

Let every minister, while he is preaching, remember that God is one of his hearers.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

"I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW"

The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries

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

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The Work Of A True Deacon

By ROY MASON, Tampa, Florida

What Deacons Are Not For

A number of wrong conceptions have grown up concerning deacons and their duties, and these have been very harmful to churches. Let us consider some of these wrong conceptions.

1. The idea that deacons are to choose, run off, and boss pastors. Many a church never gets a chance to really call a pastor. The deacons settle on a man, and he is railroaded in. Then the same group deems it to be their business to boss the pastor. If they

don't like his preaching, they serve notice on him to change it. Thousands of secret meetings have been held by deacons as they planned ways and means of getting rid of a pastor who didn't please them. Every group of deacons who ask a pastor to resign, should be fired by the church. Neither pastor or deacons have any right to oust each other for both are chosen by the church.

2. The idea that deacons are church bosses. Many a church is dominated by a "board" of deacons. Strictly speaking there is no place for a "board" of deacons. The Bible says nothing (Continued on page three)

1. What is meant by not letting the left hand know what the right hand doeth in Matt. 6:1-5?

It means that our giving and fasting and praying are not to be done to be seen of men; but that all religious service should be done to please God.

2. Is a deacon of a Baptist church a covenant-breaker if he sends part of his tithes elsewhere, when his church needs it badly?

Most church covenants do not mention tithing, so that whether a member does or does not tithe, is not covenant-breaking. Covenant-breaking is flagrant violation of vows contained in the church covenant. Non-attendance and non-support of the church are covenant-breaking. Constant criticism of the church is covenant-breaking.

3. Is a deacon a covenant-breaker, if he refuses to pay anything into the current expenses of his church because they have a choir leader he does not like?

Yes, if he does not give the church any kind of financial support. If the choir-leader is paid a salary however, and this deacon helps to pay the pastor and other church expenses, but designates

his gifts so that none of the money goes to help pay the choir-leader, he is clearly within his rights and is not a covenant-breaker.

4. Is it Christian for a preacher to apply for the pastorate of a church that already has a pastor?

No. It is neither Christian gentlemanly, nor decent.

5. In an abstract of principles of the Louisville Seminary is article 14 on the church as follows: "The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples." Do they mean to teach that all Christians are members of the church like Campbellites do? or like many others do? If they do what is the difference in being a Baptist and a Methodist?

Whatever they mean, it is not so. The only church Jesus is Head of is a local Baptist church.

6. Can a man be saved who flatly denies a part of the Bible?

That is not easy to answer. There is much in the Bible that a man does not have to believe or know in order to be saved. Yet we doubt, if a man's attitude to (Continued on page three)

Baptists are in general agreement that the Scriptures teach TWO OFFICES for a church, yet they brazenly MULTIPLY offices. If there are only two offices, then why manufacture other offices? That question will have to be answered before the judgment seat of Christ.

The first office in a Scriptural church is the office of PASTOR. The second office is the office of DEACON. It would seem that the origin of the deaconship is found in Acts 6: Some deny this, but the word for "serve" used in this passage, is the word "diakonei"—the word that is used for deacon in I Tim. 3:10,13.

Catholic Idolatry In Their Biscuit Worship

By PASTOR W. B. DAVIDSON (Now In Mansions Above)

The purpose of this article is to call attention to idolatry of the Mass as practiced by the Roman Catholic Church. In the observance of the Mass by the Catholic Church the laws of God and man are disregarded and idolatry in its worst form is practiced. We are aware that a mere statement of these things being true is not sufficient to convince men and women, but proof must be submitted. In the following we shall seek to present proof of what we have said.

The Roman Catholic Church disregards the teachings of the Bible each time she observes the Mass. The proof of this statement can be found in the little book entitled "The Mass Book," published by the Pauline Press, 401 West Fifty-ninth Street, New York. From page eight we quote the following in part: "The Holy Mass is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, which is offered to the Heavenly Father on our altars under the species or appearance of bread and wine."

According to the Catholic Church the Mass, as celebrated by her, is a repetition of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Each time the Mass is observed the people are taught to believe that Christ is offered again as a sacrifice for their sins. If this is true, then Christ has suffered many times the foundation of the world, but it is not true. Heb. 9:2-28

says: "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. "So Christ was offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

This passage of Scripture plainly teaches that Christ was: "Once offered to bear the sins of many." In the observance of the Mass the Catholic Church disregards this, the Bible teaching on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church violates the Second Commandment each time she observes the Mass. Ex. 20:4,5 says: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them—", but according to the "Mass Book" page 22, we read as follows: "The solemn moment has arrived. The Priest takes in his hand the bread, and lifting his eyes to Heaven to show that this great wonder is worked by the power of God, he says the very words of our Lord at the Last Supper: 'This is My Body.' The bread at that moment is (Continued on page four)

Fundamentalism, A Dangerous Enemy To Baptist Churches

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." —Matt. 5:19.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." —Luke 16:10.

"Well thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."—Luke 19:17.

The most dangerous heretics in America are the Fundamentalists. That is true because they are heretical on little things—what they call the Non-essentials. They are nearly all Unionarians. If men are sound on the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the virgin birth, vicarious atonement, deity and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus, Baptist Funda- (Continued on page five)

Mass Evangelism When Tested By God's Word

By BOB L. ROSS Jackson, Tennessee

"Mass evangelism" means inter-denominationalism and union meetings. Mass evangelism is doing more toward the bringing of Baptist churches into the one world church movement than any other form of so-called evangelism being practiced. It breaks down the doctrine of separation, produces a spirit of compromise and looseness, and it leads away from an out-and-out stand for the whole truth of God's Word. It thrives on churches that are indoctrinated and unstable in practice. It makes havoc of God's revealed will and accepts for truth the commandments and practices of men. It is a form of Nimrodism (Gen. 11:1-4). It regards not the commandment of the Lord and cares only for members and cooperation.

About mass evangelism, let us first consider:

I. The Unholy Union

of various denominations in evangelistic efforts. The most common practice which falls under the title of mass evangelism is the so-called "Crusade For Christ" or "United Evangelist Campaign;" in other words, a union meeting backed by Methodists, Presbyterians, Campbellites, Holy Rollers, and any thing else that will go along and some who call themselves Baptists. In a meeting of good size such as those held by Billy Graham, Merv Rosell, Jack Shuler, John R. Rice, Bob Jones, Hyman Appelman, and such like, you will find the following conglomeration of heresies represented:

1. Baptismal regeneration.
2. Salvation by works or works mixed with grace.
3. "Falling from grace."
4. Infant sprinkling.
5. Sprinkling.
6. Pouring.
7. Alien immersion.
8. Open communion.
9. Universal church theory. (All union evangelists believe and teach the heretical idea of a universal invisible church. The Bible knows of no such church.)
10. Mourner's bench.
11. Arminianism. (Election and depravity are denied; man's so called free-will exalted.)
12. Neo-orthodoxy.
13. Feminism.

In the light of the Bible, where does such a meeting appear in God's sight? I know not and can not conceive of a bigger mess of abominable teachings and practices. Are we to unite with those who teach and practice such things as those listed in the preceding in an effort to promote the Gospel? Let us read from God's Word and see what the Lord Jesus Christ said about evangelism:

"Teaching them to observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you."—Matt. 28:20.

And again in Matt. 5:19, Jesus says:

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the (Continued on page four)

Be Sure To Read The Letter On Page 3

CONTENTMENT IN HIM

Lord Congelton once overheard one of his servants say: "Oh, if I only had five pounds I would be perfectly content." Thinking the matter over he decided that he would like to see someone "perfectly content." He walked into the kitchen and told now he had overheard the remark and handed the woman a five-pound note (then about \$25). She thanked him profusely. He left the kitchen but paused outside the door for a moment. The woman, as soon as she thought he was out of earshot, began to complain bitterly, "Why on earth couldn't I say ten pounds?" The human heart can never find contentment in the things of this earth. We are told by God to be content if we have the necessities of life (I Tim. 6:8), and to be content with such things as (Continued on page four)

THE CHURCH IS NOT

A hospital, though it ministers to spiritual illness and to the morally anemic. The church is not a gymnasium primarily to develop muscles. The church is not a cold storage plant to keep a few saints from spoiling. The church is not a club to give a little religious polish to complacent members.

The church is an inspiration point to workers. The church exists to help people live. It must not live for itself alone, but must lose itself in service to the Great Commander. It must place the child in the midst and serve the community. It must be friendly, evangelistic, missionary-minded, and enthusiastic. It must represent the spirit of the Master who went about doing good. Let's make sure that we are carrying out the Master's Commission. —Selected

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

"Why Christ Is Coming Again"

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also."—John 14:3.

I don't believe that there is another person in this world who believes more strongly in the premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ back to this earth than the individual who is speaking to you. I believe Jesus Christ is coming back to this world. It seems hard for me as I deal with post-millennialists and a-millennialists to understand how an individual could take the position that these two groups take. I repeat, beloved, I doubt seriously if there is an individual who believes more strongly in the premillennial return of Jesus Christ back to this world than does your pastor.

I turn to the text which I have just read, which says, "And if I go, I WILL COME AGAIN." Well, beloved, He went away; then He's bound to come back. The Lord Jesus Christ told the truth. He never sinned one time by way of lying when He was

here within this world, and, beloved, I take for granted that He told the truth in this instance when He said, "If I go, I will come again." He went away; then He's bound to come back.

Every time we observe the Memorial Supper we have a prophecy or a promise of Jesus coming again. Listen:

"This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death TILL HE COME." (Continued on page two)

The same supplication that draws God's blessing down, draws the suppliant's soul up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1955

THE BROKEN LAW AND SECOND TABLES OF STONE — — — EXODUS 31—34

I. Workmen For The Building. Ex. 31:1-11.

The Lord had selected Bezaleel and Aholiab, having called them and filled them with knowledge, for the task of building the Tabernacle.

