

Do not face the day until you face God.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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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ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, MARCH 21, 1970

WHOLE NUMBER 1630

A FINE REPORT FROM BRO. BURKET

Dearly Beloved of the Lord:

It seems good at this time to write another report of the work among the Navajos, and also to let you know of other events that have been happening here.

How we praise God for His faithfulness to us, and for you folk who continue to show your love for us, and your interest in the work.

If there is anything that can humble this missionary it is to see how the Lord works in his behalf to supply his needs. How we thank God for you all, and trust that you are richly blessed, as you continue to send your support for the work.

Since we have come west in the fall of 1968 we have been worshipping in our home due to the lack of a sound Baptist church in this area. Yes, we did visit a couple of churches that were supposed to be sound, but even the children protested that they weren't hearing the truth so we stopped visiting, and since then have worshipped in our home each Sunday.

About six weeks ago while I was visiting a Navajo prisoner at the jail, a young couple came to our home and asked my wife if we had a church anywhere that they could attend. This couple has been exposed to the truth, and the young woman's father is a sound Baptist, and we understand an old friend of Brother Gilpin. They had been attending a church here in Farmington, but had stopped about a year ago, when the preacher made remarks about these people that ask him about election and predestination; and so, they weren't going anywhere. My wife assured them that they were welcome to meet with us in our home, and they have been doing so since then. We meet with them in their home on Wednesday evenings for a Bible Study, and are studying the book of Romans. We are so happy to have them meet with us, and their hunger for the Word of God is a thrill to our soul.

My wife said that when they came to the door, the woman had a picture of me from the Baptist Examiner in her hand. She told us that she didn't know we were even in town until her mother sent the picture to her. The name of this couple is Jay and Pearl Wilson.



MR. AND MRS. BILL BURKETT

We also started visiting another part of the reservation that is closer to town. Most of the people there attend a church somewhere around town, but we did talk with a man and his wife that have asked us to come and have 'church' with them as the wife is ill and doesn't go out much. The Wilsons accompanied us out there one Sunday afternoon, but the wife wasn't home, and the man was on the roof doing some repair work, and asked us to come back during the week.

We have been having more and more trouble with our transportation. A tie rod broke once while coming in off the reservation, while we were traveling down the main street of town. I fought for control of the vehicle and finally brought it to a safe stop. I thought that we had a flat tire, but a policeman came running up, and said that he had seen what happened, then got down and showed me the broken tie rod. My wife called a tow truck, and I had the vehicle towed home where I spent the next day fixing it. Then I discovered that the rear end of the vehicle was making growling sounds. I spent two days tearing that down and putting in a new universal joint only to discover that the transmission was shifting with difficulty. I took it back to the garage where I had it overhauled about six months before. After they had worked on it all day they told me that I would have to have the motor overhauled to get the transmission to operate right. Do you want to hear any more? I thought

not. I paid a visit to the International place and looked at the new four-wheel drive pick-ups. The next day my wife and I went down and took one and tried it out. Then we went in and talked about a deal with the owner. After we got the figures we went over to the GMC place and tried a pick-up there. It handled much better and seemed a much better vehicle all around. We talked to the salesman, and he offered a better deal than the man at the International place so we ordered one. When I tell you that I spent more time in the last month under the vehicle trying to hold it together, than I did preaching, or even getting to the reservation, you will understand that we felt that the Lord had given us the liberty to get another vehicle. We expect delivery in about three more weeks, and although we expect that the payments will be steep, we know that the Lord will see us through. We had prayed about this for some time, and since it was costing so much every month to keep it going, we feel that the new vehicle is a better investment of the Lord's money. The pick-up will come with camper shell installed so that we can spend some time on the reservation this spring after

We Have Had A Hard Time

bringing the paper to you for the past few weeks. One of the men who has worked for us for nearly twenty years has been sick and unable to work. His task was that of operating our big newspaper press on which TBE is printed. No one else in the shop has ever learned the intricacies of this press. Therefore, since he is ill, we have been hard pressed relative to the printing of the paper.

The first week that he was sick, we hired another man, who said he knew how to operate the press. Actually, I was ashamed of the appearance of the paper that we sent out that week because it was printed so poorly.

(Continued Page 3, Col. 1)

The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Please explain Rev. 22:2."

