

The Baptist Examiner

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

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TRYING TO ELIMINATE GOD FROM HIS WORLD

By Roy Mason
Tampa, Fla.

Satan shrewdly introduces all kinds of false notions concerning God, such as to set men off on the wrong track. Centuries ago he started the false doctrine of PANTHEISM. This is the teaching that denies that God is a Person or that He has personality. "God is all, and all is God" is the teaching of Pantheism. Indeed that is what the term "Pantheism" signifies. Multitudes of the peoples of India are Pantheists.

Science literature and you will see that they destroy the idea that God is a Person. They babble about God being "Love" and "Light" and "Goodness," and it all boils down to the denial of personality, making God to be a sort of abstraction. A refined and modernized form of Pantheism!

Atheism

Here in this country in modern times we have CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, which is a revival of the old Pantheism. Read Christian

Then we have atheism, which is the complete denial of the existence of God. We have the

atheist described in Psalm 14:1. There is in America a society for the advancement of atheism. In some universities there are atheistic societies called "The Society of the Damned." Russia of course is officially atheistic. It may be thought of as an atheistic state. Religion is tolerated to a certain extent, but no Bibles are allowed to be published, and no Bibles are allowed to be shipped in, and all churches are supervised, with officers present to make sure nothing is said derogatory to the communist government. Some of the church-

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An Outline Of The Nature And Work Of The Holy Spirit

By A. S. REED
Normantown, W. Va.

He convicts: "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:8,9.

He draws: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44.

He regenerates. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

He baptizes. "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." Acts 8:14-17.

The same Spirit that leads to conviction and regeneration will lead one into the waters of baptism by immersion at the hands

ENGLISH READER COMMENDS US

"I rejoice in your clear witness to the Truth and against Arminianism and all other isms of our apostate age. It is refreshing to see your clear warning against Billy Graham's campaign. Billy Graham's gospel is one that will suit the carnal mind that is enemy against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be (Romans 8:7). It is to be feared that Graham was never brought to see in a spiritual sense that man is spiritually dead in sin and that nothing but the sovereign grace of God can quicken a dead sinner. Oh the folly of those who think that a decision card will do to save a sinner. Present day so called revivalism is nothing better than Romanism."—Norman A. MacMillan, England.

This is a very remarkable text. It tells how the teachers of the Word are to be treated. The word "communicate" means "share with." Really it says that if someone teaches you the Word of God, that you should share with him your material things.

It is very similar to Paul's instructions to the church at Corinth, when he said:

"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"—I Cor. 9:11.

In both texts, the thought is the same—the teachers of God's Word who faithfully give to you His message are to be supported.

Ever since February 4, 1939, when the first issue of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER was sent out by your present editor, we have faithfully given to you God's Word. No man can say that there has ever gone forth an "uncertain sound" through the columns of this paper. Modernists, open communionists, alien immersionists, invisible churchites, lodge devotees, unionists, feminists and heretics of all brands have been uncovered and exposed, while the Word of God at the same time has been faithfully proclaimed.

Does a faithful sacrificial ministry of this type deserve your support? I believe that the majority of our readers will agree that it merits liberal support.

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

"PREVENTING GRACE"

"For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head."—Psa. 21:3.

In order to understand this passage of Scripture, it is necessary, first of all, that we get a definition for "prevent." I will say immediately, that the word "prevent" that is used in this text, is an entirely different word from that which you and I use every day. As we use it, the word "prevent" means "to hinder." For example, if you prevent a person from doing something, you hinder that individual from doing

the things which he purposes to do. That is the way we use the word "prevent" in this modern Twentieth Century.

But that wasn't the way the word "prevent" was used three hundred years ago when this Bible was translated from the Greek language into the English in the time of King James. It had an entirely different meaning. To be frank, the word "prevent" is an old Saxon word. It really isn't an English word to start with. It is an old Saxon word which means "to go before; to anticipate; to precede," and it is thus used many times in the

1. Do people in Heaven know what is happening on earth?

Undoubtedly, they do. In Heb. 12:1, we read that we are encompassed about with a great crowd of "witnesses." This word really is the word for "spectator." Thus this verse indicates that there are heavenly spectators watching us all the time.

2. Is there anything in Acts 2:42 and 46 to show that they used the temple for eating?

No. The eating of verse 42 was the Lord's Supper. The eating in verse 46 was in their homes. In John 2:14-17 and in Mt. 21:12, once at the beginning of the Master's ministry and once near the end thereof, He shows very conclusively His pronounced and outstanding opposition to the desecration of His Father's house by any kind of eating or drinking or worldly business. Rom. 14:17 in the Revised Version emphasizes the same truth.

3. Explain I Cor. 11:22.

The eating that Paul refers to was turning the Lord's table into a gluttonous feast as verse 21 so clearly shows. He shows that all

eating and drinking, except the Lord's Supper, ought to be in private homes. He clearly intimates that all other eating in God's house is treating the church of the Lord with contempt and is a shameful desecration of God's house. He also plainly says that no word of praise will ever be given to any who makes God's house a house of feasting instead of a house of prayer.

4. In I Cor. 11:34, why should any hungry man eat at home?

Because this is the place to eat to satisfy hunger. The only eating that should be done in God's house is a memorial supper, where honoring our Lord, — not gratifying self, is the sole purpose in eating.

5. Is there anything in the Bible that permits us to use our church building, or any part of it, for socials and banquets?

I do not think so. If the Master were to come into any Baptist social gathering in God's house, when a social and banqueting were going on, with His eyes of fire (John 2:15 and Rev. 1:14),

(Continued on page three)

Just Between Us

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."—Gal. 6:6.

One preacher brother writes:

"I heartily disagree with you on the millenium, but I believe that you are one of the few courageous men of God that are left, and I want to encourage you all I can."

A QUESTION

Where would you be today in your religious convictions if it were not for the Truth you have learned from THE BAPTIST EXAMINER? Now, be honest with this question. Isn't this paper responsible for the love for the Truth which you have within your soul? Hasn't this paper been a bulwark of strength to your convictions over and over again through the years?

I know the answer to these questions, for hundreds of appreciated letters reach us every month. I know what the paper has meant to you.

Well, in view of this fact, don't you think that you ought to share with us of your material means, as the note comes due on our press? If we have helped you,

OUR RADIO MINISTRY

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

WNRG—1250 ON THE DIAL
GRUNDY, VIRGINIA
Sunday—8:30-9:00 A. M.

then you ought to help us. How we thank God for the fact that many of our friends thus write us and contribute to our work from time to time.

A Mississippi friend writes:

"Words can not tell you how much I enjoy TBE. I always read it through and then pass it on to my friends. They tell me they enjoy it too — even my colored friends."

A Louisiana reader writes:

"Words fail me to express my thanks and appreciation both for you and for THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, and for what you thus set forth. I realize that many hardships and troubles come upon you that I never know about, and many attempts are made to destroy both you and the paper, and especially the doctrinal stand you take. Well, here's \$5.00 to help build you up."

Yes, it is true that there have been many attempts through the years to destroy both THE BAPTIST EXAMINER and its editor. Some of the things that are said hurt deeply. I don't know of one single sin that my enemies have not laid at my door, yet somehow we keep going on. I have never changed my course, and with my faith in Him, I'm looking forward to the future.

(Continued on page eight)

Who Is Responsible—Jew Or Roman For The Death Of Jesus?

We find many Christians these days who appear to wish to stigmatize the Jewish people in the crude belief that the Jews killed Christ. Such people, of course, are not close students of the four Gospels or they would see that the records clearly divide the responsibility between Jews and Gentiles. It was the Romans alone who used crucifixion as a form of punishment and the actual execution was carried out by Romans.

The early Christians naturally held the Jewish leaders of Christ's day as morally responsible for turning Christ over to the Romans, yet the record lays singular stress on the actual agents in our Lord's trial and crucifixion. As Robert Smith says:

"The whole question is unimportant, from the standpoint of Christian theology. One looks in vain in the classical treatise of Christology, from Athanasius to Abelard, from Luther to the modern theologians of the atonement, for systematic treatment of the guilt of those responsible for the death of Christ. There is one sentence in Origen which makes the Jews responsible for the actual execution. But from the beginning Christians were more concerned with the divine than with the human aspects of the death of Christ.

"The truth is that all thoughts of human responsibility are ban-

YOUR PASTOR'S PASTOR

It dawned on me the other day that my pastor has no pastor, no human under-shepherd to whom he can turn when the days are dark.

Like most church members, I have called my pastor when there was need, and he has never failed me. But who is his pastor? Who rushes to his side when the load is heavier than he can bear alone?

Is there not something within all of us which cries out for human sympathy and understanding? Is my pastor an exception merely because he is my pastor?

I have made a resolution which, by God's help, I will not break. I am determined that my pastor shall know that I love him, that he shall not lack the sympathetic understanding which I can give. I shall in some way, be a shepherd's friend.—Selected.

Word of God. For example, when we talk about the second coming of our Lord, we read:

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not PREVENT them which are asleep."—I Thes. 4:15.