Certainly this shows that the Lord always prepares men to do His work. If the work be of God, He has some one always prepared to do it. Our duty is to wait on the Lord until He shows us the man for the task. Whether the work be secular, or of ministry, the workmen need to be of Divine selection, Divine call, and Divine appointment. This further shows us that each one has a place to occupy; a ministry to fulfill; and a responsibility to discharge. Not all the people of Israel were Bezaleels or Aholiabs. Let us see to it that we fill our place in the way God has given us the talent to do.

II. The Sabbath. Ex. 31:12-17.

This day was referred to in chapter 16, in connection with manna (Ex. 16:23,20). It was expressly commanded in Ex. 20:8,11. Again it is mentioned and this time it is recognized as a sign between Jehovah and Israel. May we remember that we have a greater day—the Lord's Day.

III. The Broken Law. Ex. 32:1-6.

Less than six weeks before, the people had sworn "All that the Lord hath spoken will we do, and be obedient." Now they cry, "MAKE US GODS." Note the folly of asking a man to make Gods for them. Aaron, in his weakness does according to their wish. Note the elements in the breaking of the law.

1. The rejection of Moses and God, by their demand, "Make us gods."
2. The god, being man made, was an idol.
3. The form of the idol was the Egyptian God, Apis (an ox), which died in the murrain, one of the miracles of Moses.
4. They built an altar of worship.
5. They made offerings thereto.
6. They made a feast to hallow the covenants made with this God.
7. They stripped off their clothes, and danced naked about this idol, committing the vilest adultery possible. Note vs. 6-10. See Paul's comments in I Cor. 10:28.

IV. Moses, The Intercessor. Ex. 32:7-14.

When God would have destroyed Israel, Moses plead that the people might be saved. What a mighty picture of Jesus, as our Intercessor. Note I John 2:1,2. How thankful, we have an Intercessor, Jesus Himself, who pleads for us, and presents His blood as the basis of our forgiveness in Heaven.

V. Chastisement. Ex. 32:15-35.

Moses was not a man to wink at sin. When he saw what had been done by Israel, he had the calf burned or pulverized, the ashes sprinkled in the

body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

—Phil. 3:20,21.

Notice that it tells us that Jesus Christ shall change our vile body. The Greek literally says that He is going to fashion anew our body of humiliation. This body that you and I carry around isn't very much. Regardless of how beautiful or how handsome you may be, this old body isn't much to look at; it is just a body of humiliation at best. But some day He's coming, and He is going to fashion these bodies anew. He is going to change these bodies of humiliation when He comes back to this world the second time.

III

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO REIGN AS KING.

When Jesus came two thousand years ago, He didn't come to be a king. The Jews would have liked to have made Him king, but Jesus didn't come then to be a king. He didn't come then to be a monarch. He didn't come then to reign. He came then as a servant, and He came to die as a servant upon the Cross. But, someday, beloved, Jesus Christ is coming back, and when He does, He is going to reign as king.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him then shall he SIT UPON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY."—Mt. 25:31.

"And the Lord shall BE KING over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."—Zech. 14:9.

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings."—Rev. 17:4.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded

for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."—Rev. 20:4.

You know, beloved, I am glad that I am on Jesus' side. When He comes, I am going to be on the winning side. When He comes back to this world, He is coming back to reign, and everyone that is saved will reign with Him in that day. How I thank God that when He comes, He is going to come to reign as king.

IV

WHEN HE COMES, HE IS GOING TO COME TO BE UNITED IN MARRIAGE TO HIS BETROTHED BRIDE.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."—Rev. 19:7-9.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, who is going to be the bride of Christ?" A man said over the radio just a few days ago that the bride of Christ was going to be composed of all the saved of all the world. When I heard this, I thought, how foolish is such a statement as that. Why should I as a Baptist contend for the historicity of Baptist churches? Why should I contend for the security of the saved? Why should I contend for Baptist baptism as the only Scriptural baptism that the

water, and Israel was compelled to drink thereof. Likewise, he calls for those on the Lord's side to rally to his support. The Levites stand beside him. With their swords, they slew some 3,000 men. Surely no one can fail to see how the Lord chastises these who sin. Note. Heb. 12:5-11.

VI. The Sign Of The Broken Covenant. Ex. 33:1-11.

The first sign was that of Moses breaking the tables of stone. (Ex. 32:19). The second sign was that of moving the tent of meeting, outside the camp. God had said (v. 3), "I will not go up with you." This was due to Israel's sin. Now the tent of meeting is moved outside the camp to show them that the Lord is no longer with them. Their own conduct had made the Lord an outsider. How many times is it thus with us, that we cause Him to withdraw, due to our sin.

VII. God's Gracious Mercy. Ex. 33:12-17.

When Moses intercedes, God says, "My presence shall go with thee." In spite of their sin, God will lead Israel to the land flowing with milk and honey. Our God deals with us in that manner today. What a blessed privilege of being a child to a Father like that. Moses said, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." Would to God that each of us might learn to pray thus.

VIII. Moses' Vision Of God. Ex. 33:18—34:9.

When God gave to Moses the tables of stone, He granted Moses, the sweet permission of beholding His glory. While we may never enjoy the same high privilege of Moses, yet may we pray that we may ever get a clearer vision of God and of the work He would have us do. Cf. Prov. 29:18; Acts 26:19.

IX. The Covenant Restored. Ex. 34:10,27.

- God agrees to accept Israel as His people, driving out their enemies, providing:
1. They make no covenant with the Canaanites (v. 12). (God's child should never be unequally yoked with the world in any manner).
 2. They worship Jehovah only. (v. 14).
 3. They do not marry with the Canaanites (v. 16). It is plainly wrong for a Christian to marry a sinner. Note II Cor. 6:14; Deut. 7:1-3; I Cor. 7:39.
 4. They set apart the first born to the Lord (v. 19,20).
 5. They keep three national feasts: Pentecost, Passover and Tabernacles. (v. 23).
 6. They keep the Sabbath. (v. 21).

X. Moses' Face Shining. Ex. 34:28-35.

When Moses returned from the mountain, his face was aglow with the glory of God. It teaches us the lesson that whatever we contemplate steadfastly, we tend to become like. May we dwell with Jesus, endeavoring to become more Christ-like.

world has? Why should I contend for restricted church communion—that each church is to observe the Lord's Supper for itself? Why should I contend for the glorious doctrine of election? Why should I contend for sovereign grace, that God sovereignly moves whom He will, and when He will, at His own time and His own pleasure? Why should I contend for these glorious truths if over here is an heretic who preaches exactly opposite to what I preach, who will be in the bride the same as I throughout all eternity? Beloved, it doesn't even make sense that while we have preached exactly opposite, that we should both be on the same plane in eternity.

The bride of Christ is going to be a very small number out of all the elect of God who are saved. Listen:

"The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be" (Continued on page three)

WHY DID HE DO IT?

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Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

—I Thes. 4:16,17.

When He comes, beloved, whether you are dead, or whether you are alive, He is going to catch you away into the skies. Every child of God who is asleep in the ground is going to come forth to be caught up into the skies, and every living saint is going to be caught away from this world to be with the Lord Jesus Christ, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

In His high priestly prayer, He makes mention of the fact that He desires that you and I shall be with Him eternally, for He says: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am."

—John 17:24.

How that ought to thrill us to know that God in Christ loved us enough that He is not going to leave us here in this world, but rather, He is coming for us and



Let your thanksgiving really be with giving this year. If you believe in the ministry of this paper, we invite you to share its responsibilities.

is going to take us so that we might forever be with Him.

II

JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK TO THIS WORLD TO RELEASE ALL THE BURIED BODIES OUT OF THE GROUND.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward that they are Christ's at his coming."—I Cor. 15:22,23.

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

—I Cor. 15:35-38.

This would tell us that He is coming back to this world that He might receive His own at His coming, and that He might release the dead bodies out of the grave. Beloved, how that ought to rejoice our hearts. There isn't a one of us who haven't had loved ones and friends pass from this world. We have seen them close their eyes in this life for the last time. We have seen them buried beneath the sod, and we have stood there and have asked, "Is this the end? Is this all that there is to life?" No, no, beloved. Listen:

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious

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EDITOR ATTENDS FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING IN W. VA.

On Saturday night, October 29 and Sunday morning, October 30, it was your editor's happy privilege to preach for the fifth Sunday fellowship of Bible Baptists which was held at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church of Pool, West Virginia.

Preaching on Saturday night from the subject, "The Sins of The Saints," and on Sunday morning from the subject, "Why I Am A Baptist," your editor had a most enjoyable time with these brethren.

Brother Earl Ward and church were very gracious hosts and Brother Charles O'Connor proved himself to be one of the ablest presiding officers that I have been with in many a day.

There were approximately 20 churches represented with about the same number of Baptist preachers in attendance. Truly it has been a long time since we have been in such happy surroundings and have enjoyed such rich fellowship.

This group meets each fifth Sunday and I would suggest to all our readers who live in going distance that you please plan now to attend the next fifth Sunday meeting which will be the fifth Sunday of January, 1956, at which time the meeting will be held with the River Side Baptist Church at Richwood, West Virginia, of which Brother J. M. Holliday is pastor.

"Coming Again"

(Continued from page one)

—I Cor. 11:25,26.

When the bread is broken and the wine is poured, when you observe that, that is a silent, tacit sermon in itself of the return of Jesus Christ, for the text says that as often as ye do it, "ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

On that day when Jesus Christ left this world, He went out into Mt. Olivet, and there began to lift Himself up into the sky. The disciples, remaining here on earth, stood gazing up at Him as He ascended into the sky, and as they did so, two angels stood by them, which said:

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall SO COME in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

—Acts 1:11.

In the light of these texts, I don't see how anybody could fail to believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ back to this world. Let's notice why He is coming.

I

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO RECEIVE HIS OWN UNTO HIMSELF.

"And if I go and prepare a place you, I will come again, and RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF: that where I am, there ye may be also."—John 14:3.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Should Like To Know

(Continued from page one)
wards any part of the Bible is that of open antagonism and disbelief, whether that man has really repented; for if he were truly penitent, his attitude towards God's Word would be changed. We do not see how a man could believe in Christ and yet at that very moment be a disbeliever in His Word.

