTO THE END, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."—I Cor. 1:8.

"Being confident of this very thing that HE WHICH HATH BEGUN A GOOD WORK in you WILL FINISH IT until the day of Jesus Christ."—Phil. 1:6.

All these are promises concerning the believer's security. If a believer, through sinning, could perish, then God's promises would be valueless. If the promises are valueless, then the whole Bible is valueless and Christ, God, the Holy Spirit, and Christianity are valueless. If one fails, all must fail. However, we prefer to "let God be true, but every man a liar," (Rom. 3:4) for—

"He has never broken any promise spoken, And will keep His promise to me."

14. He promises eternal life to His sheep.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 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 10:27-29.

Every saved believer is one of God's sheep. Christ Himself is the Shepherd. No sheep can ever stray so far, but that the Good Shepherd will bring him home again.

"And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors saying unto them, Rejoice with me: FOR I HAVE FOUND MY SHEEP WHICH WAS LOST."

—Luke 15:5,6.

God's dear sheep may fall into the mouth of the roaring lion, even Satan (I Pet. 5:8), but the Shepherd will deliver therefrom. (I Sam. 17:34,35).

15. When a believer is saved, he possesses eternal life.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath EVERLASTING LIFE."

—John 6:47.

"And this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

—John 17:3.

"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."—John 5:24.

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me SHALL NEVER DIE."—John 11:26.

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us ETERNAL LIFE, and this life is in his Son. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

—I John 5:11,13.

The life Christ gives us is eternal — never ending. Forty-three times in the New Testament "everlasting" qualifies the life we receive when we receive Christ. Then it is a 43-0 hope that the believer is eternally secure. In Mt. 25:46, "everlasting" describes the punishment of the wicked. In Rom. 16:26 "everlasting" describes the character of God's existence. In II Tim. 2:10, "everlasting" describes the duration of Christ in glory. In II Pet. 1:11, "everlasting" describes the duration of Christ's kingdom. Then as long as the wicked are punished, as long as God exists, and as long as Christ's glory exists, and as long as Christ's kingdom continues, just that long the believer has eternal life. If the punishment of the wicked can have an end, if God can have an end, and if Christ's glory and Kingdom have an end, then the believer can perish. In view of this shall we not write in letters of gold across the heavens, that all may read: ETERNAL SALVATION!

16. All things work together for the good of the believer.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."—Rom. 8:28.

The truth of this comforting statement demands that our salvation be eternal, for this could never be true if a believer could lose his salvation.

17. Christ becomes the believer's surety.

"By so much was Jesus made a SURETY of a better testament. WHEREFORE he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to MAKE INTERCESSION for them."

—Heb. 7:22,25.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an ADVOCATE with the Father. Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

—I John 2:1,2.

Christ's work in Heaven today is that of intercession. He is the lawyer who represents each believer at the bar of God's supreme court. I have a dear friend, who is a lawyer. Suppose I violate some traffic ordinance. I ask him to appear in my behalf in the court. He does not plead the mercy of the court, nor does he ask leniency that I am a preacher. He simply pleads "guilty" to the charge and pays the fine that I may go free. In the court of Heaven, I am charged with innumerable offenses by Satan. (Rev. 12:10). The Son of God is my lawyer. (Heb. 9:24). He does not ask the Father to be merciful, nor does He plead the weakness of my flesh. He is there to plead "guilty" on my behalf, and to pay for my sin with His blood:

"He is the propitiation (sacrifice for our sins)."—I John 2:2.

Hallelujah! for such a Saviour!

18. God promises never to forsake His saints.

"Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt PRESERVE THEM from this generation forever."

—Psa. 12:7.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he SHALL NOT BE UTTERLY CAST DOWN, for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil and do good; and dwell forever more. For the Lord loveth judgment and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

—Psa. 37:23-28.
"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he PRESERVETH THE SOULS of his saints; he DELIVERETH THEM out of the hand of the wicked."

—Psa. 97:10.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body BE PRESERVED BLAMELESS unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that called you, WHO ALSO WILL DO IT."—I Thess. 5:23-24.

"And the Lord shall DELIVER ME from every evil work, and WILL PRESERVE me unto his heavenly kingdom."—II Tim. 4:18.

The saints are God's believing children. These He promises never to forsake. Since God is continually present with the believer, the believer is eternally secure with God.

19. Christ's blood cleanses from all sin.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."—Col. 1:14.

"But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN."—I John 1:7.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."—Titus 2:14.

Christ died as a substitute for every believer. His death paid for all sin. His blood cleanses from ALL sin (past, present, and future).

By His death Christ suffered for every sin of each believer. If a believer through sinning, could perish, then the believer would suffer for the same sins, which Christ has already suffered for. Both the believer and Christ would be paying for the same sins, and God, to punish two persons for the sins of one, would be the most unjust tyrant of the universe. Perish the thought! Our God is just; yea, above all, He is merciful!

20. The righteous are secure, because of Christ's prayer.

"I pray for THEM; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee Holy Father, KEEP through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I KEPT THEM in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled; I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from evil. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also WHICH SHALL BELIEVE on me through their word; Father, I WILL that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

—John 17:9,11,12,15,20,24.

This prayer, breathed by Christ, 2,000 years before all present believers were born, secures us eternally with God.

21. The meaning of redemption.

"But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, TO REDEEM them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The Greek word for redeem used in Gal. 4:4,5, "ex-agerazo," means to "buy out of the market," so that the redeemed are never again to be exposed for sale. Thank Heaven, when Jesus has brought a slave of Satan, the Devil will never again be permitted to even bid for that one, for the redeemed of God is never again to be put up for sale. Hallelujah!

(Continued on page seven)

AMERICA NEEDS A KNEELING, AS WELL AS A STANDING ARMY



Christmas

(Continued from page one)
this from the Catholic encyclopedia for yourself, since the Catholic church has had a great deal to do with handing this down to us. You would see all the disagreements that had to be ironed out in changing this day from a heathen festival to a Christian holiday. The birth of Christ has been celebrated April 5, December 26, etc. In fact there are so many days that have been used at different times that one writer says that every month of the year has been used and proof offered to prove that that was the date of the birth of Christ.

I'd like to read from "Anniversaries and Holidays" by Hazel-tine, p. 162—"Christmas, originally 'Christes Masse' . . . The date of Christ's birth is not known . . . in the 4th century Pope Julius established December 25 . . . The selection of that day was due largely to the fact it coincided with that of the greatest pagan festivals which celebrated the winter solstice—the birthday of the new sun about to return to the earth."

Origin Of Christmas

Now regarding the origin of Christmas. They chose to set apart December 25 as the holiday commemorating the birth of Christ. As I go into this and think of the various stories connected with this, and some of them conflicting stories, I am reminded again that every good gift that God has had for His people, Satan has always had a substitute all prepared to try to keep men from accepting what God would offer them.