The word "prevent" as used here is that same old Saxon word which means "going before." When we read in this passage of Scripture that "we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not PREVENT them which are asleep,"

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"Preventing Grace"

(Continued from Page One)
it actually means that those of us who are alive at the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will not go ahead of those who are dead, but rather, the dead in Christ shall rise first, and then those that are alive shall follow.

Now that is the way the word "preventing" is used in the New Testament. In fact, it is thus used throughout all the Bible, and it means that God goes before us, and that God most graciously provides for us. That is to say that He anticipates our needs and provides in advance for every emergency that shall come in our lives. That is preventing grace.

I don't know of anything that I ever studied in all the Bible that has thrilled my heart more than this doctrine of preventing grace—how that God goes before us and anticipates our needs, and how He provides in advance for our every emergency.

To give you an illustration, let's go back to that day long ago when the Lord Jesus Christ was here in the days of His flesh. One day when Simon Peter sauntered through the temple, someone said to him, "Does your Master pay taxes?" Simon Peter didn't know what to say. I rather imagine that it troubled him from two or three standpoints—maybe from the standpoint that he wondered if the Lord Jesus Christ actually did pay taxes, and then there was the question involved as to his own taxes, and furthermore, how was he going to pay the taxes that might devolve themselves upon him. So I imagine that with a troubled expression upon his face Simon Peter went into the house, and the Bible says that "Jesus prevented him."

Now what does it mean? Beloved, it means that Jesus anticipated him, that Jesus went before him, and that Jesus preceded him. He didn't wait for Simon Peter to express the difficulty that was in his mind. He didn't even wait and allow Simon Peter to ask, "Master, do we pay taxes, and if so, how do we pay them?" but rather Jesus anticipated what was in his mind—He prevented him. Before Simon Peter could say a word, Jesus said, "What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?" When Simon Peter answered the question, Jesus said, "Then are we free, but for fear that we will offend them, you go down to the brook and cast in your hook, and the very first fish that comes up, take the coin out of the mouth of that fish and go pay your taxes and mine at the same time."

Now notice, beloved, in this instance the Lord Jesus Christ not only had the remedy ready in that the fish had the coin in its mouth, but He had the remedy ready before the emergency ever arose.

I say, then, beloved, that this word "prevent" that is used in this text means "to go before," and it tells us that God graciously goes before us—that He graciously provides for us, and that He anticipates all of our needs in advance of the emergency,

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1956

THE SECOND COMING

MEMORY VERSE: "Nay, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."—Luke 13:3.

INTRO: When Jesus finished His message recorded in the preceding chapter, His disciples called to His attention the temple buildings. As they showed Him the massive stones of these buildings, Jesus foretold the destruction of these buildings.

Following Christ's prophecy of the destruction of the temple, the disciples asked Jesus two questions (V. 3). Their first question was concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. Matthew does not record Jesus' reply, but Luke does. (Luke 21:20-24).

The disciples' second question was concerning the end of the age. In the remainder of the chapter, Jesus answers their question and gives them some signs of His return. The coming which Christ speaks of is not His coming in the sky for His saints, but His coming to the earth at the end of the Tribulation.

I. False Christs (V. 4, 5).

II. Wars, Famines, Pestilences, and Earthquakes (V. 6-8).

III. Persecutions, False Prophets, and Religious Frigidity (V. 9-13).

Note particularly verse 13. Read the same in Luke 21:19. Christ meant that one might gain possession of his own spiritual nature and grow in grace through patient endurance of the ills of life. The word "saved" means compensated. See I Tim. 2:15. The compensation for endurance during this period of persecutions will be a distinct growth in grace.

IV. The Gospel (V. 14).

It is impossible that even though many living today have never heard of Jesus, that this prophecy is already fulfilled. See Col. 1:23.

V. The Great Jewish Tribulation. (V. 15-25).

This was prophesied in Dan. 9:27; 11:32; 12:11. When the anti-Christ shall break his covenant with the Jews and shall set up the abomination of desolation (doubtless his own image demanding that he be worshipped instead of God), then the period of the world's greatest tribulation shall fall on the Jews. It shall be bad for all, but especially for nursing mothers (V. 19). It shall be bad whenever it comes, but especially if it is in the winter season or on a Sabbath day (a Sabbath day's journey for a Jew was about 1,050 yards).

even before the emergency exists.

Now, beloved, I want to show you some ways in which Jesus' preventing grace works in your life and mine.

I

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST PROVIDES BOTH FULL AND FREE SALVATION FOR US.

Now that is preventing grace. His grace provides it before we realize the emergency actually exists whereby we need salvation.

Do you realize that we come upon the stage of existence in

this world as condemned sinners? We don't know it until the Holy Spirit reveals it, but frankly, we come upon the stage of existence as condemned sinners. David said:

"Behold, I was SHAPEN IN INIQUITY: and IN SIN DID MY MOTHER CONCEIVE ME."—Psa. 51:5.

This would tell us that not only from the hour of birth, but from the hour of conception, we were conceived with a sinful disposition. That is to say that we came upon the stage of existence as a condemned sinner in the sight of God. No wonder that Paul said:

"For ALL HAVE SINNED, and

V. Warning Against Secret Christs. (V. 26, 27).

Christ's return will not be behind closed doors, but as open as the flashing of the lightning through the Heavens.

VII. The Closing Scenes Of The Tribulation (V. 28-31).

Christ says that society in general will be a rotting dead carcass when He comes again (V. 28). When He shall appear it will cause the tribes of the earth to mourn (V. 30). Even in the midst of this rotting society, there will be found some of God's elect, who have been saved during the Tribulation (V.31).

VIII. The Parable Of The Fig Tree (V. 32-36).

1. The fig tree represents the Jewish nation.
2. The putting forth of leaves is when the Jews as a nation begin to show life politically and religiously. The Zionist movement (the return of Jews to Palestine), the conversion of many Jews, and the building of a Jewish university in Palestine are all evidences of the fig tree beginning to bud.
3. When the fig tree begins to bud, the time of Christ's coming is not far away (V.33).
4. The nation of the Jews will be preserved until Christ returns (V. 4). The word "generation" means the nation of Israel.
5. The Bible can never be destroyed (V.35).
6. Although we have these general signs, no one knows exactly the time of Christ's coming.

IX. Character Of The World In The End Of This Age (V. 37-41).

Before the flood there was a period of luxurious feasting and sinful living. We have that today. The "marrying and giving in marriage" is a reference to husbands and wives trading each other, which happens often today.

The righteous who have been saved during the Tribulation will then be separated from the godless ones living in the world.

X. The Exhortation To Watchfulness (V. 42-51).

When He is perhaps least expected, Christ will return. Therefore, the world is exhorted to be waiting and watchful at all times (V. 44). Happy will be the one who is watching (V. 46). He will rule with Christ here in this world for a thousand years (V. 47). Our Lord's return will uncover some hypocrites though for He will find some evil servants (V. 48). In view of all this, let all watch, "for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man cometh."

come short of the glory of God."—Rom. 3:23.

It is no wonder that the Lord Jesus said:

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."—John 3:18.

I say to you, my brother, my sister, we come upon this stage of existence condemned in the sight of Almighty God.

There are two ways whereby that you may attempt to remove that sin. Those two ways are the

way of works, and the way of faith. The first, the way of works, is slow; it is painful; and it is impossible. It is legalistic. It is the way of self-help. In other words, you try to help yourself, and it ends in a Devil's Hell. I say then, that there are two ways whereby a man may attempt to take care of that sin question that he finds himself faced with, and the first way, all of which is man's way, always ends in a Devil's Hell. Listen:

"For they, being IGNORANT of God's righteousness, and going about to ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."—Rom. 10:3.

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith WITHOUT THE DEEDS of the law."—Rom. 3:28.

"Knowing that a man is NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED."—Gal. 2:16.

If there were no other verses in all the Word of God, I would know positively that the first way whereby a man would attempt to handle the sin question—that is, of works, is a way of failure. It is a way of impossibility. It is a way of self-righteousness. It is a way of self-help. It is a way that ends in a Devil's Hell.

Then, beloved, God has a way whereby that sinners can be saved from sin, and God's way is the way of faith. Listen:

"For BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."—Eph. 2: 8, 9.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS according to the Scriptures."—I Cor. 15:3.

"For Christ also hath ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."—I Pet. 3:18.

I tell you, beloved, I thank God when I remember that we are saved because of preventing grace, because of the grace of God that went before us—that prepared the way, that anticipated our needs, and even before the emergency had arisen, that He had already prepared the way of our salvation. I begin to understand what the Apostle Paul meant when he said:

"And that he might make

GOD GAVE US RICH FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER



Recent visitors at Calvary Baptist Church and in our home were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brawner, San Bernardino, Calif., and Mrs. Brawner's mother, Mrs. Freeman. These folk, former residents of Ark., are now living and serving the Lord in California. It was truly a joy to have these dear Christian friends to fellowship with us. And don't forget—we'll be just as happy to see YOU whenever God makes it possible for you to come this way. Why not plan your vacation so you can visit with us. It will be a joy to have you in our home and printing shop.



