

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 8:29.

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There Is A God In Heaven

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

There are many avowed Atheists in the world—people who utterly deny that there is a God. There is a society for the advancement of atheism in this country. In one big university there was (and perhaps is) a "Society Of The Damned" composed of students who had repudiated all belief in God. One great nation, Russia, is officially and avowedly atheistic. Then in addition to this, there are many who call themselves "Agnostics." They don't positively know that there isn't any God—they just don't know, so they say.

Just how well founded is our belief in God? Many accept the belief traditionally. If you were

asked to tell WHY you believe in God, what sort of an answer would you give? Suppose we note some definite reasons for believing in God.

1. The most glaring reason is the fact of creation. "If there is no God," said Napoleon to his atheistic field marshals, "then who made those things?" As he said that, he pointed to the starry heavens. They had no answer. Creation demands a Creator. Creation is an effect—there has to be a cause.

2. The prophetic Scriptures prove the existence of God. In

hundreds of instances the prophecies of the Bible have been accurately fulfilled. For instance, on the day of the crucifixion, about 50 prophecies relating to Christ were fulfilled. This proves the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, and reveals that there is a great Governor in charge of the world. Since the Scriptures are proven to be true by fulfilled prophecy, they are likewise proven authentic, and they reveal the existence of God.

3. The universality of belief in God argues for His existence. All races of men have had a belief in some kind of a god. This shows that there is something ingrained (Continued on page five)

1. Since the Jerusalem church had gone a long time without deacons, what was the occasion for their election?

The work became so heavy on the twelve preachers that they could not look after all the widows. These widows were largely women whose husbands had kicked them out because they were Baptists—followers of the Lord Jesus. No job was open to them. They were boycotted by everybody in Jerusalem except the Baptists. The church had to feed them and take care of them. They had to be visited and looked after every day. Seven were chosen—all men, no women. The Greek speaking women complained that the Apostles were neglecting them. All seven men elected were from that class. They all had Grecian names. That was wise and tactful. They were elected by the church—not appointed by a bishop.

2. What are the qualifications for Deacons?

No man was elected because of prominence and position. There were just three qualifications. First, of honest report. No man who isn't a tither is fit for a deacon. A man who does not tithe

is not honest. He is a robber. The Bible says so, Mal. 3:8-10. A deacon ought not to be close and stingy. If he is of "honest report," he will be liberal toward all of God's work. If not, he isn't fit to be a deacon. This is a most important qualification.

Second, a deacon ought to be Spirit-filled. No worldly man is fit for a deacon. Deacons ought to be men of prayer, of faith, of vision, consecrated men.

Third, deacons ought to be wise men; honest men because they handle money; filled with the Spirit because the widows and poor whom they visit will need the comfort that spiritual men can give; wise men, capable of giving advice about the temporal affairs of the church. I Tim. 3 gives more of the personal and family qualifications of deacons.

3. What are the duties of Deacons?

Negatively—

(1) They are not ruling elders. Most Baptist deacons today are more like Campbellite or Presbyterian ruling elders than New Testament deacons.

(2) Not a committee on discipline. Any male member of a (Continued on page eight)

The Miracle Of Israel In Her Return To God

By JACOB GARTENHAUS

The history of Israel is unique in that it was written in advance in the minutest detail. No other nation has had such a remarkable history as has Israel. From the call of Abraham to be the ancestral father four thousand years ago to this day their history has been clear and unbroken. No other nation can trace its lineage as far back as can those people. It has been well stated that "the history of Israel is the history of miracle, and it is the miracle of history."

If we can eliminate the miracles from the past history and present position of the Hebrew people, if we can explain from more natural causes the perpetuation of this people on the conditions which have obliterated the identity of other great races who have been subjected to similar though less severe and less protracted ideals of conquest, of enslavement, of hateful disabilities, then we can attribute the present

world-wide movement of the "dry bones" of Israel back to the land of promise, to chance.

It is simply remarkable how literally the prophecies concerning the dispersion and persecution have been fulfilled. Thirty-five centuries ago Moses wrote about the world-wide dispersion: "And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people from the one end of the earth unto the other. And in the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning."—Deuteronomy 28:64-67. Twenty-five centuries ago the prophet Jeremiah repeated the warning: "And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine and the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth to be a curse."—Jer. 29:18. Who would dare question the literal fulfillment of these prophecies? Why deny, then, that the prophecies concerning their restoration and future glory will be just as literally fulfilled?

As a student of God's Word I had anticipated the restoration of Israel, but little did I dream that I would be an eye witness to it. When I saw with my own eyes the desert blossom as a rose, a wilderness turned into a Garden of Eden; when I saw the people gathered from the four corners of the earth, and then read in my Bible: "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water (Continued on page five)

SAUL'S CONVERSION IS AN EXAMPLE TO US TODAY

By ABRAHAM BOOTH

Saul, afterward called Paul, was a barbarous persecutor of the children of God. The sacred historian informs us that his rancorous heart "breathed out threatenings and slaughter" against the saints of the Most High. Had it been in his power, he would have dealt destruction among the Christians by every breath he drew. Would you see a further description of his malice and rage against the peaceful and holy disciples of Jesus? Would you behold this tiger in human form pursuing and devouring the innocent lambs of Christ, to the utmost extent of his power? then read the following words: "I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme. And, being EXCEEDINGLY MAD against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities." Is it possible for (Continued on page six)

Learn The Real Importance Of True Church Discipline

When anyone is expelled from God's people he is not to be taken back among them the first time he whines or whimpers. We would do well to learn of God's disciplinary measures with His erring people;—that His way is the only wise course to pursue. Does He coddle and cojole His erring children? True, He is "long-suffering;" but His Word exhorts us, "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art reprov'd of Him; for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."—Heb. 12:5,6. Again, "Chasten thy son while there is hope; and let not thy soul spare for his crying."—Prov. 19:18. So, the erring one who has been excommunicated is to be restored to fellowship — when he is "much" sorrowful? No. When he is "over-much sorrowful?" No; not even then. But, the Word says, when he is in danger of being "swallowed up with over-much sorrow." See II Cor. 2:7. This is God's directions! Dare we allow our sentimentalities to override them? And yet this is what usually pertains today—if indeed there are excommunications! How we do ignore God's Word! As much harm may be done in hastily restoring to membership and fellowship as in retaining in membership and fellowship those who should be expelled therefrom.

I am well aware that many, even some who are and have been "prominent" in our counsels, urge that even in these extreme cases of awful sins—and they are all put in the same category by

the Holy Spirit — that even in these cases, the church should labor with the sinner, giving him a chance to say, "I repent." And some say, "It is hazardous to exclude; don't exclude till you have done all you can to save him." And, still worse, this is some times left to the deacons—or, rather, they arrogate to themselves this authority, to perform, the functions of a church of Christ in matters of discipline. This is naught but reprehensible! And all such practices, are, to the mind of this writer, subversive of the plain teachings of God's Word. My own opinion, if it had not sufficiently appeared, is that the Word teaches that the church, at once and promptly, expel from its membership any and all persons who are guilty of any SUCH sins as are mentioned in I Cor. 5; I Cor. 6:9, 10; Eph. 5:5; Gal. 5:19-21; I Tim. 1:9,10; Rev. 21:8, and Rev. 22:15—and that we have an example, given as such, as in I Cor. 5th chapter. And it is well to note that (Continued on page six)

THE DRIFT IN BAPTIST RANKS

Many Baptist churches are using altars, candles, robes, processions, and recessions. Even this is not quite so severe or serious as the regimenting and impersonalizing of our cooperative efforts.

In the field of foreign missions all too few ever see or hear a missionary. Our air-tight budgets allow only specified deviation. The obligation to tithe into an impersonal budget, often little understood by the average member, further removes the personal element in the givers.

The celebration of annual days is the next thing to the observance of Catholic Lent holy days. The supply of suggested outline for running a church augmented with training courses year after year on methods is producing an assembly-line type of Baptist life. The Southwide, statewide, and city simultaneous evangelistic campaigns further draw all the lines tighter. We do not say that all of this is bad provided the process could be controlled. Once started, the movement towards a religious system is all but impossible to arrest. Even now we are on the brink of over-emphasis on a program and less emphasis upon a Person; more talk about a denomination than talk about a divine Christ; more about (Continued on page five)

OUR RADIO MINISTRY

WWKO—1420 ON THE DIAL
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY
Sunday—8:30-9:00 A. M.

THIS IS A WORK
OF FAITH AND
A LABOR OF LOVE
MAY WE ASK FOR YOUR
PRAYERFUL SUPPORT

MORE SOUTHERN BAPTIST APOSTASY

The other day I was horrified over the announcement that was made at the end of the program by the announcer of the "Baptist Hour." People were urged to write to the "Baptist Hour" at the Atlanta address, and were promised, in return, that they would receive a "little cross" which they could carry with them, and which would be a blessing to them for owning it! I never thought that I would live to see the day when Baptists turned Catholic in this respect and would offer people their own substitute for the abominable St. Christopher's Medal! I suppose that as an item of jewelry someone might care to wear a cross for the sake of outward adornment. But I cannot feature for a moment a Bible-believing Baptist carrying a cross with some idea in mind of it having a religious significance. Couldn't a copy of the New Testament have been offered and be more in keeping with Baptist policy?

This will no doubt be quite confusing to thousands of converted Roman Catholics who have turned their back on crucifixes, rosaries, and all kinds of religious relics in order to serve the living Christ in Spirit and in Truth. I trust that those in charge will correct this breach of faith and practice immediately.

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

"In The Hands Of The Living God"

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." —Heb. 10:31.

I would like to remind you at the very outset that this text of Scripture was spoken primarily to saved people. If you will study God's Word, you will find that the Apostle Paul was speaking definitely to the saints. He was speaking to those who were saved, but who were failing in their living, and who were not living as saved people ought to live, and he says to them, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of

the living God."