7. What are proper steps for a church to take towards another Baptist church that receives those excluded from her membership for a disorderly walk?

Do nothing. Each church is independent. Let the Lord Jesus, the great Head of both churches attend to that case.

8. What should be done with a member that is sulking and refuses to attend his church on any occasion?

Give him a first and second admonition and then exclude him if he still refuses or even neglects to come. He is a covenant-breaker, is living in open contempt of the church and is walking disorderly — either one of which charges is a sufficient warrant for his exclusion.

9. Can a Baptist church ever have other witnesses than their own members against one whom they are trying to discipline?

Yes. And these witnesses need not be brought before the church



Show your thankfulness this year by an offering equal to the blessings which you have received from this paper.

testify. If they are reliable witnesses their testimony is as good as any Baptist's and the guilty party ought to be excluded when the church has evidence from any source of the guilt of the offender. The Scripture is clear and plain on that subject. Paul in I Cor. 5 brought a charge against another and told the church to exclude him without a committee trial. His ground for the charge was: "It is commonly reported." Paul knew from outside testimony the man was guilty and so told everybody else. So he told them to turn him out without further investigation or delay. We ought to have some regard for the good name of a church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Do you think God will hold a Baptist preacher responsible when he knows the truth concerning the Cooperative Program and still supports it?

Definitely. Read Luke 12:47.

11. A church has an annex building that was bought for the teaching of God's Word. Is it right to have a kitchen in it? Would it be just as bad as to have it in the main building?

So far as I am concerned, it is not. God's House. Paul declared that it was a shame to use God's house for eating and drinking. He said that the one who does so despises or looks down on the church. Cf. I Cor. 11:22. The kitchen might just as well be placed in the pulpit as in the annex.

Deacons

(Continued from page one)
about there being a "board." Some churches are so deacon dominated that no matter of business can get before the church unless "cleared" by the deacons. Such a church has ceased to be a democracy.

What Then Are Deacons Really For?

1. The first ones were ordained

An Open Letter To All Of Our Readers



Dear Friends of The Baptist Examiner:

Greetings in the name of Jesus, and praise to God for His goodness to all. As another Thanksgiving season rapidly approaches, I rejoice and thank God for all of His goodness, knowing that "every good and perfect gift cometh from above."

Truly, I thank God for all the material benefits which He has given us. While this has been a year of testing, and a year of many hardships, at the same time, it has been a year in which God has blessed us far greater than we deserve. How I do rejoice and thank the God who cares for every sparrow, in view of the necessities of life which He gives us from day to day.

I thank God for a year of unusually good physical health. Compared with the preceding one, and even with others that I have known, it has been an unusually blessed one.

I am thankful for The Baptist Examiner whose circulation has grown by more than 2,000 since the first of January. It has been a hard grind to get it out each week, and it has had much opposition, without too much encouragement. Many times through the years, I felt that the difficulties were too great and that defeat was inevitable, but now, I thank God for all His blessings upon our editorial efforts, in that He has kept the paper regularly in the mails. I couldn't begin to share with you the many fine testimonies which we have had from multiplied thousands of our readers concerning the blessings which they have received from The Baptist Examiner.

I thank God for my friends who have been more numerous this past year than ever before. I also thank God for my enemies who likewise have been indeed plentiful. It seems that at the very time when I have needed friends most, that some of those that I have counted upon have failed me, yet, in each instance, God has raised up others who have been most kind to me in every respect. Their prayers, their financial support and their encouragement have been the means, humanly speaking, of keeping this paper in the mail each week.

I am thankful for a Sovereign God and His providential leadings. Within the past year, He has separated me from those whom I thought were my best friends, thus teaching me that I am entirely dependent upon Him and that I am to lean entirely upon Him and not on any arm of the flesh. Romans 8:28 has come to mean more and more to me as the days have passed by.

Always at this season, we expect a Thanksgiving offering from our friends so that we will be able to close out the year without a deficit. As our friends well know, our paper never pays its way. Even though we work exceedingly hard in our printing shop to supplement that which we charge for the paper, we always have a hard time making ends meet financially. This year, as usual, we are in need. I am, therefore, asking all our friends whom the Lord has prospered to give as the Spirit of God directs toward our publishing work. Let me personally urge you to be extraordinarily generous now as we need your gift to carry on. Will those of you whom God has prospered make up for the limitations of others, and our extra costs at this time.

Frankly, it's been over a year since I have had a payday. I am not complaining for God has provided for all of our necessities, yet we have lived in the past year on approximately one-third of that which we have had for a living for a number of years. Many of our friends, I am sure, have been blessed of God in a material way far more than I have and will be happy to share with The Baptist Examiner in a Thanksgiving offering, which we hope will be large enough to pay our deficit of the paper for the year, and will enable us to start a new year with a clean slate.

We depend upon this Thanksgiving offering each year to lift our burdens at the close of the year. Your help this year will be most deeply appreciated. Only a comparative few will support the ministry of this paper. I am praying that you will be one of the few.

In Jesus' name, I pray that you may have a most thankful Thanksgiving, and that you will enable us to do likewise by your gifts.

Very sincerely yours,
John R. Gilpin

to serve tables. Acts 6:2. The expression "this business" in Acts 6:3 indicates that they were to help out in business matters. They were designed to help the preachers—to take the load of material burdens off their shoulders so that they could give themselves to spiritual things. (Acts 6:4).

2. Deacons are to be SERVANTS—not bosses. They are to be instructed by the church instead of presuming to instruct and tell the church what to do. They are to help—not hinder the pastor. The pastor should serve as chairman of the deacons and should be present at their meetings. This will avoid much of the clash and conflict between pastor and deacons. One might think of the deacons as the pastor's "cabinet"—his consultants and advisors in all the work of the church.

Proper functioning deacons will take most of the secular things off the shoulders of the pastor such as to allow him to give his time mainly to a spiritual ministry. However some deacons have gone too far and have served notice on the pastor, "It is your business to occupy the pulpit, and we will run the finances and all of the business of the church." Deacons of that kind need firing instantly for they are bosses. They are telling the pastor what he must do and what he must not do. Any church is in a miserable plight when there is such strained relationship between pastor and deacons. The truth is, the pastor and deacons should be on the friendliest, easiest terms, such that they

mutually consult with each other about all the affairs of the church. The writer of these lines has never had a fight with his deacons in 25 years. We discuss church matters freely, frankly and in good spirit. The pastor has never wanted backing on any worthy matter and failed to get it from the deacons. He has never tried to boss them, and they have never tried to boss him. The main thing is for a church to choose men who will not be arbitrary and unable to get along with others.

The qualifications of deacons. These are given in I Tim. 3: and no choice of a deacon should be made while ignoring these plain qualifications.

The last time deacons were selected in our church, we did three things. First the qualifications were read; second, we prayed for divine guidance as to who in the light of the Bible qualifications should be chosen; third, we passed out blank pieces of paper and members were asked to ballot for those whom they believed the Lord led them to designate. There was remarkable agreement, such that the choices made were satisfactory.

"Coming Again"

(Continued from page two)
brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee."

—Psa. 45: 13,14.
From this you can see that the bride of Christ is spoken of as one, and also that the saved are called virgins, or companions of the bride. There are a lot of people who are saved, but they will not be in the bride. They will be only companions of the bride.

Listen again:
"There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is but ONE."

—Sol. 6:8,9.
Notice, if you will, that there will be many people who will accompany the bride, who are saved people, but they are not of the bride themselves.

Notice again:
"Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."—Rev. 19:9.

The word for "called" is "invited." There will be lots of invited guests to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, who is going to be the bride if all the saved do not constitute the bride?" Beloved, I heard a preacher say not too long ago that he thought that nobody but Baptists would be in the bride. Well, I'm sure that no one but Baptists will be in the bride, but I don't believe that all Baptists will be in the bride. I don't believe that the Baptists who deny the doctrine of election will be any part of the bride. I don't believe that the Baptists who deny sovereign grace will be any part of the bride. I don't believe that the Baptists who deny the doctrine of baptism, or close communion, or who deny any part of the Bible will be a part of the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know, beloved, just who is going to be in the bride. That will be in the hands of God. But I do say this, that there will be a mighty small number out of all of God's elect that will constitute the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be many attendants and many guests, who will not be a part of the bride themselves.

Oh, how a wedding stirs our hearts and thrills our souls. My daughter just got married of recent date, and I got a lot of joy out of her wedding. I think back over the weddings which I have solemnized during the last thirty-odd years of my ministry—between 10,000 and 11,000 marriages—and when I think about the great number whom I have married (Continued on page six)

Mass Evangelism

(Continued from page one) kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Notice in these passages of Scripture that Jesus sets great emphasis upon His commandments, for the man that teaches all of them, even the very least, shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. But the mass evangelism crowd, which shuns "all the least commandments," shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven.

No Baptist should unite with any crowd for any purpose. We are people of the Book. We obey the Book, and if you don't obey the Book, you are not a Baptist, for a Baptist obeys the Book! And what does the Book say? Let us read in II Thes. 3:6:

"Withdraw yourselves from every brother (a saved Baptist, a saved Methodist, a saved Presbyterian, or any other who may be a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ) that walketh disorderly and not after the traditions which he received of us."

Instead of uniting with these in error, we should follow the instructions of Rom. 16:17 and "mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Somebody is always belly-aching about preachers who expose heretics and their unscriptural practices. Let such people meditate upon the Scripture just quoted and then learn to pray for instead of criticizing those who obey this command. Those who usually kick THE BAPTIST EXAMINER for its obedience to God's Word are either those exposed or those who don't have the backbone of a grub-worm to stand for truth.)

Mass evangelism has never "marked" the sprinkling crowd, the salvation by works crowd, the falling from grace crowd, etc. If it did, it would be doomed.

