

# THE DAYS OF LOT

W. J. FARMER  
Flat Rock, Mich.

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" — (Luke 17:28).

This is probably one of the most capsulized passages on the end



BILL FARMER

time, in the entire Bible. "The days of Lot." Indeed, this is a fascinating study. Let us view some of these great truths.

I.

The days of Lot were just preceded by the days of Babel. The old city of Babel pictures these last days.

First, the people were unified. They were integrated and intermarried racially. They had one (Continued on page 3, column 4)

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# 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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## Further Exposition Of Epistle Of James

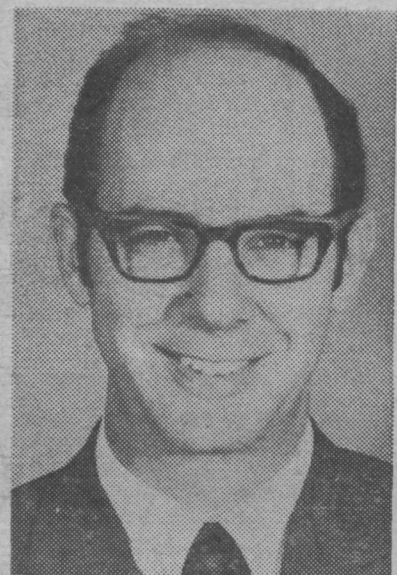
By WILLARD WILLIS  
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"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you" James 5:1.

This verse reminds me of a woman who works hard all summer canning beans, corn, potatoes and meat. She, at the beginning of the first snow, goes into the cellar with a smile on her face, expecting to enjoy the work of her hands; however, to her amazement, she finds that everything has spoiled. She begins immediately to weep and howl because her food is gone. The rich who trust in their riches rather than God, will meet with a similar fate. They will learn that everything of earth is soon to spoil and that all of their wealth will not be able to prevent this spoilage. They, in fact, will learn that no amount of wealth can make their bed soft, or a dish of the best food tasty, when it comes time for them to go to their long home. They will learn that wealth cannot prevent time from wrinkling the roughest cheeks and dimming the brightest eyes.

"Lay not up for yourselves

treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break



WILLARD WILLIS

through or steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"—Mt. 6:19-21.

"Weep and howl for (because of) your miseries that shall come upon you."

A child weeps and howls when his beautiful red balloon bursts, and the rich will weep and howl (perhaps silently) when that which they planned for their riches cannot be attained.

The word "shall" in the verse before us should be noted very carefully. It is not maybe or perhaps, but "shall." Their miseries "shall" come upon them, just as an egg shall break when one steps on it, or just as ice shall melt when heat strikes it.

I cannot emphasize too strongly that the only lasting portion is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. This life wanes and eventually leaves us, but the life which we have received from Him is everlasting. It, in fact, is a life that knows no spoilage. It is a life whose cheeks shall never become wrinkled and whose eyes

shall never grow dim.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand"—John 10:28.

It is "go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you," but to the believer in Christ, it is, "go to now, ye rich in Christ, leap for joy, for (because of) the blessings that shall come upon you."

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him"—1 Cor. 2:9.

"Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten"—James 5:2.

The woman, referred to above, found that all her canned goods had spoiled, and those who trust in riches will meet with a similar fate. It will be found that their wealth cannot buy a home in heaven, or clothe them with the garments of righteousness so as to replace their "moth-eaten" garments. The result will be that they shall be cast naked, hungry and thirsty into hell where they shall beg for a drop of water to (Continued on page 6, column 1)

# SALVATION BY GRACE

C. D. COLE  
Madisonville, Ky.

Practically all professing Christians profess to believe that salvation is of grace. You can hardly find a member of any denomination who will out and out deny that salvation is by grace. The Bible so often and so positively declares salvation to be by grace that few men will boldly deny it. But the trouble is that many think and speak of grace in such a way as to frustrate it. The grace they think of and talk about is not grace at all. It is so mixed with human work and merit that it is no more grace (Rom. 11:6). There is quite as much in Roman literature, but there is a wide difference as to what the two groups mean by grace.

We could seek to tell what grace is, and where grace reigns, and what grace provides; but in this article we shall endeavour to show

## How Grace Saves

Before coming directly to the question, we shall lay down some principles from which to reason:

1. **Salvation by grace destroys all room for boasting.** No man is sound on grace who boasts of anything he has ever done or can do as the ground of his salvation.

If your idea of salvation allows you to boast you may be sure it is wrong. No man can ever boast of his repentance and faith, for they are the gifts of His grace. See Acts 5:13; 11:18; 1 Cor. 3:5; Eph. 1:19; 1 John 5:4. All of our graces are fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

(Continued on page 4, column 4)

## A Warning To The Parents As To Rearing The Children

By J. B. ROWELL,  
Victoria, B.C.

How Christian parents sin against their own children, antagonize their minds against Christians, and turn them adrift from an evangelical ministry, might well be a matter for serious consideration. In seeking to diagnose the spiritual ills in the Church, we believe that failure in our Christian homes is one of the chief causes of spiritual decay. However, the only justification for uncovering a malady is in order to emphasize the remedy.

### DINNER-TABLE GOSSIP

Children have been spoken of as "fragile beginnings of a mighty end." Parents have a great responsibility toward shaping the child. The purpose, the end which God has in mind for the child. It is to be feared, however, that, too frequently, parents are utterly thoughtless as to the effect of their own words and conduct on their children. Parents who would lay down their lives for their children are often responsible for their spiritual downfall.

Young people go home from a service, impressed by the message they have heard, only to hear the parents find fault with the preacher, or to hear them discuss the latest titbit of gossip about someone. As Satan's fiery dart of criticism enters the child's mind, all serious impression passes from him; or, at least, there is the possibility of such a good impression being stifled. With the real or imaginary shortcomings or mistakes of the preacher or Sunday School teacher implanted in the mind, the child henceforth sees and thinks of his spiritual leaders in the light of that which he hears at home; or possibly at some other home. The ninety-nine good points in the teacher of spiritual lessons are lost sight of, while the one point under criticism is exaggerated. Consequently, the

teacher wonders why he has lost his influence, and why the child is no longer amenable to his spiritual leadership. The fact is, the seed of questioning, suspicion, distrust has been sown in the young mind by some faultfinder. Parents, and others, who are guilty of this, would do well to undo the mischief with all speed.

How can a depreciated Christian worker make headway with the young people, especially when the attitude of parents is a constant belittling of such workers? When once young people are encouraged along the line of criticism, they soon become adept in the same sin, and think it smart to detect a flaw, forgetful of this, that it does not require superior wisdom to find fault. Thus, instead of listening for the voice of God, there are those who think of some cheap, foolish, and faulty criticism.