Your editor, Brother Tom Brawner and Bob Ross take time out to "watch the birdie" after services, on Sunday morning, May 20. Brother Brawner was visiting with us on that day. The picture was made in front of our meeting place in Ashland, Ky.

"Preventing Grace"

(Continued from page two)
known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which HE HAD AFORE PREPARED UNTO GLORY."—Rom. 9:23.

Beloved, He had already made preparation and provision to the extent that He provided full and free salvation for everyone of us. That is why it is that we sing:

"Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

That is why it thrills my heart when I hear you sing:

"Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see."

That is why I thank God every time I hear you sing that old song by Augustus M. Toplady:

"Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

I say to you, God's preventing grace means that He provides full and free salvation for us even before we realize our need of such.

II

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST PROVIDES THE GRACE THAT WE NEED TO LIVE BY EVERY DAY.

After a person is saved, the battle isn't won. He still has a life to live. God provides grace for you and me to live by every day, and that grace was anticipated and provided for us, in advance.

Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ has a sufficient and a complete supply of grace for every child of God, from the commencement to the close of his life of faith here on earth. Listen:

"Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and THERE IS NOTHING TOO HARD FOR THEE."—Jer. 32:17.

Or look at Moses when things were indeed perplexing, when he said:

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS."—Deut. 33:27.

Get the story back of Paul's experience. The Word of God says that he had a thorn in the flesh, but it doesn't tell us what that thorn was. Paul went to God and said, "Oh, God, take it away. I can't stand it," but God shook His head negatively and refused to do so. Paul says that he asked the Lord three times to take away the thorn of his flesh but that He refused to do so, but when he finished praying the third time, God looked down and said, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Then Paul said, "I learned another lesson. I learned that that thorn was to be a hallowed experience in my life. Now I take pleasure in my infirmities. I thanked God for the thorn in my flesh."

Oh, brother, sister, I am saying to you, God has not only provided grace to save us, but God has also provided all the grace that we need to live by, from the beginning of our life of faith to its close here within this world.

Did you ever stop to think about Solomon's temple how it was built? All the materials were provided and prepared in advance. Every beam and every stone that went into Solomon's temple was provided and prepared before one piece was put in place, and when it was put in place, it was put in silently. There wasn't the sound of any hammer. It just went together silently and perfectly, because all of the materials had been provided and prepared in advance, and thus it rose as a temple of God in silence.

How marvelously God provides for us in advance, just like the materials were provided for Solomon's temple. Beloved, there will never be a problem in your life but what God will have a suffi-

cient supply of grace to take care of you. There will never be a difficulty or a burden that will come before you in this world but what God will have all the grace that you will need in the problem that might arise.

III

GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED AND PROVIDED THE PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

Would you believe me when I tell you that the blueprint of your life—the architect's drawing of your life—was in the hands of God before you were ever born in this world. Listen:

"My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowliest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance YET BEING UNPERFECT; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."—Psa. 139:15-18.

Now what does David say? He says, "When you were forming me in secret, your eyes saw my substance when I was yet unperfect." The word for "unperfect" in the Hebrew is literally "unformed." In other words, before he was formed, His eyes saw his substance.

Beloved, doesn't it help you to know that God in His preventing grace anticipated and went before us, to the extent that before we were even born—before we were even conceived in our mother's womb, that God had already provided and planned the pattern of our lives?

Here is an architect who plans a building on paper. He has the whole plan of that structure before even one stone is laid or one piece of timber is put in place. He knows what that building is going to look like. I may see men digging a trench for a foundation and I see that there is going to be a building erected upon that particular lot, but I don't know what it is going to look like. However, the architect in advance knows what that building is going to look like before even one piece of stone is laid, or before one piece of timber has been put in place.

Beloved, it is thus with God. God has a perfect plan for the lives of everyone of us. Now that is where consecration comes in so far as your life and mine is concerned, because when we seek to consecrate our live unto the Lord, we find God's will explicitly for our life. Then it is that Paul says:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."—Rom. 12:1, 2.

Whenever we consecrate ourselves to Him and ask to know that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God—whenever we do so, we give up our dross for His gold. Whenever we do so, we give up our second-best to get God's best. Whenever we do so, we give up our foolish, weak, and mistaken will, which brings us into complete subjection to the perfect will of a perfect God, who has a perfect plan for every one of our lives. No wonder the Psalmist said in the words of our text: "For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head."

IV

OUR WORKS HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND PROVIDED FOR US IN ADVANCE.

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

ONE THING THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON



"THE GRASS WITHERETH, AND THE FLOWER THEREOF FALLETH AWAY: BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOR EVER!"

— I PETER 1:24,25

Who Killed Jesus

(Continued from page one)

ished by the deeper emotions which Christians ought to feel in the presence of the cross. We are all in the same condemnation, and in need of that forgiveness which flows from the cross. To anyone who looks upon the cross as the revelation of God's love, those

WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."—Eph. 2:8-10.

Beloved, listen, the life which you are living in the service of the Lord is the life that has been planned for you, because your works have already been ordained that you should walk before Him with such works, even before you came into this world.

I suppose everyone is interested in the marriage of Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly. The thing that interested me about it is, that they say that she just recently made a movie in which she played the part of the princess who marries the prince. In doing so, she had a tremendous wardrobe that she used in the making of that movie. It didn't belong to her, but it was the property of the stage company. When she was to marry the prince, they gave to her some of those fine dresses that she had

(Continued on page eight)

who are associated in any way with the final scene are in a sacred circle. They are beyond human condemnation, for they are in the presence of God's supreme judgment. Who thinks of condemning the dying thief or the centurion?

If the Jews have a share in the crucifixion of Christ, so have we all. And they have also thereby attained to a share in His forgiving love and salvation.

The difference between the Jew and the Christian is not that the one is guilty of crucifying Christ while the other is not; but that the Christian is ready to confess his guilt before Christ, while the Jew usually seeks to be absolved without Christ.—Prophecy Monthly.

I Should Like To Know

(Continued from page one)
He would wither them and drive them out of His house.

6. What kind of bread should be used in the Lord's Supper?

Unleavened bread, the same that was used in the Passover. Jesus used that kind the night He instituted the Lord's Supper. Any Old Testament passage that tells about the kind of bread used in the Passover, will describe the kind used in the Lord's Supper.

7. What kind of wine should be used?

Fermented wine. That was the kind used in the Passover. That was the kind the Master used when He instituted it. The wine used at Corinth was the kind that made some of them drunk. The only wine that symbolizes the sinless blood of Christ is fermented wine, that by fermentation has had all the corruption of nature taken out of it.

8. Why should Baptists move their membership when they move?

Because the Master said to do so. In Mt. 5:13-16, Jesus makes it exceedingly clear and plain that a Baptist ought to put his light on the candlestick where he lives. If he lives one place and has his membership elsewhere, then his light does not shine anywhere. It does not shine where his membership is, for he is not there to let it shine. It does not shine where he lives, because he does not have it on the candlestick there. Thus his light does not shine anywhere. I have watched Baptists through the years that moved to town and did not move their membership. I have seen three things happen to those who moved their household goods, but not his church membership. They either had lots of sickness and affliction, or their children went to the bad, or they lost their property and had lots of financial reverses. In some cases, I have seen all three take place.

10. Will Baptists be rewarded for money spent through their lodge?

Not only will they not be rewarded, but will be chastened for their disobedience, in affiliating with these man-made institutions. Lodges are to Jesus' church what a concubine is to a wife — a rival. Our Lord has no rewards for those who spend the money on lodges that ought to be spent through His church.

?? Do You Care ??

what becomes of this paper? We owe \$1,000 and interest on the note on our press, which is due June 27.

?? Do You Care ??

Baptist Youth Witness

P. O. BOX 7

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY

BOB L. ROSS, Editor

RUTH GILPIN, Associate Editor

"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works."—Psa. 71:17

What Great Scientists Say About The Genesis Account Of Creation?

"After the Ball" Chapter VII.

HOLLYWOOD AND DANCING

So you believe in Hollywood? Or don't you?

Anyway, Hollywood believes in dancing. There is not a single movie star in the film capital that does not dance. And you can take this to mean whatever you want to. Hollywood is the strongest advocate of dancing in the nation at the present time.

All stars dance in their private lives, and on the silver screen there are few pictures shown but display a dance scene somewhere in them.

What does this mean? Simply this: Two-thirds of the nation attend the movies at least once a week. Two-thirds of the children of the nation look upon dancing in the movies, their favorite pastime, and in their early years they are building into their habit patterns, thoughts, and motives that will cause them to dance.

Two-thirds of the youth of the nation look upon dancing as it is done by their favorite stars, and what a youth looks at, he tries to imitate. Hence two-thirds of our youth will tend to put into action sooner or later the dancing his hero or heroine does.