As an example, look at the church at Corinth. This was the first church of all the New Testament churches that practiced open communion. The Word of God tells us that when they failed to properly observe the Lord's Supper, and when they went contrary to the Lord's wishes in the observance thereof, that He chastened them, and then, when that was not sufficient, He took some of them by way of death. I think that is what Paul means here in this book of Hebrews,

when he says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

We have a good example in the Old Testament. You remember that the ark of the Lord was to be carried by the Levites. None but Levitical hands were ever to touch the ark of the Lord. That ark was symbolic of God's presence, and none but a Levite was ever to touch it. It was never to be hauled. It was never to be carried by some unconsecrated person, but only a Levite was to touch that ark, and only the (Continued on page two)

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"The Living God"

(Continued from page one)

Levites were to transport it from place to place. One day the children of Israel wanted to bring that ark up to Jerusalem, and David hired a young fellow to haul it on an ox cart. The Word of God tells us that he started out to thus convey it unto the city of Jerusalem, but the thing displeased God, and God caused the oxen to stumble, and when the oxen stumbled, the ark rocked on the cart. It looked as though that ark was going to fall and be burst asunder. Rather than to see it fall and break, this driver reached forth his hand to steady it on the cart, and when he did so, God smote him dead. His were not the hands of a Levite. He had no business to touch that ark. Here he was hauling it, making transportation of the ark of God, and God smote him dead when he touched it. Beloved, I think that this is an unusual example of my text: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Let's notice another example from the Old Testament. Do you recall when God spoke to Moses and told him to strike the rock, so that water would flow to quench the thirst of the 3,000,000 Israelites that were making the journey from Egypt to Canaan? He did so. At a later date, God told him to speak to the rock, but in his anger he brought that shepherd's staff down twice across that rock, and in doing so he disobeyed God. However, the water flowed out from the rock just the same so that the Israelites' thirst was quenched, but Moses had broken the type. He had sinned personally. He had violated God's law. God had told him to speak to the rock, but God's command had been negated,

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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JANUARY 15, 1955

There is not a shaft in the quiver of the Devil but has been fired at the Bible and failed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1955

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

LUKE 4:16-22,31-37.

I. A Good Habit. Vs. 16.

It was the rule of Jesus to be with others when they met in the worship of God. To go with others to the synagogue in Nazareth was a matter of custom—a commendable custom at that.

Jesus might have said, "Why go to the place of meeting. I can worship the Father on the mountain-side or in my own dwelling." Many would have reasoned thus. Many moderns thus reason that they can worship God as well at home or in nature's cathedral as in a church building. Would to God that it might always be our custom to be faithful to God's House. Cf. Heb. 10:25; I Sam. 20:18; Neh. 13:11. These three Scriptures ought to stir our soul as to the matter of church attendance.

Any Christian loses much by allowing some slight excuse to keep him from God's House, and thus interfering with this habit of church attendance. Thomas is a good example. Cf. John 20:19-25. He lost much by his failure to be in the proper place at the time of worship. He missed the fellowship which he might have had with Jesus. He missed fellowship with his brethren. He missed Jesus' commission. He missed Jesus' great resurrection sermon. During the week following, Thomas was a backslidden skeptic. Let each believer be warned by the experience of Thomas, and every Sunday follow the example set by Jesus.

II. The Bible, The Basis Of Worship. Vs. 16,17.

The holy books were always read, standing. Thus Jesus stood and read from Is. 61:1,2. It is conspicuous that Jesus didn't give a moral lecture, nor book review, nor a sociological essay, nor a sermonette based on some popular event of the day. Instead, the worship of that day centered about God's Word.

What a marvelous lesson for us! If we are to please Him, then our teaching and preaching must be centered about the Bible. Cf. II Tim. 4:2. It is true that the world doesn't want God's Word. Cf. Jer. 5:31; Isa. 30:9,10. Yet it is what is needed above everything else.

A genuine Christian wants God's Word. Cf. John 8:47. In fact, he only has an ear to hear the Word of God. Cf. John 10:27. A genuine God-called preacher will preach the Word. Cf. John 3:34.

III. The Two Advents. Vs. 18-21.

Jesus read verse one and part of verse two of Isa. 61. He stopped in the middle of verse two. His first advent opened the "day of grace," so that He could say that this Scripture was thus fulfilled that day. The last part of Isa. 61:2 speaks of the "day of vengeance of our God." That will be taken up when the Messiah returns. Cf. II Thess. 1:7-10.

The Bible tells us that we are to study so that we may "rightly divide" the Word. Cf. II Tim. 2:15. This example of Jesus' reading and preaching in the temple is a good illustration of rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

IV. The Message Of His First Advent. Vs. 18-19.

He came to bring a gospel message to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to give Christian freedom to those in spiritual bondage, to give spiritual sight to those who are spiritually blind, and to set at liberty those souls bruised by Satan.

Here, then, are the maladies under which humanity groans — poverty, broken-heartedness, bondage, blindness, and crushedness. Thus Jesus announced Himself as the Healer of all these maladies.

In vs. 19, He refers to the "acceptable year." This was doubtlessly an allusion to the Jubilee Year (Lev. 25:10)—a year of universal release for person and property. Whenever anyone suffering from these five maladies is made alive and anew in Christ, regardless of what year it may be—that is the Jubilee Year for that soul.

V. The Trinity. Vs. 18.

In the opening words of this text, we have an illustrious example of the Trinity—Spirit, Lord, Me, showing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working harmoniously in the matter of salvation.

It is well to keep in mind that God is a Triune God. We saw this at the baptism of Jesus—Jesus was baptized, the Father spoke from Heaven, and the Holy Spirit rested upon Him. Cf. Mt. 3:16,17. We have a hint of the Trinity in Isaiah's vision

in the temple. Cf. Isa. 6:3. The word "holy" repeated three times was evidently once for the Father, once for the Son, and once for the Holy Spirit.

Even in Gen. 1:1, we see the first foregleam of the Trinity. In the Hebrew language, there are three numbers: singular, one; dual, two; plural, more than two. The word for God in Gen. 1:1 is plural, indicating at least three persons — a definite plurality in the God-head.

Another indication of the Trinity is seen in Gen. 1:26, where we find these words, "Let us make man." This again indicates plurality.

VI. Gracious Words. Vs. 22.

Having stood up to read, He sat down to preach, and what words of grace these were which He spoke as He unfolded the Scriptures to them.

Every preacher and teacher ought to be sure that his message is one of grace. Cf. John 1:17; Rom. 5:20; II Cor. 8:9; Eph. 2:8,9; I Pet. 3:7.

In His message, He offered the Gospel to the poor, healing to the broken-hearted, freedom from sin to the captives, the recovering of spiritual sight to the spiritually blind, liberty to the crushed in spirit, and jubilee joy to all imprisoned ones, who were imprisoned by sin. In it all He took the initiative and made this offer freely. Truly, this was grace—unmerited favor—something for nothing, which He offered His audience. It is no marvel that they wondered at His words of grace.

VII. How His Message Was Received. Vs. 22. Cf Vs. 28-30.

First they heard Him with wondering admiration. They knew He had received no rabbinical education. Since they were incapable of conceiving of anything supernatural, they naturally wondered at His message.

Then their wonder turned to hatred and they sought to kill Him. Only by a miracle did He escape death at their hands.

In Bethlehem, the inn-keeper missed his chance, and in Nazareth, His earlier associates missed their opportunity when they rejected Him. We speak of those who "missed the boat." Well in Nazareth, they did so. Many a sinner does likewise today.

VIII. The Reaction In Capernaum. Vs. 31,32,36,37.

This is the story of some Sabbaths spent in Capernaum, where according to His custom, He went into the synagogue for worship.

In teaching in this synagogue, the people who heard Him were astonished. This word comes from a compound Greek word, which literally means "knocked out." In other words, if you were describing a prize fight in which one of the contestants were knocked out, you would use in Greek the same word that is translated "astonished." This would indicate that Jesus' message and doctrine was a spiritual knock out.

IX. The Devil In Church. Vs. 33-35.

The Devil plants his imps as fifth columnists, in the very house of God. In most instances they are not opposed and but seldom recognized.

Not every one who goes to the church services and takes an active part therein is God's man. Many are but the Devil's tares, masquerading as the Lord's wheat.

Jesus met one in the Capernaum synagogue. Every God-called preacher and teacher meets such characters quite often.

X. The Divinity Of Jesus. Vs. 34.

Even the Devil referred to Jesus as "the Holy One of God." The Father had already spoken of Jesus as His Son. Cf. Mt. 3:17. And now the Devil admits the same.

The man who denies that Jesus was God in the flesh, not only denies God's testimony concerning Jesus, but puts himself on a lower level than the Devil, for even Satan admitted that Jesus was God.

The angel in announcing Jesus' birth spoke of Him as the Son of God. Cf. Luke 1:35. In Peter's confession, he referred to Jesus as God's Son. Cf. Mt. 16:18. When before the Sanhedrin, though they charged Him with blasphemy, His critics understood Him to say that He was God. Cf. Luke 22:66-71. Hear the testimony of Thomas. Cf. John 20:28.

May we ever keep in mind that Jesus was more than man—that He was God in the flesh.

Questions For Discussion

1. Show how the habit of Jesus as to synagogue attendance is commendable.
2. What did Thomas miss when he failed to go to church?
3. Is there any other basis for worship other than the Bible?
4. Why did Jesus stop reading in the middle of the verse in Isaiah 61:1,2?
5. Contrast the two advents of Jesus.
6. How does this passage prove the Trinity of

God? homes, if you will recall the world in the days of the flood. that civilization the Lord found
7. Show how this passage proves salvation by grace. Go back to the time before the only eight that were worthy of
8. How was Jesus' message received both in Nazareth and Capernaum? physical salvation—Noah and his
9. How did the Devil in Capernaum know Jesus? wife, their three sons, and their
10. Do Satan's emissaries go to church today?
11. Was Jesus really God as well as man?
12. How did Jesus defeat the Devil in the synagogue?
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PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Here Is The Answer If Heretics Are Worrying You!

(Read Matt. 25:14-30).

In this parable the man in a far country represents the Lord Jesus. The far country is Heaven. His servants include both true and false professors. The talents represent money — nothing else but money and other worldly possessions. The coming of the Lord spoken of means the second coming of Christ. This is one of a number of parables of Jesus towards the end of His life on stewardship. A talent of gold was \$29,085.00; a talent of silver \$1,940.00. You might note that the relative value of gold and silver did not miss Bryan's estimate of 16 to 1 very much. The lessons that the Master aimed to teach to His disciples then and to us today are as follows:

1. What a man does with his money is an infallible revelation of whether he is going to Heaven or Hell. If he loves God and puts Him first, that is a sure proof, that he is a child of God. If he loves his money most and hoards it and does not use it for God that is a sure proof that he is a child of the devil and going to Hell. No exceptions. Men are known by their fruits.

2. A sovereign God bestows money on whom he will. The man with five talents was worth \$10,000 if silver talents or nearly \$150,000 if gold talents. The man with two talents, \$4,000 or \$60,000. The man with one talent, \$2,000 or \$30,000. The purpose of the argument in this parable was to call them to account for their possessions.