There is a remedy. Wise and gracious parents will quickly turn the attention from an unwise criticism to some gem of truth, (Continued on page 7, column 5)

## Is Your Life Every Day Built By The Plumb Line?

By E. D. ROBERTS  
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Sparksville, Kentucky

Amos, the prophet, in a vision saw the Lord standing on a wall built by a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. The Lord said unto Amos, "What seest thou?" Amos replied, "A plumb line." Then said the Lord, "Behold I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel" (Amos 7:7).

The plumb line is a string or cord with a weight tied to it. When held up to anything that is in line with it, it is straight up and down or perpendicular, which teaches us to live perpendicular lives and sets forth a standard of righteousness. The wall that the Lord was standing on was built by the plumb line, the symbol of God's judgment, and was perfectly straight and perpendicular — not one stone was out of place. The Lord said, "I will lay judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet." Isa. 28:17. So the life that goes in and out

is not built by the plumb line. Our righteousness is measured by the plumb line. Immoral conduct is not the only thing that builds crooked lives, but anything that violates God's word or deviates from the pattern which Christ sets forth such as false doctrine, heresy or pride.

Moses was admonished by God when he was preparing to build the Tabernacle. "See," saith He, "that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee on the Mount." The pattern was by the plumb line and God would not permit Moses to leave out one thing. What happened to Moses when he disobeyed God the time he was to bring forth water to the children of Israel? Moses paid the price for his disobedience as all people will do who add something to God's Word.

Sometimes you can hear people say, "Let us lay down our isms and work together, preach the pure gospel and if people want to work under it, Amen, but if not let it be." What a sin to compare God's work to isms. Let every man stand firm and surrender nothing if he be founded on God's word. Churches that have been founded by men do have isms that ought to be laid down.

"In all things show thyself a pattern of good works. In doctrine showing incorruption, gravity and sincerity" (Titus 2:7).

I

The preacher needs to be a God-called man who takes his calling with sincerity. He needs to get on his knees, beg and plead with God for spiritual guidance that he may not preach false doctrine, lest he be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. Just think of the different doctrines that are preached these days. Somebody is wrong and is not led of the spirit. God help me to tell the truth — Jesus is the way, the (Continued on page 6, column 3)

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A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

## "A GET-WELL VERSE"

"And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord"—Zech. 10:12.

Primarily, this is a Jewish prophecy. It was written to Jews, and about Jews. The Jews, as you well know, are very much a forgotten people. Up until 1951, when the state of Israel was reconstituted, they were nothing but a despised nomadic sect of people. They are often persecuted and generally despised at large. The very fact of their experiences

through the ages gone by to the present, would reveal the truth that the Jews are a despised people.

A little incident of recent date will show you as to how they are despised. The shooting down of the plane in the Middle East, which was to be regretted, at the same time was probably more the fault of the pilot and the control tower through Egypt, than it was the fault of the man who shot them down. The reaction of the people all over the

country against the Jewish nation shows you how the nation of Israel is a despised nation. Anything that the Jewish people as a nation do, always results in stinging epithets, blistering denunciations, and despicable remarks on the part of the public. Even our President took that attitude, and in a very blatant manner, spoke very despicably so far as Israel was concerned.

As I say, this is a Jewish prophecy. Though the Jews are gen- (Continued on page 2, column 1)



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JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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## "Get Well"

(Continued from page one)

erally hated, forgotten, persecuted, and despised, this is a Jewish prophecy and will ultimately be fulfilled.

May I say to you that the Jews have a glorious future awaiting them. They were God's people. They were chosen to be God's people. God refers to them in the Old Testament as "the apple of his eye." It is true that the Jews have done many things that were wrong in the Old Testament, all the way down to the days of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, they have certainly manifested a disposition that would show that they are in rebellion in the things of the Lord, yet they are still God's chosen people. There are glorious prophecies awaiting their fulfillment. There are glorious things in store for the Jew in the days to come.

It is going to be a glorious day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth and sets up His kingdom, with capital headquarters at Jerusalem. Some people think that if He reigns at all, He will reign from Washington. I am sure that the Russians think if He reigns, He will reign from Russia. I am certain that "Johnny Bull" thinks that if He reigns, He will reign from London. But when the Lord Jesus Christ sets up His kingdom, He is going to reign, but He is going to reign from Jerusalem.

It is going to be a glorious day for the Jew then. The Word of God says that if a baby were to die, it would die at a hundred years of age. Longevity of life is going to be restored. The desert

and the wilderness are going to blossom as a rose garden. The solitary place will be no longer as it is, but all the land will be a fruitful field and everything that pertains to the Jewish people is going to be glorious.

I am ready to admit that there is going to be a lot of suffering they are going to undergo between now and then, but ultimately the Jew is going to reign and rule with the Lord Jesus Christ from Jerusalem. A glorious day is ahead for them. However, in the meantime, the Jew is a sick man. This text would indicate such. They need to convalesce. They need to get well.

I think that many of the persecutions and much of the despicable statements that are made concerning the Jew have been brought on by themselves. They are in a sad spiritual state at the present time. If there were ever a nation that was in a sad spiritual condition, it is the Jew. Certainly, they need to convalesce and get well.

My text says, "I will strengthen them in the Lord." Some of these days, the Lord God is going to strengthen the Jew. He is going to convalesce and he is going to get well. The Lord is going to reign from Jerusalem and use the Jewish people mightily in His service.

I am wondering if what is true of the Jew isn't true just the same for you and me. I wonder if you and I don't need to spiritually convalesce today.

When I got out of the hospital in November, I was very weak. The fact of the matter was, I was so weak that I did not have any strength at all. Little by little, I am gaining back some strength. I think one reason why colds have hurt me so much this winter and why the flu has bothered me is because of the fact that I am weak as a result of my operation. I have been convalescing. I have been trying to get well again physically. It has been a process that has been quite drawn out.

I did not preach at all in the month of December, though I did attend services. I preached not quite an average of once every Sunday since the first of January. The middle of February was the first time I preached twice on Sunday since my operation. I have been trying to convalesce and get well again.

As I think about my own physical experiences, I, likewise, think of my spiritual experience, and I think of yours. Isn't it true that we all need to spiritually convalesce and get well? Are you as well spiritually as you would like to be? Are you walking with the Lord in the way that you would like to walk with Him? Would you say, as I would say, that what the Jew needs, you and I need? I think if we'll be honest, we will agree that there isn't a one of us that does not need spiritual convalescing.

## WE PAINFULLY NEED DIVINE STRENGTHENING.

The Bible says that we are as weak as water. Actually, it says that we are as water poured out on the ground. You know when water is poured out on the ground, it is impossible to re-gather it. Certainly there isn't a one of us but what is weak as water, and truly we need divine strengthening. Individually, that is true. Collectively, as a church, that is true. I would repeat that painfully we need divine strengthening to carry on the work of the Lord.