Truly, the time has come when men cannot endure, much less contend for, sound doctrine. (II Tim. 4:3). Those who advocate the unionism of denominations and those who approve of such have not learned the Bible doctrine that "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Luther, Calvin, Wesley and other reformers clung to the heresies of Rome; and what has it done for the modern Protestant world? Protestantism is little more than a cup of abominations and filthiness (Rev. 17:4). Look at the "great" Southern Baptist Convention with its "great" Cooperative Program. Years ago when this Program was adopted, the leaders meant well. They were very zealous to do mission work, and it seemed that the Program was the answer. But the Program was founded upon an unscriptural principle, only a "little leaven" but it has almost permeated the whole. Give the Seminaries five or ten years and the whole lump will be leavened. Next consider mass evangelism's

Unscriptural Messages

Such messages as "Crossing the Deadline," "Sinning Away Your Day of Grace," "Choose You This Day," etc., are based upon fragments of Scripture being misapplied and misinterpreted.

Man's will and not God's Will is exalted. Everything about the union meeting (big time style) is geared to attract and appeal to the carnal sentiments. Of necessity, the messages have to be pleasing to man and not to God. Who would dare blaspheme God by accusing Him to be in such meetings supported by the enemies of truth? Certainly God's Spirit is far from such preaching as is preached in union meetings.

The Ultra-heretical Invitations

"Decisionism" is mass evangelism's life-line. After a message on "Crossing the Deadline," the evangelist stands and begs and

pleads with sinners to "accept the words: "This is my body and Christ," "walk the aisle for Christ," etc. Billy Graham's radio program is called "The Hour of DECISION." At the close of John R. Rice's sermons (printed) is a "Decision blank." The Moody tracts are also characterized by the "Decision blank."

What's wrong with the idea of a "decision for Christ?" It is wrong simply because the Bible does not teach that we make a decision for Christ, nor that we accept Christ. The Bible teaches that we receive Christ, but the act of receiving is not the result of, nor is it exercised of "the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:13). We are born again not by a decision on our part, but by the quickening of God's Spirit revealing to us the truth of God's Word. (I Peter 1:22,23). How can a man who cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God make a decision for Christ? Jesus said:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." —John 6:63.

And in John 5:21 we read: "The Son quickeneth whom he will."

If it were left entirely to man to receive or reject Christ as mass evangelism proclaims, then all would perish for no man can come to Jesus except it were given unto Him of the Father. (John 6:44,63).

Especially does mass evangelism put emphasis upon youth. You have heard, no doubt, of "Youth for Christ." One brother has raised the question as to why not "Christ for Youth." But the expression "Youth for Christ" makes the youth feel that they

(Continued on page six)

Biscuit Worship

(Continued from page one) changed into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Priest falls on his knees in deepest reverence and then holds up the Sacred Host for the people to adore."

Worship A Biscuit

Where can you find more unadulterated idolatry than in the observance of the Mass in the Catholic Church, where people as well as the priest worship a piece of bread! The Second Commandment is violated when the people make a piece of bread and worship it as Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church perverts the plain teachings of the New Testament concerning the Lord's Supper. According to Matt. 26:26-28, it is as follows: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is my body, and he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it: for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

By every law of interpretation this passage means that the bread and the wine represented or symbolized the body and the blood of Jesus Christ, for such is the accepted meaning of other passages where the same expressions are used. In John 10:7 Jesus says: "I am the door of the sheep." Would anyone attempt to prove that Jesus was a literal door, a door made of wood or stone? We understand that Jesus was using figurative language and He meant to teach that He was the way of approach to God. In another place He said: "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

In John 15:1 Jesus says: "I am the true vine—" No one understands Him to mean that He is a grape vine. We understand Him to mean that we are to get our life and strength from Him just as the branches get theirs from the vine. Jesus is the source of eternal life.

When Jesus said: "This is my body," He meant the bread represented His body. He was alive and in His body and the bread that He held in His hand was held by a member of His body. How then can anyone interpret

the words: "This is my body and this is my blood" to mean the actual, literal, flesh and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.

Cannibalism Practiced

The Roman Catholic Church is guilty of cannibalism each time she observes the Mass, if her interpretation is correct. If the bread and wine are actually changed into the flesh and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ after the priest says the words: "This is My body," then she makes her god and then eats him! If we accept their own teachings, the Catholics make their own god, then worship him, and finally eat him!

The average Catholic believes that the bread and wine used in the sacrifice of the Mass actually becomes the flesh and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ only because he has listened to the priest and has not done any reading or thinking for himself. There are no people on earth that are in greater need of the Word of God than the Roman Catholics.

The Catholics are taught that when they receive a piece of the bread that the priest claims to have been changed into the flesh and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, that they are receiving Jesus Christ into their lives. How anyone can believe that a man can change or create the Lord Jesus Christ out of a piece of bread is beyond human reason—it is preposterous!

A Pitiable Sight

Some time ago we had an occasion to witness in a Catholic Church the service known as the "Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament." In this service we saw six men bowing before a golden vessel in which was claimed to be the flesh, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ; but in



There are friends of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER who could pay off our entire obligation and never miss it. This would be a fine time to show your gratitude to God for His goodness, by thus relieving us of our burden, or at least a part of it.

reality there was only a piece of bread.

As we witnessed the scene, our heart was deeply stirred with pity for them. We were reminded of the passage of Scripture found in II Cor. 4:3,4 which says: "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

What a pity it is that the people are so blinded to the truth that they will bow down to a piece of bread and adore (worship) it. What is the difference in worshipping a piece of bread after a priest has said a few words over it and in worshipping a piece of wood or stone after some workman has carved it into the image of a man or an animal? There is no difference, it is idolatry in its worst form.

The Roman Catholic Church practices idolatry each time she observes the Mass, and those who take part in its observances are guilty of idolatry. Catholics are lost and need to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour "who put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and is coming again for them that look for him."

We have no ill will towards Catholics as individuals, our attack is against the system as taught and practiced by the Catholic Church.

The leaders of the Catholic Church have much for which they must answer to God. They have led millions to Hell and they are still doing it! Oh, that God might use this article to open the eyes of some of those who are in posi-

BOTH WED AND UNWED SHOULD READ

"The Miracle Of Marriage"

By PASTOR R. S. BEAL First Baptist Church Tucson, Arizona

"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."—Matt. 19:5,6.

It seems incredible to think of the marriage relation as a miracle. So common is it to everyday experience and so familiar to our sight that the thought of the supernatural in connection with it is regarded as out of order. Yet embedded in the heart of this passage is the revelation of a miracle. "And the twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh." Here is the statement that two become one in connection with the marriage. We wonder about this next statement of the text, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Jesus clearly asserts that it is the hand of God that makes two individuals "one flesh." Whatever is of God is miraculous in character. It cannot be otherwise because His works are beyond the natural. It is impossible to take a limited view of God or to regard His works on the level of human affairs. When God's hand is in an event a miracle is bound to occur. This is true of salvation and it is true of every circumstance of the Christian experience.

Marriage is one of the most sacred of all relations and it has been my prayer that I might deal with it wholly on a Scriptural basis. It requires great care and also plainness of speech. The theme is a neglected one and if dealt with at all, it is usually from the physical or psychological point of view. I cry aloud to arouse the church of God and to cause the Christian youth to stop and think on their way. This message is not presented to stir up strife, but to inform each one as to the mind of God, and if possible to arouse the conscience on the seriousness of things involved.

Paul wrote to Titus and urged him to deal plainly with the vital issues of life. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1), and why not? Serious-minded young people want to know, and all youth

Contentment

(Continued from page one) we have (Heb. 13:5). Paul had learned to be content with whatsoever state he was in (Phil. 4:11). And it is still true that "Godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Tim. 6:6).

tion to lead others from darkness to light and from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of His dear Son.

ought to know, the teaching of the Word of God on the subject of marriage. If "the twain shall be one flesh," surely nothing short of the mind of God should be ascertained. The Bible needs to be taken as our rule of faith and practice at the point of marriage as much as at any place in human experience. Next to conversion there is nothing which comes to our lives that requires more serious reflection and unceasing prayer than that of marriage. Marriage is the longest and closest relationship known to man while he is permitted to live on earth. It is the responsibility of each of us to find out the true nature and status of this sacred institution. It is much easier to keep out of difficulty than it is to get out of it, therefore the importance of learning the truth about marriage.

As we face this serious matter let us remember that marriage is

A Divine Institution

We have made this statement so often that it seems commonplace, yet all of us need to be reminded over and over that marriage finds its origin in God. Society never made marriage; it found it in God's garden. The first light dawned when God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18).

All was good about creation except the lonesomeness of Adam. Of him God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." God steps into the picture with the words, "I will make him a help meet for him," these latter words meaning, "one over against him," or his counterpart. In providing a "help meet" for earth's first man, God put him to sleep and out of his wounded side took a rib and fashioned a woman whom Adam called Eve and whom God declared was his wife. It has always seemed significant to me that God took Eve from the side of her husband and not from his head to rule over him, or from a bone out of his foot that he might rule over her, but from his side that she might stand alongside of him on ground of equality.

All was perfect until sin marred the scene, and as we read in the Word, things went from bad to worse until we discover that the imagination of man's heart was evil continually, and it became necessary for God to send the awful flood judgment and wipe out the human family save for Noah, his wife and sons and their wives.

The first indication in the Bible that man did not believe God about the miracle of marriage is indicated in the line of Cain. "And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah" (Gen. 4:19). Here we see the account of the first polygamy. And while God tolerated it, there

(Continued on page five)

The most important thing to know is the accurate words of Scripture revealing Christ the Savior and Teacher.

This is best set forth in

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If we would mirror God, our souls must be calm.

Marriage

(Continued from page four)

never was a time when He sanctioned it.