Now let us go back into history, prior to the birth of Christ. We go to the history of the city of Ninevah—part is history and part is tradition, but history bears out the fact that the founder of Ninevah was a great ruler and his wife, Semiramis actually overshadowed him in power and rulership. After his death she took over the rulership, and her conquests were greater than his. If you look up her name in the encyclopedia you get a great deal of interesting information about her. She was a great historical character, but much about her life is mythical. She was a great leader when it came to establishing things and putting up highways over the

mountains and doing things for her people, so that she attracted a great following and had the respect of the people.

After her husband had been dead for some time there was born to her a son. She claimed that her husband had become the sun god and that his spirit had come back and shadowed her and hence the miraculous birth of Tammuz or Adonis, her son. Adonis was the Egyptian name for Tammuz. This story was taken up by her followers and broadcast throughout the land that this son, Tammuz was a supernatural son of his father, who was now the sun god. Now his birth was reputed to have come about December 24. Some said December 23, some December 22, and some December 25, and some December 24. But it was at that time of year commonly called the winter solstice.

Now this boy, according to the popular belief of that time, was the son of the sun god and had a miraculous birth, then add to that the fact that this was the time of the year when the days became longer and you can see the whole story. Remember also that Baal worship—the worship of the sun—existed at that time. The sun was god.

I want you to see, friends, in all this the counterfeit in advance of the virgin birth of Christ. I want you to see how Satan had anticipated the birth of Jesus. Satan himself planned all this doctrine so that when Jesus actually did come according to the prophecy of Isaiah, immediately individuals would be tempted to discount it and say, "Oh, yes, it is just the same doctrine and the same story as that of Semiramis and Tammuz." And so Satan had it all planned. He had a heathenish doctrine all worked out, and then when Christ came to earth with a truly miraculous birth, it would bear little weight and be called another deception. So Satan had it all planned.

Scripture Silent

There is not one word in the New Testament, or anywhere in the Bible, telling us to observe Christmas. The Christians of the first century, under the inspired teachings of Peter, and Paul, and the apostles, never observed it. There is no Bible authority for its observance, strange as it may seem.

I would like to read again from the Catholic Encyclopedia, under the caption CHRISTMAS. "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church . . . the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt . . . Pagan customs, centering around the January cal-

ends, gravitated to Christmas." And, further, we find this truth acknowledged: "In the Scripture, sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday."

Encyclopedia Britannica has this: "Christmas (i.e., the Mass of Christ). Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church." It was not instituted by Christ or the apostles, or by Bible authority—it was picked up afterward from paganism.

The Encyclopedia Americana says: "Christmas. It was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons, rather than their birth" (The Lord's Supper), which is instituted by New Testament Bible authority, is a memorial of the Death of Christ. "A feast was established in memory of this event (Christ's birth) in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

Now notice! These recognized historic authorities show Christmas was not observed by Christians for the first two or three hundred years—a period longer than the entire history of the United States as a nation! It got into the Western, or Roman church, by the Fourth Century A. D. It was not until the Fifth Century the Roman church ordered it to be celebrated as an official "Christian" festival!

Heathen Relics

There are a great many things that come in in connection with the celebration of Christmas. For instance the Christmas tree and the decorations. This text in Jer. 10:2-4 is interesting in this connection and I would like to read it here: "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." This sounds like the decorating of a Christmas tree, doesn't it? What does history tell us is the origin of the Christmas tree and its decorations? Let me read from the "World Book" on Christmas: "The giving of presents, the use of holly, mistletoe, Yule logs have all descended from the days of Paganism . . . When the pagans

of northern Europe became Christians they made their sacred evergreen trees a part of the Christian festival and decorated the trees with gilt, nuts and apples in admiration of the stars." Another writer makes the statement that these various worshippers worshipped the stars and planets and they colored these decorations on the trees to typify the planets and the stars and then hung them on the tree, representing the planets' motion around the sun. The text in Jeremiah brought out the same idea — be not dismayed at the signs of the heavens, the planets and the stars, for the heathen are dismayed at them. They couldn't understand them as they worshipped them.

The custom of having the tree came in because so many of those old religions honored the tree in their worship. In Egypt the palm tree was honored and signified the year because it was supposed to develop one new leaf each month. When the tradition came in amongst the Anglo-Saxons they transferred the sanctity to the fir and the evergreen trees, pointing heavenward and because it never dies.

There is something also that we should consider about mistletoe, because it is used in connection with the Christmas season. In the old Anglo-Saxon time they made their way into the woods and would cut off some of the mistletoe, and it was brought back with a great deal of solemnity and was supposed to protect those who took any of it and it would bring great happiness to them. The use of holly came in also. This also has a heathen origin in the sense that it was called the holy plant and then later called the holly plant. The little fruit was added because at that time the plant did not have the little red fruit, and the worshippers tried to add to its beauty by the adding of red berries. It seems that the whole intent of tree and floral decorations dates back to the use of trees in connection with the worship of their pagan gods. Over and over the Bible refers to Israel going into idolatry and worshipping in the groves, and when a reform was brought in, these groves were ordered cut down. The Anglo-Saxon worshipped Saturn, and their worship was carried on underneath the trees. They would build up a great booth and there would worship the god of Saturn. So the tree found its way into the English and German celebration in honor of Christmas.

Santa Claus

Now what about Santa Claus? How did that come about? It is something that we have always talked about, but where did it come from? This statement is taken from Holidays and their Customs, p. 453 (By Eichler)—"Santa Claus coming down the chimney seems to come from the English custom of sweeping the chimney clean each New Years." There is something else that I should bring in here and that is that New Years and Christmas are identical in their origin. It was a custom, as a matter of good luck, to sweep out the chimney and Santa Claus came down the chimney.

And so there we have the history of Santa Claus. There is a great deal in old writings regarding St. Nicholas. He was always surprising people and giving good gifts to them. There is one story that is told, just for an example I give it here, of three virgins who were unable to get married. They were orphans and therefore they had no dowry money. So St. Nicholas heard about this and one time as they were in their room mourning about this, he came flying along and threw in three bags of money and they were married and lived happily ever after.

Traditions vs. Scripture

The real origin of Christmas goes back to the ancient Babylon. It is bound up in the organized apostasy with which Satan has gripped a deceived world these many centuries! In Egypt, it has always been believed the son of Isis (Egyptian name for "Queen of Heaven") was born December

25th. Paganism celebrated this famous birthday over most of the known world for centuries before the birth of Christ.

December 25th is not the birthday of Jesus, the true Christ! The apostles and the early true church never celebrated Christ's birthday at any time. There is no command or instruction to celebrate it in the Bible—rather, the celebrating of birthdays is a heathen, not a Christian custom, believe it or not!