There are four things that I think I can say we need strength for: **watching, walking, working, and warring.**

Isn't it true that we ought to be **watching**? We ought to be watching as to our own spiritual life. We ought to be watching as to the spiritual life of our congregation. We ought to be watching as to the religious trend of the day. We should be watching for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need strength. We need to be strengthened in the Lord in order to watch.

We need to **walk** here within this world. I have a tremendous task of walking for my Lord: walking before my family and my loved ones; walking before my friends; walking before our church congregation; walking before the world at large. I need strength to walk properly for the Lord.

Then there is **working**. We all do so little by way of work. There is so much that needs to be done, and so little that we do.

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We need strength if we are going to work for the Lord.

Then there is **warring**. The old song means more and more to me, that says, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" When God saved you, He did not save you to sit down with the thought in mind that someday He would take you home to Glory. He saved you with the idea that you are to be warring for Him as a Christian soldier until Jesus Christ comes back to this world. Some people have in mind that our business is to be sweet and even-tempered, and we are here in this life to never condemn anyone else, but that we should at all times try to be real nice to everybody else we meet. That is not my understanding of the Word of God. I think God would have us to be at war with everything that is wrong. I think He would have us to be at war with everybody that is wrong. I don't think it is right for me to settle down, never to rebuke, and never say anything against the individual that is wrong.

Often this Scripture is misinterpreted:

"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm"—Psa. 105:15.

This is talking about the anointed prophet of God in the Old Testament, and it has no reference at all to a New Testament preacher. I am not anointed with the Lord. I am not one of God's prophets. I am called to be a forth-teller of His Word — a preacher of His Book. When an individual quotes this verse and says that we are not to touch one of God's anointed — not to touch one of those who are His preachers, this certainly does not at all refer to us. I am to preach the

## MY PRAYER

"Before the world from day to day  
Lord, help me to live as I pray;  
If I know my heart I want to be  
A child whose life will honor Thee.

Lord, cleanse my heart from sin and strife  
And help me to live a yielded life;  
And live before those who know me best  
So my life will always stand the test.

And may I live each day for Thee  
So none will stumble over me,  
In those days of sin and sham  
Help me to be just what I am—

A sinner saved by His marvelous grace.  
Lord, help me to ever fill my place,  
And show to the world how God can  
Change the life of a sinful man.

Lord, grant that my life shall ever be  
One that will bring honor and praise to Thee."

J. E. ABBOTT,  
Benton, Arkansas

Word of God, and I am to rebuke and to war against everything that is false that man presents today. If he is not a man of God, that is all the more reason why I am to war against him, and if he is a man of God, I should certainly condemn him.

Thinking of the fact that we need to convalesce and get stronger in the Lord, I say that we painfully need divine strengthening — strength to watch, strength to walk, strength to work, and strength to war.

### II

### THIS STRENGTHENING MUST BE DIVINELY BESTOWED.

If you are expecting strength to live for the Lord, you don't get it in any way except from a divine source. Listen:

"It is God that girdeth me with STRENGTH"—Psa. 18:32.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the STRENGTH of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"—Psa. 27:1.

"The Lord will give STRENGTH unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace"—Psa. 29:11.

"God is our refuge and STRENGTH, a very present help in trouble"—Psa. 46:1.

I say that this strengthening that we need so badly must be divinely bestowed. You don't get stronger by anything that you do. You don't spiritually convalesce by anything that you do yourself. Rather, this strengthening that we need so badly in order that we might watch, walk, work and war — this strengthening is divinely bestowed.

Would to God that we could learn this lesson! Would to God that we could realize how true it is that we need to be strengthened in the Lord!

We read:

"O Lord, MY STRENGTH, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the

ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit"—Jer. 16:19.

Notice, the first part of the verse says, "O Lord, my strength." Where do we get our strength? Where does our strength come from? My text says, "And I will strengthen them in the Lord." Notice the certainty of its accomplishment.

When you go to the hospital for an operation, the doctor may fail. The operation may not be a success. Many times the operation has to be repeated because of a failure on the part of the doctor in what he has done.

Beloved, there isn't any failure so far as God is concerned. He says, "I will strengthen them." Doctors may fail, but this is certain of an accomplishment, for God says, "I will strengthen them." This strengthening can only be divinely bestowed.

### III

### THIS STRENGTHENING IS GRADUALLY RECEIVED.

Have you ever been to the hospital? Have you ever had an operation? You didn't get well overnight. The strengthening came gradually, and the recovery has to come gradually.

The same is true spiritually. Listen:

"They go from strength to strength"—Psa. 84:7.

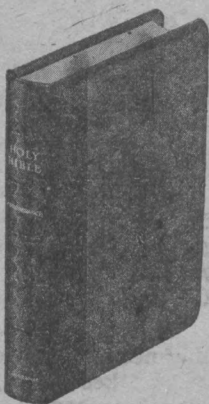
As an individual gets out of the hospital and convalesces, and gets stronger today, and stronger tomorrow, and a little stronger the next day, so it is spiritually. "They go from strength to strength."

I tell you, it thrills my heart when I think about the fact that as we pray, as we commune, as we work and as we walk, and as we watch and as we war, we gradually have our spiritual strength restored.

Maybe I am not talking to the right audience this morning. Maybe you are not spiritually weak. (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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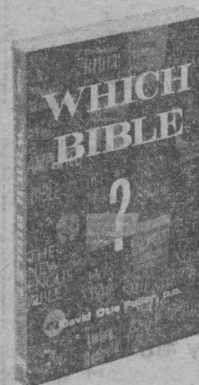
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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PAGE TWO



## "Get Well"

(Continued from page two)

Maybe you are keeping yourself in tip-top spiritual condition every day. Maybe you are just doing the best in this world and maybe I am not talking to the right group.

Well, if I am not, will you listen while I talk to myself? I need it. I would appreciate it if you would be patient and listen to what I say to myself. I say to you, that spiritual convalescence that I think each of us needs badly is something that is gradually received. Just as you are restored gradually to physical health, so is your spiritual strength gradually received from the Lord. "From strength to strength" we go in His Name.

### IV

#### AS YOU SPIRITUALLY CONVALESCENCE, YOUR APPETITE RETURNS.

Have you ever noticed that when you are sick, you lose your appetite; then, as you get well, your appetite returns to you? When I was in the hospital in November, I think they gave me pretty good food. It was far better, I am sure, than the average hospital. This was about the fourth trip I had made to the hospital and I know the food that I had in November was far better than the food that I had in the three preceding trips in the hospital. Somehow, though, that food didn't taste very good. I didn't have much appetite. Somehow, my appetite just wasn't very much. When I got out and came home, my clothes fit differently to what they had fit for a long, long time. When I stood on the scales, I found that I had lost about 20 pounds.