I am afraid that I can offer no explanation beyond the description that is given here. I take this

the country probably have a hard time trying to visualize what we have here. One of the beautiful things about our eastern cities is a street lined on either side with beautiful trees. But these streets are but a poor foretaste of the beautiful streets that await the Bride in that coming day. These trees are not only a thing of beauty, they bear a different kind of fruit each month. For a long time I thought that when the thousand year reign of our Lord



Roy MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida

literally as I do most all of the Bible — all indeed, unless there is a figurative meaning plainly indicated.

Some spiritualize the future life until they have us floating around like dim ghosts. I do not believe in such a ghostly future. I believe that life there shall be far more vivid than we have ever known here. Here we have mentioned streets, and rivers, and trees and fruits. These are all nice things, and I am glad that such will exist in the life to come.

From my book "Let's Study Revelation" — Here we see tree lined streets in the holy city. People who live all their lives on the great plains of our country and who never visit other parts of

school is out instead of coming in to town every evening.

Sometime in January a man from the land office visited us and requested more information as to the use of the land, estimates of building costs, plus a map showing all future buildings and uses and costs. He estimated that it would take six months more before we could expect a "yes" or "no."

Due to the fact that we were not able to get out to the reservation for a couple of weeks, a young man came in to see us one evening to see why we weren't coming out any more.

Sometimes the people seem so indifferent that we don't know what to expect on each visit. One day I decided that if they didn't indicate somehow that they wanted to hear the Word of God that I wouldn't offer to have a service. So much to our joy and surprise we were about to leave a home when the woman spoke up and said, "Why you not preach to us?" So I did just that. I explained to her that they didn't seem to want to hear, and she said in inimitable Navajo fashion, "We no wait for you."

Yesterday we went to Bisti and a man asked us to have a service. He said, "I not hear the word for a long time." We sang in Navajo and then since he doesn't hear too well I went over and sat be-

E. G. COOK

701 Cambridge
Birmingham, Ala.

BIBLE TEACHER

Philadelphia
Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



was finished there would be no more time as we know it. In my younger days I would misread Scriptures like Rev. 21:23 where it says "the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon" and in verse 25 "there shall be no night there" and then jump to a wrong conclusion. It seems that I just assumed that all that would be left after the great white (Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

side him and preached. We had services in three homes; then my wife said that she was all sung out, and was too hoarse to attempt to try it again. We made a couple of stops assuring the people we would try to come back next week. The Travel-all behaved until we got home so perhaps we will be able to make another trip or two before it stops again.

The trader at Bisti has been trying to keep us from getting property at Bisti. He protested to the man from the land office when he went out there to locate the land that we are trying to get. He claimed that we would be bad for his business, but we know that that isn't the real reason. The young Mormon missionaries tried to start a church out there, but as we were told all the people showed up either drunk, or drinking in the meeting. These aren't any of the people that we know, so we don't know where the meeting was held.

Now we were informed yesterday that the trader was spreading malicious gossip about me, and then trying to blame it on some of the people that we visit. Praise the Lord. This to me is a real indication that the Lord has a work for me there. Beloved, continue to pray for us.

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"WHY YOU NEED SALVATION"

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."—I Pet. 1:9.

I don't know any theme in all the Word of God that seemingly thrills my soul more, or means more to me than the study of the theme of salvation. Every time I start to study it, I find there is so much said in the Word of God about salvation that it is impossible to cover it in any one message. There are so many outstanding texts on the subject of salvation. For example, the prophet Jonah said:

"SALVATION is of the Lord."—Jonah 2:9.

Also we read:

"Mine eyes have seen thy SALVATION."—Luke 2:30.

This was spoken at the time that the baby Jesus was being presented into the temple, and the Word of God tells us that as He was held in the arms of one of the faithful, that this individual referred to Jesus as "thy salvation." Salvation, then, would appear to us not to be a creed, not to be a tenet, and not to be a group of things that we believe,

but salvation is a Person — the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The word "salvation" is used again at the time of the conversion of Zacchaeus. We read:

"And Jesus said unto him, This day is SALVATION come to this house."—Luke 19:9.

We have another reference to salvation when the Apostle Peter says:

"Neither is there SALVATION in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given (Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

SPECIAL BIBLE CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

We are looking forward to our annual Bible Conference over Labor Day weekend. Through the providence of God, several of our readers have been making contributions to assist Calvary Baptist Church in paying the expense of the Conference. Of course, this is deeply appreciated and today, we are glad to report as follows:

Elder Gene Hensley, Indianapolis, Indiana — \$5.00.