Marriage then was born in the mind of God and wrought out by the creative hand of God, which facts lead us to the second great truth, Marriage is

A Divine Act

If we think that marriage is merely a legal contract, or if we have the idea that it is an economic cornerstone of the state, we have placed it on a very low level. It is not primarily a union of mutual love though for the most part this is the version most people have of it. In view of what the Bible teaches I assert emphatically that it is the handiwork of God. Time and again in the New Testament this fact is reiterated and all based on God's own explanation of marriage. Adam fully understood the significance of the divine act for he said of his wife, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"



Please don't forget THE BAPTIST EXAMINER at this season. We've carried the ball" all year — now won't you help carry it too. Your gift will be deeply appreciated.

(Gen. 2:23,24).

There are some who would escape this view of marriage by declaring that in many instances God had nothing to do with it and therefore He did not join them. The contracting parties may have disobeyed God's Word or permitted their affection for each other to overrule their better judgment, but with the consummation of the agreement, God projects Himself into it and they walk squarely into God's ordinance: "and the twain shall be one flesh." The marriage ceremony does not make the vital union, it simply registers it for the purpose of protection to others and for the purity of the morals involved.

One cannot think of a human relationship closer than that into which marriage brings us. And there is no contract more binding in the sight of God. It is serious business when relatives and friends prove to be busybodies and seek to loosen the cord which binds husband and wife in this divinely instituted relationship.

From the beginning of man's creation God saw the two in one so we read, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). And since there was a divine purpose in this union, God said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

It is not difficult to see the great emphasis which God places upon the purpose of marriage: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish . . ." Children were to be brought into the world and reared to the glory of God. This purpose has never been recalled and still holds good. It is tragic business when a married woman can spend her time nurturing and nursing a poodle dog, and then project herself into a newly-made home to tell the young couple how they can frustrate the divine purpose in marriage.

It was a master stroke on the part of Satan when he invented the comic strip in our newspapers and used them to cheapen the marriage relation. Among the most popular are those which

ridicule home life and make husband and wife at constant odds with each other. As our age moves on towards its final consummation those forces which are at work subtly seeking to undermine married life, are multiplying. The modern movies have reduced the marriage relationship to the level of lust. Christian people can well afford to avoid the customs of the world and to make war upon those influences which are at work like a horde of termites destroying the heart of home life.

If we take God out of marriage, and if we fail to see how the divine act has made "one flesh" out of two individuals, then when provocation comes and times of difficulty, the remedy will be sought in the divorce courts rather than at the throne of God where the miracle was performed. The hand of man cannot divide what God has joined.

The next truth that I want each one to consider is that God provides

A Divine Safeguard

God has not left us to follow blind chance in this most important of all human relationships. It is not necessary for any one to try to walk in the dim light of human judgment or in the vacillating ways of affection. The Word of God reveals how God safeguards the marriage relation by imposing the severest possible penalties upon adultery and fornication.

I have heard of people entering into the marriage relation through the instrumentality of a marriage bureau. I am wholly out of sympathy with mail order marriages. God puts this sacred institution upon an infinitely higher level. I have heard of couples who entered into this relationship by the flip of a coin, or through a desire to get even with some one else. God has not been given a chance. More than physical attractiveness needs to be taken into account. Often beauty is but the mask of future sorrow. In seeking a companion, prayer and the Word of God should be the final court of appeal.

Let us examine some New Testament passages, and like the one just noted, it will be seen that God has not withdrawn from seeking to control the union. He said, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord" (I Cor. 7:39). Too often the marriage basis is wealth, position or title, but God clearly reveals that it must have a higher level than that of the world.

God speaks again in unmistakable language, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . ." (II Cor. 6:14), and while this passage has been applied many times to lodge relationships, it also refers, in the humble judgment of this preacher, to the marriage relation. Here is a definite command which all Christian youth should observe. God's Word ought to come above affection and every other consideration. If this truth is ignored, then we believe that only too often marriage will prove to be a snare rather than a blessing. A Christian is not to marry to convert the other person, but both are to be Christians before they enter into the relationship. When a young man earnestly seeks to do the will of God and to follow the teaching of the Word of God he will be able to say what the Proverb states, "Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor with the Lord" (Prov. 18:22).

(From Christian Victory Magazine, Denver, Colo., 5-55).

WHAT MY ABSENCE ACCOMPLISHED

It made some question the reality of Christianity.

It made some think that I was a pretender.

It made many regard my spiritual welfare and that of others as

a matter of small concern.

It weakened the effect of the church service.

It made it more difficult for the preacher to preach.

It discouraged the brethren, and therefore robbed them of a blessing.

It caused others to stay away from church.

It made it harder for me to meet the temptations of the Devil.

It gave the Devil more power over lost souls.

It encouraged the habit of non-church going.—Selected.

It may cost something to pay the tithe to the Lord, but it costs a heap more not to pay it.

Fundamentalism

(Continued from page one)

Fundamentalists will go into union conferences, union meetings, union schools, union Sunday School literature, union publishing houses, union mission work at home and on foreign fields, and a goodly number of them into union churches.

A. C. Dixon was pastor of the Moody church in Chicago for a good while, which practices sprinkling and pouring for baptism, as well as alien immersion, open communion, open membership and has a hybrid church government, a sort of mixture of Democracy, Episcopacy and Presbyterianism. Another example is W. B. Riley, who was connected with a big union school in Minneapolis. There are Billy Graham and many other leading Baptist Fundamentalists who are directors in union foreign missionary organizations galore and these incidentally are the very worst fighters against Baptists and the once-delivered faith on many foreign mission fields.

Practically every one of them is a heretic on church perpetuity and church identity. They deny that Baptist churches are the only

churches of Jesus Christ and talk about "The Church" and the denominations as branches of the "The Church."

Many fundamentalists are going in for union Sunday School literature, which contains no teaching on distinctly Baptist lines and will constantly have a tendency to tear down Baptist churches and build churches like the Moody Church in Chicago. And these union churches are no more churches of Christ than Methodist of Campbellite or Mormon or Episcopal or Unitarian or Catholic churches are churches of Christ.

The fundamental heresy of Fundamentalism is that it thinks faithfulness in big things counts. It does not. The Master never once in His life commended faithfulness in big things. He constantly commended faithfulness in the least things. He said that the man who is faithful in little things is faithful in the things that are much or amount to much. Fundamentalism by compromising the truth on the little things destroys also the big things.

It is faithfulness in little things that makes Baptists grow. Again we say that Fundamentalism is the worst enemy the truth has in this country, if as we believe, Baptists have the truth and nobody else has. Fundamentalism kills Baptists faster than Modernism will, for it is more subtle and for that reason, more dangerous. The reason is apparent. It is the moderate drinker not the drunkard that makes more drinkers. It is the parlor card game or pool-room, not the low dive or the gambling hell, that makes gamblers. So the Fundamentalist by whittling out the distinctive Baptist doctrines, and combining with all kinds of heretics on what they call the essentials, leaves the impression everywhere that one church is as good as another and that it does not make any difference what you believe about baptism, church membership, the Lord's Supper and other distinctive doctrines, just so you are sound on the fundamentals.

The Fundamentalists are doing Baptists more harm than all other

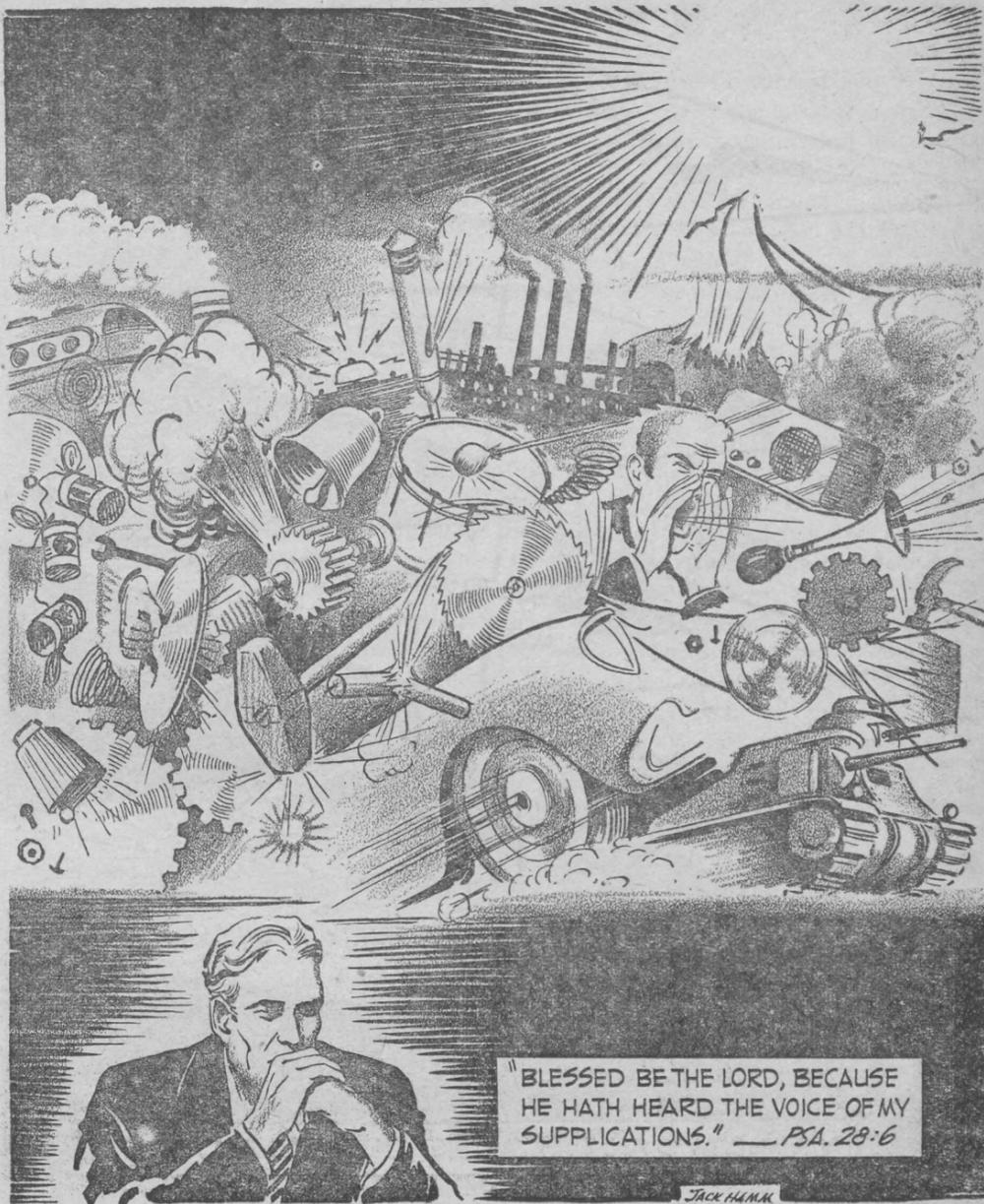
heretics put together by breaking down denominational barriers and by emphasizing the get-together idea on fundamentals. If Baptists have the truth, since the Fundamentalists are the worst enemies of the Baptists, they are the worst enemies of the truth.