As I have gotten stronger, my appetite has returned. I find now that I have not only gained back that 20 pounds, but four more besides. The reason for that gain in weight is the fact that my appetite has returned. As I have convalesced, my appetite has gotten better.

Beloved, listen, as you spiritually convalesce, your appetite is going to get better, too. You are going to get an appetite for God's Book. You'll get such an appetite for this old Book that you'll enjoy reading it, and you won't be satisfied with anything else. You will get to the place that you truly relish the Word of God.

We read: "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"—Psa. 119:103.

I ask you, do you like this old Book? Do you relish it? Do you truly enjoy the Word of God? I say to you, the more you convalesce spiritually, and the closer you get drawn to the Lord, the more you are going to find that your appetite is going to return and you are going to relish God's Book.

The reason why unsaved people don't relish the Word of God is because they don't know the Author. They don't know Jesus Christ as Saviour. If you know the Author of this Book, you are

going to enjoy His Book. The closer you are drawn to Him, the more you spiritually convalesce, the more you are going to enjoy God Almighty's Word.

### V

#### AS YOU SPIRITUALLY CONVALESCENCE, YOUR DIFFICULTIES VANISH AND YOUR BURDENS GROW LIGHT.

God's Word says: "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble"—Job 14:1.

Do you have any burdens? Do you have any difficulties? Plenty of them. Trouble, trouble, trouble characterizes the majority of God's people. You just get out of one burden and another one comes.

When I was in college, I rode a train from my home near Cincinnati, Ohio, to Cumberland College at Williamsburg, Kentucky. That 200 mile trip on a train was characterized by tunnels. We just ran into one tunnel, out of it, and into another one. I was amazed at the number of tunnels that existed on that road. It looked like we would just get out into the daylight and then we would be in darkness again.

Many times since then, and since I have been saved and known the Lord, and have been in the ministry, it would seem like I would just get out of one tunnel of darkness into a little daylight and then into another period of darkness. My life has been characterized by short periods of daylight and then into darkness again. Beloved, it is true that we have difficulties and we have burdens, but as you spiritually convalesce, you will notice that your difficulties vanish and your burdens grow lighter. The closer you walk to the Lord—the nearer you are to Him (and I speak from my own experience in this respect), the less the burdens will seem and the less the difficulties have been.

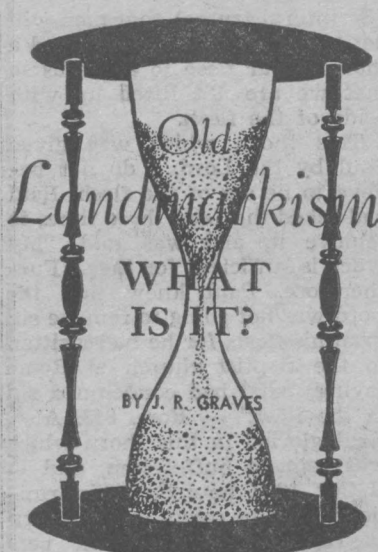
### VI

#### AS YOU SPIRITUALLY CONVALESCENCE, YOU DESIRE EMPLOYMENT.

A person who doesn't like to work is sick. If you are sick, you don't feel like working. When you are sick, you are not able to work, but as you get better physically, you want to work; you desire employment. You are not satisfied to sit around and do nothing.

I noticed sometime ago a family was having trouble with one of the children. The child didn't want to do anything at all but watch television, listen to the radio, eat and sleep. He wouldn't get a job. He didn't want to do anything. I said to the mother one day, "That child is a sick child. I don't know what is wrong, but that child is sick."

I tell you, beloved, as you convalesce and get better physically, you are going to want employment. You are not going to be satisfied without it. The same thing is true spiritually. The closer you get to the Lord, the more you love the Lord, the nearer you walk with Him each day, the more you are going to desire



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to be busy in His service and the more you are going to desire employment in the service of the Lord.

I turn to the Word of God and I find a remarkable example of this in the case of Simon Peter's mother-in-law. The Romanists say that Simon Peter was not married and that all the popes from Simon Peter's day down to this have remained unmarried. Well, I don't know how to explain this situation then: if he wasn't married, how did he have a mother-in-law? Will somebody rise up and tell me how a man can have a mother-in-law without a wife? Simon Peter had a mother-in-law. God's Word tells us about Simon's wife's mother who was healed of a fever, and it says concerning Jesus:

"And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them"—Mark 1:31.

Notice, as soon as the fever left her, she ministered unto them. She wanted to do something. She desired employment. She went to work as soon as she got rid of the fever.

Beloved, as a man convalesces in this life when he is physically ill and as he gets better physically, he wants to work then. When you spiritually convalesce and get closer to the Lord, the more you find that you want to work. As my text says, "And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name." Actually, Christian activity is predicted in this verse of Scripture, for it says, "They shall walk up and down in his name."

When you come to the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation, you will find that though the Lord condemned these various churches, in nearly every instance He commended them for their works. Listen:

"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted."—Rev. 2:3.

Notice, these churches labored. Beloved, I am convinced that if a man is right with the Lord, as he gets closer to the Lord, as he gets over his spiritual illness and as he spiritually convalesces, he is going to desire employment in the service of the Lord. He is not going to be satisfied to do nothing. He is going to want to keep busy in the service of the Lord.

I remember an incident when I was just a boy. I had an older friend by the name of T. C. Crume. He was an Arminian preacher, but he was an earnest, energetic one. He preached a lot of truth and likewise a lot that wasn't true, as you can expect any Arminian to do. He was away in a revival meeting and came home to his pastorate on Saturday morning, having closed the revival on Friday night. On Saturday afternoon, one of the members of the church came to see him. He said, "Brother Crume, I want you to take my name off the membership roll of the

church. I am not living like I ought to." Brother Crume said that he prayed with him, and after he prayed he said, "I'll see to it that it is done." Then he said, "I wonder if you would do me a favor this afternoon? I am awfully tired and worn out from my meeting and there is a family that needs help. I want to send a basket of food to them and I wonder if you would take it over for me." The man agreed to do it. He left with that basket of food and took it to this home. In about an hour he was back in Brother Crume's office. He said, "Brother Crume, I just had such a wonderful experience with those people when I took that basket of food there, I had to come back and tell you about it. By the way, just forget about that conversation we had about taking my name off the membership roll of the church. If you have something else for me to do, call me. I'll be glad to do it."

I tell you, beloved, as you spiritually convalesce and get closer to the Lord, you are going to desire employment in His service.

### CONCLUSION

I wonder if I speak to someone who hasn't been saved. If so, may it please God today to save you, and might you begin to walk with the Lord. The closer you get to Him, the more you draw near to Him, the more you are going to love Him, and the more you'll find that what I have preached will be your experience in the Lord.

May God bless you!