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Oneco, Florida — \$15.00.

This brings our total to date for the Conference to \$20.00.

We appreciate these offerings, and if the Lord should lay it upon the heart of any of our readers to support this phase of the work, we shall be deeply grateful for such contributions.

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People

JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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"Salvation"

(Continued from page one)

among men, whereby we must be saved."—Acts 4:12.

When you read this, you can't help but see that by inspiration the Apostle Peter declares to us that the only way that salvation can be ours is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul says:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto SALVATION to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."—Rom. 1:16.

Notice again:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your SALVATION."—Eph. 1:13.

Here is a text that says that you heard the truth, you trusted, and salvation became a reality.

Notice another outstanding text relative to salvation:

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto SALVATION through faith which is in Christ Jesus."—II Tim. 3:15.

Listen again:

"For the grace of God that bringeth SALVATION hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."—Titus 2:11, 12.

Paul is saying that the grace of God brings salvation, and that salvation teaches us three things. It teaches us that we should live soberly, righteously, and godly—soberly as unto ourselves; righteously as unto our fellowman; and godly as unto Him with whom we have to live.

So many people say that if a man is saved by grace that he can do anything that he wants to do. No, beloved, the Word of God says that that same grace that brings salvation, teaches us that we are to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

I have taken time to read to you these eight Scriptures by way of an introduction that you might see how that salvation is mentioned so many times, and how that salvation is magnified in the Word of God. Now let me give you four reasons why you need salvation.

I

THERE IS A GOD.

You need salvation because there is a God. Believe me when I say there is a God. Listen:

"He is."—Heb. 11:6.

In other words, God is, or

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MARCH 21, 1970

PAGE TWO

exists.

"But there is a God in heaven."

—Dan. 2:28.

I say the first reason why you need salvation is, there is a God. If the evolutionist and the atheist are right — if the agnostic, the skeptic, and the infidel are right, then you don't need salvation. If there is no God, then you don't need salvation, but because of the fact there is a God, then you need salvation.

What kind of a God is He? We are told that God is a God that is absolutely infinite. Listen:

"GREAT is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is INFINITE."—Psa. 147:5.

Beloved, we need salvation because there is a God, and God is an infinite being.

Let me insist upon the fact that I believe in God. There was a time when the only reason that I could offer for my belief in God was what I saw in nature. That was enough. To me, what I can see in nature roundabout me proves that there is a God. I have always felt sorry for the person that doesn't have an eye for nature, especially that boy or girl that has been brought up in town, who knows nothing whatsoever about nature. To me, nature tells me that there is a God.

I go back to the time in the Old Testament when David stepped out of his tent in the nighttime, and looked up into the sky, and saw the moon as it took its place in that pale blue Syrian sky above him. He saw the stars as they filed out one by one, to become the golden sentinels of the night. I hear David as he says:

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou are mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visited him?"—Psa. 8:3,4.

Then the next morning, when David had awakened from his sleep, as he would begin his day, as he stepped from his tent again and looked out across nature to see the sun as it came up as a ball of fire in the horizon, and to see nature roundabout him as the brook maybe was babbling and as the grass was growing, he said:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."—Psa. 19:1.

I say to you, like David, both at night and in the morning, by day and by night, I see evidences of God's presence every day. I tell you, I believe in God first of all because of what I see in nature roundabout me.

But that is not the only reason why I believe there is a God. There was a time when that was the only reason that I could have given you why I believed in God. But there is a greater reason today, and that is, I believe in God because of my personal, intimate, actual experience with Him. So far as I am concerned, I believe there is a God because of my experience with Him.

Let's look at it from this standpoint: Brother Jim Everman and I have been very close friends for a great number of years, and I think most highly of him. His knowledge of the Word of God, and his love for the Lord is that which would thrill the soul of any man who is saved. Now suppose you were to try to convince

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

The Forum

(Continued from page one)

throne judgment would be this holy city with its occupants. If some of us were as good at the broad jump as we are at the conclusion jump, we would break all Olympic records overnight. I have long since come to see that the above Scriptures have to do only with the holy city. They have absolutely nothing to do with the earth. Even here in the holy city itself they still have months, for we see in this verse that these trees bear a different fruit each month.