Take dancing out of Hollywood and you have but a shell of the former film city left. There are entire movies devoted to dancing, and the background of many others is also laid in dancing.

The same is true of drinking. These, dancing and drinking, are permitted on the screen and a youth who looks upon such pictures is weaving a habit pattern of a similar fabric into his life. Hence you can but expect that growing youth to dance, smoke and drink.

This is where the evil of Hollywood is appearing in our national life. We are permitting our moral standard to be laid down by those whose lives are immoral.

I will not say that all stars are immoral, for this is a sweeping statement. But you will discover more divorces per hundred in Hollywood than in any other section of the nation. Not all stars smoke, but you will find the majority of them, both men and women, commonly pictured with a cigarette in their lips. They do not all drink, but when you read the papers you will see where most of the stars attended some cocktail party.

Morals cannot be taught by those whose habits cut contrary

to right-doing as conceived by the church; hence Hollywood is no fit place to teach two-thirds of today's youth how to live.

The floodtide of dancing that is sweeping the nation at present has been let loose upon us in a larger measure since the advent of the talking pictures. The reason for this is the fact that the movies have begun to grow in popularity since that time.

If you want your boy and girl to dance, smoke or drink, let them learn their morals the Hollywood way—via the movies.

God-fearing parents cannot teach their children how to live right at family prayers and then send them off to the movies at night. Because Hollywood is not a praying group. What the child sees acted on the screen, pretty stars dancing, pretty stars smoking, husky stars drinking from beer mugs and dainty stars sipping from cocktail glasses, will find an outlet in his character. And Dad's prayers will be drowned out in the rattle of the screen star's talk.

If Hollywood were right in every other respect but this one, it is enough to condemn the entire movie industry. For dancing on the screen will work out in the youth's life on some dance floor. Suggestive youth sticks a cigarette in his mouth just like his masculine hero does on the screen. Lad and lassie hidden in some dark seat in a dark movie house will set the stage for adultery by watching their favorite stars go through gyrations of love mockery on the screen.

Ask the judges, who ought to know, what Hollywood's effect is on the youth's morals, and you will discover crime, sex delinquency, dancing, smoking and drinking are brewed in the movies.

Since Hollywood dances, the better way is, do not dance!

(Reprinted from *After the Ball* by U. E. Harding, by permission of the Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

The Very Best News In The Whole World

By A. M. OVERTON

"How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).

The best news the world ever heard is not considered of great news value by most men. It is not about something that happened just yesterday, but it is of supreme importance and is of as immediate concern to us as if it had just been announced in the latest news flash.

This "Good News" is the Gospel of Christ. The word *Gospel* means *good news*, and its story is the best news any one ever received.

All the world, and that includes every one of us, is "under sin" (Romans 3:9), "guilty before God" (Romans 3:19), "under the curse" (Gal. 3:10), and "without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). By nature we are "the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3), "without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). We are "dead in trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2:3), "and cannot please God." (Rom. 8:8).

The Gospel of Christ declares unto us, "How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3, 4). And "the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

About Whom Is The Good News?

It is about Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary, the Son of God, Who was and is the Christ (Matt. 16:16); John 4:25, 26; John 20:31). He was and is the Creator of all things. (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-17). He is Master over all substance (John 2:1-11, 6, 1-13), Healer of the sick and afflicted (Mark 1:30, 31; 3:5; John 9:1-7, etc.), Master of the elements (Mark 4:35-41), and the Raiser of the dead (Luke 7:11-16, 8:56. John 11:38-44).

What Did He Do?

He was born of the Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:22, 23), and was tempted,

yet without sin (Heb. 4:15), suffered many things of sinful men (Luke 22:63-65; Acts 3:18; Heb. 13:12), was forsaken of God (Matt. 27:46), died (Matt. 27:50, etc.), was buried (Matt. 27:57-60, etc.), and rose the third day (Matt. 28:5, 6).

Why Did He Do This?

"He died for our sins." He "gave himself for our sins that He might deliver us" (Gal. 1:4), and that He "might redeem us from all iniquity" (Titus 2:14). He took our place as a sin-offering that He might meet every requirement of God's law, and thus provide a just ground upon which God could be just, and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus (Rom. 3:26). Because of our sins we were under the curse of condemnation (Gal. 3:10), and He took our place under the curse to redeem us from it (Gal. 3:13).

How Did He Die?

He died the Just for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18). He died to provide us an acceptable covering before God as the innocent animal died to furnish skins for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:12). He died as our Substitute as the ram died for Isaac, condemned to die, that he might go free (Gen. 22:6-14). He died as our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), to provide safety behind His blood as the passover lamb did for the doomed firstborn of Israel (Ex. 12:18-29).

Yes, we are all sinners, guilty and condemned. But, God tells us "How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life" (John 6:27).

He Gave Himself!

He gave His head to the crown of thorns.

He gave His back to the cruel lash.

He gave His cheeks to those who plucked out the hairs.

He gave His face to dirty human spittle.

He gave His shoulders to be draped with the robe of mock royalty.

He gave His clothes to murderers.

He gave His mother to the apostle John.

He gave His hands and feet to be transfixed with nails to the accursed cross.

He gave His blood to this earth for the remission of sins.

He gave His body for the life of the world.

He gave His Spirit to God.

Abandoned and desolate without God, friend and acquaintance far from Him, He gave Himself unto death. The sun withdrew behind the black pall of mourning, a cold cruel world shivered, nature itself refused to contribute anything—Jesus Christ GAVE EVERYTHING (1 Timothy 2:6).

"... Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor; that ye through His poverty might be rich (II Corinthians 8:9). He GAVE EVERYTHING.

He "loved me, and GAVE HIMSELF"—GAVE EVERYTHING—"for me" (Galatians 2:20; 1 Timothy 2:6).—Christian Victory

In 1885 William Gladstone and Huxley (infidel) debated the very question, whether or not the creation story of Genesis was in accord with the findings of modern science. When both men had completed their arguments, they agreed to hand them over to James D. Dana, the greatest living geologist of their time, and let him decide this great question. Dana, the great American geologist, and mutual friend, closely examined the arguments of both men, and his decision can be found in the Nineteenth Century Magazine of August 1886. Dana here says: "I agree in all essential points with Mr. Gladstone, and I believe that the first chapter of Genesis and Science are in accord."

Again listen to Dana—and no greater geological authority has ever spoken on this subject. He says: "When one reads the creation story in Genesis, the first thought that strikes the scientific reader is the evidence of divinity, not merely in the first verse of the record and the successive fiats, but in the whole order of creation. There is so much that the most recent readings of science have for the first time explained, that the idea of man as the author becomes utterly incomprehensible. By proving the record true, science pronounces it divine; for who could have correctly narrated the secrets of eternity but God Himself?"

Sir William Dawson, the greatest scholar Canada has ever produced, and one of the very greatest geologists of modern times, agrees with Dana. He says: "The order of creation as stated in Genesis is faultless in the light of modern science, and many of the details present the most remarkable agreement with the results of sciences born only in our own day." See "The Origin of the World," by Sir William Dawson.

Hugh Miller, another of the very greatest geologists of modern times, says: "It is only as the fullness of time comes, in the brighter light of increasing scientific knowledge, that the grand old oracles of the Bible, so apparently simply, but so marvelously pregnant with meaning, stand forth at once cleared of all erroneous human glosses, and vindicated as the inspired testimonies of Jehovah." Read Miller's "Testimony of the Rocks."

Prof. Arnold H. Guyot, whose name was enrolled with every great scientific association of the world says, "To a sincere and unsophisticated mind it must be evident that the grand outlines sketched by Moses are the same as those which modern science enables us to trace, however imperfect and unsettled the details furnished by scientific inquiries may appear on many points." Then he adds, "The same divine hand which lifted up before the eyes of Daniel and of Isaiah the veil which covered the tableau of the time to come, unveiled before the eyes of the author of Genesis the earliest ages of the creation; and Moses was the prophet of the past, as Daniel and Isaiah and many others were the prophets of the future."

George Frederick Wright, of Oberlin, was perhaps the very greatest of all our American geologists. (Continued on page five)



Our Bible Study

STUDIES IN GALATIANS

By A. M. OVERTON
(Now in Glory)

Chapter Three

"This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" v. 2.

No one has ever borne nor will

ever bear testimony to salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and then declare that he received the Spirit of God by doing some kind of works. People who would say that human works are necessary for salvation either deny the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, or else they have no Scriptural understanding of the (Continued on page five)

JESUS AND HOME

This world was lost in sin and strife.
No one could see his way;
'Till Jesus left His home in Heaven
For all our sins to pay.

He came into this world of shame
A tiny little babe;
Born of a woman in a stall,
And in a manger laid.

Of His boyhood days we know not much.
He was only a carpenter's son.
He was poor and lowly and human
And yet the only One—

Who could say to us, I am the way
That leads to Heaven and home.
I came to die on Calvary's cross
For all your sins to atone.