The Bible condemns the observance of days, months, and seasons. "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."—Gal. 4:10,11;

An Abomination To God

Christmas is boosted by the commercial world. It is the greatest money-making season of the year. Professed Christian business men look forward to the Christmas season, not for the sake of Christ, but for the sake of financial gain.

Quoting from the press of November, 1952, "Americans are going on the biggest buying spree in history this Christmas season, surveys throughout the nation reveal. Storekeepers, the land over are looking forward to the greatest Yuletide business they ever had."

Christmas is an abomination in the sight of the Lord. "And he (Jesus) said unto them (the Pharisees), Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."—Luke 16:15. This latter statement is true regardless of who is being addressed. Just what did Christ name in this verse as being "abomination?" "That which" means, "Anything which." Then anything which men highly esteem is abomination. Men esteem Christmas more highly than almost anything else. It is the only thing requiring a two-week holiday in schools over the nation. Business houses that never close any other time of the year, close for Christmas. It is the only time of the year that some people will give a gift; the only time some people get drunk; the only time many firms will give employees a bonus. Many large stores have a "Christmas Saving Fund" for customers. Immediately after Christmas, customers begin depositing money into these saving accounts, to assure them, not of grocery or doctor bills, but to assure them of spending money for the next Christmas. Preparations are made further in advance for Christmas than for any other large event. Christmas is so highly esteemed among men that according to the press of November 13, 1948, "Last December retail sales reached a staggering total of \$12,641,000,000," and "they expect sales to reach about \$14,000,000,000" this December.

Since Christmas is so highly esteemed among men, it is definitely included in the abomination spoken of by Christ.

Flesh Gratifying

Christmas time is a time of great revelling and the gratifying of the flesh. We are told in Rom. 13:14, "Make not provision for the flesh," yet much provision is made for the flesh in the Christmas season. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."—Gal. 5:24. Peter said, "Abstain from fleshly lusts."—I Peter 2:11. "Abstain from all appearance of evil."—I Thess. 5:22.

The question may be asked, "But what harm is there in telling the children of Santa Claus, or in having a tree for them?" Soberly and honestly consider: "Santa Claus," a mere myth, a fable having its origin in Roman Catholicism, that wicked, idolatrous system, be owned of God? Or is it unquestionably a thing of the religious and secular world? If it is (as no honest Christian can deny), how then can you, a blood-washed child of the living God, dare to associate the birth of His beloved Son with an idol of Catholicism and a god of this

(Continued on page five)

Have You Learned To Care For Your Own Vineyard?

By JAMES H. SIMS
Evansville, Indiana

"... they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept."—Song of Solomon 1:6.

Most of us, whether Christians or not, will have to admit with the Bride in Solomon's Song that we have not kept our own vineyards very well. This text points up one of the most pressing needs of our day—the need of tending to our own spiritual affairs.



ELD. JAMES H. SIMS

Ed. Note: Here is an unusual article, written by an unusual man. Bro. Sims, as most of our readers know, was formerly pastor of the Temple Baptist Church of Evansville, Indiana. Having been led of God to tender his resignation there, and since he no longer has a regular pastorate, he is available for supply work, Bible Conferences, and Revival Meetings. Knowing him as I do, and believing him to be one of God's greatest men in the ministry today, I rejoice to urge our readers to keep him busy. He'll be a real blessing to any church that sits under his ministry. Not only for supply work or special services do I recommend him, but further if some church wants a good sound pastor, as the Holy Spirit may lead you, would I urge you to consider Bro. Sims very seriously.

The Song of Solomon is a love poem with a spiritual and a prophetic interpretation. As poetry, it ranks with the greatest in ancient literature, and as prophecy, it points forward to the day of rapture when the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, will return to take His Bride, the church, to His marriage supper of the Lamb in Heaven. There are also many passages in the poem that refer to this age of grace while the Bridegroom is away and the Bride (now the espoused virgin) is longing for His coming. Perhaps the primary application of this Scripture is to those churches today which are true New Testament Baptist churches and which, as Paul said to the Corinthian church, have been espoused as chaste virgins unto Christ. Note the text again: "... they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." Isn't that true of many churches today where so much time, money, effort, and energy are expended on "de-nominational" activities without sufficient care for the program and purity of the local church? Truly, many of our Baptist churches have become the keeper of everyone's vineyard but their own. May God grant that we may not get so involved in co-operative activities that there is no time left to devote to the spiritual welfare of the home church.

Sometimes even pastors get so engaged in denominational or other matters outside the home church until their churches suffer from spiritual malnutrition. They

are busily looking after everyone's vineyard but their own.

Though the primary application of this Scripture is to be made to the church, I want to apply it to individual lives — both to Christians and non-Christians. First, to Christians.

Are you a Christian? You are? Well, have you been taking care of your own vineyard or have you been so busy about other people's spiritual affairs that your own have been neglected? There is a volume to be written on this subject, but Christian friend, please consider three questions applied from this text to your own life.

First, are you doing church work for the approval you get from other Christians? If you are, this text fits you. "THEY made me the keeper of the vineyards." "THEY" should not be giving the orders or the approval to a Christian. Christ should be the captain and the commander of the child of God; the Christian should say "He made me" do this or that particular bit of church work... it was HIS leadership that I taught that Sunday School class... accepted that office as deacon, or choir director, or usher, or whatever else there may be that you're doing in the church. You know, we may well fear that 90 per cent of the "church work" done is done for the approval of man and not for the approval of God at all. The general run of church members will not hold an office or do any real amount of work unless they get a lot of "credit" and plenty of pats on the shoulder from the pastor. Some seem to think that the pastor's main occupation is to praise and congratulate them on every insignificant job or little of work that they do for the church. The fact is, if they are doing anything for the eyes of man, "verily they have their reward," Jesus said. We should look to the Lord only for our reward. It's surprising how many people get bitten by the "church work bug." They get repentant over their carelessness and slipshod way of serving God, they get revived in heart—in short, they get to the place where God can really use them as witnesses and soul-winners—and then the Devil comes along and tells them that what they need is an office in the church with a fancy title and lots of praise and recognition. If the emphasis in your service is "THEY" instead of "HE," pray that the Lord may help you to so straighten up your own spiritual house that you'll be willing to work for God's glory even if it brings criticism, abuse and unpopularity with men. Who called you to keep the particular vineyard you find yourself in — was it a call of God or of man? One day we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ and then we'll realize how much and how very important the difference between following our Lord and following man.