These trees are called the tree

of life. They are a species of trees like the apple tree or the peach tree. And though it reads "the tree of life" it speaks of a species of trees, because we see them on both sides of the river. In Rev. 2:7 our Lord says, "To him that overcometh (see I Jno. 5:5) will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God." It would seem that this overcoming carries along with it the privilege of being in the Bride of Christ.

We also see that the leaves of these trees are for the healing of the nations. So we see that not only will there be months in the eternal ages, but there will also be nations upon the new earth. Just how these leaves will heal the nations and in what way the nations will need healing, I simply do not know.

I don't think anyone can tell much about this tree. I believe that there will definitely be a

JAMES HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, Ohio

RADIO SPEAKER
and MISSIONARY

Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



tree in the midst of the city. Ezekiel 47:12 is a prophecy of it as well as Rev. 22:2.

This tree was in the Garden of Eden. "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." (Gen. 2:9). When Adam and Eve sinned and ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil God removed man from the tree of life. "So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Rev. 3:24).

The tree of life has never since been seen and will not until we see the Holy City, Jerusalem. We can, however, partake of the fruit of the tree of life. This must be done through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only way we can. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4). We hear Jesus say, "... Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." (John 4:13, 14).

We have life through the Lord Jesus Christ. When we get to heaven the tree of life will be there forever to be a living symbol of what we have.

In Rev. 21, the Holy Spirit is describing the Holy City which will be the home of the bride

AUSTIN FIELDS

610 High Street
Coal Grove, Ohio

PASTOR,

Arabia Baptist
Church

Arabia, Ohio



(Baptist). An angel had carried John to a high mountain to watch this city descend out of Heaven. As John beholds the new Jerusalem, he describes its foundation, walls, gates and size. Then in the first five verses of Rev. 22, he tells us about its utilities and food supply. In verse one, he describes the water supply. Though the Holy City is a 1500 mile cube,

I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE BIBLE CONFERENCE OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, AND . . .



I would urge everyone to attend this Conference because . . .

It is a real spiritual feast.

The past three years that I have been blessed of the Lord to attend have been a source of spiritual strength. To know and hear men of God, who believe and love the Word of God, is a thrill beyond expression. This is one of the rich benefits of this Conference.

I have never failed to be taught some great Bible truth during the course of each message. Always there is much truth to be learned during the sweet fellowship that is to be had between each session.

Calvary Baptist Church and her pastor are wonderful hosts. It is always a sad experience to part from such wonderful company at the close of the Conference. However, I have never parted without thanksgiving to the Lord for allowing me to attend.

May the Lord be pleased to permit this annual Conference to continue until Christ returns.

In Him,

ELVIS GREGORY

Columbus, Mississippi

there are no water problems for through its streets runs the river of life, and because of this river's purity and quantity, there will be no death inside the Holy City's walls. One of the major problems facing our cities today is clean water, for through our earthly cities flows the river of death—waters contaminated by filth.

Another problem facing every earthly city is that of providing enough food to feed its many people. God assures us in verse two that within His city there will never be a food problem because on either side of the river of life, grows the tree of life, which produces 12 manners of fruit each month. Thus, the inhabitants of that glorious city will not know hunger since the city is not dependent upon outside assistance to feed her people.

I am aware that many try to spiritualize the city, river, and tree of life, thus giving many varied and different interpretations as to what they mean. I can not understand it in that light; rather it is my firm conviction that what John saw and described, was a literal city, and the tree of life, as mentioned in the verse under consideration, was just as real as it was in the Garden of Eden. Therefore, I am looking for a literal city and a real tree of life.

"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."—Gen. 2:9.

The tree of life planted in the Garden by God was just as real as any other tree. When our Lord selected the things to encourage us to be overcomers for Him, He chose the fruit from this tree and holds it out to us saints as something which is worthwhile to strive for.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, and he shall not be hurt of the second death."—Rev. 2:7.

tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."—Rev. 2:7.

I cannot conceive of my Lord holding out that which does not exist to encourage me to be a good soldier. Furthermore, the measurements of the city, the description of the material used to build it, and John being taken to a high mountain in order to see it testifies that the city and its contents are literal.

To be counted worthy to enter this city by the gate, to go past the angels guarding the gates, then to drink of the river of life and to walk under the city's lights which is Jesus Christ, and then to eat of the fruit from the tree of life will be worth all the sacrifices, suffering and hardships that I may have to go through here. In order to enter that city, one must fully realize that our light afflictions, which are but for a moment, cannot compare with the eternal weight of glory that awaits the faithful child of God in the Holy City.