He is the bright and morning star
That came our way to light.
If we will only hear His voice,
We will always know the right

He is the fairest of all saints,
Lovely to look upon;
So don't get weary serving Him,
He loves us every one.

If we would serve Him as we ought,
We will seek to do His will;
We will read His Word and talk with Him
In the valley or on the hill.

And when we go to be with Him,
How sweet to hear Him say,
Well done, thou good and faithful one;
You will live with me today.

We will meet with all our loved ones there
And have a wonderful time,
Where all our days are one great day;
With Jesus the Son to shine.

We will need no lamps nor candles,
Nor even the moon nor sun,
In that bright home where Jesus is,
For He outshines the sun.

—Lilly Morgan

Acts 14:8-10 in this connection), they would have learned that human works had nothing to do with them. In the last analysis, there is no real ground of truth to stand upon in urging legality of any kind for human salvation or security.

LION'S NATURE BY BIRTH

"By nature the children of wrath." —Eph.2:3

Walter Beckwith, famous lion trainer, once tried to change the nature of lion cubs by adopting an entirely different method of training them. He decided he would rear them on milk. "My first disillusionment came," he says "when the cubs were ten months old." While working in the cage one day, he heard his wife calling, "Walter, come here quick." So he dashed out of the cage. Let him tell what he saw. "Munching grass, about fifty feet away was our pet burro; and slinking toward him on his belly, was one of our bottle-fed, kindness-reared cubs. Just as if he had been doing it for years, that cub jumped on to the burro's shoulder, hung on the mane with one paw and reached for the animal's nose with the other. Then he jerked the burro's nose back, just as a cowboy would bulldog a steer. The next thing I knew the burro was on the ground, and the little devil, with bared teeth, was going right after the jugular vein. He was out for blood—this kindness-reared cub. The cub lion had had the best of care, and had never wanted for food. Still, he was as much a hell-cat as if he had never been treated like a house-pet." By birth that cub had a lion's nature, and no amount of "culture" could change

For Little Children

GOD'S PEOPLE BECOME SLAVES TO THE EGYPTIANS

Boys and girls, after Joseph died the children of Israel stayed there in Egypt to live. You remember that King Pharaoh had given that fertile land of Goshen to Joseph and his people for them to make their home there. So now after Joseph died, the children of Israel went on living there.

Pretty soon King Pharaoh, who had been so kind to Joseph, died too. And a new King Pharaoh began to rule in Egypt. He was not kind to the children of Israel as the other King had been to Joseph.

By and by, this new King Pharaoh looked over into the land of Goshen and saw how that the Lord had blessed the children of Israel very much. He saw that there were so many Jews now that the land of Goshen was getting crowded. And he saw that the children of Israel had strong bodies and were more mighty than his people, the Egyptians.

So King Pharaoh said to the Egyptians: "We are going to have to be wise in taking care of these Jews. There are so many of them now that if any country should start a war against us, these Jews might join with the enemy country and fight against us and kill us."

So King Pharaoh set some cruel men over the children of Israel to watch them as they worked. They treated the Jews cruelly and made them work very hard. But the more the children of Israel were treated badly, the more the Lord blessed His people and took care

his nature.

So it is with all of Adam's descendants. All have the nature of sin and no amount of refinement or culture will ever change it. Man must have a new nature imparted to him by God.—S.S.T.

JOHN WANAMAKER'S PICTURE

John Wanamaker, the noted Philadelphia merchant, once had an artist paint a picture for him entitled "Christ Before Pilate." The picture was well done. When Mr. Wanamaker saw it for the first time, he looked at it for some time without saying a word. There on canvas, in a typical oriental court scene, CHRIST was the central figure. Though He was bound, a Heavenly mien and dignity were His. His head was erect, His face serene and calm. Pilate was troubled, with head bowed and face perplexed. The artist finally asked Mr. Wanamaker if he saw anything wrong with the picture. Mr. Wanamaker thought for a moment, then replied: "Yes, it is the title. It should read 'Pilate before Christ' not 'Christ before Pilate'." — Christian Victory.

Great Scientists

(Continued from page four)
ologists after Dana's death. In his great work, "Scientific Confirmations of the Old Testament," published in 1907, he says regarding Genesis I (p. 370): "Upon inspection, there appears in this account a systematic arrangement of creative facts which correspond so closely with the order of creation as revealed by modern science, that we cannot regard it as accidental." He then declares with Miller, Guyot, Dana, Dawson, and other modern geologists that the only possible explanation of Genesis is that the author, Moses, was inspired of God.

Judging from church attendance, Heaven won't be packed with men.

of them.

King Pharaoh talked to two Jewish women who helped the other Jewish women when their babies were being born. Pharaoh told them to kill the little boy babies before their mothers saw them.

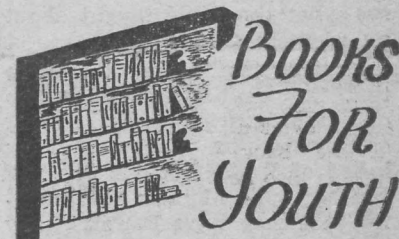
But these Jewish women didn't listen to King Pharaoh. They loved the Lord and their own people, and they did not kill the little boy babies. And the Lord was pleased with these Jewish women and He greatly blessed them.

Soon after that, King Pharaoh told all the Egyptian people to throw every little Jewish baby boy that they saw into the river. He said to let the little girl babies live, but to drown the little baby boys. The reason he said this was that he didn't want any of the little boys to grow up to be strong men that might fight against him some day.

But we will see next week how that the Lord took care of His people and watched over them. We'll see how he saved the life of a little baby boy named Moses.

Boys and girls, just like the Lord took care of His people and protected them from the cruel Egyptians, so the Lord takes care of His people today. His people are those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour who died on the cross to pay for their sins. Here is the Lord's promise today to His people: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

Next Week: The Birth of Moses.



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Young People Ask

I have been reading the articles on dancing, but my conscience does not condemn me when I go dancing, so I do not think that it is wrong. If it is wrong, would my conscience not tell me so?

Conscience, the great arbiter of the merit and demerit of human conduct has little intuitive sense of right, and is not guided entirely by reason, but is governed in a great measure by what men believe. Indeed, faith is the legitimate regulator of the conscience. If a man has correct views of duty to God and men, he will have a correct conscience; but if he can, by a wrong view of morals and of the character of God, be induced to believe that theft or murder, or any vice, is right, his conscience will be corrupted by his faith. When men are brought to believe, as they frequently do believe in heathen countries that it is right to commit suicide, or infanticide as a

religious duty, their conscience condemns them if they do not perform the act. Thus that power in the soul which pronounces upon the moral character of human conduct, is itself dependent upon and regulated by the faith of the individual. It is apparent, therefore, that the reception and belief of a true rule of duty, accompanied with proper sanctions, will alone form in man a proper conscience. God has so constituted the soul that it is necessary, in order to the regulation of its moral powers, that it should have a rule of duty revealed under the sanction of its Maker's authority; otherwise its high moral powers would lie in dark and perpetual disorder. (Philosophy Of The Plan Of Salvation, by Walker, pages 73, 74.)

And that "true rule of duty" is God's Word, the Bible, which says, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." —I Cor. 10:31b. Can you dance to the glory of God? If so, how?

Our Bible Study

(Continued from page four)

Holy Spirit, His presence, power and the work for this age. All who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour bear witness to the presence of the indwelling Spirit, and to the conflict that ensues between Him and the natural spirit of man who still inhabits the human body.

"Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" vs. 3.

Once again the question of their "no mind" is raised. How can people be so void of understanding if they read the Word of God at all with the view to learning truth, as to think for a moment that what must be begun by the Spirit of God can, or must be brought to completeness, by the flesh. It does seem that if anyone would only give half a thought to this question, he would see the foolishness of contending that after we are saved, we must live so as to keep ourselves saved. That is asking the flesh to complete what all are willing to acknowledge that fleshly man cannot begin. All will ad-

mit that the Spirit of God, or God Himself, must start man on the "road to salvation," as some express it. All right, if God must start the work, He must finish it. It is a sign of "no understanding" to think otherwise.

"Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain, He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" vv.4,5.

A close study of the miracles performed in the Bible days will reveal very clearly, that such usually came on the basis of faith. No works of the law, or any other kind, were performed to get the power, or to provide the basis for the miracles. These Galatians had "suffered," or "experienced" many things; they had gone through much. But, the question is raised as to whether or not they had learned anything in what they had suffered. Such is true with so many of us. Regardless of anything, we go along and learn so little by what we suffer, or as we go through it.

If they had only observed the miracles they had seen (study

Little People's Corner



Quiz by Ethel M. Hoskins; drawing by Marsden Lore

Can You Name Him — a Bible Quiz

By the brook Cherith,
After his flight,
He was fed by the ravens,
Morning and night.

By Courtesy of C. S. M.

ANSWER:
Elijah

mexican news flashes

A NEW TESTAMENT MISSION WORK

CHURCH CONTROLLED

DIRECTED BY M. L. MOSER, JR.