Second, are you taking on more work than you can do justice to? The Bride says, "they made me the keeper of the vineyards." That's plural — vineyards — more than one vineyard, and yet she admits that she is not even looking after her own. Of all my own shortcomings, this one is probably the most outstanding: I have always had a desire to do more than one person can possibly do. Do you have more irons in the fire than you can tend to? As a little boy, I would sometimes sit down to one of those bountiful meals my grandmother had prepared and, because everything looked so good, I would heap my plate high with everything in sight. My grandfather would look over at me and say, "Son, I'm afraid your eyes are bigger than your stomach." That's exactly the trouble with many Christians — but not most Christians. Most Christians have all too little vision and all too little zeal. But there are a few who have too much, and take on so many jobs that they can't fulfill them all. One business man

of our city has a sign displayed that puts what I'm trying to say in a nutshell: "Better do a little well than a great deal badly." Don't let yourself get shoved into the responsibility for too many vineyards; see to it that your own is kept up first.

Third, are you lax in your own personal spiritual life? "... they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." Perhaps you are a preacher, a teacher, a deacon, an usher, a musician in one of our Lord's churches. You are constantly ministering in some way to the spiritual needs of others—but what about yourself? How is it with your own vineyard? With your own heart? Do you have the full, overflowing joy of Christ within and the peace of God that keeps your heart and mind in Christ Jesus? Perhaps though all looks well outside, as the Almighty God looks down into your innermost spiritual vineyard today, He says in the words of Proverbs 24:30,31:

"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

If that is a picture of your state, you'd better begin to clean up, pull out the weeds, dig around the roots of the vines, do some pruning and make a productive vineyard out of your own life before you teach and advise others. Perhaps you have a Job but no Joy; you take study courses and win Seals but you don't win Souls; you get Credit in denominational headquarters but no Commendation from the Lord Jesus; you plod on and on in your Work, but there's no Weeping over the lost; you get what Pay man can give, but have no Peace in your heart; you have plenty of Enthusiasm for a man-made program, but there's no Enlightenment of the mind when you read God's Book; you have a Cool head about your work, but no direct Call of the Lord for it. I can tell you very quickly and briefly what you need, for I feel the need of it

GOING, GOING ... GONE

"FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?" — MATT. 16:26



myself: You need three things:

More meditation on the Word of God.

More prayer that you may find His will for your life.

More effort to walk in His way.

By the grace of God, by observing these three things, one day you can say, "the Lord has made me keeper of the vineyards, because, by His grace, I have demonstrated my ability to keep my own vineyard in order."

Now to you who are not saved... you need to be concerned about your spiritual welfare. This is the most important thing in the world for you. You may be very careful to keep your physical vineyard in apple-pie order. You see to it that your lawn, your car, your house (outside and in) are the neatest and best kept on the block. You're even careful to keep your mental vineyard in good order by keeping up with all the current events so that you can discuss educational, political, social and probably even religious news of the day. BUT... you are not giving any thought to the most important part of your being, your immortal soul. If you live an average life of 70 years, it will be spent as follows:

Three years in education, 8 years in amusements, 6 years at dinner tables, 5 years in travel, 4 years in conversation, 14 years in work, 3 years in reading, 24 years in sleeping, 3 years in sickness.

But if you went to a 45-minute religious service every Sunday and prayed for five minutes every morning and evening, you would devote only five months to God out of 70 years! And yet, what you do with respect to your spiritual life now decides your eternal destiny forever and forever.

There are only two destinations for the human soul—Heaven and Hell. When this brief life is over and your soul is separated from the body, what will be the destination of your soul? Jesus told a story of two men who died: one a rich man, the other a beggar. The beggar's soul went immediately to Paradise or Heaven; the rich man's soul went immediately to Hell and the terrible torments of

that place of the damned. There's only one way to escape Hell and be sure of Heaven, and that way is the Lord Jesus Christ. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."—Rom. 5:8,9. May God grant to you enabling grace to repent of sin and believe on Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin.

Christmas

(Continued from page four)
world? Oh, consider it well, and may the Spirit of God anoint your eyes with eye-salve that you may see the monstrous sin of it.

Do You Lie To Your Children?

Through the year, parents punish their children for telling falsehoods. Then, at Christmas time, they themselves tell their little children this "Santa Claus" lie! Is it any wonder many of them, when they grow up and learn the truth, begin to believe God is a myth, too?

Some will argue for the "keeping" of Christmas "on the ground of giving the kiddies a good time." But why do this under the cloak of honoring the Saviour's birth? Why is it necessary to drag in His holy name in connection with what takes place at that season of carnal jollification? Is this taking the little ones with you out of Egypt (Ex. 10:9,10) a type of the world, or is it not plainly a mingling with the present-day Egyptians in their "pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25)? Scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."—Prov. 22:6. Scripture does command God's people to bring up their children "in the

(Continued on page eight)

It's never too late to stop kicking because you don't have your own way.

Weigant Family Being Greatly Used Of God In Arkansas Ozarks

FINANCIAL REPORT OF TEMPLE BAPTIST MISSION, RUSSELVILLE, ARKANSAS

November 1, 1953 To October 31, 1954

DATE	GIVEN BY	AMOUNT
11- 4-53	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	\$ 12.00
11- 7-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
11-25-53	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	30.95
12-16-53	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
12-16-53	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	20.00
1-21-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
1-23-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	37.37
1-23-54	James Frederick, Texarkanna, Texas	14.40
2- 1-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	25.00
2- 8-54	Robert Weigant, USAF, Azores	10.00
2-25-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	17.00
3-12-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
3-24-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	10.00
3-29-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	16.00
3-31-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
4-11-54	Eld. John R. Gilpin, Russell, Ky.	10.00
4-11-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	21.26
5-10-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	13.50
5-10-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
6-10-54	Eld. Fred T. Halliman, New Hope Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.	19.35
6-10-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
6-17-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	13.00
7- 3-54	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.	19.00
7- 8-54	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Carmi, Ill.	10.00
7- 9-54	Eld. T. P. Simmons, Evansville, Ind.	5.00
	Also in March, Bro. Simmons visited us, preached in 3 high schools and Arkansas Tech., and donated \$10.00 to the work here	10.00
7-16-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
7-19-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	16.00
7-22-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	5.00
7-26-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	21.05
7-29-54	Eld. James H. Sims, Evansville, Ind. Bro. Sims came and preached a 10-day brush arbor meeting, paying own expense	56.90
8- 4-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	10.00
8- 6-54	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.	14.40
8- 6-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
8-13-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	14.00
8-23-54	Eld. John Hollowell, Henderson, Ky.	7.00
9- 1-54	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.	8.80
9- 2-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	7.00
9- 5-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	10.00
9- 8-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
9-13-54	Eld. James H. Sims, Evansville, Ind.	7.00
9-17-54	Southside Baptist Chapel, Henderson, Ky.	12.00
9-21-54	Jim Weigant, Jr., and wife, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
9-18-54	Hazel Weigant (working in laundry, donating income	10.00
9-22-54	Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	10.00
9-25-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	10.00
9-27-54	Eld. John Hollowell, Henderson, Ky.	6.00
10- 1-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	15.00
10- 1-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	11.00
10- 9-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	15.00
10-11-54	Jim Weigant, Jr., and wife, Chicago, Ill.	25.00
10-15-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	15.00
10-15-54	Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Marietta, Okla.	20.00
10-23-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	15.00
10-25-54	Mrs. Hattie Jones, Evansville, Ind.	1.00
10-26-54	Eld. James H. Sims, Evansville, Ind.	3.00
10-28-54	John Weigant, Evansville, Ind.	16.00
10-28-54	Mrs. Amelia Happe, Evansville, Ind.	5.00
10-28-54	Southside Baptist Chapel, Henderson, Ky.	5.00
10-29-54	New Hope Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.	12.61
10-29-54	Eld. John Hollowell, Henderson, Ky.	5.00
10-30-54	Hazel Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	15.00
10-30-54	Ronald Weigant, Russellville, Ark.	1.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIVED \$ 993.59
TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$1197.88

TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE YEAR \$ 204.29

OUTSTANDING DEBTS AS OF OCTOBER, 1954, AS FOLLOWS:

James Frederick, Texarkanna, Texas	\$ 125.00
GGM Grocery, Dover, Ark.	48.89
T. C. Campbell	15.00
Doctor Lane, Dover, Ark.	5.00
School Fees For Children	10.00

TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBTS \$ 204.29

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS PURCHASE OF MISSION PROPERTY

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Demming, Evansville, Ind.	\$ 50.00
Mr. Elwood Yokel, Evansville, Ind.	20.00
Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	75.00

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 145.00

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1- 1-54 Robt. Weigant donated 1948 Frazier automobile (now worn out).
- 1-13-54 Temple Baptist Church donated repairs on Frazier of about \$75.
- 1-18-54 Mrs. Hamner of Evansville donated box of clothing.
- 4-16-54 Bro. and Mrs. Charles Stobaugh collected and mailed five large boxes of clothing.
- 4-16-54 Eld. and Mrs. T. P. Simmons gave a large box of clothes and a new pair of shoes.
- 5-20-54 Jim Weigant, Jr., donated a new radio.
- 5-16-54 Angless Brandt, Evansville, gave two new dresses.
- 5-10-54 Eld. and Mrs. O. B. Salmon, Grayville, Ill., donated new clothes (complete outfits) for Mrs. Weigant and all the children from their drygoods store.
- 7- 9-54 Mr. and Mrs. Meador donated use of launderette in Russellville. Also a large pig to fatten for meat, and free milk delivered.
- 7-24-54 Large box of clothes from Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Gray, Tampa, Fla. Doctor Lane, Dover, Ark., has given us his medical services for the last two years. Mr. Page, postmaster at Dover donated the use of a house until September of this year. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins assisted in many ways: use of tractor, free lodging for visiting preachers, milk, and kind fellowship. God has a reward for each of His children laid up in Heaven. God bless you.

Out in the Arkansas Ozarks, pioneering, sacrificing, and suffering a little for the cause of Christ, is a remarkable Baptist missionary and his family—Eld. James B. Weigant, Sr.

Although I had heard from him, I never had the privilege of meeting him, until the missionary conference at Evansville in April of this year. I was indeed most deeply impressed by his devotion, consecration, and orthodoxy, and it is a joy to me to mention his work and to urge our readers to pray for him, and support him in his ministry. I wish that every reader would earnestly seek to have a part in supporting his work. The report of his work follows:

Dear Brothers and Sisters
Co-Workers in Christ Jesus:

As you know, we first came to the home mission field of the Ozark foothills two years ago. Many have been the joys and sorrows, the blessings and heartaches of our work here. We are so grateful to friends like you who have stood by us throughout all or part of this time, and we now want to report to you what God has done for us this past year.

We look to God for the supply of all our needs and we realize that He uses folk who love missions as His channel to bless us financially. We are thankful to all

ye did communicate with my affliction. Not because I desire a gift; but that I desire fruit that may abound to your account."—Phil. 4:13,14,17.

James B. Weigant Sr.

The following is a commendatory letter, written by Bro. James Sims, who knows Bro. Weigant intimately, and who has had much to do with establishing Bro. Weigant in the Truth.

Dear Friend of Baptist Missions:

I am taking the liberty of writing this letter without his knowledge in order to speak a word about Eld. James B. Weigant, Sr., his family, and the work he is doing for Christ and His church in the Ozark foothills near Russellville, Ark. I am asking Bro. Weigant to put aside any modesty or backwardness and to enclose this letter in mimeographed form with his annual report, although at this time he does not know of the contents of this letter.

Jim Weigant, his wife Hazel, and their children, first came to my attention before they were members of my church. I was impressed deeply, to see the mother and father and all the children on their way to services Sunday after Sunday. They were members of another denomination at

WORKING FAITHFULLY IN SPITE OF ALL DIFFICULTIES



ELD. JAMES WEIGANT

They live a consecrated, devoted, sacrificial life for the Lord. They will not compromise on even the "least commandments" of the Word. I wholeheartedly recommend the Weigant family as worthy of the support of every lover of Baptist home missions. I predict that strong churches will be the outcome of their efforts as God blesses them.

Sincerely,

James H. Sims
Founder of Tri-State Baptist Bible College

WHERE BRO. WEIGANT'S MISSION HOLDS SERVICES



CRIME RATE ON THE INCREASE

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover reported an 8.5 per cent rise in the national crime rate in the first six months of 1954 as compared with the same period in 1953.

If this trend continues, Hoover warned, major crimes will reach a record high in 1954.

Hoover reported 1,136,140 major crimes were committed in the first six months of 1954, an average of one major crime every 13.8 seconds. This represented an increase of 88,850 crimes, or 8.5 per cent, over the same period last year.

Each day during the first six months of the year, the report estimated, an average of 35 people were feloniously assaulted, 608 cars were stolen, 197 robberies were committed, and there were 1,454 burglaries. There was an average of 48 rapes.

The report estimated that crime of murder, manslaughter, rape, or assault to kill was committed every 4.3 seconds. Among the murders were those of 63 policemen, according to reports submitted.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

PAGE SIX

DECEMBER 18, 1954

"Security Of The Saved"

(Continued from page three)

22. Christ promises that the believer shall never thirst.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him SHALL NEVER THIRST."

—John 4:14.

Yet in Hell, one of the pangs of the damned is thirst.

"And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."—Luke 16:24.

If a believer is lost and goes to Hell, Christ is proven a liar, since He promises the believer shall never thirst. Again we say, either eternal life, or Christ is a falsifier.

23. The Lord will not charge the believer with sin.

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will NOT IMPUTE SIN (charge sin)."—Rom. 4:5-8.

When Christ died on the cross, God treated Christ just like the sinner ought to have been treated. When a believer is saved, God treats him like Christ ought to have been treated. Thus, our sins are imputed to Christ and Christ's righteousness is imputed to us. Because of this, no sin will be charged against the believer.