Saint, may the Lord use this to encourage you to use the talents God gave you so that you will be able to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Read Matt. 25:21. To eat of the tree of life is to partake of the joy of the Lord.

This raises the question, will we eat after we have been resurrected and taken to the new city? The answer is, "yes." At that time, we will have a body like unto Jesus. Read Phil. 3:21. After He was resurrected, we find Him eating fish and honeycomb. Thus, as He ate, so shall we. The marriage feast described for us in Rev. 19 is also proof that we shall eat in a spiritual body.

God uses the leaves of the tree to heal the nations. Thus, there will still be trouble among the nations after the city comes down, and this causes me to believe that the city will come down at the beginning of the millennial reign rather than the end.

Man by himself could not have written the Bible if he would, and would not if he could.

The Redeemer's Return

By ARTHUR W. PINK

(Continued from last week)

Burket Letter

(Continued from page one)

If we have failed to answer any of your letters, please bear with us. We love you in the Lord, and will try to answer all mail as time permits. It has occurred to us recently that we may have neglected to answer some letters in the past.

May the Lord be gracious to you in the days ahead.

Your missionary to the Navajos,

BILL BURKET

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother Burket sent Calvary Baptist Church, recently, the financial statement for 1969, which showed \$5,123.87 as having been contributed by churches and individuals toward this work.

Then at the close of the statement, after showing that which was paid for Doctor, Dentist, Optometrist, taxes, tithe, and Social Security, he lists his balance and then says:

"With the balance we paid rent, lights, gas, water, sewage, telephone and bought our food, clothing, and some furniture including a dryer and freezer. We lacked nothing and had nothing left over."

How wonderful it is to have a missionary like Brother Burket. We of Calvary Baptist Church thank God for the privilege that we have of sponsoring in his work).



Hard Time

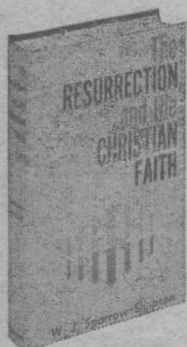
(Continued from page one)

For the past five weeks, we have been hiring it printed in another printing plant. There have been lots of problems involved in this case — particularly the expense, as it has cost us nearly \$300.00 a week more than it ordinarily did, if printed in our own shop.

Our pressman won't be able to be back on the job until possibly the middle of April or thereabout. However, in order to keep the paper in the mail regularly, we are going to switch over to another press we have in our shop (which is designed to only print four pages), and print the paper with four pages, such as the one you are now reading. It is all that we can do, and we ask our readers to bear with us for the next few weeks until our regular pressman is able to be back on the job. Please understand that this is only a temporary measure on our part, and we are doing it so that we can keep the paper in the mail coming to you regularly.

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MARCH 21, 1970

PAGE THREE

What then is the meaning of the parable of the Leaven? We answer that just as the former one brings before us the *external* development of a corrupted Christianity, so this one shows us the *internal* working of corruption within the Christian profession. The third parable brings us, historically, to the time of Constantine; the fourth carries us forward to the time of the rise and growth of the Roman Catholic Church. The "woman" in our parable figures the "mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" (Rev. 17:5) — "that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess" (Rev. 2:20). Her act in "hiding" the leaven comports well with the secrecy and stealth which has ever characterized the methods of the Roman hierarchy. The action of the woman is further evidence that the post-millennial interpretation of this parable is erroneous, for there is *nothing secret* about the proclamation and spread of the Gospel. Said our Lord to His disciples, "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops" (Matt. 10:27); and wrote the apostle, "But having renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, *not handling the Word of God deceitfully*" (2 Cor. 4:2). But both "craftiness" and "deceit" *did* mark this woman's action. She stealthily introduced into the meal a corrupting element, and though the resulting bread might be rendered more palatable, nevertheless it had been polluted. The three measures of meal stand for the whole of Christendom, and as Dr. Haldeman has pointed out, it is very remarkable that there are just *three* great divisions in Christendom, namely, the Roman Catholic, the Greek, and the Protestant Churches. And how true it is that these three divisions of the meal have each and all been thoroughly corrupted by the leaven introduced by the "woman"! Everywhere there are relics of Romanism, even in all the so-called Protestant churches.