3. Faithfulness in the use of our money here means we will be rulers in the millennium, when the Lord comes again. The use made of our money is the test of faithfulness in this parable. Rewards will be based on faithfulness.

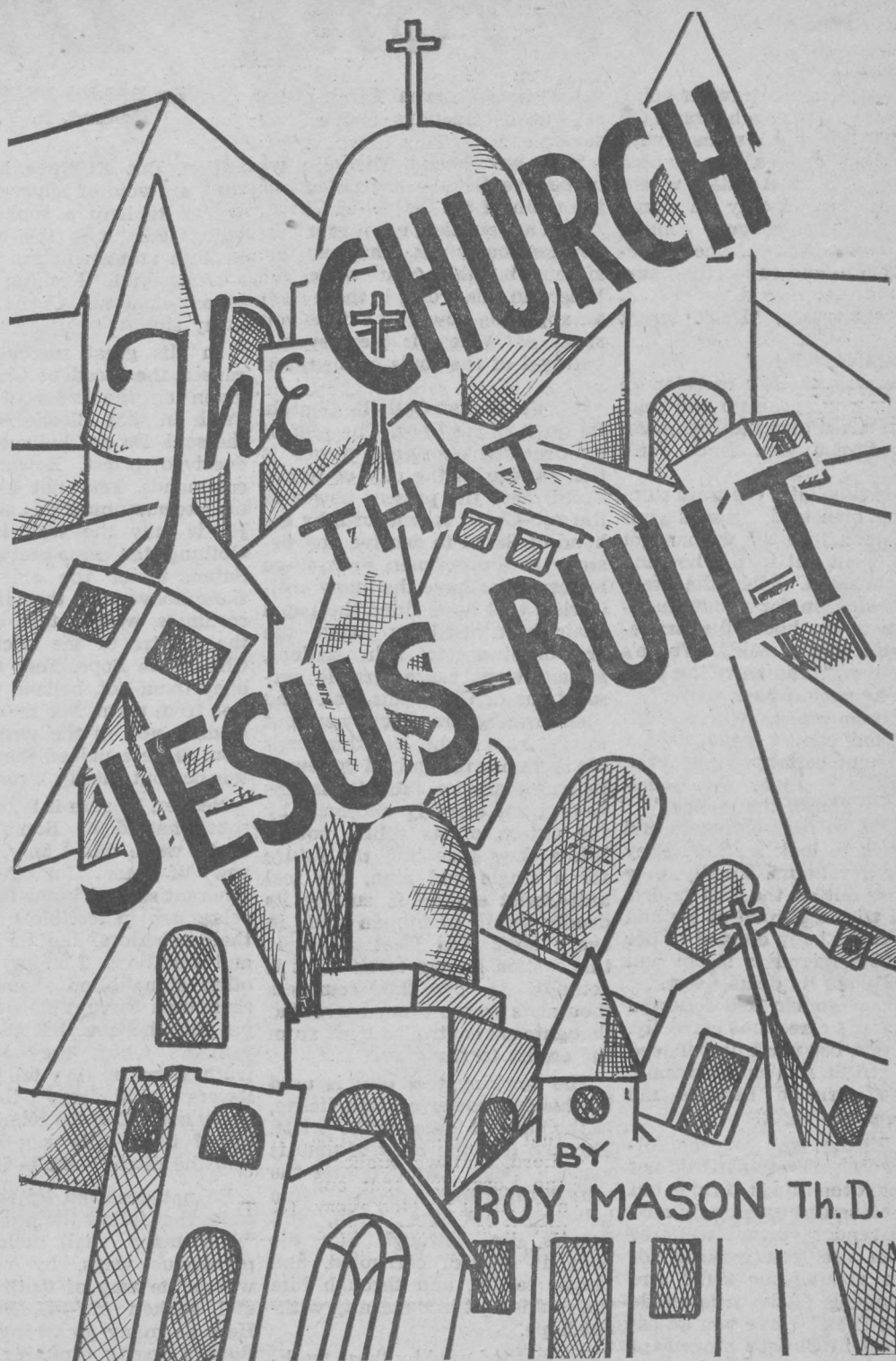
4. Men with different ability, but equally faithful, get the same praise and encomium: "well done," "faithful," "good servant," "ruler over much," "enter joy of thy Lord." If the man with five talents had stopped, when he made two more and said "I have done my part," he would have had word of praise and no approval from Christ. He was not to measure his work by what the two-talent man did, but by his ability. Nothing short of five talents would have gotten his Mas-

ter's approval. The man, who talks about doing his part is always selfish and little and mean. The question he ought to face is "What will Jesus my Lord expect of me?" That is the question that every man and every church ought to ask frankly every day. Lots of us will never have a part in another day. Will we be ashamed of this one when we meet Him? Will He be ashamed of us when we see Him fact to face?

5. The one-talent man was a Hardshell. Like all other Hardshells he claimed to believe in the sovereignty of God. That was his first excuse. God reaps where He does not sow. Note God's answer: "If you admit that I am a sovereign, why did you not obey Me, and use My money for the spread of the gospel, as I told you?" No answer. Again, this man was a Hardshell in that he said that God reaped where He does not sow. That includes about five-sixths of the Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention. They need not flatter themselves. That bunch are all going to Hell with the other Hardshells. The Master said so. Read the parable. Any man who says the heathen will be saved without the gospel is the man the Lord Jesus talked about in this parable, who says God reaps where He does not sow. That isn't so to start with. And Jesus says to man, who makes that his excuse for doing nothing is wicked and is going to Hell. Sorry for you, neighbor, if you are in that crowd. Again, note that the Master did not deny His sovereignty. He made an argument on His sovereignty for obedience. "Thou oughtest therefore to put My money to work as I commanded you." A sovereign has a right to be obeyed and the Lord Jesus expects it. He did not deny His sovereignty but emphasized obedience because of it.

6. In the case of the one-talent man, the Master said that the man, who makes the sovereignty of God an excuse for doing nothing is wicked. He also said that the man, who says the heathen will be saved without the gospel is wicked. He also says that the man who fights the sovereignty of God is wicked. Jesus is sovereign. He has all authority in Heaven and on earth. That is sovereignty. He commands Baptist churches to

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This is the way Bro. Roy Mason's book "The Church That Jesus Built" looks. Inside this cover are 136 pages of spiritual dynamite, whereby Bro. Mason traces Baptist history from the days of Jesus through the dark ages, and thus shows conclusively that Baptist churches are the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every Baptist ought to read this book to become a better Baptist. Everyone who isn't a

Baptist should read it, and thus become a Baptist.

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'TIS FINISHED!

By WILBUR J. POWELL

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished! and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost."—John 19:30.

'Tis finished! the last cruel nail has been driven,
The Christ is transfixed to the tall rugged Tree;
His side by the spear of a soldier is riven;
The Saviour hangs dead upon dark Calvary.

'Tis finished! the cry has gone out through the heavens,
The voice of the Lone Galilean is still!
The voice that had prayed that they might be forgiven,
Is hushed now in death upon Calvary's hill.

'Tis finished! His head is bowed down on His bosom,
The head that they crowned with the sharp jagged thorn;
The foot of the Cross with His Blood now is crimson;
The veil of the Temple in sunder is torn!

'Tis finished! and nature is moved in convulsion,
The earth with the shock of the tragedy reels!
And even the rocks as they lay in confusion,
Burst wide with the weight of the pressure they feel!

'Tis finished! the work of redemption completed,
The price of our sins has so fully been paid;
The lamb has been slain and our sins expiated,
Our sins upon Jesus the Holy were laid.

'Tis finished, on Calvary Jesus has suffered,
'Tis finished! on Calvary Jesus has died;
Salvation to men through the Cross has been offered,
But only through faith in the Lamb crucified.
—The Christian Faith

How To Know Whether You Are A Servant Or Friend Of The Lord Jesus

(John 15:15)

1. By the choice of our companions. James 4:4; Psalms 119:63.

2. By the way we meet temptation. I Cor. 10:13.

3. By the character of our pleasures. Psalms 16:11; Gal. 1:10.

4. By trying to win others. Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 8:4.

Everybody knows the difference between a servant and a friend, especially such friends as Jesus had, companions, sons of God and, therefore, a part of the family (John 15:15). A servant works, gets his wages, and expects nothing more. He eats at the second table, or perhaps alone in the kitchen. He is not a part of the family, knows little of the family matters and nothing of the family secrets. How different the friend, the son, the member of the family. He knows all and has all. He eats with the family, and has all rights of a son. The test of this friendship, or sonship, is obedience (John 15:14). If he is born into God's family and is thus a friend and companion of Jesus, he will conform to the family life and obey the family laws. Thus he will be loyal to Christ, and four ways are here suggested as to how we may prove this loyalty.

1. By the choice of our companions. Here we get a negative

and a positive. (1) Our companions must not be of this world (James 4:4). Why? Because the world hates us, hates Jesus, and is enmity with God (John 15:18, 19). Hence a friend of the world is an enemy of God. The "world" here means the worldliness of the world and the worldly people. They will make us worldly if they are our companions. Companionship without fellowship is not pleasant, and if we really belong to the Lord there can be no fellowship with ungodly people (II Cor. 6:14-18). We are in the world but not of it, and while we must mingle with the ungodly and try to win them to Jesus, yet this is very different from companionship. (2) Positive. Who should our companions be? "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts." (Psalms 119:63). This verse is very clear and definite, and needs no comment.

2. By the way we meet temptation (I Cor. 10:13). The R. V. is good here. God will allow no temptation to come which man cannot bear; God is faithful in this and in providing a way of escape so that we can endure it and thus obtain the blessing promised to such (James 1:2-12). The way to escape the results of

the fall is, of course, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and prayer.

3. By the character of our pleasures. The path of real life is the presence of God, where there is fullness of joy; it is "in" (R. V.) God's right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore (Psalms 16:11). We joy in God (Rom. 5:11); He is our joy (Psalms 43:4; Isa. 12:2,3). Jesus is the way to the Father (John 14:16) and loyalty to Christ will not permit us to stop in the way, but to get into the Father's presence. We also show our loyalty to Him by not seeking to be men-pleasers (Gal. 1:10).

4. By trying to win others. By preaching (Mark 16:15), by witnessing at home and abroad in the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8), and by scattering and giving out the Word (Acts 8:4).—Alliance Weekly.