24. Links of the golden chain of God's purpose guarantees the security of the believer.

"Moreover, whom he did PRE-DESTINATE, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified and whom he justified, them he also GLORIFIED."—Rom. 8:30.

These are four indestructible links in this golden chain. Both ends of the chain are eternally fastened to the throne of God. As certainly as the believer is chosen in Christ before the world began, step by step the believer will advance to the stage of final perfection. Since it is true that whom He predestinates, He will eventually glorify, how could one of His elect ever be lost?

25. Rewards may be lost, but the soul remains secure.

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED: YET SO AS BY FIRE."—I Cor. 3:14,15.

Crime Wave

(Continued from page six)
ted by 3,721 cities representing a 1950 population of 87,423,339.

There has never been a time when there were so many laws on statute books, prohibiting the committing of crimes, as are in existence today; there never were so many law-enforcing agencies in operation, as there are today; and there were never as many up-to-the-minute scientific methods of detecting crimes, as are to be seen today, yet crimes are increasing at a frightful rate!

Truly, the "heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked"—Jer. 17:9, (or "incurably ill," as the margin renders it.)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
RUSSELL, KENTUCKY

The objector asks, "If one did sin and die in impenitence, would he be saved?" It is impossible to suppose any condition that will permit a child of God to be lost in Hell. The passage read tells us what will become of the erring child. His rewards will be lost, yet he will not be lost! His rewards will perish, but he shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

26. The sure foundation insures safety.

"Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, A SURE FOUNDATION: HE THAT BELIEVETH shall not make haste."—Isa. 28:16.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."—I Cor. 3:11.

A substantial foundation insures the safety of all concerned. No man can afford to build for eternity upon a defective foundation.

The Lord Jesus is the only foundation one can build upon with assurance.

"My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

In His sermon on the Mount, Christ refers to this foundation.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and IT FELL AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT."—Mt. 7:24-27.

When God reaches down and lifts a poor sinner from the pit, He places him upon a sure foundation, so that in the time of testing, he who is anchored to the Rock of Ages, can say, "In Jesus I'm safe evermore." Yea, all the combined forces of Hell and earth can not remove him. With sweet assurance, we triumphantly sing:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word;
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"In every condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,
At home or abroad, on the land, on the sea;
As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The river of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"E'en down to old age, all My people shall prove,
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.

HAVE A BOUQUET



WHEREAS ULTIMATELY: "CHRIST WHO HAS GONE INTO HEAVEN, AND IS ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD; ANGELS AND AUTHORITIES AND POWERS BEING MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM."

— I PET. 3:22

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho' all Hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

27. If a believer could perish, then the joy of Heaven is in vain.
"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."—Luke 15:10.

Here on this earth a poor sinner turns from his sins to Christ as a Saviour. Heaven above sees this transaction and is set rejoicing. Emotion stirs all the heavenly spectators. But this believer later sins enough (who could ever tell when he has crossed that line) to lose his salvation. Then Heaven has been mistaken, their joy has been premature. Can the omniscient God rejoice, if He foreknew that the repentant sinner could eventually perish in sin? How utterly inconceivable?

28. Nothing can separate a believer from Christ.

Twenty centuries ago Paul asked, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8:35). Shall Satan?

"But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that WICK-ED ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT."—I John 5:18.

Shall temptation?

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that YE MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT."—I Cor. 10:13.

Shall sin?

"For sin shall not have dominion over you."—Rom. 6:14.

Shall the law?

"For ye are not under the law, but UNDER GRACE."—Rom. 6:14.

Shall the world?

"For whatsoever is born of God OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE

WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH."

—I John 5:4.

Shall the believer?

"THEY SHALL NOT DEPART FROM ME."—Jer. 32:40.

As it was impossible for Noah to leave the ark after God had shut him in, so it is impossible for the believer to leave Christ. Someone asks, "Cannot a believer crawl off the Rock of Ages?" Beloved, where is the child of God who wants to crawl off the Rock of Ages? But listen, Paul mentions ten agencies and agents, including the powers of Heaven, earth and Hell, which he declares are unable to separate the believer from God.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? SHALL TRIBULATION, DISTRESS, PERSECUTION, FAMINE, NAKEDNESS, PERIL, OR SWORD? AS IT IS WRITTEN, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither DEATH, nor LIFE, nor ANGELS, nor PRINCIPALITIES, nor POWERS, nor THINGS PRESENT, nor THINGS TO COME, nor HEIGHT, nor DEPTH, nor ANY OTHER CREATURE, shall be able to SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, which is in CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD."—Rom. 8:35-39.

Years ago, at Leicester, England, there was a strike. Property was demolished and homes were ruined in the riot. In one home a lad was playing on the first floor, while his big brother was mending shoes upstairs. Fearing the rioters would break the door down, he stepped to the ladder and called: "Tom, Tom, they are going to smash the door open; make haste and come down." The big brother, a strong, well-built man, put his burly back to the door, while the younger boy went on about his play. Sometimes the Devil comes to this house of mine, and when I fear, lest he take me by force, I rush to the foot of the ascension ladder and cry: "Christ, Christ, make haste and come

down: the Devil is about to get me." Like lightning He places Himself at the door of my heart, and there are not enough Devils in all Hell to break the door open, with my "elder brother" standing there.

The Seven Divine Freedoms Available To All God's Children

At his White House desk, President Eisenhower recently signed a Declaration of Freedom drawn up by the fundamentalist National Association of Evangelicals and based on "seven divine freedoms" found in the 23rd Psalm. The seven:

Freedom from Want: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Freedom from Hunger: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."

Freedom from Thirst: "He leadeth me beside the still waters."

Freedom from Sin: "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Freedom from Fear: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Freedom from Enemies: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

Freedom to Live Abundantly: "Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

By making an errand to God for others, you'll never fail to get something for yourself.

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I Should Like To Know

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To vote on two at once is just as Scriptural as to vote on each one separately. However it would be unwise for the pastor to take the vote in this manner if there is any ground for any member of the church to question the credibility of either profession.

6. Can II Peter 3:9 be applied to the lost sinner?

Yes, it does apply to all lost sinners whom God has purposed to save, but not to lost sinners in general. Some would make "willing" in this verse refer to God's will of pleasure in distinction from His will of purpose. But withholding the return of Christ is not an act of mercy toward sinners in general, for every day the number of accountable sinners is being increased. A withholding of Christ's return is only increasing the population of Hell. Thus it is certain that God's "longsuffering" here is sovereign and has to do with His unwillingness that any of His chosen should fail to come to Christ and be saved before Christ comes to judge the world.

7. What is meant by "that which is perfect" in I Cor. 13:10?

These words refer to the perfection that will characterize the glorified state of believers.