## Days Of Lot

(Continued from page one)

language. The U.N. is now working toward a one-world language (English), so that a one-world government will be easier to rule!

Second, the people followed their leader, Nimrod. Nimrod in the Hebrew, means "black skin", "leopard", "bowman", "hunter"—a black-skinned leopard is a "black panther." Anti-Christ will be a cat ("beast"), mainly a leopard (Rev. 13:1-2), a bowman (Rev. 6:2), a one-world leader. The world during the great tribulation will fall head-over-heels for this man of sin who, like Nimrod, will come through Ham and Cush!

Third, they founded many counterfeit religions. How like the U. S. A. which has brought you Campbellism, Armstrongism, Russellism, Smithism, Freewill and Hardshellism.

Hislop's *Two Babylons* shows Babel to be the source of Catholicism, which America has courted like a young virgin, but who is really the "great whore" (Rev. 17, whole chapter). Now, the Southern Baptist leadership, in the main, has "plopped" into bed with the same harlot!

Fourth, Babel had a "space program." A portion of their great city was set aside for a huge launching pad. 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 Blast off! The biggest tower in

the world! How impressive! My, these people have progressed. As Nimrod might have said on the day the tower was done, "Dis am de greatest day since creation!" Sound familiar? As the residents of Sodom and Nineveh would drive their camels over toward Babel, they would see the huge tower from a distance and say, "My, dat Nimrod mus be sumpin' else!" The science of 5,000 years has brought us little.

Fifth, Babel was made of slime bricks. Our time is indeed a time of "slime." All of American life is made slime right on the ground. Babel, like our land, tried to reach heaven with mud, and brother, you can't do it! Materialism helps no one! This is what the "social gospel" is! Help a man's flesh but not his soul!

### II.

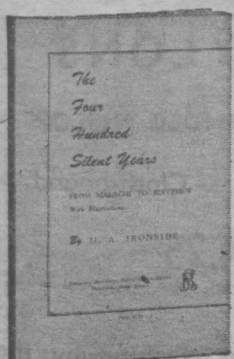
The days of Lot pictures great compromise! Lot looked, he pitched his tent in that direction and the next time we see him, he is a city magistrate in Sodom. By the way, Gomorrah was also founded by Nimrod, was also racially integrated, was also Roman Catholic (and liberal Democrat!) in belief! Lot is a type of the majority of saved people in this age who are beginning to snuggle up with the great whore! As a matter of fact, he looks just like old W. A. Criswell! Lot "looked" toward Sodom—Criswell wrote a book called "Look Up, Brother!" Lot went on down into Sodom and got to be a big shot—Criswell was twice elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Lot became ecumenical and joined the First Hamite Church of Nimrod in Sodom (to which he carried a quarterly and a copy of "Today's English Version")—Criswell has patented the World Council of Churches on the head with about as much compromise as you'd expect from a Catholic priest!

Lot had a black wife that he got in Egypt, which pictures the racial decay of our age. Why do you think Rebecca and Isaac were grieved over Esau's wife? Why do you think Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite? The reason is, that God never approved of race mixing!

### III

The days of Lot were days of perverted sex. Homosexuals were the very thing (all Ham's descendants have sex problems) in Sodom. What does God think of men marrying men, Lesbians and these other sickening freaks? Read Rom. 1:24-28! Yet, the Catholics, the World Council of Churches, the Supreme Court, the N.A.A.C.P., have all said, "We must have respect for our fellow man" even if he's a homo! Sodom was so evil they couldn't even recognize God's angels at Lot's house but lusted after them. They threatened Lot to hand them over, they would have probably hit old Lot with their purses! But, even Lot, like most of so-called "Christianity" approved their actions and as a result, Lot lost two daughters, a wife, and committed incest with his last daughters.

(Continued on page 5, column 2)



## "The Four Hundred Silent Years"

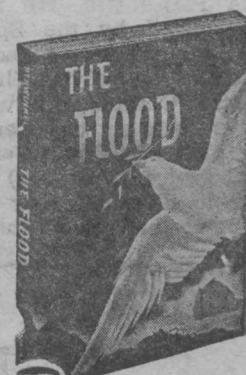
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
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PAGE THREE



# The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"What is the meaning of the 'thorn in the flesh' in II Corinthians 12:7?"

ROY  
MASON  
RADIO MINISTER  
BAPTIST PREACHER  
Aripeka, Florida



I don't think that any person on earth knows for sure what "the thorn in the flesh" was. We are simply not told. However, there have been some reasonable conjectures. We know that Paul had some physical infirmity that troubled him greatly. He quotes enemies as saying of him, "His letters are powerful and weighty, but his bodily presence is weak." (II Cor. 10:10). Again we have him saying (II Cor. 2:4) "Out of much affliction . . . I wrote unto you." In Galat. 4:13 we read, "Ye know through infirmity of the flesh, I preached the gospel unto you." Then in Galat. 4:15 he writes, "If it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your eyes and given them unto me."

Summing up, we know that Paul had an affliction of some kind, and since some of the Galatians were willing to pluck out and give him their eyes to help him, it would seem that something was the matter with his eyes. It is easy to conclude that his "thorn in the flesh" was eye trouble. One commentator suggests that his trouble was chronic opthalmia, which produces weakness of body and a repulsive look.

Note that Paul says that his ailment was a messenger of Satan (II Cor. 12:7) to buffet him. Many people growl at God for their physical infirmities, but let us remember that sickness and disease is of Satan. When Jesus healed a certain woman he said, "Lo, Satan hath bound this woman these many years."

E. G.  
COOK

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I am glad that our question has to do with the meaning of the thorn in the flesh rather than with what that thorn was. I once thought I knew what that thorn was, but the only thing that I am sure about now is that I do not know what it was. But, after all, it is not too important that you and I know what it was. It is, however, of great importance that we come to see the meaning, or the purpose of it.

Paul had experienced many things that old Satan wanted to use to feed his ego. So far as we know, no other man from among us mortals had ever been caught up into the third Heaven, and

then been permitted to tell others about it. No other man had ever been given all the wonderful revelations concerning our Lord's precious church, and His glorious gospel. Paul was a man such as we are. And this thorn, whatever it may have been, was sent to him in order that he might be mindful at all times of what his Lord had said in Jno. 15:5. There He said, "without me ye can do nothing." He needed this thorn to help him to be mindful of what he himself says in II Cor. 12:10 where he says, "When I am weak, then am I strong." He means by this that when he sees and realizes that he has no strength within himself, then he is in position to depend upon the One who has all strength.

All this has been recorded for our benefit. If you and I can really believe Jno. 15:5 and II Cor. 12:10 at all times there is no need for the thorn. But if we ignore these precious truths, and get the idea that we are really something, and that we really know something, let us remember, our Lord still has an ample supply of those thorns. How important it is for us to remember what we see in I Cor. 8:2. There we read, "If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing as he ought to know."