A last word as to the Master's estimate of Fundamentalists. The Scripture is very plain. "Whosoever breaks one of these least commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven." Measured by that standard the Fundamentalists among Baptists are the smallest, tiniest little fellows in all our ranks. And the sad thing to them and the glad thing to those of us, who are against them, is that the final Judge of all of us has already passed on that question and has given us instructions as to just what the verdict will be, when we stand before Him.

It does not matter one whit how much the union and liberal and broad religious press praise them nor how the big daily press advertise them, the Lord Jesus has already delivered His verdict on the whole Fundamentalist bunch and He says they are the "least in the kingdom of heaven." They may have a string of titles after their names as long as your arm and they are still "the least in the Kingdom of Heaven." The most ignorant, backwoods, country Baptist preacher, who does not compromise the truth for pay of popularity, is a heap bigger man than any Baptist Fundamentalist in the eyes of his Master. And what the Master thinks about it is what counts. And what the Master thinks about it is what all saints will think about it at the judgment and forever after.

Better give up your Fundamentalism and just be a plain, old-fashioned Baptist, if you want to please and honor your Lord. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

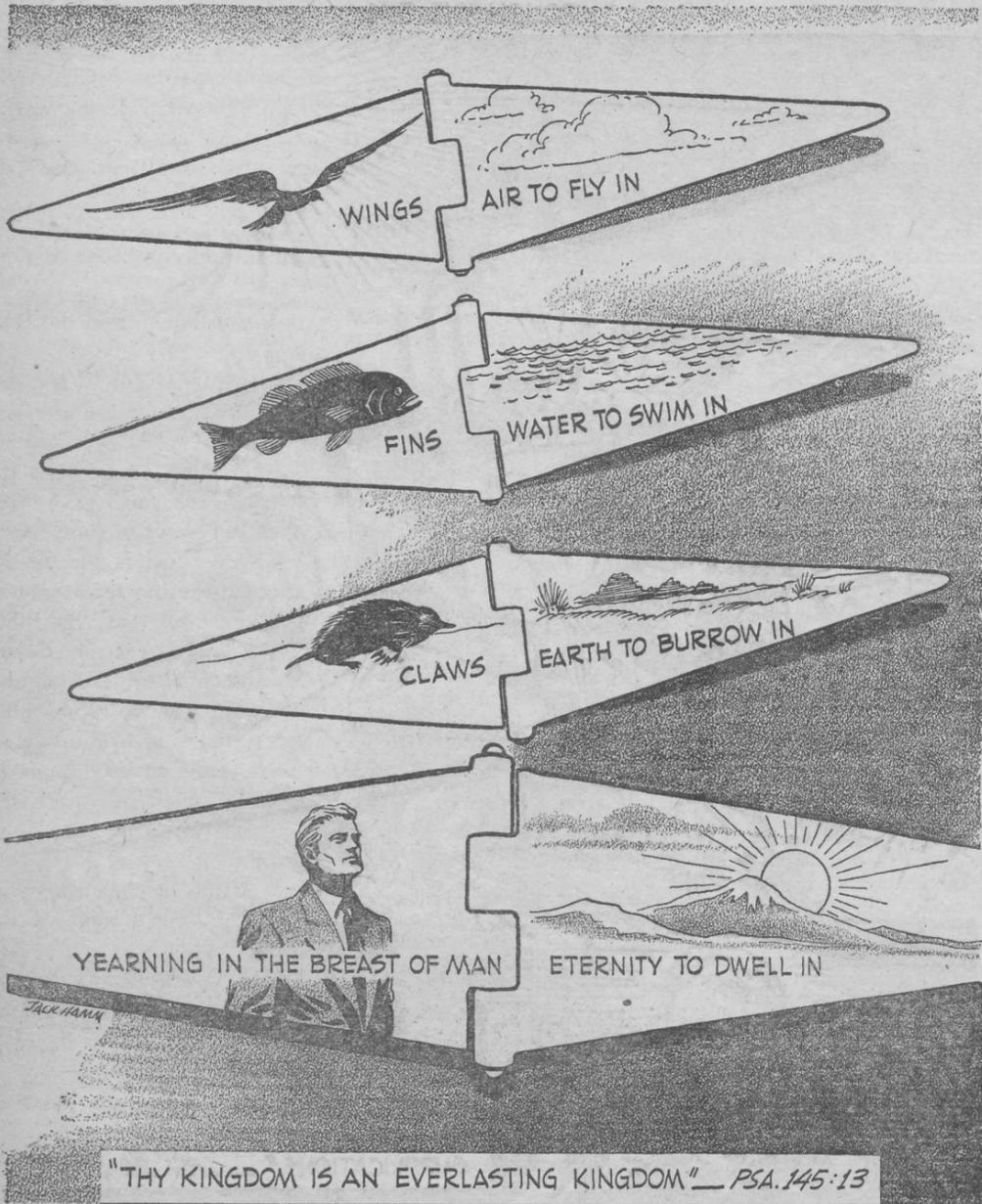
THROUGH THE DIN



"BLESSED BE THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HATH HEARD THE VOICE OF MY SUPPLICATIONS." — PSA. 28:6

JACK HANNA

GOD CREATES NO HALF-HINGES



Here is a prophecy concerning the wicked when Jesus comes. The A-millennialists talk about a converted world when Jesus comes. Beloved, they are all wrong. When the Lord Jesus comes back, He is going to judge those individuals out of the things that are written in the books, according to their deeds. When He comes, what a rebuke it is going to be to the unsaved of this world!

Do I speak to someone who knows not Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Sinner friend, if you were to die right now, the next time you would see Jesus would be when you stand at the judgment bar of God. The books will be opened and there will be recorded all the acts of your life. The majority of those acts you couldn't recall, but, beloved, God has kept a record of every deed and thought of your life, and you will face it all at the judgment bar of Almighty God.

Oh, listen to me, my brother, my sister, Jesus is coming, and when He comes, He is going to rebuke the unsaved of this world, who are living a wicked, ungodly, sinful life.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

—Jude 1:14,15.

I tell you, beloved, it is a fearful day for that individual who has never trusted the Son of God, for when He comes, He is coming with ten thousand of His saints to execute judgment upon all the world. What a day it is going to be when He comes back to this world to judge the sinners!

"And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"—Rev. 6:13-17.

In the light of this Scripture, what a day it is going to be when God rebukes the wicked of the world? People who won't go to church today, who wouldn't even stoop so low as to come into this humble gathering, in that day are going to pray, not to God, but to the rocks and the mountains to fall upon them, for the great day of wrath of God is come when nobody is able to stand in His presence. Oh, beloved, when He comes, He is going to rebuke the wicked. I do not say that it will take place just as soon as He catches His own out of this world. There's a thousand years that will intervene between the time that He will come to catch away the saved out of this world and the time when He shall grind the unsaved into powder, but eventually, at His coming, this is going to take place.

VIII

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO RESTORE ALL NATURE.

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

—Rom. 8:22.

Listen, beloved, nature is out of joint. Things are not moving rightly. We have strikes today and trouble between capital and labor. We have problems today in the industrial world. There are problems between the white race and the black race—segregation and desegregation. I tell you, beloved, all the problems of this world are going to have to be solved. There is coming a time

when all things are going to have to be restored. The whole creation is out of joint at the present time.

Even the world itself is producing briars, thistles, and thorns, but that isn't according to God Almighty's plan. In fact, that wasn't a part of His original plan. There never was a thorn nor a thistle in this world until after Adam had sinned. Then it was that God cursed the world with thorns and thistles as a result of their sins. Beloved, there is a day coming when the Lord is going to restore all nature. Listen:

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

—Isa. 35:1.

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understand in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes,



I am thankful to be able to read THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Are you thankful for it? If so, how thankful? Your offering will be most deeply appreciated.

neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also

(Continued on page seven)

Mass Evangelism

(Continued from page four) are doing something or honoring Christ by their allegiance through the decision route. Everything today is geared to win the youth. Films, books, programs, banquets, campaigns, camps, rallies, and other fleshly attractions are launched in order to gather the young into the churches. We are yet to see the full-grown, ripened fruit of this avalanche of emphasis upon youth. My! My! why do the heathen rage! Everything under the sun is being resorted to except the powerful Word of God to win souls to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that these few lines may be used of the Lord to help establish all who read more firmly against what is known today as mass evangelism.

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"Coming Again"

(Continued from page three) ried, I think of how it has thrilled my heart every time that I came to perform a marriage ceremony. But, you know, beloved, the marriage that thrills me most is the one that I haven't attended yet. It is the one out yonder in the future when Jesus comes back to this world to be united in marriage to His betrothed bride.

V

JESUS IS COMING BACK TO REORGANIZE ISRAEL.

"And so all Israel shall be saved."—Rom. 11:26.

Mark it down, beloved, when Jesus comes back to this world, all the Jews that are in the world are going to be saved in a day's time. Let me read to you how that He is going to regather all the outcasts of the children of Israel. Listen:

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country: And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness."—Zech. 8:7,8.