NEW CHURCH IS ORGANIZED IN TABASCO BY MOSER

Presbyterian Church And Pastor Became Baptists Thru Study

About five years ago the group of believers in Vicente Guerrero were Presbyterians. After they had studied their Bibles they came to the conclusion that they had not been scripturally baptized because the Bible taught that baptism must be by immersion. "If this be true," they said, "then we have not been baptized." That raised the question, "To what church shall we go for baptism and what kind of church should we be?"

The group, with the pastor, Brother Raul Garcia, voted that they would withdraw from the Presbyterian denomination and remain "independent" of all denominations until after they had time to study their Bibles and see what the Bible taught about all of these things.

It was then during this time that the Baptist work, through our missionaries, was getting established in Tabasco. They heard of Brother Joel Rosas and Brother Julio Morales and knowing that they were Baptists, they wrote a letter to them asking them if they would be able to come to Vicente Guerrero and tell them why they were Baptists and what Baptists believed.

Of course, they gladly consented and for a period of two to three years they corresponded together about the teachings of the Bible and occasionally Bro. Julio Morales and Bro. Joel Rosas would go there and speak to them about the teachings of the Bible.

Near the end of 1955 they became fully convinced from their five year study of the Bible that the Scriptures clearly taught that the New Testament church is a Baptist church and that they should be baptized under the authority of a Baptist Church.

Brother Isidro Estrella then wrote Brother Julio Morales telling of his personal conviction and that the members of the church would like to be baptized under the authority of a Baptist Church and then they said that they wanted to be organized into a Baptist Church. Brother Julio Morales forwarded the letter to me.

Following receipt of the letter I made a trip down to Tabasco to investigate their beliefs and to see if Brother Isidro Estrella was a true Baptist by his convictions. After making a full investigation and talking with Bro. Julio Morales and Brother Joel Rosas who both endorsed them highly, I told them that Brother Isidro Estrella should write the church in Little Rock and that the members of the church in Vicente Guerrero should write the church in Little Rock telling them the story and requesting baptism at the hands of a duly qualified administrator and under the authority of the Baptist church.

It was just a short time after this that the church in Vicente Guerrero met in a regular Sunday service and authorized a letter to be written to the Cen-



This picture was taken shortly after the baptismal service in Vicente Guerrero and after they had returned from the river to the church.

tral Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas and the letter stated in part "we are at the complete disposal of your church and we humbly ask that you grant us the privilege of being scripturally baptized and organized into a Baptist church."

After a full discussion with the Central Baptist Church here in Little Rock, Arkansas, the church voted to grant me the authority to make the trip to Tabasco and after hearing their testimony, to perform the acts of baptism under the authority of the Central Baptist Church and that the church in Little Rock would then give me the authority to sit in as a member of the organization

council to assist in the organization of the Baptist Church there.

On March 18, 1956 we had the privilege of helping in the organization of the First Baptist Church of the city of Vicente Guerrero, the first Baptist Church ever to be organized in the entire state.

Baptists had never gone into the State of Tabasco until one day while the Seminary was located in Morelia, a young man who was a student in the Seminary came to me and told me that he wanted to go into the State of Tabasco and work and that he felt that the Lord wanted him to open up the Baptist work in that state. I asked him if

he knew the problems that he would face and he said "Yes," but that he wanted to begin the Baptist work there. That was a little over three years ago.

Today, we can see some of the fruit that has resulted from the first Baptist missionary going into the State of Tabasco. There are missions in all three zones of the state, and now, thanks unto the Lord, we can say that there is an organized Baptist Church there.

I arrived in Vicente Guerrero on Friday night along with Bro. Julio Morales. On Friday evening we had services at the church and made arrangements for the

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Letter From Pastor Of New Church In Tabasco

April 27, 1956

RAUL GARCIA

Very Esteemed Brother and Fellow Servant in the Lord:

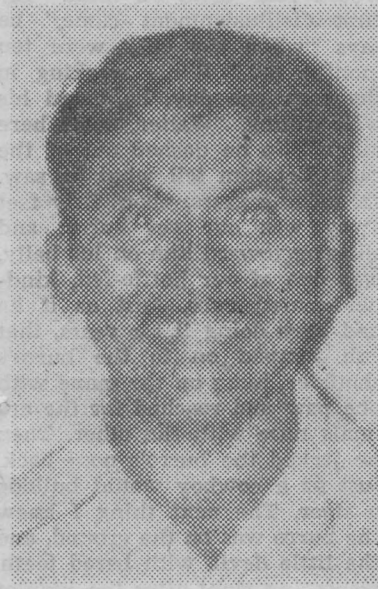
May the grace and peace of our God be with you and your beloved church.

Today I want to take the opportunity to write you about the work that the Independent Baptist Church has done in this place.

Always we give thanks unto the Lord for all that He is doing with us and for us. In spite of the oppositions of the enemy against us and the holy work of the Lord, it is our confidence "If God be for us, who can be against us?" and "Nay, in all those things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Brother, in the first days we have had great tribulations caused by sickness as many of the brethren were physically sick. But thanks unto the Lord, it is all now past except for me, and I am still sick but I trust in God that He will restore me promptly according to His holy will.

It makes me happy now to tell you of some details of the humble work that our beloved church here has been able to do. We have visited the following places: La



Brother Garcia is pastor of the church in Vicente Guerrero and has been placed in jail for preaching the Gospel, but the church was able to bring enough pressure to bear on the Mayor that he was forced to release him.

Finca, called "The Mountain," is a new field and we have just begun to preach the Gospel there; Aquiles Serdan, near the city of Paraiso, and here we also preached the Gospel to new people; Chiltepec, also near Paraiso. The followers of James Russell (missionary of the Bible Presbyterians) have caused trouble in the work, but Brother Arnulfo Escamilla and others have continued faithful in spite of the great opposition against them. Here we preach the Gospel to lost souls and we have much hope of organizing a work here. In addition, we visited the port city of Frontera and we have begun the evangelization of this place. Brother Israel Marin is working with us with love and enthusiasm in spite of the tremendous opposition of the Presbyterian Church against him and at the same time a small group of believers have decided to work with us. Pray that God will help us with our efforts in that place.

In Vicente Guerrero, we are continuing to preach the Gospel to souls that still have not accepted the Lord and we are continually visiting the homes of those

(Continued on Next Page)

As most of you have read in the April 14 issue of The Baptist Examiner on March 4, 1956, we had the privilege of taking part in the organizing of the First Baptist Church in the city of Guanajuato, Gto. On the same day we baptized several candidates for baptism who became members of the church and five of our native missionaries were ordained to the Baptist ministry. They were: Brother Julio Morales, Brother Oscar Cruz, Brother Ignacio Cabrera, Brother Joel Rosas, and Brother Isidro Estrella.

Following these services the preachers who formed the council and the visitors from the United States returned, while I left Guanajuato to make my missionary journey into the southernmost sections of Old Mexico. It was here that I had to say goodbye to my wife. Many times missionaries are forced to be separated from their families because of their work. Not a separation of a day or two but often times more than a month. My missionary tour was to take me into areas of Mexico where there was very little transportation, no conveniences, no medicine in case the children got sick, and no means of communication.

Leaving Guanajuato, I traveled by car through the states of Mexico, Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Vera Cruz. As I traveled through these states, I noticed many primitive conditions still there, particularly among the Tehuantepec Indians who live on the small isthmus that separates the Pacific Ocean from the Gulf of Mexico. The Tehuantepec Indians are considered to be one of the most picturesque tribes of Mexico. The city, stronghold of the original inhabitants of this region, is celebrated for its hot springs and beautiful women.

On occasions, during fiestas or religious holidays, the Tehuanas wear a colorful and unusual costume lavishly embroidered with floral designs. Their large fan-like headdresses of starched white lace and necklaces are peculiar to the Tehuantepec region.

Driving from Tehuantepec to Coatzacoalcos, I drove on a new gravel road. The people along this road were very primitive with the older women only wearing skirts.

Arriving at Coatzacoalcos, I left my car at the Pemex garage and rode by train to Villahermosa, the capital of the state of Tabasco. The railroad line is operated by the Federal Government of Mexico at a loss and there is only one train per day that leaves Coatzacoalcos. On catching the train I went on over to Villahermosa.

Villahermosa is the capitol of the state of Tabasco and we have a mission there with Brother Joel Rosas as the pastor. He and his family live in a small house that we rent and the services of the mission are held in the front room of the house. The house is very small, only two rooms and a back yard, but is located just a half a block from the bus line so that it is a good location.

(Continued on Next Page)

Become Baptists

(Continued from Preceding Page)
mission to meet on Saturday all day for some classes on Bible doctrine so that we would be able to give them some real Bible teaching along certain lines.
In the morning I met with them and we spent an hour and a half on the subject of the New Testament Church. All of them had their families with them so that we had a large crowd present for this period of Bible study. Following that we went into a study of the ordinances of a Baptist Church. In the afternoon we had a discussion of the government of a church and a treatment of certain Pentecostal teachings such as speaking in tongues and the scriptural place of women in the church.