To say that this parable teaches that the Gospel is to win the whole world to Christ is to put light for darkness and is to make error equal truth. If the leaven represents the Gospel, the woman the church, and the meal the entire human race, then we have to confess that our Lord erred in His judgment and entirely over-estimated the power of the Gospel to find a response in the hearts of men, for after eighteen centuries of Gospel preaching we cannot point to a single country where *all* its subjects make even a profession of Christianity; nay, the world over, we cannot find a single city, town, or hamlet where *everyone* of its inhabitants is a believer in the Lord Jesus. No; this parable shows us the secret working of a *putrefying* element which spreads nought but corruption, — Can then the Millennium be introduced by the universal diffusion of a corrupted Christianity!

In these four parables we discover the *methods* used by Satan to hinder the work of *true* Christianity. At the beginning he sought to oppose by catching away the Seed, which method was pursued throughout the first century when the Devil endeavored to exterminate and annihilate the Word of God by means of the sword and the bonfire. In the second parable we see him changing his tactics, aiming to destroy Christianity by mingling his own children among the people of God. In the third we see how by a master-stroke of the Enemy the Christian profession was *Paganized* and as the result the world was won over by dazzling the eyes of men with a gorgeous ritual, with imposing architecture, and with the sanction and approval of the Roman Emperors themselves. In the fourth we discover how he succeeded in corrupting the *doctrines and practices* of Christianity by introducing into its midst a foreign and putrefying element which has resulted in the leavening of the entire mass.

We shall not tarry long with the last three parables of this series. There is nothing at all in them, any more than in those already considered, which confirms and establishes the post-millennial teaching. A treasure *buried* in the field (which is "the world" can scarcely figure the *universal* success of the Gospel. A "pearl" — which is an object *taken out of the "sea"* (symbol of the *nations*) is no picture of a *world* won to Christ. While the Drag-net — the *last* of the series — enclosing as it does "every kind" of fish, the "*bad*" as well as the good, surely refutes the assertion that at the close of time Christ will return to find *all men* reconciled to Himself.

3. Our Lord's Olivet discourse shows that there is no universal triumph of the Gospel before His Second Advent.

The Olivet Discourse of our Lord is recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. We cannot now attempt a detailed exposition of these highly interesting and important chapters, but would simply single out from them a few things which

throw light upon our present inquiry. At the beginning of Matt. 24 we find that three of His disciples asked our Lord, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the age?" (vs. 3). What then was the answer which our Saviour returned to these questions? Did He reply saying that the Age would end with the universal triumph of the Gospel? Did He tell them that the Sign of His coming would be a converted world that would be eagerly awaiting His return to it? If so, this clearly decides the issue once for all, for there can be no appeal against the declarations of the One who was the truth incarnate.

As we read the verses which record our Lord's reply to the questions of His disciples we find that instead of Him painting a picture in bright and attractive colors, He portrayed a set of conditions which were pathetic and tragic in their bearing and nature. Instead of intimating that things on earth would improve during the time of His absence, He showed that they would get worse and worse. Instead of promising an era of peace and prosperity, He predicted a time of blood-shed and famine. Instead of telling the disciples that truth would be universally diffused and received, He forewarned them of the coming of false prophets who should deceive many. Instead of teaching that His followers would grow more zealous and faithful to Him, He announced that because iniquity should abound the love of many would "wax cold." Instead of saying that He should come back here to be received with an open-armed welcome. He predicted that on His return "all the tribes of the earth shall mourn." It is true that He said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations," yet a little further down in the same chapter He very plainly intimated that it should meet with *an almost universal rejection* — "For as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be," proves this.

It is therefore well nigh impossible for us to imagine anything more directly opposed to the post-millennial theory than what we find here in this address of our Lord's. It would appear from His utterances as if He, with omniscient vision, foresaw the very teaching which is so common in our day and that He designedly and deliberately *anticipated and repudiated it*. In verses 29 and 30 of Matt. 24 we read, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." The "*tribulation*" here spoken of is described in verses 21 and 22 of this same chapter — "For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." How different this from the glowing pictures painted by the post-millennialists! That the things here mentioned cannot possibly have reference to the *destruction of Jerusalem by Titus* is evident from the fact that "immediately after the tribulation" of those days the sun *was not* "darkened," the moon *did not* "cease to give her light," and the Son of Man *was not* seen "coming in the clouds of heaven." No; these verses describe conditions which are to prevail at "*the end of the Age*." Observe particularly that it is said, "*Immediately after the tribulation of those days* shall the sun be darkened" etc., and that "*then* shall all the tribes of the earth mourn and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven." The conditions then which are to immediately precede the Second Advent of Christ are not those of Millennial blessedness but those of unparalleled tribulation.