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To explain this verse, and particularly the thorn in the flesh, it will be necessary to explain why a thorn was needed, for we gather that a thorn was necessary for Paul, and not only Paul, but all of God's faithful children. In reading the account of the life of Paul, we come face to face with the fact that he would have exalted himself above measure, were there not something to curb his boasting, for he was blessed above measure in that he was regenerated by the Spirit, was called to be Apostle to the Gentiles, had by special revelation been used of the Lord to write a portion of the Scriptures, and then was caught up to the third heaven (God's throne), and saw things that men would not believe. After surveying the great things God did for Paul, I can understand why a thorn to buffet him was necessary.

Brethren, as we survey our lives, we see many things in common with Paul's life. We also were resurrected by the Spirit from the dead, we were called to be members of the body of Christ (true Baptist Church), we were made by grace to set together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Then, God gave us (Baptists) the Comforter to illuminate our understanding so that we see things

(Scriptural truths) that men will not believe. Thus, we also need a thorn in our flesh to abase us so that we are not lifted up with pride of the flesh.

This thorn which was given Paul by the Lord, I do not believe to be sin of the flesh. Paul had asked the Lord three times to remove it, and was told, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Furthermore, Paul knew that the Lord was not going to remove sin from his flesh, for he had written to the Baptist church at Rome saying, "God had condemned sin in the flesh" — Rom. 8:3. Also, Paul gloried in this thorn which was sent to buffet him, and in II Cor. 12:9, he calls it "infirmities." He also refers to this thorn as reproaches, necessities, persecutions, distresses and weaknesses—verse 10. To me the thorn consists of a combination of all these things to cause Paul, as well as us Baptists, to understand we are not self-made men and women; rather, we are what we are by the grace of God.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal"—II Cor. 4:17-18.

The thorn in Paul's life was certainly good for him, since it made him realize that God was greater than his affliction and infirmities. Therefore, we should not tremble at our thorn, but, like Paul, glory in it, even though it (thorn) be mysterious. The grace of our Heavenly Father is sufficient to overcome our weakness, persecutions, reproaches, and distresses. In reality, these are but light afflictions in comparison to the rewards given at the judgment seat of Christ for faithfulness to Him.

Our Father knows what was best for Paul. He knew the pride in his flesh, and what it took to keep him abased. Brethren, in like manner, my Lord knows what is best for me. I may not comprehend His dealings with me, but I know that He is now seated at the right hand of God making all things work together for my good and His honor and glory, for even the thorn is part of His program for me.

"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"—Rom. 8:28.

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Before we discuss this question let us read not only verse seven but also verses eight through ten. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in persecutions, in necessities, in persecution, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong."

The first thing we notice is that this thorn is in the flesh. It is not a spiritual thing but in the flesh to keep Paul humble. Some people think that it must be several things because of what he

said in verse 10. I remind you that he said it was "a" thorn in the flesh. In the other verses he is simply grouping all trials, whether they be physical or spiritual, into a positive lesson of strength.

What is the thorn in the flesh that Paul had? He does not tell us directly and so we can only speculate. Some think it was his general physical condition. There are indications that imply that he was a sickly person. This could be his thorn in the flesh.

I rather think, however, that it had something to do with his eyesight. When Paul was saved on the road to Damascus, he was struck blind. "And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes opened, he saw no man; but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus." (Acts 9:8) Ananias was sent to help him and his eyesight was returned to him. "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales; and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." (Acts 9:18). Now, understand, God could have given him perfect eyesight, and possibly he did, but I think he was left with eye trouble to remind him of that day.

There are a couple of clues that make me think this, both in the book of Galatians. "Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record, that if it had been possible, YE WOULD HAVE PLUCKED OUT YOUR OWN EYES, AND HAVE GIVEN THEM TO ME." (Galatians 4:15). This verse indicates that Paul had poor eyesight and they would have given him theirs if they could.

The other clue in this book is found in chapter six and verse 11. "Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand." Ordinarily Paul had someone write for him. He told them what to say and they wrote it. In this letter, however, he comments on the fact that he wrote it personally. This would be hard to do with bad eyesight.

The important lesson in this case is not what was the thorn in the flesh but what was it for. Let us learn to rejoice in our infirmities and receive strength from God in times of trials.

## By Grace

(Continued from Page One)

2. Salvation by grace means that God is to have all the praise for our salvation. The Father is to have all the praise for providing the Saviour; the Son is to have all the praise for providing the work of salvation; and the Holy Spirit is to have all the praise for promoting salvation in us by convicting us of sin and bringing us to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Salvation by grace does not give license to sin. There are two dangers concerning grace: one is the danger of frustrating it, the other is the danger of abusing it. We frustrate grace when we

teach that righteousness comes by keeping the law (Gal. 2:21). We abuse grace when we use it to justify a life of sin. One is the danger of Arminianism, the other is the danger of Antinomianism. The one sets grace aside, the other uses grace wrongly.

He who justifies his sinning on the ground that he is not under law but under grace, does not have the grace of God in him. The child of grace hates sin and strives against it, and when he falls into it, confesses it and forsakes it. Sin is not the habit and practice of his life. There is no sin that he hugs to his bosom and takes to glory with him.

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There is no sin that is a sweet morsel under his tongue. The man of grace neither boasts of keeping out of sin, nor justifies himself when he falls into sin.

In approaching our question, we make a negative approach.

### How Does Grace Save?

1. Grace does not save by enabling us to perfectly keep the law of God. It is our judgment that this is the way many people think grace saves. They confess that no man can of himself keep the law, but that grace enables him to keep it, and in this way grace saves. To be logical and consistent, and to have any place for grace in their plan, this must be the position of all who believe in salvation by keeping the law. Now, it is admitted, that if God should eradicate every vestige of our sinful nature, and cause us to live without sin, that would be grace indeed—that would be the unmerited favor of God. It would be grace for it would be doing for us that which we do not deserve. But this is not the way grace saves, and we must voice our objections to it:

(1) That would not satisfy justice for sins already committed. God is just as well as gracious, and grace never acts contrary to justice. If the sinner should quit sinning, justice would condemn him for sins he had committed in the past.

(2) That would rob Christ of any part in our salvation. If grace (Continued on page 5, column 3)

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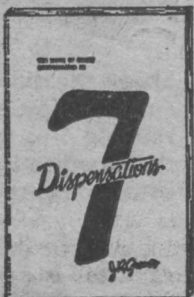
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## "FASHIONS"

Spring has arrived and summer is just around the corner. One can't help but wonder what it will bring. Most women's thoughts will be turning to summer fashions. We will be shopping for summer dresses or the newest material. Seems as though we get all mixed up when it comes to how we should dress ourselves and our daughters. I guess we've all heard the excuses. We have to wear men's pants in the winter to keep warm. Yet, it seems the pants are worn all summer, too. We must wear them to keep from exposing our body when we do some particular chore and yet we find they are worn when doing the dishes, sweeping the floor or fixing dinner.