Many a man has taken out a degree in the school of man without having learned the alphabet in the school of God.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

PAGE THREE

JANUARY 15, 1955

Wrong Directions

By RALPH BECKER
Holland, N. Y.

There was once a traveler going west during a winter blizzard. On the same train was a woman with a baby in her arms. She wanted to get off at a small station where the train stopped only on signal to discharge passengers coming from a great distance. The brakeman came in and called the name of the place as they drew near it. The woman said, "Don't forget me!"

He replied, "Sure."
There was another traveler on the train who spoke up and said, "Lady, I'll see that the brakeman doesn't forget you. Now don't worry."

A short time later the train stopped. The man said, "Here's your station, lady." So the woman got off and went out in the howling winter blizzard. After the train had traveled on for about three-quarters of an hour, the brakeman came in and said, "Where's that woman?" The traveling man said: "She got off back there."

The brakeman said with a shudder, "Then she is gone to her death. We only stopped way back there because there was something wrong with the engine."

They called for volunteers and went back to look for her. They searched for hours. Finally they found her out on the vast prairie covered with a shroud of ice and snow and the baby clasped to her breast. The merciless storm and cold had done its deadly work.

The poor woman had followed the traveler's directions correctly. He had told her what he believed to be the truth. But he was wrong. And she perished because she trusted he was right!

Dear Reader, are you too following wrong directions? I do not mean about the things of time, but are you being unsuspectingly misled about your eternal welfare? To whom are you looking for guidance about your soul? Are you following God's true guide book, the Bible? Have you an assured trust in Christ's atonement and a living confidence in Him alone for the safety of your soul? Or are you a deceived soul after all, following the directions of one who himself is dreadfully wrong?

To be deceived about things of time is serious and very often grievous. But to be deceived about your immortal soul is not only dreadful and appalling but is to risk a loss so great that no one on earth can ever fully realize. "For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"—Matt. 16:26.

Satan has many ways of leading men's souls away from the Door of Heaven (John 10:7) into the mouth of Hell. "And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light."—(II Cor. 11:14 R. V.). Volumes could never teach us half of the deceptions of the Wicked One. I make no attempt here to picture for you the entire labyrinth of confusing evil into which he leads the unsuspecting souls of men. But the purpose of this article is to reveal, as the Lord allows, what we sincerely believe to be the masterpiece of Satan's delusive power. It is by far the greatest system in the world, of wrongly directing the souls of men. Its enslaving power is felt on every continent. Its deluding influence is active in every clime. Its terrible lying wonders affect the lives of untold millions, from the crowded cities to the scattered islands of the sea. It has ruined nations, by bringing them into abject poverty through unspeakable ignorance and superstition beyond description. It has already caused untold anguish and misery and sin in time. And this deluding system has sent millions into eternity "believing a lie" as to how to be saved. Countless thousands have gone out forever to suffer the wrath of God and the

vengeance of eternal fire because of wrong directions about their souls.

They have been unwittingly led to believe Satan's lie, instead of the truth of the Gospel of Christ.

You are startled, my reader? Do you cautiously ask, what can this system be that you write of? Where in this world is there such an appalling power of evil as you speak of? Where is there such a betrayal of the souls of men, tell me?

It is the Roman Catholic Church. Its head is the Pope. The seat of its dreadful deceiving power is the Vatican in the city of Rome. From there the present power of the anti-Christ is sent forth by the hand of Satan to deceive and destroy the souls of men. From there for centuries have the many anti-Christians that have filled the papal chair been used by Satan, the arch-deceiver, to ruin nations, foment wars, cause terrible persecutions of Christians, and send their own ignorant followers out into eternal night. Yet this terrible system is recognized by few in its true character. Most Christians have been cleverly deceived by the extent of its subtle power. While they gaze into the future for a single bad man, the real anti-Christ system is cutting its deadly swath of human souls in every land. And least of all, is this system known to be what it actually is by the countless thousands whose every move and thoughts are controlled by it, from the cradle to the grave.

The working tool that is used by this evil power of Catholicism, in the hand of Satan, is the priest. Through him the body of man is made a slave. Through him the soul is unwittingly deceived into believing not the truth, but Satan's lies. Through him the body is defiled, corrupted, and taught to sin, and through him the soul is sent into eternity without hope.

The method used by these work-tools of anti-Christ to deceive souls is to mix truth with lies into something pleasing to the senses. The most deadly error is thus concealed by weaving it into Bible truths. The priest teaches of Heaven and Hell, Christ and God, salvation and damnation. They blend Scriptures cleverly with evil Jesuit traditions. They teach good works while promoting and causing sin. While they speak great swelling words they themselves are human instruments of unspeakable sin. Into Bible truths are mixed idolatry, wicked traditions and superstitions. While they admit that salvation is by Christ, they teach that His atonement alone cannot save the soul. And so to Christ's work they add countless requirements of works as an indispensable part of the saving of the soul. Is it not amazing how far people will blindly and ignorantly follow and obey the priest and never dare question him? I know not how far you have followed him already, but have you ever searched the Scriptures to see if in them you have eternal life? If you would have God's salvation, follow no longer the priest. Believe no longer he is 'another Christ.' But come now to the real and living Foundation of Life who alone can save to the uttermost. Leave at once all deadly doings; listen to the voice of Jesus Christ and be at peace: "Look upon ME and be ye saved all the ends of the earth; for I am God and there is none else."—Isa. 45:22.

Reader, you know how the priest of Rome sends his followers to masses and confessions and penances and bodily mortifications to help fit them for Heaven. You know how he sends those he controls to saints and relics—to worshipping Mary and numberless images. He sends them to saying volumes of silly prayers, to wearing scapulars and rosaries and crucifixes, to counting their beads, to crossing themselves, to ashes, to holy water, to abstaining from foods—all, all to help in their sal-

vation. But all these human efforts are void of any value whatsoever to help a soul get right with God. "It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."—Lev. 17:11. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can put away sin.

In His great mercy God has caused the blood of Christ to be given on the cross of Calvary. Faith in that Blood alone saves the soul. Do not believe the poor deceived priest. Beware of his commands. Fear not his threats, his excommunications and curses. He is only the wolf in sheep's clothing, the unsuspecting tool of Satan, under the evil spell of those above him, the bishops and cardinals, who in turn are under the sceptre of the wicked anti-Christ, the Pope. Fear them not, obey them not, believe them not, flee from them. For they are only leading you in the wrong direction. Sincere indeed they may often be; but fatally wrong.

Reader, be sure it is for no personal hatred of Rome's priests that I write this. I only have sorrow of heart for those poor ignorant souls. I know they themselves are in terrible bondage to their superiors, and their church and traditions. I know they are often stone blind themselves to their own corruptible deceivings, yet they believe that these lying wonders which they teach are truth. How can they tell their followers what they themselves know not? "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?"—Luke 6:39.

Be not deceived by the multitudes that follow the priest either. "And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."—II Peter 2:2. Here so many go wrong. One of Rome's wrong directing evils is the teaching that the oldest, the most massive system of religion must be the most genuine. So the priest teaches that because of its immense size, the Roman Catholic Church is the true church. Because of its antiquity, he says, the Roman church and no other is of God. Oh, the deluded millions who feel sure that because of Rome's great cathedrals, its vast pomp, its showy and expensive ceremonies, its aggressiveness, socially prominent members, spreading its spell on whole nations, that it is the true church, the only church. But reader, I solemnly call your attention to God's own Word. The apostle John recognized this false system when he wrote: "And upon her forehead was a name written Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and of the abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her I wondered with a great wonder."—Rev. 12:5,6. "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and FEW there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."—Matt. 7:14,15.

My dear Catholic friend, the Lord Jesus Christ never taught anywhere that the salvation of the soul could be earned by being baptized, or taking of the sacrament or by going to mass. He never once mentioned sprinkling with holy water, making the sign of the cross, or doing penance. No, these are all deluding sentimental forms, inventions of Satan, used by the priest to satisfy the ignorant and guilty conscience, and yet leave the soul in spiritual darkness. But Jesus did say: "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."—John 14:6. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."—John 17:3. You must

trust in Him alone to be saved. To rely on any works of man is fatal. Christ is not part-Saviour. "He is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him."—Heb. 7:25.

Listen, poor anxious priest-fearing soul, to the loving words of the all-sufficient Saviour. Trust Him alone and you are safe forever! "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."—Matt. 11:28.

Jesus Christ never deceived the soul of a sinner. He never taught anywhere or any time that a person could never be saved if he did not belong to the church of Rome. Rome's priests alone teach this soul-destroying lie. Countless thousands of souls who have trusted Christ alone for their souls' eternal safety have gone out of time, rejoicing in the know-

other sin comes from this of unbelief. (John 16:9). He taught by His spirit: "There is no difference, for all have sinned and are short of the glory of God."

Rom. 3:23. "So Christ was offered to bear the sins of men and unto them that look for Him shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28. Jesus Christ died every sin of the soul that trust Him alone. He paid to God the debt we could never pay. A priest can add to that what Christ Himself said, "It is finished."—John 19:30. "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from ALL sin."—I John 1:7. It matters not what classification the priest puts on your sin. It matters in the least if he absolves you not. Come to Jesus just as a sinner and hear Him say: "Thy faith

which way to go?



There is only ONE way. Jesus said:

"I am the way."—John 14:6.

He did not say "a way," as if to indicate that there were other ways. When He said "the way," He may as well have said there were no other ways.

He also said:

"I am the door."—John 10:9.

ledge of their sins fully forgiven, and at peace with God, without ever having been inside a Catholic church. Thousands more who KNOW by God's Holy Word, that they belong forever to Christ, are now living, yet have never been through the door of a Catholic church. They have never followed the wrong directions of a priest. Jesus Himself plainly taught: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37. And is it not a wonderful consolation to one desiring to know eternal safety to hear His words: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life."—John 6:47. Come as you are, weary soul, to Christ by faith and be forever safe.

Jesus Christ never taught anywhere about sins being 'mortal' or 'venial.' He taught that the root of all sin is the unbelief in the heart of natural man. All

hath saved thee, go in peace."—Luke 7:50, and know that "God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."—Eph. 4:32.

"The soul that sinneth it shall die."—Ezekiel 18:4. It is of no importance whether your sins be few or many, mortal or venial, hidden or well-known, dear friend. You will perish forever under God's wrath for them, if you trust not in Christ's blood alone to save.