In the evening we had another evangelistic service and two responded to the message and made professions of faith and we made plans that evening for services on Sunday morning at 10:00 at the church building, and from there we would go to the river for the baptismal service.

In the morning I preached to them on the subject of baptism and after we closed the service with prayer we went to the river which was about one and a half miles from the church building. Walking along the path to the river I saw some men carrying a crocodile that had been killed and had been dressed for eating. I learned that this crocodile had been taken from the same river, but they assured me that I didn't have to worry about the crocodiles where we were, as they were a little bit up the river

and underneath the undergrowth that grew next to the river bank.
When we arrived at the river bank I noticed that a small crowd was following us and by the time we had walked out into the water to perform the baptisms, I noticed that there was quite a large crowd standing around on the bank. They had seen us walking through the streets of the town and out to the river and knowing something was about to happen, they followed us out to

ATTENTION

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see what it was all about.

I stood in the water about 100 feet from the bank and I had the line of women on my left and the line of men on my right and after a word of prayer and a verse of a hymn, I began the act of baptism and baptized the entire group. Turning again and seeing the crowd standing on the bank, I knew that they were seeing baptism (immersion) for

the first time and did not understand what it was all about. Also, knowing that they would not come to the services, I knew that it would be my only opportunity to preach to them, so for about 20 minutes I preached to them on the significance of baptism and preached them a Gospel message.

Following the baptismal service, we returned to the town and ate dinner and then went to the church for the organization of the church.

When the group met for the afternoon service, we called the meeting together with a word of prayer and the singing of a hymn. There seemed to be a hush and a stillness over the audience as they realized the solemnity of the occasion. As the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant were read it seemed that every ear was strained so as not to miss a single word. Brother Isidro Estrella read the Articles of Faith and Brother Raul Garcia read the Church Covenant and following their adoption, they then voted to resolve themselves into a Baptist Church. Most of them in the congregation did not have dry eyes as they realized that they were being privileged in being charter members of the first Baptist church to be organized in the state, and they solemnly pledged to each other that they would strive together to see that others of their state would come to know the truth as they had. They selected the name of "The First Independent Immanuel Baptist Church."

Since that time I have received a letter from Brother Raul Garcia and Brother Isidro Estrella telling

me of the persecution that is being brought to bear on them. Not only have the Catholics sought to persecute them, but the Presbyterians as well. You can read what Bro. Estrella has to say about that in his letter which will be printed next month in the Mexican News-flashes.

This is a new work in Tabasco. The members are new members in the Baptist Church and so we need to remember them in our prayers in a great way, and especially as they face the problems that they have now. I feel that each one of our readers should remember this church in your prayers today so that they might be given the strength and courage to stand up under the hardships and persecutions.

—M. L. Moser, Jr.

Raul Garcia

(Continued from Preceding Page)
who are not believers.

We also visited a new field called Buena Vista and here we began the preaching of the Gospel. There are other areas like this one but again we do not have sufficient preachers.

The believers of our church are assuming their responsibilities and I am continually indoctrinating the church and I myself am learning the truth as I had not known it before.

Thanks unto the Lord, those who were against us are not able to resist the Word, but we show them without fear or trembling the Word of God and we have begun the fight against those who would oppose the teaching of the Word of God. Three families have left us, but they were always the opposition and were never members of the church. But the church without them marches forward in peace.

We pray that you will be able to help Brother Israel Marin with his support so that he can dedicate all of his time as a worker of the Lord and he will be very useful to us in the River Zone of the State.

We are continuing the work of the construction of our church building and are praying that there will be some brother or church in the United States that would feel led of the Lord to help us in the building.

Our church sends to you our prayers and our greetings to you, the brothers of ours in your beloved church, and to all of the brethren in the United States.

Your brother and fellow-servant in the Lord,

Raul Garcia

New Church

(Continued from Preceding Page)
preached at the mission on Wednesday night and on Thursday morning Brother Julio Morales and I left to go to Vicente Guerrero for the organization of the church there.

The boat that we rode was a large steamboat that was built by American engineers in 1908. It is more or less of a "landmark" today, if a steamboat can be called a "landmark." We left in the morning at 9 o'clock and arrived about six in the afternoon in Puerta Frontera which is a port city on the Gulf of Mexico. We spent the night in Puerta Frontera and the next morning we caught the first truck that left for Vicente Guerrero. The truck was a ton and a half truck that was used to carry both cargo and passengers. There were no seats in the truck and we had to stand all the way. We left about eight o'clock in the morning and arrived about noon in Vicente Guerrero and Brother Isidro Estrella was waiting for us at his house.

The house of Brother Estrella is a small one room house made out of cane similar to bamboo cane with a thatched roof. Their "kitchen" was a small homemade charcoal stove that was on the floor near the back door. There was one homemade table and three homemade chairs as the furniture in the room. The bed was in one corner of the room with curtains made of cotton material hung around it to separate it from the rest of the room. The bed was made of cane that had been tied together. This was my bed for the time I was there. Brother Estrella and Bro. Julio Morales and Brother Israel Marin who came over from Frontera used hammocks and Bro. Marin brought his own hammock. Mrs. Estrella was in Villahermosa with some relatives having several teeth pulled.

After we ate a little dinner, Brother Estrella took us to visit Bro. Raul Garcia and several other members of the church and to look for a place where we could perform the baptisms. In a separate article is a detailed report of the services at the church and the organization of the church.

On Monday morning after the organization of the church we left to visit other missions. In our next issue of our Mexican News-flashes we will give you a report of those.—M. L. Moser, Jr.

TWO PICTURES OF THE CHURCH IN VICENTE GUERRERO



These two pictures are pictures of the church in Vicente Guerrero. The first picture is of the entire congregation. Here in the United States many churches are run by women on the excuse that there are not enough men to run the affairs of the church. In Mexico the women are more fanatical Catholics. The men are more open minded to the truth. Consequently there is a larger percentage of men in the churches than here in the United States. Three of our workers are in the front row. The man in the dark suit is Bro. Isidro Estrella. To the right of him is Bro. Raul Garcia, pastor of the church, and to the right of Bro. Garcia is Bro. Julio Morales.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED MONTH OF APRIL, 1956

Temple Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.	\$ 11.83
N. D. G., Commerce, Texas	50.00
Sardiz Baptist Church, Clarendon, Texas	35.06
Divide Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs, Texas	25.00
Bellview Baptist Church, Paducah, Kentucky	10.00
Jennings Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas	30.50
N. R. Y., Sulphur Springs, Texas	5.00
Mrs. R. E. H., Garland, Texas	1.00
G. R. T., Jefferson City, Mo.	20.00
Grace Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas	30.00
Woosley Baptist Church, Point, Texas	25.00
J. C. B., Little Rock, Arkansas	5.00
W. E. B., Velasco, Texas	15.00
Mrs. T. J. G., Dallas, Texas	1.00
J. C. B., Little Rock, Arkansas	1.10
L. T. W., Bardwell, Ky.	20.00
Mrs. M. T. B., Alexander, Arkansas	1.00
M. J. B. W., North Little Rock, Arkansas	25.00
King's Addition Mission, Garrison, Ky.	30.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. W., Grand Rapids, Mich.	35.00
Mrs. T. J. A., Memphis, Tenn.	20.00
Mr. R. T. C., Saint Louis, Mo.	25.00
Miss H. C., Little Rock, Ark.	4.53
Providence Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas	29.00
Woodlawn Terrace Baptist Church (Ladies Auxiliary), Memphis, Tenn.	10.00
Mr. F. J. P., Portsmouth, Ohio	5.00
Mrs. C. S., Cabot, Arkansas	1.00
First Baptist Church, Clute, Texas	10.00
Jennings Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas	47.80
Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas	793.64
TOTAL MONTH OF APRIL, 1956	\$1322.01

WE THANK GOD, AND TAKE COURAGE!

February Offerings	\$1196.51
March Offerings	1243.22
April Offerings	1322.01

Eliminate God

(Continued from page one)
es have been torn down or have been turned into museums. Communism in every country is always atheistic. There are communists who have not gone completely atheistic, but according to Mr. Foster, communist leader in this country, a thorough going communist is likewise a thorough going atheist.

Man was not created atheistic—he has to “get that way.” No race of people have been found that did not have some kind of a belief in some kind of a god. A good reason for this is found in Rom. 1:19-28. Men have to be satanized such that they stultify their own reason and observation in order to deny the existence of a Supreme Being. The atheist denies the necessity of a Creator. Their attitude is, “No one made things—they have just always existed.”

Agnosticism

The agnostic is not an atheist—he just purports to know whether there is a God or not. The Bible refutation of agnosticism is this: “Because that which may be KNOWN of God is MANIFEST . . . so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:19-20). Agnosticism means “I don’t know.” The agnostic is a self-confessed ignoramus. It is folly to be ignorant when the means of knowing a thing is readily at hand. What does the Bible say? It says, “If any man wills to do his will, he SHALL KNOW of the doctrine, whether it be of God.”