The Jews are scattered throughout the entire nations of the world today, but Jesus says that when He comes, He is going to gather His people from the east country and from the west country. Oh, what a glorious, blessed day is coming when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back to this world to reorganize Israel as a nation. Listen again:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle: and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished: and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord

go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst toward the east and towards the west, and there shall be a very great valley: and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."—Zech. 14:1-4.

This tells us that when it looks like the nations of the world are going to wipe out the Jewish race, then it is that the Lord Jesus is coming back to this world. The very first place that His feet are going to touch when He comes, is the mount of Olives—the same place where last His feet touched when He left this earth—and that mount of Olives is going to separate, half of it going toward the east and half of it going toward the west. At that time, He is going to fight for His own and the residue of the Jewish nation will be saved.

Oh, brother, sister, doesn't it make your heart rejoice when you recall that our Lord Jesus is going to come some day, and He is going to gather Ikey and Jacob and Rebecca and Rachel from all over the world. He is going to gather the outcasts from out of the east and the west, and He is going to take them to Jerusalem, and there He is going to reorganize Israel as pleaseth Him and according to the plan of Almighty

God.

VI

WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, HE IS GOING TO READJUST THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

"And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."—Mt. 25:32.

A lot of people are confused about this judgment. A lot of them think this is the general judgment when the Lord judges the saved and unsaved. No, no, beloved, this is a judgment that takes place at the time of our Lord's return to this world, and when He comes, He is going to shuffle the nations of the world. The nations of the world are going to be gathered before Him, and He is going to separate them, the one from the other, as a shepherd divides his sheep from his goats.

Let's notice again: "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."—Rev. 12:5.

This is a prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus, and it says that He was born to rule all nations with a rod of iron. Beloved, when Jesus comes, He is going to readjust the nations of the world. He was born to be a king and He was born to rule the nations with a rod of iron, and when He comes back, He is going to readjust the nations of the world according to the plan of Almighty God.

VII

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO JUDGE OR REBUKE THE WICKED.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away: and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."—Rev. 20:11,12.

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MABEL CLEMENT

(Continued from last week)

"But the sinner can change his will and enter the service of God any day," interposed the Doctor; "and so we urge him to do."

"I wonder how the Doctor would go about changing his will in regard to killing his wife," replied Mabel. "I imagine it would be as hard to change his will, as to kill his wife. If the sinner be left to be controlled by his corrupt, fallen nature he is as utterly incapable of willing to be holy and to serve God as the Doctor is of willing to kill his wife."

"You make the sinner as powerless as a dead man," complained the Doctor.

"That is just what Paul did," responded Mabel. "He declared that sinners are *dead*. And Jesus says: 'No man can come to me except it were given him of My Father.' John 6:44 and 65."

"That is hard doctrine," said Mr. Tibbs, "but you seem to prove it by the Book."

"But how will a sinner ever come to Jesus if he doesn't will to come?" inquired the Doctor.

"Jesus says, 'All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me,'" answered Mabel. "He declares they cannot come unless they are drawn, given; and all that are given come. This giving refers to the work of the Holy Spirit on the heart, giving a disposition to come. It means about the same as Acts 13:48: 'As many as were ordained to eternal life believed.' The Divine ordination is the cause, not the effect, of any man's believing."

"But I maintain the sinner is able to come to Jesus without any foreign force brought to bear on him," replied the Doctor. "He thinks, reasons, changes his mind and will and comes to Jesus of his own accord."

"I knew the Doctor did not believe what Jesus says," responded Mabel. "He declares no man can come to Him without help; but the Doctor contradicts Jesus and says the sinner can come."

"Where does he get the power to come?" inquired the flushing, chafing Doctor. "I deny that any power is given the sinner which he does not naturally have. The gospel is preached to him, salvation is offered him and he is left to accept or reject without any divine interposition to dispose him, or give him a will he does not have."

"Let God's Word settle this dispute," said Mabel. ("Amen," cried several voices.) "Turn to Phil. 2:13. Here Paul is speaking of obedience and says: 'It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' Also, in Heb. 13:21 Paul prays that the God of peace may 'make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ.'"

"But that was addressed to some Jewish church, some Hebrew converts to Christianity and is not applicable to sinners," said the Doctor.

"That would be hard to prove," replied Mabel. "It was evidently written to the Jews and Paul seeks to persuade them to abandon Judaism and adopt Christianity. Moreover, if Christians need to be moved to do God's will, how much more must sinners need it. This is what we ask God to do for sinners when we pray for them—draw them, dispose them, incline their wills, make them willing."

"That settles the dispute," said Mr. Tibbs, smiling. "God changes the will."

"There is one other passage," added Mabel, "which I wish to quote; it is John 1:12: 'But to as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.' Here we see Christ gave them power, power they did not have, power that had to be given before they could become the sons of God. This is exactly what the Doctor denies. Thus his theory contradicts the Word of God. Such a theory should be abandoned by all honest people."

The Doctor seemed more disconcerted than ever. "A noted commentary on this passage says: 'Gave He power.' The word signifies both *authority and ability*, and both are certainly meant here. Here, then, is the meaning of this important passage, and it clearly substantiates my position and upsets the Doctor."

There was a momentary lull here, during which smiles of approval were seen, also sullen faces.

"I wish to speak of another passage," added Mabel. "In John 3:19-21, Jesus teaches that sinners love darkness and hate the light, and so are set against the light of the Gospel. 'They are of those that rebel against the light.' Job 24:13. Now put one in a dark room who loves darkness and hates light; then open the door and let the light stream in. What will he do? He will close the door and shut out the light which he hates. So the sinner shuts out the light of Gospel truth from his mind, as Job says, rebels against it, and shuts himself up in moral darkness."

"I have a question I wish to ask," said Arthur. "You have shown conclusively that man's nature is totally corrupt; now *how* was man's nature corrupted?"

"The Scripture is very plain on this point," replied Mabel.

"Turn to Rom. 5:12-19: 'By one man sin entered into the world.' 'By one man's disobedience many were made sinners.' Adam was this one man. His sin corrupted man's nature and leavened the whole lump of mankind."

"So we didn't make ourselves sinners?" inquired Arthur.

"No, we were sinners to start with," replied Mabel, "but we have made ourselves worse by practice."

"Then we are not responsible for our sinfulness," said the Doctor.

"It is a fact that we are sinners," replied Mr. Tibbs; "It is a fact that Adam made us sinners; it is also a fact that we are accountable, as Scripture and conscience both affirm."

"Yes," added Mabel, "the world is filled with misery as the result of Adam's transgression. When Adam fell earth gave signs of woe; that all was lost. All suffering is the result of somebody's sin. But the infant has never sinned, and yet it suffers and dies as certainly as adults. Its sufferings and death are the result, not of its sin, but of somebody's sin. We understand that the Bible teaches that sin inheres in the infant's being and is the disease that produces all of its troubles. This is the Bible explanation and the only satisfactory explanation of the matter. Adam represented us all—was to stand or fall for us all. He fell, and in him we all fell. 'By one man's disobedience all were made sinners.' Rom. 5:19. We were ruined by Adam and may be saved by Christ, the second Adam."

"It is all clear to my mind," said Arthur.

"Yes, as clear as a clouded sky," added the Doctor, ironically.

"Nothing is clear to the Doctor," was the laconic reply of Mr. Tibbs.

"Now it is evident," continued Mabel, "something must be done for man in addition to atoning for his sins. If he is left to follow his natural inclinations he will never turn to God, but will live and die in darkness and sin."

"So it seems," said Arthur, "as he is helpless in his blinding depravity. What must be done for him?"

"He must be born again," Mabel replied. "I mean his dark mind must be savingly enlightened, his dead soul quickened, his heart changed, his will renewed, his disposition altered. He must be so changed that he will hate what he now loves and love what he now hates. This great change is called the new birth and must be wrought by the Lord."

"Is this wholly God's work?" inquired Arthur.

"Yes, to be born of God is to have God do something for us. The sinner is dead in sin and so he is helpless. The change is supernatural; it is the work of God the spirit, so says Jesus, John 3:6. Hence those born again are born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:13.

"Please state a little more fully in what this supernatural change consists," requested Mr. Tibbs.

"It consists in undoing and repairing the injury sin has done us. In regeneration the mind is savingly enlightened in knowledge of sin and of Christ; the will is so renewed that there is in the will an aversion to evil and a bent toward good; the affections are righted and regulated; the conscience is renewed, quickened, enlightened, instructed; so that regeneration makes one a new creation in Christ, old things are passed away and all things wear a different aspect to such a one."

"These statements," said Mr. Tibbs, as if thrilled with satisfaction, "are evidently both reasonable and Scriptural; they are plainly the teachings of the Word of God. The doctrine of total depravity is a Bible doctrine. How does it happen the Baptists hold the truth on all these points, anyhow? This is a matter that puzzles me."

"We got the truth in the beginning from Christ and the apostles," said Mabel. "We got into right paths then and have carried with us the light—that is, the Bible—to show us the right and wrong roads. There is no way for a people to hold the truth without a firm grip on the Word of God."

"There is yet one other question I wish discussed," said Mr. Tibbs. "It is the doctrine of Falling from Grace, or Final Perseverance. I will not be satisfied till I learn what the Word of God teaches on these lines."

(Continued Next Week, D. V.)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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"Coming Again"

(Continued from page six)

shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fawn shall lie down together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Isa. 11:1-9.

Beloved, you and I have something to look forward to when Jesus Christ comes back to this world. When He comes, all the problems will be solved, because He shall judge and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins. I tell you, beloved, when Jesus comes, He is going to restore all nature.

IX

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO RID THE WORLD OF SATAN.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall DESTROY with the brightness of his coming."

—II Thes. 2:8.

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he held on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he



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could deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that must be loosed a little season.—Rev. 20:1-3.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be TORMENTED day and night for ever and ever." —Rev. 20:10.

X

WHEN JESUS COMES, HE IS GOING TO REWARD HIS SERVANTS.

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with angels; and then he shall REWARD every man according to his works."—Mt. 16:27.

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that love his appearing."—II Tim. 4:8.