Jesus Christ Himself never taught that any man has any right to claim the title of "Another Christ," as the Roman priest does. Robes of velvet and lace; the title of "Father," mysterious ceremonies of ordinances; the awe-inspiring aloofness of the priest do not make him a man of God, as his poor foolish followers suppose. The priest is still a sinner. These things only give him greater opportunities to misdirect poor

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The Miracle Of Israel

(Continued from page one)

upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."—Ezek. 36:24-26. "And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."—Isa. 61:4. I could hardly refrain from shouting.

God is not through dealing with Israel as some would have us believe. Far from it. He is now turning back to them their unfinished task. Space does not permit us to relate in detail God's plan and purposes for and through Israel.



ELD. JACOB GARTENHAUS

Here is a Jew in whom there is no guile. I have known him intimately for a quarter of a century and I rejoice to recommend his mission work as the soundest and most orthodox of all Jewish mission agencies of which I know today.

In response to several letters and cables urging me to come to Israel without delay, I put everything aside and at great sacrifice of time and strength, answered that Macedonian call. In our magazine, THE EVERLASTING BATTLE, will be found a most thrilling account of what the Lord is doing among Israel's "dry bones." I shall be most happy to send a copy to anyone upon request.

Not since apostolic days has there risen up a man in Israel who has rocked the entire Jewish world as has Rabbi Daniel Zion, former chief Rabbi of Bulgaria who, since his remarkable conversion, has been residing in Jerusalem. Wherever he goes crowds listen spellbound as he expounds to them the Scriptures, and they go away saying, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" Already thousands of conversions have been reported, due without doubt, to this man's influence and the wide circulation of the Word of God. As another venture of faith we have underwritten his and his noble companion's complete support.

For some time there has been a crying need for a building in Israel which would serve as a mission home and headquarters for seekers after the truth, a meeting place for young believers where they might be instructed in the Word of God, and a place of refuge for some who have been cast out of their homes because of their stand for Christ. We have prayed earnestly about this and the Lord has seen fit to answer our prayers. A down payment has been made on a building which we think will adequately meet the need for the present. It is located on the slope of Mount Carmel from which Elijah once prophesied. And so once more a prophet's voice will be heard. May God grant that thousands of the lost of Israel may find the One of whom Moses in the law and all the prophets have written.

With tears in his eyes one of the workers pled with me to help answer the great need for the

Word of God, and he showed me letters from Jewish leaders written in English, Hebrew, German, Russian, etc., thanking him for that "most precious Bible." Just imagine what it would mean to place 100,000 copies of it in the hands of principals of schools, teachers, doctors, lawyers, government officials, etc.! It could well start that world-revival for which many have been praying.

The doors and hearts of Israel are wide open. How long they will remain open, no one can tell. It would be tragic if we failed to seize this God-given opportunity to meet what I consider the greatest challenge facing the Christian world today. As you know, this work depends entirely on those who take the command, TO THE JEW FIRST, seriously. And do not forget that a great blessing is in store for those who have a part in the winning of His own brethren according to the flesh. May God touch your heart for His covenant people who are still "beloved for the fathers' sake . . . for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."



The Drift

(Continued from page one)

plans than Scripture; more about human machinery than the work of the Holy Spirit; more about success than suffering; more about influences than power; more about work than worship.

If worship becomes too easy; if prayer becomes too formal; if giving becomes too impersonal; if Bible reading becomes too routine and we take our Christian life as a matter of fact, the chances are we are back-slidden and stand in need of a revival of personal devotion and the recapture of the romance of loving and serving a Person, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. — Editor Chas. H. Stevens in Daybreak.



There Is A God

(Continued from page one)

in the race that teaches men instinctively that there is a Supreme Being.

4. **The fact of Jesus proves God's existence.** (See John 1:18). There is no adequate human explanation of Jesus, and Jesus revealed God to the human race.

5. **The personal experience of believers proves that God is.** People who have received Jesus Christ as Saviour, have come into a consciousness of God's presence — a consciousness that makes them to know that He is. Great, good, and truthful men and women whose word was readily received concerning other things, have declared a personal knowledge and acquaintance with God that cannot be disproved. Many

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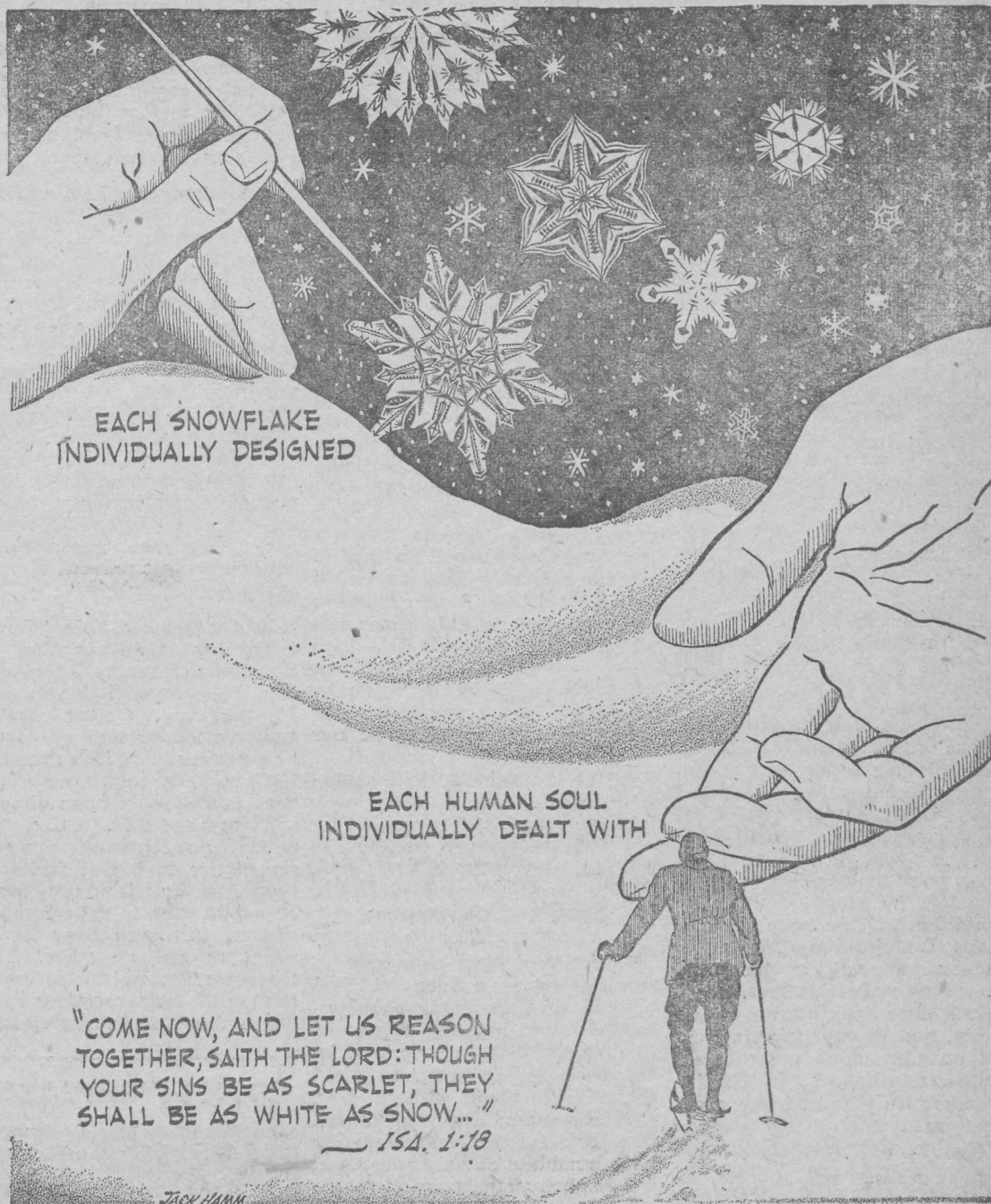
Wrong Directions

(Continued from page four)

sinning people who trust him. Reader, be not deceived. Hell will be full of poor deluded priests, sinful bishops, wretched cardinals, vile popes, led there by the fatal directing of the vast system of which they are only helpless sinning tools. Listen to the words of Jesus Christ Himself about such men: "For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many . . . Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is the Christ, or there, believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders in so much that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."—Matt. 24:5,23,24.

Jesus never taught that a sinful priest adorned in satin and silk and velvet and lace and costly ornaments, speaking in Latin, could forgive a single sin. Absolution comes alone from a living faith in Jesus Christ.

O poor priest, poor Catholic, are you going your way through time with your back towards God; with your face toward the pit of eternal woe? Sincerely, no doubt, but in



the wrong direction? I plead with you if you love your soul, turn now! For "the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."—Matt. 9:6. There is no hope beyond the grave for those who die trusting the wrong directing of the priests. Listen to the words of the Saviour Himself: "I am the way, the truth and the Life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."—John 14:6. Never will you find peace and salvation in your obedience to a priest. None can come unto the Father except they come through His Son alone. (John 6:37,44.)

Jesus Christ never taught that people must worship God only in a great building with stained-glass windows, with lofty spires, with pealing bells adorned without and within at great expense to the poor. No costly images of saints, no rare and beautiful pictures, no altar covered with velvet and crucifixes, no candles and incense can bring a soul into communion with God. These only send an enchanting, deluding, emotional spell upon poor sin-conscious people. No, my friend, instead of this false ritual, Jesus taught this: "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."—John 4:24. "For man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart."—I Sam. 16:7. It is the sinner in whom there is a true repentance and a forsaking of sin, in whom there is a trusting only in the atonement of Christ, that the Almighty looks upon with love and compassion. No priest on earth is needed. To such their Great High Priest is above. He entered Heaven by His own blood, after paying the sin-debt of those who trust Him alone. To them He says: "To this man will I look who is of a humble and contrite spirit and trembleth at my word."—Isa. 66:2.

Jesus Christ never taught that the souls of men went to a place called Purgatory after death. This imaginary place originated in the minds of sinful men for gain. Truly it is a profitable doctrine for the Church of Rome. This teaching has robbed poor deluded souls of countless millions of dollars, yet it never brought peace

to a single anxious soul. Jesus Christ plainly taught of Hell. He plainly taught of Heaven. (Matt. 10:28). He plainly showed that to trust in Him alone would be the way to Heaven. And He without question taught that to trust in anything else would result in eternal loss. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth upon him."—John 3:35.