Skepticism And General Infidelity

There are all grades of skepticism, ranging from those who believe a little of the Bible, a lot of the Bible, and a great deal of the Bible. Many college and university teachers today, and many students influenced by them, reject the Bible as the Word of God, believing that it only CONTAINS some sort of a watered down revelation from God. Seldom does this come from personal, careful study of the Bible, but from the general notion that is prevalent that the Bible contradicts itself, that it is not scientific, etc. Modernists are infidels who believe only certain portions of the Bible. They are anti-supernaturalists who make up their minds beforehand that “miracles do not happen,” hence they reject everything of the supernatural and miraculous without necessity of investigation. This of course is a revival of the old Sadeism of the past.

The Why Of The “Social Gospel”

The Bible teaches supernatural regeneration, involving the miracle of the new birth. Modernists of course deny this. This infidelity has seeped down into churches until a prominent Methodist editor and author in a recent book stated that at least 60 per cent of his denomination no longer believe in “a crisis experience conversion.” Since modernists have thrown away the Bible gospel of personal regeneration, they must needs manufacture some excuse for continued existence of churches, so they have originated the “social gospel” which doesn’t deal primarily with the individual but humanity en masse.

This “gospel” is fittingly characterized in Galatians 1:6-9.

Just Between Us

(Continued from page one)
ing ahead to victory today.

And my enemies? What becomes of them? They hurt us for a little while, but then they are gone, and we don’t hear from

them anymore. Paul had plenty of enemies. We don’t know who they were, nor anything about them. They are forgotten, but Paul is remembered. THE BAPTIST EXAMINER will still be going when our enemies are all forgotten.

Hambone says: “It isn’t the quantity of the folk that hates a man that counts; it is the quality of the folk that love him.”

The crowd that I am interested in is our friends—those that love this editor and this paper and want to see it prosper, like the following:

“Our church has voted to send you \$100 toward the payment on your press. A check for this amount is enclosed. We feel that THE BAPTIST EXAMINER is a most important factor in spreading the truths of God’s Word in this age. May God continue to bless your work!”

Well, I’m calling on my friends today. Time is short for us to raise the needed \$1000 and interest on the note on our press, and frankly the money has been coming in most slowly. We are far from our goal, as we have only a little over half the amount that we need.

If the paper has been a blessing to you then “communicate” or “share with us.” If we have been a help to you, then won’t you help us in this emergency? May God lead you to write us today and send an offering—whatever He lays on your heart.



The Holy Spirit

(Continued from page one)
of a Baptist Church. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16.

He teaches. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” John 16:13.



A. S. REED

Here is a product of the hills of West Virginia, and what a product! One that Baptists can well be proud of, surely. As pastor of the Rosedale Baptist Church in historic old Mount Pisgah Association, both Bro. Reed and the church are standing like the Rock of Gibraltar for the doctrines of God’s Word. How we thank God for their friendship and for their testimony for the Truth!

He gives power for service and power to witness. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8.

He guides us. “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose

and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.” Acts 8:26-29. “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13.

Conditions of receiving the Spirit: Obeying. “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” Acts 5:32.

The Holy Spirit convicts, draws, and leads to conversion, which are instantaneous.

God says that you can be saved at once. “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is none else. Isaiah 45:22. The Philippian jailer believed and was saved the same night. “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.” Acts 16:31,32. The thief believed and was saved the same day. (Luke 23:42,43). The woman believed and was saved the same hour. (Luke 7:48-50).

God wants people to turn from their sins, and be saved. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Isa. 55:7. “Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37.

May the Lord bless this short message to the salvation of lost souls, is my prayer.



“Preventing Grace”

(Continued from page three)
used in the making of this film. The thing that I want you to see is this, that girl didn’t own those dresses that she used in the making of that film, but they were the property of the stage company for whom she worked. An actor or an actress in a drama doesn’t have to provide his own robes. That belongs to the stage furnishings. All he has to do is to put them on and act out his own part in the drama that is set before him.

Beloved, that is exactly what God has in store for us so far as our works are concerned. He has ordained our works, that you and I should walk in them. I am glad for this fact, that God has ordained our works, and in His preventing grace has already prepared the works that He wants me to do. My business is to ask God for His will, that I might do the things that please God in the works that He has provided.

We have a marvelous illustration of that in the Old Testament, in the case of Jeremiah. When God told Jeremiah to preach, Jeremiah didn’t want to. Listen:

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and

over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”—Jer. 1:5-10.

Notice that God had already prepared all the works that Jeremiah was to do before Jeremiah was ever conceived in his mother’s belly.

Oh, listen to me. I am speaking about a God of preventing grace. That is the kind of a God we are serving today. He prepared a full and free salvation for me before I ever knew about my existence. He prepares the grace for me every day to live for Him. He prepared the plan of my life, and He has prepared the works of my life from day to day.

V

GOD’S PROVIDENCES ARE ALSO PREPARED FOR US.

Do you realize that you and I are subject to the providences of God and that all of those providences are prepared for us? Everything that takes place in providence is a part of God’s provision for us.

We read in John 21 where the disciples went fishing one night but they didn’t catch even one fish. The next morning Jesus said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find, and when they cast their net, they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fishes.” Jesus, as God, knew where the fish were. In His providence, He placed them there.

Beloved, listen to me, every provision and providence of your life and mine, God has provided in advance.

Let’s notice another example. One day Abraham went out to offer his son Isaac upon an altar, and as he was about to do so, he saw a ram that was caught in the thicket. He took that ram and offered it instead of his son, and Abraham called the name of that place “Jehovah-jireh,” which means that “the Lord will provide.”

God had provided. He provided a ram to offer in the place of the sacrifice of his son. That ram was there all the time. All that Abraham needed to do was to open his eyes and see it waiting for him. God was working in this, as well as in all, of the providences of his life.

Let’s notice Jonah. When Jonah went to flee from the presence of the Lord the Word of God tells us that Jonah went down into the ship to go to sleep, but that God stirred up the depths of the ocean with a storm. When the men were frightened and Jonah was cast into the sea, God provided a fish to swallow Jonah. God was working in the providences of his life.

Let’s notice again how God controls the providences of our lives. When Moses led the children of Israel out to Marah, just a short distance from Egypt, they could not drink of the waters of Marah. Listen:

“And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord showed him A TREE, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.”—Ex. 15:23-25.

Beloved, that shrub was there all the time. All that Moses needed to do was to open his eyes and see it. It was there, for God was working this providence in behalf of his life.

Let’s notice another example. I stand in Palestine some 700 or 800 years before my Lord was born. I stand alongside of Elisha and I hear his servant say, as he looks out upon the hills beyond, “Look at the crowd of enemies. There is old Ben-hadad’s army and all of the Syrian armies coming after us. Master, what shall we do?” Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray thee, open his

eyes, that he may see.” When his servant looked again, he saw not only the armies of Ben-hadad and the Syrians, but he saw the angels of God. The Word of God tells us that God smote the Syrian army with blindness and they that were miraculously led to Samaria and they came no more into the land of Israel.

I tell you, beloved, God in His preventing grace prepares the providences of our lives. That is why we need to learn the meaning of Romans 8:28, when Paul said:

“And we know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

That is why we need to fall back upon I Thessalonians 5:18, when it says:

“IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Beloved, it doesn’t make any difference what comes in your life and mine. It doesn’t make any difference what the problem is that may arise to confront and perplex you. You need to fall back upon this fact, that God is back of it all, and that God’s preventing grace has gone before, and has anticipated and provided for us, and has made arrangements before that emergency might arise.

VI

OUR PLACE IS PREPARED.

One day Jesus comforted His disciples when He said unto them:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. 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 14:1-3.

Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for us. I don’t know what He had to do to Heaven when He left this earth. I don’t know what preparation He had to make, but I know one thing, there was something yet to be done. There was some preparation yet to be made, and when Jesus left this earth, He went to prepare Heaven in our behalf.

Isaiah said:

“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what HE HATH PREPARED for him that waiteth for him.” Isa. 64:4.

Listen, beloved, God in His preventing grace not only provided full and free salvation for us, not only provided grace for us to live each day, not only prepared the plans of our lives, not only planned the works of our lives, not only provided and made arrangements relative to all the things that might come into our lives by way of His providences, but He has prepared the place to which we are going, in advance of our going there.

So, beloved, we can say that from the beginning to the end, salvation is of the Lord, and God’s preventing grace is the reason for your life before you came into this world, your life in this world, and the life that you are going to live yonder in eternity when you leave this world.

Beloved, it thrills my heart when I remember what God has done for us. To think that God provided for us even before we were in the womb, that He provides for us all the time of our lives, and that He is preparing now for our future, it ought to make us ashamed to think how poorly we treat him. You and I need to pause and thank God for what He has done, for what He is doing in our behalf from day to day, and we need to cry out to Him to give us grace that our lives might count for Him every day, in view of all that He has done for us.

May God bless you!