Have you ever noticed the way women strut when she is wearing men's pants? There is a cockiness in her attitude that seems to go along with her outfit. Slacks are common apparel everywhere. You see them at hospitals, formal dances, funerals, and restaurants. Some of the women in the denominations are wearing them to church. One wonders how long it will be before the Lord's people will be doing the same. And if I'm wrong, and it is proper apparel for women, then there certainly would be no reason why women couldn't wear their pant suits to church.

The Lord has drawn a distinct line between the sexes and yet it seems that line gets dimmer and dimmer. The men wear their hair curling on their necks or hanging down to their shoulders. The women shingle theirs up the back. The men even now are wearing ruffles, silk blouses with beads and necklaces and carrying purses. How long will it be before they start wearing dresses? Seems as though the devil is busy breaking down every barrier. He is obliterating the barrier between nations, races, churches, and the sexes.

When women aren't dressing like men, they are undressing like harlots. She feels she MUST go swimming, and so wears the skimpiest of bikinis. For a play-suit she wears a mid-riff outfit consisting of "hot" pants and bra. Even the name reveals the purpose of such apparel. The mini-skirts have given way to the micro-skirts. If we don't wear them ourselves, we let our daughters wear them. Then we become indignant when some man makes

an obscene remark to her. Perhaps one of the worse effects of this is on the godly man. His old nature will lust even as others, even though his new nature loathes it. In this way, we become the enemies of these men's souls and thus the enemy of God.

What then are we to wear? Are we to look like "Salvation Sal"? What saith the Scriptures? The Bible seems to work from the inside out. "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." (Matt. 15: 18). Perhaps if we were more concerned with our spiritual life it would show in the way we dress. "But PUT YE ON the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." (Rom. 13:14).

"And that ye PUT ON the new man (woman), which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:24).

"PUT ON therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; and above all these things PUT ON charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness" (Col. 3:12, 14). Is it not probable that if these things were what we were striving after that it would not be a problem for us to discern what is modest and proper apparel?

God forbid that we should make laws to put women under. You may very well disagree with the opinions set forth here. And that is your privilege. But ask your husband or father or pastor what his opinion is. As women we are to be obedient to them. Most men admit that they PREFER to see women in dresses. What is your preference?

## Days Of Lot

(Continued from page three)  
IV.

Lot's days were marked by his ejection before the fire fell. Every saved person even if he's a wicked backslider. Lot, will be caught up in the rapture just prior to the great tribulation here on earth. Many may say "The rapture won't be till after (or maybe during) the tribulation." If so, this type is a flop just like about 30 more verses in the Bible!

## V.

Jesus, in this passage (Luke 17:28), lists specific facts pointing to the latter day. "They did eat," America has gone hog wild over food! Eating was involved in man's original sin, eating was involved in Esau's lost birthright. Gourmet eating is a form of escape from reality.

"They drank," whiskey, beer, wine, bourbon, you name it, brother! Drink was about the only drug around in Lot's day, but today, in addition to the booze, we

have dope, tobacco, airplane glue, rock and roll (that's right!) with its African chants that destroy the brain (just like the clack culture in Sodom!), it's going to "pot"!!

"They bought, they sold," is it just a coincidence that automobile sales are record breaking? Sure it is. Is it just a coincidence that the average American can buy just about anything he wants,

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and does? Sure! The nation continues to live (and die) like hell, but the average church member puffs his cigar, while watching his color television (hell-i-vision), and does not wish to be bothered with the lost sinners dying all around him. "The love of money is the root of all evil." Now it's all right to have some filthy lucre, but most get too much of the filth rubbed off on their lives!

"They planted, they builded." Yes, we're planting more wheat everywhere, to sell to our Communist enemies! "They builded." My, how we're building these days. We move to the suburbs into new homes only to find them, after a year, turning into ghetto jungles! Each year cities sell their souls in order to get a newer, more impressive building! And how about old hell-bent Oral Roberts, now accepted by high society because of his impressive university buildings! And then there's Rex Humbert in Akron, Ohio, who is in hock (up to his girdle factory) because he's trying to build a huge tower building! Yes, lost friend, this is it! The only hope you have is Jesus Christ — trust Him now!

## By Grace

(Continued from page 4)

saves by making us sinless in character and conduct, then salvation would be by grace, but apart from Jesus Christ, for "... if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Gal. 2:21).

(3) If grace saves by enabling us to keep the law, then the Holy Spirit would be the Saviour rather than Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator in inward grace; it is by His strength we worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit, through the word, shows us the Saviour, and makes Him precious to us, but the Holy Spirit is not the Saviour. In announcing the birth of the Saviour, the angel said, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

(4) In the new birth the sinful nature is not eradicated, but a sinless nature is implanted. In the saved man there is a warfare between two conflicting natures; "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17). And Paul said, "I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Rom. 7:19). And this is the testimony of every true child of God,

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

2. Grace does not save by overlooking our sins. If God took no account of our sins, that would be grace indeed but in doing that He would abdicate His throne in favor of His enemies. Our sins deserve punishment, but if God overlooked them and never punished them, that certainly would be grace — that would be the unmerited favor of God. But this is not the way grace saves, for several reasons:

(1) Because it would be at the expense of justice. There can be no sacrifice of justice in salvation. Sin must and will be punished. If God overlooked sin He would be gracious, but at the same time unjust.

(2) There would have been no need of Christ's coming to earth and dying on the cross. There is forgiveness with God, but it is on the ground of satisfied justice. Grace saves by satisfying justice. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

(3) It would cause man to admire one attribute of God and despise another attribute. If grace saves apart from the satisfaction of Divine justice, the sinner would naturally admire the grace of God, and at the same time despise His justice. To deal with sinners in such a way, God would be putting a premium on sin. We would not think much of a human judge who would overlook the crimes of men and let them all go free. Such a judge would be an invitation for everybody to commit all the crimes he pleased, because they would be overlooked, and no harm would come to the criminal. How would you, dear reader, like to live in a country like that?

3. Grace does not save by ordinances to observe. The ordinances or ceremonies of Christ are for those already saved. They are declarative and symbolical; not procurative and sacramental. They are for the saints; not for the world. The most terrible heresies have come from a false conception of the ordinances. Millions of men have lost their lives because they would not subscribe to these false conceptions. I quote from an article on "The Sacraments," as found in the Roman Catholic Mass Book, published by the Paulist Press, New York City:

"The sacraments are the ordinary means where God's grace is brought to one's soul. We depend on the grace of God not only to reach Heaven after death, but to lead a life well-pleasing to God on this earth. What the winds are to the sailing vessel, grace is to our soul.