Friend, be not deceived by the lying wonders of the priest. Those who rest on Christ alone, His blood, His righteousness, go to be with Him at the moment of death. (Luke 23:43). They need fear no purgatory. They need no extreme unction, no anointing with holy oil, no last sacrament, no high mass—no low mass. No, for in Christ they are safe, complete, justified, bought with a price and no man can pluck them from His hand! (John 10:28). O perfect safety! O loving Redeemer! O precious assurance for a dying soul! "For when we were yet without strength, Christ died for the ungodly."—Rom. 5:6. "Much more than being NOW justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."—Rom. 5:9.

I have no wish to offend. But it is written, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Prov. 27:6). There is nothing so serious as the loss of the soul. There will never be such a dreadful moment for those of Adam's race as the moment they first learn that they have followed, too late, wrong directions about their immortal soul. For as one enters Eternity, so will he forever abide. (Rev. 22:11).

Life for all of us is very brief. Death is very real, very chilling, very startling. It is coming nearer, nearer even as you read this. The last great assize is looming surely before us. Reader, make sure of your eternal welfare. Trust your soul into the hands of no one but Christ. All others are deceivers; all others will prove false in the bitter end. Do you now recognize how you have been blinded by the priest? Do you see

now your almost fatal mistake of fearfully obeying his wrong directing? Would you know for certain, without a doubt, without one duty, without one priestly observance that your soul were safe, at peace forever with God? Bless the Lord, then. It is the light breaking through the shadows of the catacombs of Rome's darkness. May the good Lord give you light.

Your journey may be nearly over, dear reader. There may be but short time remaining. Flee, forsake utterly all creeds, observance, all confusing and lying wonders. Flee from the priest, the poor deceived tool of Satan. Flee, lest darkness eternal overtake you while you are under his spell of spiritual delusion. Flee from all that he has taught you in his blindness. Flee from all he has compelled you to do in fear. Flee as the poor guilty sinner you are to the arms of Jesus by faith. Take the guilty sinner's place and trust the guilty sinner's Saviour. Trust His atoning, all-sufficient sacrifice as having been made to save a sinner like you. Remember the words of the Apostle Peter, whom all Catholics are taught to reverence, when he said, "Lord to whom shall we go? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."—John 6:68,69. Look to Christ, dear seeking soul. Cast every other priestly refuge away. Like the penitent thief, cry from the depth of your soul unto Jesus: "Lord, remember me." Then trust Him whose blood was shed on the cross. There is no one else to trust, dear reader. Cling to Him; cleave to Him; rest in Him, who came to save the lost. (Luke 19:10).

It is only then, and not until then, my friend, that your soul is safe. Only then are you travelling this vale of sin and shadows, trials and tears, through this world of deceiving confusion, in the right direction toward Heaven and God.

Bro. Larry Bethel Killed And James Sims Injured In Tragic Auto Wreck

On Friday evening, December 17, enroute to church services at McLeansboro, Ill., Bro. Larry Bethel was killed instantly and Bro. James Sims was seriously injured when their car skidded into a large transport truck, near Carmi, Illinois.



ELD. JAMES SIMS

Bro. Bethel had been in your editor's home at the Thanksgiving services both in 1952 and 1953, along with Bro. Sims. I considered him one of the finest young men of my acquaintance, and an unusually fine prospect for the ministry. To his family, including his wife and four small children, I extend my deepest sympathy. If you wish to send Mrs. Bethel a sympathy card, you may address her: 619 S. Barker Ave., Evansville, Indiana.

Bro. Sims is reported improving

There Is A God

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other evidences might be added, but we pass on to another phase of the question, namely—

What Kind Of A God Is God?

There have been many different conceptions on the part of those who believed in some kind of a god.

1. **Some have believed in an impersonal God.** Such is the belief of the Pantheists. An illustration of these is the Hindus of India, numbering millions. Christian Science is a revival of Pantheism. They speak of God as "Love" and "Light" and such.

2. **Some believe in a material God.** The heathen world with gods of wood and stone are like this. But John 4 says that, "God is a Spirit."

3. **Some believe in a plurality of gods.** Polytheism—"many gods." The Greeks believed there was a regular "nest of gods" inhabiting Mt. Olympus. When a storm came up, they thought that the gods were having a family row of some kind. But the Scriptures say, "Hear O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord..."

The truth is, God is a great PERSON. All the attributes of personality are assigned to him in the Scriptures. Jesus a Person, declared himself to be the revealer of God. (See John 14:7; Coloss. 1:15). He was "IMMANUEL"—God with us. God thinks and feels and wills and knows. He is "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." To merely believe in some kind of a god is not enough—one must believe in the "true and living God" and he is not a great impersonal "Force" of some kind—not a vague, impersonal, Something or Other, but the Personal, living, eternal God, who expressed and revealed himself supremely through Jesus Christ who was God manifested in the flesh!

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in the hospital at Carmi. His right leg was broken in five places and the rest of the bone shattered. His right arm was broken in three places. It is hoped that the doctors will be able to save his leg following an operation.

Let me suggest that you remember Bro. Sims definitely in prayer that he may be speedily recovered. Write Mrs. Sims at Route 1, Box 455, Evansville, Ind., and tell her of your prayerful interest in his recovery, and if possible send her an offering to assist the family in this dire emergency.

It is hard to understand such experiences as this. In fact, we can't understand—all we can do is trust, knowing that Rom. 8:28 and I Thess. 5:18 are true, in spite of all conflicting circumstances.

"Not now but in the coming years, It may be in a better land, We'll read the meaning of our tears And there, up there, we'll understand."

Saul's Conversion

(Continued from page one)
words to express a more diabolical temper, or a more savage barbarity? What had the objects of his implacable fury done, that he became so highly incensed against them? The grand offence was, they loved our Lord, and owned him for the true Messiah. For this he stirred up all his rage, and would not suffer them to live. He might well acknowledge, when he came to his right mind, "I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious." Yet this man, than whom none can be greater enemies to God, none more vile or unworthy, this butcher of the members of Christ, "obtained mercy." On a sudden, when his thoughts were big with slaughter, and his heart thirsting for blood; when he was aiming, if possible, to extirpate the Christian character, and cause the remembrance of a crucified Messiah to cease from the earth; even that was the time the persecuted Saviour chose to manifest His love to him. He was powerfully struck with conviction, called by grace, pardoned and justified, and became an heir of eternal salvation. Nor was he required to perform any condition, as in the least entitling to these blessings, or as qualifying for them. Is it recorded of him, that he was "exceedingly mad" against the Christians? His own pen has informed us, that the grace of our Lord was "exceeding abundant" toward him. So that though "sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

But some, perhaps, may be inclined to think, that the grace exercised toward Paul was as extraordinary as the means of his conversion were miraculous. Let the apostle himself determine the case. He says, "For this cause I obtained mercy, that—" what? That I might appear as a singular instance of Divine mercy? that I might enjoy a favor not vouchsafed to any of my fellow-sinners? No; but "that in me first, Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering, FOR A PATTERN to them who should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." Hence it is plain, that the long-suffering and grace, which were manifested in the pardon and salvation of Saul the persecutor, are to be considered, not as a particular instance of sovereign bounty, rarely, if ever, to be repeated, but as the very EXEMPLAR of what should be showed to millions and millions of transgressors in succeeding ages—even to all who should afterward believe on Christ to life eternal.

(Taken from THE REIGN OF GRACE, by Abraham Booth, pp. 122,123).

Church Discipline

(Continued from page one)
Paul here gives his specific instructions—not after having appointed a committee to "investigate" the matter, but after saying, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you."

In the foregoing I am confirmed by Andrew Fuller, "Sennex" of the Western Recorder, J. M. Pendleton, J. A. Broadus, and T. T. Eaton—who express, better than I may, precisely what I believe. In the Western Recorder for August 3, 1893, "Sennex" (I know not who "Sennex" was or is) quotes approvingly from Pendleton's "Manual," p. 141, "Offenses of an infamous or scandalous character must have a peculiar treatment. The church must express its reprobation of them by an immediate act of exclusion. No preliminary steps are necessary. No penitence must prevent the withdrawal of fellowship."

In the same article "Sennex" quotes, also with approval, from Strong's Systematic Theology, p. 516, "Note here, (I Cor. 5:3-5 and 13), that Paul gave the incestuous person no opportunity to repent, or avert sentence. The church can have no valid evidence of repentance immediately upon discovery and arrangement. Only "fruit meet for repentance" can prove repentance real. But fruits take time. And there is no time to wait. Its good return in the community, and its influence over its own members are at stake. These, therefore, demand the instant exclusion of the wrongdoer as evidence that the church clears its

Parable Of Talents

(Continued from page three)
preach the gospel to every creature. The man who makes any excuse for not obeying that command is a wicked rebel against the all authority of the Lord Jesus. That is why the Lord Jesus calls all such wicked and says He is going to cast them into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. The very heart of this parable is that the test of discipleship is a disposition to obey Christ. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments," said Jesus. This Hardshell proved that he did not love Jesus by his refusal to obey Him. That is why the Master called him wicked and sent him to Hell. Doing nothing is wicked. Disobedience is wicked. Fighting missions is wicked. Fighting the sovereignty of God is wicked. Not

skirts of all complicity in the wrong. In the case of gross public offenses, labor with the offender, is to come, not before, but after his excommunication."

Both Pendleton and Strong regard the 5th chapter of I Cor. as treating of "specimen" classes of wicked persons. Strong, after quoting and commenting on this Scripture, closes by saying, "In the case of gross public offenses," etc.; while Pendleton says, "There is no express mention of murderers, liars, thieves, etc., but they are unquestionably included with all other wicked characters." See "Church Manual," pp. 138-142.

using your money for Christ's wicked. "The wicked shall be turned into hell with all the nations, that forget God."

7. God takes away from those who have, but are not using it for God. I have seen Him do it time without number. Bankrupts everywhere of that kind. God is keeping His Word on all who love Him more than they love God. Watch Him work.

ANY EVIDENCE OF FULFILLED PROPHECY

This is the question a Turkish colonel once asked the late Bro. Hamlin, of Roberts College, Constantinople. The doctor thought show him the evidence of fulfilled prophecy and asked him if he had ever been near the ruins of Babylon. The colonel replied that they had been there and had strange experience with some Arabs. He had heard of the game there and had hired the Arabs to go with them on a hunting trip. When they reached the place, the Arabs refused to pitch tents there, declaring that the Arabs have a tradition that they never had pitched tents there. Bro. Hamlin asked the colonel if he would like to know that God, in the Bible, had prophesied. Isaiah 13:19-21: "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. Neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; but wild beasts of the desert shall lie there."