8. Is there any record in the Bible where any one was ever saved without hearing the gospel by man?

There is no such record, except that the first man to be saved (whether it was Adam or some other) must necessarily have received a divine revelation that was independent of human testimony. Since the salvation of that first one, God's rule as been as stated in Rom. 10:13,14.

9. If there is not such a record, where do some get the doctrine that a man can be saved without hearing?

They get it out of their own perverted thinking. The notion that a man can be saved today without hearing the gospel is unmistakably contrary to Rom. 10:13,14.

10. We have been told that associations in the Scripture are as Scriptural as the new birth. Is this so?

All that can be said on this matter is that we have Scriptural precedent for churches conferring together on matters of mutual interest. Acts 15. We also have Scriptural precedent for churches uniting in a common undertaking such as the sending of the offering to relieve the needy in Jerusalem, about which we read so much in Paul's second Corinthian letter. This is not to say that a sound church must or should belong to an association. It is conceivable, however, that a group of sound churches can have an association within the scope of New Testament teachings, but the majority of associations today are unsound in doctrine and practice or are mere cogs in an apostate denominational machine. Where there are those that are not such as this and are sound in doctrine and practice and that leave churches free to follow Jesus Christ, their head, and the Holy Spirit, God's vicegerent, then a church can affiliate with them without violating any Scripture.

11. We believe that God, according to His own free grace, chose a number to be conformed to the image of His Son; and that this number, no more and not one less, will be saved. We believe the means were also given, whereby a man must hear and believe. We believe also that all those who do not hear the Word of God are lost. And as far as I know, I am the only preacher in this country for miles around that believes this. ARE WE RIGHT?

Brother, you are absolutely, happily, and gloriously right. Stay right in there and sow the coun-

try down with the seed of truth. God, in His own time, will give the harvest.

12. We believe in a local, independent church having Jesus as its head and the Spirit as its guide. ARE WE RIGHT?

Again you are one hundred per cent right. Stand by your convictions and die, if necessary, rather than compromise them.

13. What did God mean in Gen. 22:12 by the phrase "now I know?" Some here use this to prove that God did not know all things from the beginning.

The phrase in question is an anthropomorphism—the representation of God as a man. The Scripture abounds with anthropomorphisms. See a recent issue of this paper in which anthropomorphisms were discussed in answer to another question. On the other hand, we are taught emphatically that God has known all things from the beginning. See I Sam. 2:3; Psa. 94:10; Prov. 3:19,20; Isa. 46:10; John 21:17; Rom. 8:28; Acts 15:18; Eph. 1:11; I John 3:20. If God did not have perfect knowledge of all things from the beginning, then the following logical deductions would necessarily follow: (1) He was not omniscient. (2) He was not infinite. (3) He was not perfect. (4) He could not guarantee His own immutability. (5) He could not declare the end from the beginning as we are told He does in Isa. 46:10. (6) He could not have inspired the prophets to utter prophecy, for He could never know that something unknown to Him would not make it impossible for Him to bring about the fulfillment. (7) He could not make us the promise of Rom. 8:28. (8) He could not work all things after the counsel of His own will, as we are told He does in Eph. 1:11.

It is indeed a pity, that humanly speaking, that the ministry must be afflicted with men who deny the eternal omniscience of God. And it is a greater pity that we have schools that teach men to deny this. Such men are really spiritual ignoramuses. They do not know the first letter of sound Bible doctrine. Humanly speaking, it is a pity that we cannot protect the churches from these religious charlatans.

14. Is it wrong to have a television?

If one considers it wrong, then for him it is wrong. Rom. 14:20. Otherwise it is no more wrong to have a television than it is to have an automobile or a house. All of these things can be used for the glory of God or they can be used for the Devil. The question of right or wrong in connection with television, generally speaking, depends upon the use that is made of it and the effect that it has upon the individual. Television will always pose at least two problems for the conscientious Christian: (1) What programs he can see without spiritual injury. (2) How much time he should spend watching TV. Beyond this there is the question of objectionable advertising. Some conscientious Christians may decide after having a television for a while that they prefer not to have one.

15. Please explain Rom. 5:19. I understand "many be made righteous," but I thought all (not many) were made sinners."

"Many" in the first clause of the passage does not mean less than all (as the preceding verse shows); it is used simply in contrast with "one man's disobedience."

16. Can a group of Christians band together with an unordained preacher and organize a Scriptural church?

Yes. The Scriptures do not give details of how churches are to be established. All that is necessary to have a church, is to have a band of Scripturally baptized believers, basically sound in doctrine, united under the headship of Christ for the purpose of carrying out the great commission. However the question of good order and expediency enters in. A church will want to be recognized by other sound churches. Hence it is usually better wherever practicable to invite a group of sound

Creation

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not involve the necessity of other beings having fallen into sin, nor would it involve Christ going to other planets to die, as is sillily assumed by some. When men have been allowed to look into Heaven (Isaiah and John and Ezekiel for instance) they have seen other intelligent beings who were not human. Take for instance Ezekiel's "wheels" that had "eyes." Or John's vision of the "living creatures." High up government officials have recently expressed the opinion that "flying saucers" are from other planets. The hundreds of sightings of "saucers" preclude their being imaginary, and their speed is beyond any air craft known to human science.

How Did God Create The World?

The Bible answers by saying that He did it by divine fiat—by speaking the word. (See Psa. 33:9). "He spake and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast." See also Heb. 11: where it is said, "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by THE WORD OF GOD, so that things that are seen, were not made of things which do appear."

And beyond our understanding as to the details, we are told that God the Son was the active agent in creation, for "all things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made."—John 1:1. Of similar import is Coloss. 1:15-17. Further than this, we are told that "By him all things consist." The better translation goes like this, "By him all things cohere (hold together)." That simply means that Christ Jesus is the present SUSTAINER of the universe.

How Did God Create Man?

The world's popular theory is that God did it through an evolutionary process lasting over millions of years. Some don't even assume that God had a hand in it—it just happened! Now if God had revealed that this was how He brought man forth, it would be alright, but HE HAS REVEALED TO THE CONTRARY. In Genesis He reveals to us that man was created as a SPECIAL CREATION, and that he was made IMMEDIATELY. The female of the species, far from being an evolutionary development, was formed from the body of man. (Gen. 2:7 and 21-22). Not only that, Genesis teaches that ANIMALS DID NOT EVOLVE. God made the different species and erected a boundary between them, such that one species does not evolve into another. Note Gen. 1:24-25 which states that animals were made "after their kind." Man, as set forth in verse 26, is after a different order. He is made in the "image and likeness of God," and instead of having the "blood of the brute" has the "breath of the Almighty."

Why Do Men Want To Believe In Evolution?