4. The present working of the Mystery of Iniquity proves that there can be no Millennium before the Redeemer's Return.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that Man of Sin be revealed, the Son of Perdition" (2 Thess. 2:3). In the first Epistle to the Thessalonians the apostle makes mention of the Second Coming of Christ in every chapter, and in the first chapter of the second Epistle he recurs again to the same theme — "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vss. 7, 8). Then, at the opening of chapter two in the Second Epistle he further says, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." Observe

(To Be Continued Next Week — D.V.)

"Salvation"

(Continued from page two)

me that Jim Everman doesn't exist. You might argue with me, and might use all the laws of logic whereby you would try to prove that Jim Everman does not exist. When you had finished your argumentation, I might not be able to put my finger upon the weak spot of your argument, but I would still know you are wrong. I would still know that Jim Everman exists because of my personal experience with him.

Beloved, you might try to argue with me that there is no God. You might say, "Brother Gilpin, God does not exist. There is no God. I am an infidel, an atheist, an agnostic, a skeptic, a rank unbeliever. I do not believe there is a God." You might have a system to prove that to your own satisfaction, but when you have finished with your argument, although I might not be able to put my finger upon the weak spot of your argument, I would still know that God exists because of my personal experience with God.

I say to you, I believe in God. Since I believe there is a God in view of what I see in nature and in view of my personal experience with Him — in view of that, then that is Reason Number One why you need salvation. If there is a

God, and if that God is infinite, as the Word of God reveals, then you need salvation.

II

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S REVELATION.

The Bible is not an ordinary book. It is God's Book. It is the Bible, and it is God's revelation of Himself to us. Listen:

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."—John 5:39.

This was Jesus Christ speaking, and He says, "Search the Scriptures." He actually throws out a challenge — "Search; you'll find that the Scriptures are they which testify of me."

Beloved, the Bible is a revelation of God. Every time you open it — every time you read from it, you are reading God's revelation of Himself. Listen:

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee WISE UNTO SALVATION through faith which is in Christ Jesus."—II Tim. 3:15.

Beloved, I insist that the Bible is God's revelation of Himself, and it is through the Bible that we know about God. Didn't Jesus say—

"If it were not so, I would have told you."—John 14:2.

If the Bible were not true, if the Bible were not God's revelation of Himself, then Jesus Christ would have told us so. He would have made us wise, for He said, "If it were not so, I would have told you."

We find the Lord Jesus Christ making a similar statement when He said:

"And the scripture cannot be broken."—John 10:35.

Mark it down, it is God's revelation of Himself, and it cannot be broken.

How many times have you heard the Bible preached from in years gone by? How many times have you gone to church and a verse of Scripture has been quoted to you? How many times have you picked up the Bible yourself and read it and there has been a verse of Scripture that has stuck in your mind? Beloved, that is God's way of revealing Himself to you. I say then, you need salvation first because there is a God, and in the second place, you need salvation because the Bible is a revelation of God.

III

GOD'S REVELATION SHOWS THERE WILL BE A JUDGMENT FOR SIN.

The Bible shows us that there will be a judgment for sin. We read:

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."—Heb. 9:27.

We are busy people and we live by appointment. Sometimes we make appointments that we don't keep. Ofttimes we make appointments and then break them. Ofttimes we are providentially hindered from keeping appointments after they have been made, and it becomes necessary that we break those appointments.

Here is a woman that says she has an appointment with a hairdresser. Here is a man who says that he has an appointment with a doctor. Here is a man who says that he has to hurry because he has an appointment with his broker. Beloved, we live by appointments. But those appointments oftentimes we do not keep. But there is one appointment that we are all going to keep: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." God, in the Bible, which is a revelation of Himself to us, tells us that there is going to be a judgment.

The Apostle Paul, preaching on Mars Hill the most learned sermon that he ever preached, to a crowd of the most learned people that he ever spoke to, said:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will JUDGE the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."—Acts 17:30,31.

He says that right now, God is just winking at sin. That is to say, God is just passing it by. God is just letting people go on to sin, and sin, and sin, and do whatever they please. He is letting them get by with it, but He has appointed a day when they are going to be judged for their sins. Sinner friend, remember, it may be that you are doing very well now, but God has appointed a day in the which He is going to judge you.