CROESUS' CAVALRY STAMPEDING AT THE SIGHT OF PERSI AN CAMELS



Yesterday . . . "The Fates" Decided

In the 6th century, B. C., King Croesus of Lydia was told by the Delphic Oracles he could defeat the Persians. Relying on "The Fates" instead of the facts, he took on an enemy he should have known was too strong for him . . . and he was badly beaten. Lack of facts cost him his kingdom and his freedom.

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Christ
shall
all the m

"The Living God"

(Continued from page two)

from the three wives. Beloved, I can see the heavens as the lightning be- do it time to flash and as the thunder rapt ever deals through the sky. I can see the clouds as the sky becomes overcast. I can see the rain as it begins to pour out of the heavens as a torrent, and I look down and see water bubbling up from the ground—water coming from beneath, water coming out of the skies, water meeting water. Every day as the water continued and the torrents proceeded, the water became deeper upon the earth until man fled to the hills and the mountains. Then on the mountains I can see the lion as the king of beasts and I can see the eagle as the king of birds, and I can see man as God Almighty's bride of creation. I can see all of them huddling there on the top-most pinnacle of the mountain as the waters come up and up and up, until finally there is not one single individual outside of that ark that is left alive. Think of a world with a population as we have today—1,500,000,000 at least. In all probability, there were that many in the days of Noah. Can you imagine, beloved, 1,500,000,000 people wiped out of existence in forty days' time? That is what the Word of God says. I tell you, beloved, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

II

SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

Let's notice a second illustration. Let's turn to the experience of individuals who lived in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Word of God has not told us a great deal about them, but I am satisfied from the little bit that God has told us about the morals and the ethics of those people, that they were a group of happy-go-lucky inhabitants, and I am satisfied that their morals and ethics were very much on the low ebb so far as their civilization was concerned. If you will read the story of Sodom and Gomorrah as it pertained unto Lot, you will find that Lot's family was very much contaminated by the morals of the city, which would indicate that the morals of the city were exceedingly low. Well, beloved, I stand one day outside the city, and I see the fire. I used to wonder what that fire was. I used to wonder what kind of fire God sent down from Heaven to burn up those cities. Was it a fire of a supernatural origin? Was it some fire that we might say was of a miraculous nature? Beloved, I think that the atomic bomb will come closer to telling us what the fire was that burned up Sodom and Gomorrah than anything else in all the world that we could ever imagine. Fire from God—God's fire—not ordinary fire, but God's fire came down in a moment's time, and burned up the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and though 4,000 years have passed by, there has never been a sprig of grass, there has never been one single shrub, and there has never been a leafless tree that has sprouted and grown from the ground of the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Beloved, I tell you, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

III

LET'S NOTICE THE LAND OF

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When God has an especially bright crown for a soul, He first imparts an equally heavy cross.

EGYPT.

Beloved, can you imagine a land of luxury and vice? Goldsmith said:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

You can always be reasonably assured that it will be true that where wealth accumulates, men decay. As I have often said, we all have enough religion for the days of adversity, but mighty few of us have enough religion for the times of prosperity. Can you imagine a land that was given over to prosperity and vice? That is the land of Egypt.

Go back with me to the day when the children of Israel went into that land of Israel and sojourned there for 400 years. Finally, God determined to bring them out, and on that first night of the Passover when God did bring Israel out of the land of Egypt, He brought them forth from a wrecked country. The plagues, nine in number, that had come preceding the night of the first Passover, had bankrupt and beggared the land of Egypt. Then, beloved, that night, when the children of Israel killed the lamb and struck the side posts and the lintel above the door with the blood of that lamb, whereby the firstborn in every home might live—while that was true with the Jews, not one Egyptian father acted as the high priest for his family, and not one Egyptian home was prepared for the calamity that befell them at the midnight hour. Beloved, when the midnight hour came, the tenth plague fell and the firstborn in every home died.

Can you imagine what it would be like in your town alone if the news were to go around town that the firstborn in every family were lying a corpse? What would it be like if all over this city, and all over this county, and all over this state, and all over this nation, if the firstborn in every home were to die suddenly at the midnight hour? I tell you, beloved, Egypt fell into the hands of the living God, and whenever you hear the cry and the wail and moan of those people, because the firstborn has died, you can come back to my text and learn anew that which it says: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

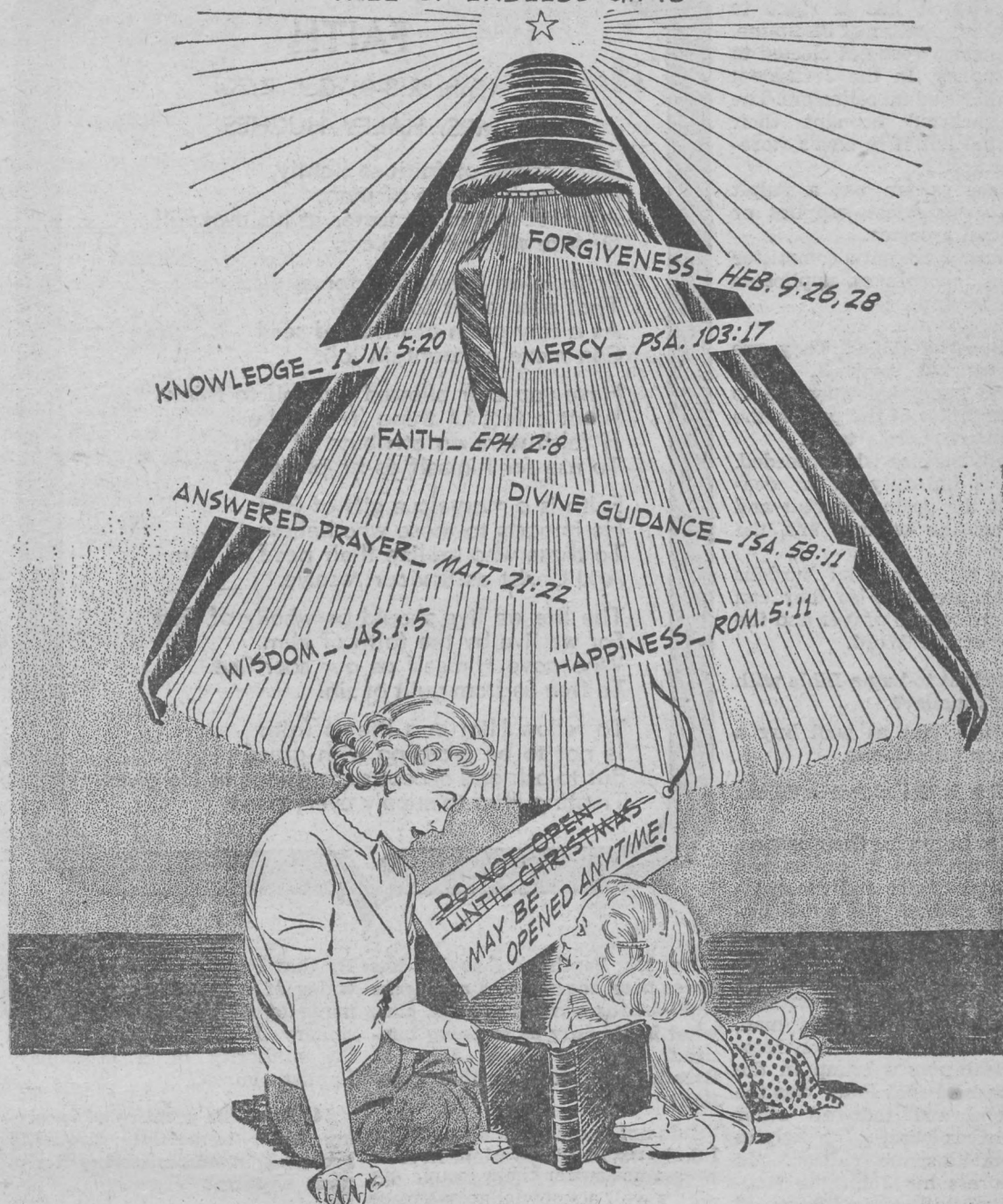
IV

LET'S NOTICE THE EGYPTIANS AT THE RED SEA.

God was not through with Egypt yet. They had flaunted His laws. Next to the Chinese, their civilization was the oldest. Next to the Chinese, they had had a longer civilization than anyone else. They had literature, the arts, and the sciences long before any other nation in the world possessed them. They had had opportunity by study that they surely might have found out something about God, but, beloved, they had flaunted the laws of God. They had disregarded God Almighty's warnings. Plague after plague has fallen upon them. Lice, frogs, flies, and all kinds of difficulties have come over the land. The firstborn has died. It would seem that that is enough, but God is not through yet. Pharaoh leads his armed chariots in pursuit, three days later, after the children of Israel, and he hems them up in a bottle-neck near the Red Sea. They cannot go forward, for the Red Sea stands as a barrier before them. They cannot go backward, because Pharaoh and his army are approaching. God opened up the Red Sea and let them go across to the other side dryshod, but when Pharaoh and his army started over, the waves came together so that the last one of them perished there in the Red Sea.

I stand on the shores of the Red Sea the next day and I see Mariam as she takes a timbrel in her hand as she starts to dance, and the people of Israel gather around her, and they dance and

TREE OF ENDLESS GIFTS



they sing. Old Moses takes up his shepherd's staff and beats out time, and they sing how the Lord has triumphantly taken care of them and how the Lord has helped them across, and they sing over the destruction of Pharaoh and his army. Beloved, as they sing, I see those waves washing up on the shore, and one by one I see some of Pharaoh's men washed up on the shore, half covered over by sand. As I stand there, I say, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

V

LET'S NOTICE THE SLAUGHTER OF THE NATIONS OF CANAAN.

When the Jews went out of the land of Canaan to sojourn in the land of Egypt, the Amorites, the Hivites, the Hittites, and Jebusites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, the Perizzites, and the Philistines settled in the land of Canaan. In fact, beloved, they were settled there even before that. They were the original in-

habitants of the land, but instead of the Jews staying there and crowding them out, the Jews, in the time of famine, went down into the land of Egypt and turned the country over to these original inhabitants of the land of Canaan—mighty nations. Beloved, those people were heathen people. They were idolatrous people. They were people, who had spurned God and who had refused to heed God's Word.

Even before this time, God had brought a revelation unto Abraham, for He said:

"The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."—Gen. 15:16.