The answer is found in Rom. 1:28, which says that men "do not like to retain God in their knowledge." Lost mankind, under Satanic leading is in revolt against God, and is willing to resort to any absurdity in the attempt to explain God away. Evolution is merely, "MAN'S BEST GUESS WITHOUT GOD!"

preachers to come in and direct the organization.

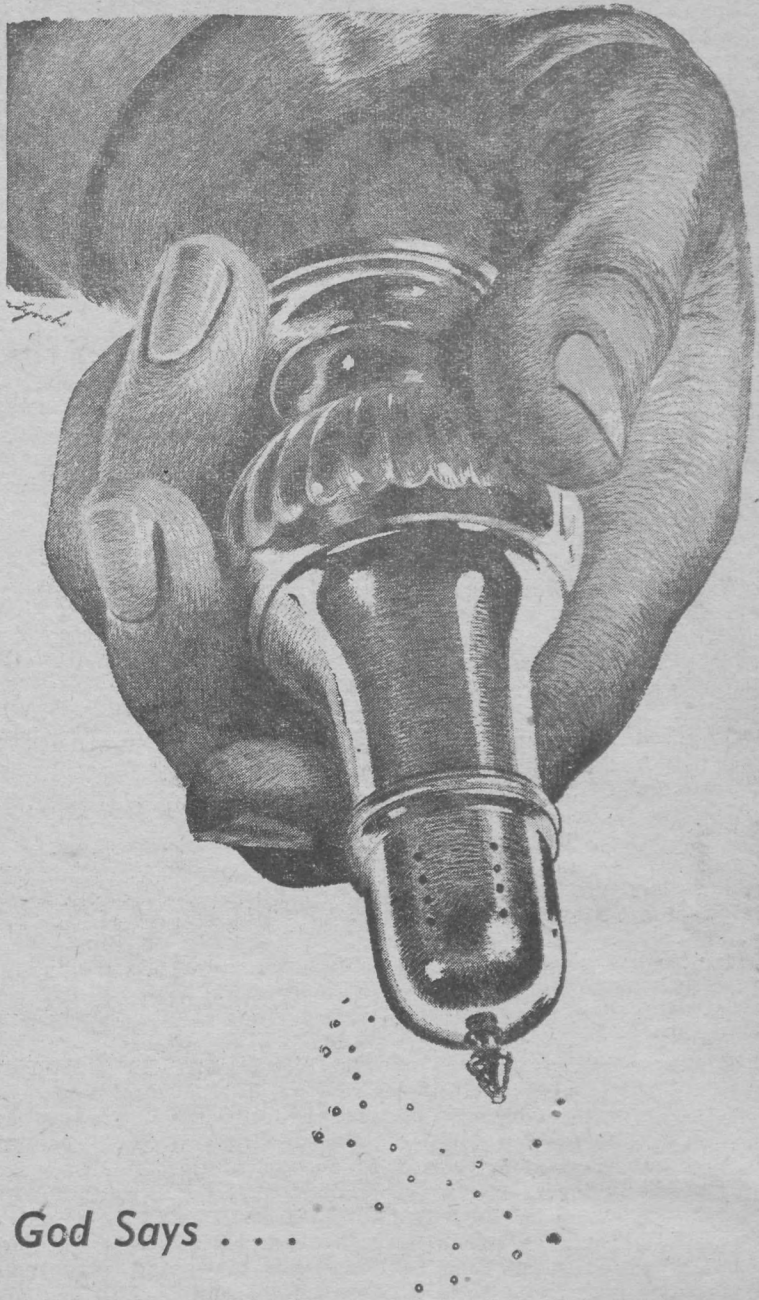
17. Should a person tithe his gross income or his net income after withholding taxes have been taken out?

One should tithe his gross income before withholding taxes have been taken out. These taxes are just as much a part of our personal expenses as a grocery bill, and personal expenses are never to be deducted first.

18. If an unsaved man is received into a Baptist church by alien immersion and later is ordained to preach, and still later is baptized Scripturally after being saved:

(1) Is his ordination valid if it

THE WORLD SAYS, "BETTER SALT SOME AWAY"



God Says . . .

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."—Mt. 6:19-21.

occurred before he was saved?

The answer is, no.

(2) Is his ordination valid if it occurred after he was saved but prior to his Scriptural baptism?

The answer again is, no. A presbytery that will ordain a man without Scriptural baptism is either unsound or very careless in questioning the candidate. The preservation of good order demands a new ordination. If the former presbytery forgot to question the candidate on what it takes to make up Scriptural baptism, they probably forgot to question him on other important things.

Christmas

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nurture and adomination of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), but where does it stipulate that it is our duty to give the little ones a "good time?" Do we ever give the children a "good time" when we engage in anything upon which we cannot fittingly ask the Lord's blessing?

Xmas Cards, An Abomination

What about sending out "Christmas cards" with a text of Scripture on them? That also is an abomination in the sight of God. Why? Because His Word expressly forbids all unholy mixtures; Deut. 22:10,11 typified this. What do we mean by an "unholy mixture?" This: the linking together of the pure Word of God with the Romanish "Christ-mass." By all means send cards (preferably at some other time of the year) to your ungodly friends, and Christians too, with a verse of Scripture, but not with "Christmas" on it. What would you think of a printed program of a vaudeville having Isa. 53:5 at the foot of it? Why, that would be altogether out of place, highly incongruous. But in the sight of God the circus and the theatre are far less obnoxious than the "Christmas celebration" of Romish and Protest-

ant "churches." Why? Because the latter are done under the cover of the holy name of Christ; the former are not.

Merry Making And Gifts

But when it comes to the most important part of all, in this Christmas observance, the Christmas shopping season—the buying and exchanging of gifts—many will exclaim triumphantly, "Well, at least the Bible tells us to do that! Didn't the wise men give gifts, when Christ was born?"

The wise men gave their gifts to Jesus; not to one another, and even this did not happen on the birthday of Jesus. So there is no connection between Christmas and the birthday of Jesus in this respect.

But what are we to do? If we fail to send out gifts, our friends will think hard of us, probably deem us stingy and miserly. The honest course is to go to the trouble of notifying them—by letter if at a distance—that from now on you do not propose to send out any more "Christmas gifts" as such. Give your reasons. State plainly that you have been brought to see that "Christmas merry-making" is entirely a thing of the world, devoid of any Scriptural warrant; that it is a Romish institution, and that now you see this, you dare no longer have any fellowship with it (Eph. 5:11); that you are now the Lord's "free man" (I Cor. 7:22), and therefore you refuse to be in bondage to a costly custom imposed by the world.

Let us as born again Christians use our money this season of the year, not for foolish and unnecessary presents, but to spread the Gospel message to a lost and dying world.

Oh, Christian, I beseech you, turn from the world and its holy days, touch not the unclean thing; associate not the birth of the Holy Son of God with the fables of the world and apostate Christendom. Hear His pleading voice, "Be ye separate, O my people."