I remember a man, nearly fifty years ago, who was an infidel, and who on his farm had raised one field only by Sunday work, and the rest of his crop, he raised by working it during the week. When the fall of the year came, he found that the field that he worked on Sunday had produced more corn than the field that he had worked during the week. He sat down and wrote a letter to the county paper and told the story how he worked one field on Sunday — how he planted it, plowed it, hoed it, and harvested it on Sunday, and the yield was greater than the field that he

plowed and worked during the week. He asked, "How do you account for that in the light of your editorials?" The editor very wisely turned the letter over on the back, and wrote these words: "God doesn't make final settlement in October."

Mark it down, God is just winking at sin. He is allowing you to do as you please. Sinner friend, you can go on and live any kind of a life that you want to now, but remember this, God has already ordained a day, called the judgment day, when you are going to meet every sin of your life. God's revelation, this Bible, shows me that there is going to be a judgment for sin.

Listen again:

"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after."—I Tim. 5:24.

This verse says that there are two groups of men going to judgment. One man sends his sins ahead of him in judgment; the other goes to judgment ahead of his sins. Now what is the meaning of this? The man who is saved has already sent his sins ahead of him in judgment, and they have been judged in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has paid for those sins. Jesus Christ has already suffered for the sins of that man. The man is free from sins as his sin debt has been paid, because those sins have been sent ahead of him. The other man — the unsaved man — the man who lives and dies with his sins about him, goes up to the judgment bar of God, and looks about him, and there are all his sins trailing behind him. The sins of his youth, the sins of young manhood, the sins of young business life, the sins that he has committed down through life are all right behind him — all those sins have followed him up to the judgment bar of God.

I tell you, beloved, there are two ways whereby your sins can be handled: you can either send them ahead of you with Jesus Christ, or you can leave Jesus Christ out of your life and meet every one of those sins at the judgment bar. That is the third reason why you need salvation — namely, God's revelation of His Bible shows us that there is going to be a judgment.

IV

FOLLOWING THIS JUDGMENT WILL BE A HELL OF FIRE.

You need salvation because following this judgment will be a Hell of fire for the man who is outside the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."—Rev. 20:11-15.

Following that judgment where

you will meet you sins, there is a Hell of fire awaiting every man outside of Jesus. It says that all kinds of sinners—small and great, big sinners and little sinners — will stand before God and the books will be opened to show every man a record of his life, and he is going to meet the deeds which he has done. When a man stands in the presence of God and meets the deeds of his life, then, following, he is going to be cast into a lake of fire.

Notice again:

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."—Rev. 14:10,11.

Beloved, following, comes a lake of fire, a Hell of fire, a fire-and-brimstone experience. The Word of God says that it will be the means whereby men will be punished forever and forever, and that they will have no rest day nor night.

Sinner friend, as I have said before, if you got a good night's rest last night, you ought to thank God for it because it might be the last one that you ever have. That is a horrible thing to tell people, yet it is the most true thing that I could tell you. If you got a good night's rest last night, I would thank God right now for it, for if you were to die before you get to bed tonight, you would never have another night's rest.

You would never have another day's rest. Here is a text that says that they will have no rest day nor night. There are no easy chairs in Hell for you to sit down, whereby you might rest your weary bones. There are no soft pillows nor bed, whereby you might lie down, and go to sleep, and rest your weary body. Yes, this text says that there is no rest for the man outside of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that there is a God who is infinite, in view of the fact that the Bible is God's revelation of Himself, and in view of the fact that the Bible shows us that there will be a judgment of sin followed by a Hell of fire — in view of all this, don't tell me, that you don't need to be saved. If there were no God, if there were no Bible, if there were no judgment, and if there were no Hell, you wouldn't need salvation, but since there is a God, and since there is a Bible, and since there is a judgment, and since there is a Hell, you need salvation.

Is it possible that you could be saved? God tells how that might be a reality so far as your life is concerned. Listen:

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."—Rom. 10:4.

I don't say to join the church or be baptized, although I think that every saved person ought to join Jesus' church, and ought to be baptized. But I say, "Christ is the end of the law."

Do you want to be saved? Would you like to be saved? If you have desire in your heart to be saved, that desire is there because God has put it there. You would not have a desire if God had not put it there. If you have that desire to be saved, then may I say to you, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness." May you trust Him, may you receive Him, may you be saved, and may you leave this place realizing that salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you!

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