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall RECEIVE a CROWN of glory that fadeth not away."—I Pet. 5:4.

Righteous people ought to be as careful as to how they live. They ought to be as faithful as to their faithfulness unto the Lord. God keeps a record of everything that we do, and some day He is going to reward us according to our works.

Many times you pick up the paper and you read of some individual who has died and it says that he has gone to his reward. So, beloved, He hasn't got his reward yet. The apostle Paul has been dead nearly two years. (Continued on page eight)

"MY LORD IS REAL"

BY
RUTH GILPIN

THE LORD BLESSES A CHEERFUL TITHER!

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

—Mal. 3:8,10.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."—II Cor. 9:7.

Christian friends, our Lord does demand one-tenth of the income of each of His children, as we are clearly told in the preceding Scripture. Not in a grudgingly manner, but cheerfully and as if a privilege we are to honor the Lord by our tithe for use in His service.

Someone might say, "Why should I, a poor unimportant person with a small income, bother the Lord with my small bit? There are many others who have financial means and who are able to give abundantly to the Lord." Christians, our Lord didn't give His commandments for tithing on a financial scale basis. His commandment was given to His children, and all who are faithfully obedient in the performance of this pleasant task will receive a blessing. Friends, realize that the primary reason for every Christian's desire to tithe should be to honor the Lord Jesus in view of His wonderful Gift that was made available for him at Calvary and is given to all of His elect at the time that the Lord works within their hearts, revealing to them their lost condition, saves them by faith in His shed blood from eternal death that comes through sin, and grants unto them forgiveness of all sin. As said, every Christian ought to love the Lord in view of what He has done for us and thereby be submissive to His commands by cheerfully obeying Him! Remember, the Lord does bless His child who is obedient to His commands.

"How will He bless me?" you might say. Friends, there are many general blessings whereby the Lord has manifested His promise to His own. I can speak of my own personal blessings too that the Lord has so richly blessed me in. "Because that you were obedient in tithing?" you ask. Yes, Christians, this is one of the Lord's commandments for His children that I try to obey Him therein, and the Lord has richly blessed me in several ways because of my obedience. He has, Christian friends, and He will bless you! Let us discuss some of the general blessings that the Lord blesses His tithers with, and let us find Scripture affiliation with each blessing.

The first general blessing in our discussion is wisdom, given by the Lord and for His glory. We read of King Solomon in II Chronicles when he had just become king that he offered his sacrifice unto the Lord as He had commanded and that which really belonged to the Lord. A short time later, the Lord came to him in the night and asked what He should give to him. Solomon fully realizing the great task before him of ruling the children of Israel, beseeched the Lord for wisdom wherewith to rule his people wisely, such as He had given to David, his father. The Lord was very pleased with Solomon's request and not only fulfilled his request, but He also gave him riches, wealth, and

honor such as no king had ever been blessed with before. We read of this in II Chron. 1:6-12:

"And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt-offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said unto God, thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O Lord God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now WISDOM and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like."

Thus, the Lord was pleased with Solomon's sacrifice to Him, and He blessed him so abundantly in return. Christian tither, if you are in need of wisdom, remember our Lord's words in John 16:23:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

Ask Him in faith, believing and trusting His power!

The second general blessing of a tither is daily food and other substances. I have never known even one faithful Christian tither whom the Lord has failed to provide for. As poor as Job became at one time, and many of the Lord's own have been provided for by Him. We read in Luke concerning the poor widow who gave her one farthing, all that she possessed, unto the Lord. The Lord had blessed her with this small bit that she possessed and had given her strength, making her physically able to come to the treasury in the Temple at Jerusalem to cast her offering therein. We read in Mark 12:41-44:

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

Yes, the Lord will provide for His own!

Many unknown blessings are also the Lord's general blessings unto His faithful tithers. He has promised to us in Malachi that He will open the windows of Heaven and pour many blessings to us. All that we do now possess or shall ever need in the future, the Lord promises to give to us if he has pre-destined in His will that it is best for us. He tells us in Matt. 21:22:

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Yes, Christian, belief and complete trust in the Lord can bring necessities unto us if the Lord so sees fit. He spoke also in John 16:24 and said:

"Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

He will, Christian friends; my Lord has certainly been proven

many times in reference to this Scripture.

Thus, we have discussed briefly the Lord's general blessings to His faithful. Now I shall testify very simply of the Lord's personal blessings upon my life.

First, the Lord has personally blessed me by giving me His messages each week as a devotional article in TBE. For this I am humbly happy because of the apparent encouragement this column has proven to many of our friends. (Ed. Note: Literally hundreds of our readers have written their appreciation of this weekly feature. There is no one who has ever written for the paper whose articles have brought as much favorable comment as Ruth's—not even my sermons). I didn't deserve this blessing from my Lord, friends, but I am thankful that He saw fit before the world began to predestine that He would impart unto me His message each week. When I first received an impression from the Lord that I should write this column, I tried to tell Him that such was an impossibility, and that I would eventually use all of His messages and would have nothing then in particular to write. It is marvelous, though, that even despite my lack of faith, "he has abode faithful: he cannot deny himself." (II Tim. 2:13). He has revealed to me what He would have me say each week. And friends, He continues to give His message weekly, and it seems that the supply of His messages is never exhausted. Four months have passed now since I first began, and my Lord has not failed at any time. James 1:5 is one of the Lord's promises that I depend quite wholly upon. We read:



In trying to show our thankfulness to God this year, why not remember our publishing work with a worthy offering?

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

I John 5:14 likewise holds a precious truth:

"And this is the confidence that we have in him that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us."

Writing this column is the Lord's will and I thank Him for His blessing to me in this matter. I attribute His giving me the weekly message, to love and obedience to Him and His Word. Christian friends, tithing is classified under obedience.

The Lord has also greatly blessed me with wonderful Christian friends. Indeed, some are very dear to me and I praise the Lord for their friendship. The Lord says in Prov. 3:9:

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

Then, I Sam. 2:30 tells us:

"The Lord saith, Be it far from me: for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

Christians, honoring the Lord Jesus in obedience to His command concerning tithing BRINGS many blessings and deep, inward joy.

Likewise, the Lord has blessed me with fine Christian parents who have been able to provide life's necessities and comforts for me. Why? Our text says, "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Let us turn now to testimonial evidence of the Lord's blessings upon others who are active in the Lord's work.

First, we shall mention a great constructional engineer. His early life was laden with sin and wickedness. He testifies that the Lord saved him as a young man, and because of his large tithe and offerings since his conversion, the Lord has richly blessed him with great wealth in his construction corporation. Thank the Lord for this man's obedience unto Him!

I am reminded also of at least two wealthy Baptist families who have honored the Lord with their tithes and offering for many years, and He has blessed them with great means in return. We recall to mind Psa. 84:11:

"No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Try Him, Christians!

Lastly, I mention the Lord's bountiful and rich blessings that have been bestowed upon my father and his ministry in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Surely, our Lord has faithfully led and directed my father in his ministry of the printed pages of TBE, and He has seen fit to produce our present weekly circulation that is mailed to each state of the United States and to several foreign countries. And, the mailing list of subscriptions grows daily. Our readers' correspondence is received daily, testifying of the blessings that have been theirs through the study of the Word of God contained within TBE's pages. Truly, we thank our Lord for His previous and present blessings upon THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, and we earnestly desire your prayers for its future growth and development. The Lord must provide in this matter through our readers. He has richly blessed my father because of his obedience unto His command!

To summarize these illustrations of the Lord's blessings upon His tithing children, let us read from Lev. 27:30:

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."

In this the Lord was speaking through Moses unto the children of Israel, reminding them of their tithe that belongs to Him. And, Christians, this is the same admonition that the Lord gives to us today. We are to honor Him with what He has given to us! Also remember that everything you possess, Christian, is from the Lord.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights."—James 1:17.

If you fail, though, to thus honor Him as He has commanded by your tithe of one-tenth you will be punished, Christian. The Lord does not pass over wilful disobedience! He tells us in Psa. 89:30-32:

"If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their ini-

quity with stripes."

Why will He chastise His disobedient children? Because, John 17:17 tells us:

"Thy word is truth."

Yes, through His truthful Word our disobedience will be rewarded with chastisement.

In conclusion, Christian friends, remember that your tithe belongs to the Lord and that you are stealing from Him when you refuse to tithe, spending your money in another manner, instead. May we each who are tempted to steal from the Lord ask Him to help us over-come this sin, and may we say as with Jacob:

"Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."—Gen. 28:22.

And in Ex. 24:7:

"All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient."

Let us obey our Lord and prove His truthfulness by His blessings that will be ours!

"Coming Again"

(Continued from page seven) thousand years, but he hasn't gotten his reward yet. Abel has been dead much longer than the apostle Paul and he hasn't gotten his reward yet. Any saved person who has died has gone into the direct presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he hasn't gotten his reward yet. Some of these days Jesus is coming, and when He comes, He is going to reward all of His children according to their works.

Oh glorious thought, oh blessed day of happy experience that have out yonder when we stand in His presence to be rewarded for the deeds of our lives. Brother, sister, I am anxious about it. I am concerned about that reward. I want to work just as hard as I can. I want to preach just as many times as the Lord enables me. I want my life to count for Him in any way that I can. I want to be faithful to Him. I want to be punctual in my attendance. I want my life to count for Him to the best of my ability. I want all the rewards that I may have in that day when Jesus comes.

CONCLUSION

Two thousand years ago, Jesus came for another purpose. Two thousand years ago, He came, not to reign, but to die. Two thousand years ago, He came to die for our sins upon Calvary's Cross. Beloved, do you know Him as a Saviour? Is Jesus Christ your Saviour now? Christ died for our sins and the man who believes on Him and trusts Him as his Saviour is going to Heaven when he dies. The man who has trusted Jesus Christ as His Saviour would be the only one that would be ready when Jesus comes again.

Are you ready? Would you have everything in readiness if He were to come? Oh, may God bless you, and if you are not ready, may you receive Jesus as your Saviour and be saved. May God bless you!

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