In other words, God said, "I am going to give them a little while longer. Their cup of iniquity is not yet full." Beloved, while the Jews were in Egypt, those Amorites filled their cup of iniquity to the brim. They continued in their sin.

Notice again:

"And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy

them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face."—Deut. 7:10.

If you will read the context here in Deuteronomy 7, you will find that God is telling His children to be separate from these heathen nations and not to make marriages with them, not to make contracts with them, not to make agreements with them, because He says that He hates these Amorites and will destroy them and will repay them that hate Him to their very face. Beloved, did it ever come to pass?

By and by Joshua became the human commander. He led the children of Israel across the Jordan River. He conquered the city of Jericho and killed the people of that city—not a few of them, but all of them. We read how that five of these Amorite kings rose up in rebellion when Joshua was conquering the land. Listen:

"Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gideon, and made war against it."—Joshua 10:5.

Here are five heathen kings rising up in opposition against Joshua, and the Word of God tells us how that Joshua fought with them and how that God worked a miracle in his behalf. It looked like darkness would overtake them and the enemy would flee away in the hours of darkness, but God worked a miracle in behalf of Joshua so that the sun stood still in the skies for more than a day's time. God gave an extra day, almost a whole day, for Joshua to finish the task of destroying these Amorite nations. Finally, those five kings took refuge in a cave. We read:

"And brought forth those five (Continued on page eight)

"WALKING BY FAITH"

One step I see before me,
'Tis all I need to see;
The light of Heaven more brightly shines,
When earth's illusions flee,
And sweetly through the silence comes
His loving "Follow Me."

So on I go not knowing;
I would not if I might;
I'd rather walk in the dark with God
Than go alone in the light;
I'd rather walk by faith with Him
Than go alone by sight.

Where He may lead, I'll follow;
My trust in Him repose;
And every hour in perfect peace,
I'll sing, "He knows, He knows,"
And every hour in perfect peace,
I'll sing, "He knows, He knows."

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

PAGE SEVEN

JANUARY 15, 1955

I Should Like To Know

(Continued from page one)

Baptist church has a right to bring up any matter of discipline.

(3) Deacons were not elected to collect money. In the Jerusalem church they had no collectors. The willing hearted brought their money and put it in God's storehouse or box.

(4) Deacons are not a pulpit committee to select supplies or recommend a pastor.

(5) Deacons are not a committee to receive or pass on applicants for membership.

Positively—

(1) To serve tables. They are not bosses but servants. J. M. Pendleton once said they are to serve the tables of the pastor, the poor and the Lord's table.

(2) Daily service where needed.

(3) It is the duty of the deacons, not the pastor, to visit and look after the widows and the poor.

(4) To take financial burdens off of the preachers so they can give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

4. Is it right to buy a Bible with the Lord's money?

No. One might as well buy a farm or an automobile.

5. Which is the oldest religious denomination?

Baptists. In tracing their origins, you will not find it, unless you find it with Christ and the apostles. Prof. Ridpath, the noted historian and a Methodist, said: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist church as far back as A. D. 100, though without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were then Baptists." That puts a crimp in the Catholic claim that Peter was the first pope and that all other Christians are heretical proselytes from the Catholic church. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness."—Matt. 3:1. And the Baptists have been coming ever since.

6. Anna, a widow for 84 years, spoken of in Luke 2, is often cited to prove that it is right for women to preach? What do you think?

God kept Anna alive a long time in order to give her a chance to testify to her Saviour. She was a great soul. She knew her place and stayed in it. She is not responsible for the way the feminists have lied on her. They have tried to use her as an example of willful women, who get out of their places and disobey God's Word. We have not seen a single interpreter of the Word of God, that used Anna as an example of women speaking in public, that isn't a Modernist. Even Snowden, who is a rank Modernist, admitted that the temple had many chambers and that Anna lived in one of them. Her testimony was all private to the other dwellers in the temple and to those, who were constantly coming and going therein. If you have a wide-margin Oxford Bible look at Map 15, if yours is numbered like mine, you will see a map of the temple. In that map the temple is divided into the Priests' court and then the Levites' court and then the men's courts and last of all the women's court. There was not the slightest possibility of Anna or any other woman speaking before men; for the women could not even go into the part of the temple where the men were. The ignorance of even writers on the Sunday School lessons is appalling. Paul says in I Cor. 14:38, that the men who encourage the women to speak and the women, who speak in mixed public assemblies are ignorant men and women. He further says their ignorance is wilful, ignorance, which is the worst kind of ignorance; for they will not be taught. Paul says of such women and their sissy brethren: "But if any man is ignorant, let him be ignorant." His case is hopeless.

7. When one comes to realize

after his baptism, that he has never been regenerated and seeks and obtains pardon for his sins, what is his duty as to being baptized? Do you know John A. Broadus' position on this question?

I do not know Broadus' position. I do know Paul's position. In Acts 19 there were 12 men, who did not have the Holy Spirit and were therefore not saved.

Paul says in Rom. 8:9 that if a man has not the Holy Spirit "he is none of His." When Paul talked with these 12 men, he asked (I am quoting the Revised Version): "Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?" Their answer was that they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Then Paul told them they had misunderstood the plan of salvation as John the Baptist had taught it, and when they believed, then Paul baptized them. That is a concrete example of 12 men, who had been baptized before they received the Holy Spirit and were therefore not saved, who submitted to baptism after they were saved.

8. Were Job's children destroyed as the Scripture say?

Yes.

9. Is the Commission in Matt. for the Jews or the churches now?

It was for both Jews and Gentiles. It was for all nations and was to last until the end of the age, until the Lord Jesus comes again.

10. Was the atonement in Heaven or earth?

The sacrifice was made on earth. But the blood was carried into the holy of holies in Heaven, where the expiation for sin was made. Heb. 9:7-12.

11. Are there two salvations, one for Jews and one for Gentiles?

No. God says very plainly in Acts 15:7-11 that God "put no difference between Jews and Gentiles;" that "all, who believe are justified from all things." Acts 13:39. Read Romans, chapters three and four, and Gal. 3.

12. When does a New Testament church cease to be a New Testament church in God's sight?

When He removes the candlestick.

13. As long as a church remains a New Testament church is its baptism valid?

That depends. It takes four things to make a baptism valid: namely, a Scriptural action, a Scriptural subject, a Scriptural design and Scriptural authority.

FAITH

(Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:20)

MRS. HALEY HUGHES

Some speak of faith so lightly,
As though it were of man;
A power one may muster at his own will
Or fare without if he can.

Faith is an irresistible force
That even a bit so small
As a tiny grain of mustard seed
Can move a mountain tall.

Have you ever allowed yourself to think
What a fearful thing 'twould be
If faith were an attribute of man
To use for himself as he please?

Faith is a marvelous gift of God
He imparts to those who believe;
To those who realize their need of Him
And Christ as Saviour receive.

The life we live should be wholly of God
For we live by the faith of Him
Who gave Himself as our sacrifice
To free us from guilt of sin.

To follow Him in a life of faith
Is not to be grasping with greed
But to ask and accept such things as He gives
Trusting Him to supply every need.

By that I mean the immersion in water of a saved person, in the name of the Trinity, by a Missionary Baptist preacher, upon the authority of a Missionary Baptist church.

14. Does the practice of receiving alien immersion disqualify a church in administering Scriptural baptism?

Yes.

15. If a church receives alien immersion, can it later grant valid letters to those thus received?

No a Baptist church cannot validate un-Scriptural baptism by receiving it any more than a United States officer can validate counterfeit money by receiving it. Even the President cannot validate that which is invalid in its nature by receiving it.



"The Living God"

(Continued from page seven)

kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight. And afterwards Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening."—Joshua 10:23-26.

Notice what Joshua did. He went to the town of Libnah and smote all the people therein.

"And the Lord delivered it also, and the king thereof, into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein."—Joshua 10:30.

"And the Lord delivered Lachish unto the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah."—Joshua 10:32.

"And he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls that were therein; he left none remaining: as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king

thereof; as he had done to Libnah, and to her king. So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel commanded."—Joshua 10:39,40.

Beloved, if you will read the tenth chapter of the book of Joshua and then turn to my text, you will realize that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The God who said that He would repay a man to his face, that hated Him, the God who told Abraham that the cup of the Amorites was not quite full, that same God finally got around to the place that when their cup was completely filled, He repaid them to their face. Nation after nation were slaughtered; not one person was left alive.

VI

LET'S NOTICE THE EXPERIENCE OF JESUS.

In the words of Jesus, we have the same truth presented to us.

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."—Mark 9:45-48.

Beloved, can you see this man who, rather than letting his hand cause him to stumble, severs that hand from his body? Can you see that man who, rather than having his eye cause him to sin, gouges that eye from its socket? Can you see this individual, who rather than allowing his foot cause him to sin, severs his foot from his leg? Brother, when you see that person going around with a black patch over his eye, or with a hand cut from his arm, or an individual hobbling on a cork leg, just remember this, it is better to do that than to fall into the hands of the living God.

Our Lord said:

"The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."—Luke 12:46.

Listen again:

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall

gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."—Mt. 13:41,42.

Stand beside that furnace of fire and hear the wail, the gnashing of teeth, the tortured moans and shrieks of the ghosts that come therefrom. Listen, beloved, and remember, that God says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The Word of God tells us of a man who lived here in this world and enjoyed it to the fullest—that individual who was ultrarich so far as this world was concerned and who enjoyed everything that life had to offer. When he died, in Hell he cries that he might have just one drop of water. Here in this world he banqueted and feasted, but down there in Hell he asks if he could have only one drop of water. Hear him, my brother, as he says, "I am tormented in these flames." Oh, man, woman, stand alongside Hell with me and realize what Hell is. Realize what awaits you if you die without Jesus Christ. My brother, think of this and then come back to my text, which says: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

CONCLUSION

I say again, beloved, my text is primarily directed to God's people, but it serves as a marvelous illustration to show how it is also true that it is a fearful thing for an unsaved person to fall into the hands of the living God. Now sinner friend, get this closing thought. It is either one of two things—either you get into the hands of the living God and live your eternity in Hell. Jesus said:

"All day long I have stretched forth my hand to a disobedient and gainsaying people."—Rom. 10:21.

Beloved, those hands may be stretched out to you now in mercy. There may be an offer of grace to you. It may be that God's hand is outstretched toward you this very hour. If so, might I please the Lord to pick you up and put you in that hand, for in that hand is the place of safety. Jesus said:

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

I tell you, beloved, it is either to be in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is a place of safety and salvation, or else, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." May God bless you!

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