"The Sacraments are seven different ways by which special graces are applied to our soul. They are all instituted by Christ. By His death on the cross our Blessed Lord created a great reservoir of grace. From this reservoir there are seven channels, each carrying grace of a special quality, and when we need a particular kind of Divine help we go to the Sacrament which provides it. Baptism regenerates the soul and makes us children of

God. It has the effect of washing away the sin we were born in, as well as any other sin we have committed. Confirmation strengthens the soul so as to enable it to fight valiantly. Holy Eucharist, being Christ Himself, the Living Bread, is the Food and Nourishment of the soul. Penance brings us God's pardon. Extreme Unction gives us grace to die well. Holy Orders raises men to the dignity of God's service and gives them strength to persevere. Matrimony gives grace to husband and wife to love each other and bring up their children in the grace and knowledge of God. Throughout our life on this earth the Sacraments provide spiritual nourishment without which it is impossible for us to merit the happiness and the glory which God has prepared for us in heaven."

What a strange medley of truth and error! What a frustration of the true grace of God! What an awful misrepresentation of grace! What a travesty of the truth! The article speaks of grace enabling one "to merit the happiness and the glory" of heaven. To merit a thing is to deserve it, or to get it by way of debt, and whatever is reckoned as a debt is not of grace (Rom. 4:4). The Bible says that salvation is of faith that it might be by grace (Rom. 4:19). The Bible says, "By grace are ye saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8), but this article does not have the word faith in it.

We will now attempt a positive answer to our question: "How Does Grace Save?" What is the "modus operandi" of grace? What does grace do in salvation?

1. Grace saves from the guilt and penalty of sins by placing them on Christ. Grace saves by punishing Christ instead of the sinner. He put away the guilt of our sins by the sacrifice of Himself (Heb. 9:26). He bore our sins in His own body on the tree (I Peter 2:24). He died as the Just One for the unjust ones that He might bring them to God, that is into His favor (I Peter 3:18).

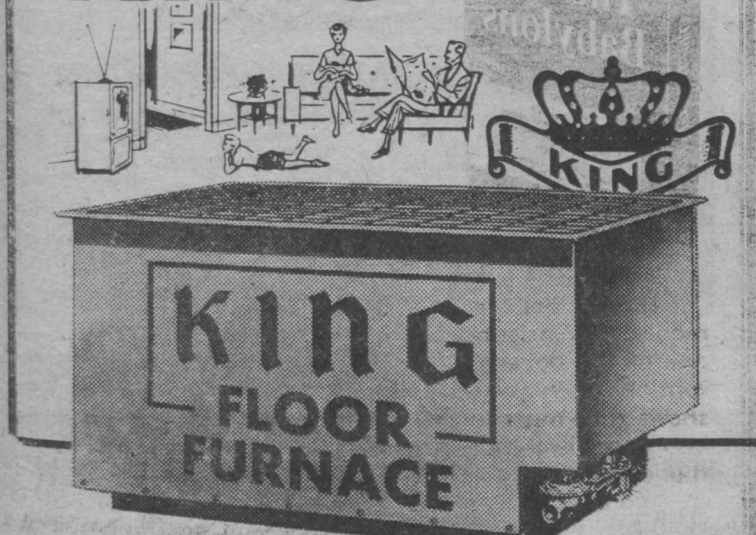
Justice says that my sins must be punished, and they have been punished in my Surety, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Surety of that better covenant (Heb. 9:22). It was in matchless grace that the Lord Jesus liquidated our sin-debt, and He shall have all the praise. "Our sins, our guilt, in love

Divine  
Confessed and bourne by Thee,  
The gall, the curse, the wrath  
were Thine,  
To see Thy members free."  
"Grace," cried Spurgeon, "is everything for nothing; Christ free, heaven free."

2. Grace saves us from the love of sin and from a darkened understanding. This may be called internal salvation, and is the work of the Holy Spirit Who opens the soul's blinded eyes to see the truth of the Gospel. Paul said that His gospel was hid to the lost because their minds were blinded. (II Cor. 4:4). The death of Christ does not benefit the man who lives and dies without faith in it. And every man of us would so live were it not for the light-giving and life-giving work of the Spirit. Spiritual truths are foolishness to the natural man, even though he be (Continued on page 7, column 1)

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## Epistle Of James

(Continued from page one)

cool their parched tongue. They, in this life, were able to buy strong drink by the gallon, but in Hell they won't be able to afford a drop of water.

"Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven"—Proverbs 23:5.

"Your gold and your silver is conkered and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasures together for the last days"—James 5:3.

The word "canker" means to corrode. It is a witness to the fact that the things of earth are passing away; rust is also a witness to this fact. Rust also indicates that an item has not been used. It is sad to see a garden full of weeds and a rusty hoe hanging in the barn. It is also sad to see the need that many have, especially sound churches, while the wealth of many lies rusting in the vault.

"... the rust of them shall be a witness against you..." James 5:3.

Let's suppose that dad goes on a long trip and advises his son to keep the garden clean of weeds while he is away; however, when dad returns, he observes that the hoe is covered with rust and the weeds are higher than the beans. The rusty hoe, of course, is a witness against the son. Rusty wealth will also act as a witness against those who failed to use it for the Lord.

Rust should also cause us to beware of riches, since the message that rust delivers to us is that earthly wealth is not lasting. Moth-eaten clothing also has a message for us if our ears are open for hearing. The message is that we shouldn't worry about clothing, since it has no lasting value. One, in fact, if he or she will look around themselves, will find that the entire creation witnesses to the brevity of life. The fading flower, the dying tree, the rusty shovel and the moth-eaten garment all cry together regarding the brevity of life.

"... and shall eat your flesh as it were fire..."

Rust is not only a witness to the uncertainty of riches, but the sight of it will eat at man's flesh like a fire; that is, man when he sees rust on his riches, is consumed within. His heart drops when he hears air coming from the balloon of his riches — the balloon which has been so very

difficult to blow up. Fire turns into ashes, and rust turns a man's hopes to ashes.

The rich man must hide his wealth from the thief and he must protect it against moths and rust, or if his riches be in the form of grain, he must protect it from the rats and mice. It is obvious, then, what James meant when he said, "and shall eat your flesh as it were fire."

It should be pointed out again that Jesus is not condemning rich people, but only those who trust in their riches.

"... ye have heaped up treasures for the last days"—James 5:3.

The "last days" are never heard of in heaven, since there will be no "last days," or end to our eternal joy. We, when we store up treasures in heaven, store it up for all eternity to come. There, in fact, will be no days in heaven, since there is no night there. We, in that land, will enjoy one long eternal day of bliss.

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."—Rev. 22:5.

It is therefore very foolish to have heaped up treasures for the "last days," when we could have used the same time and energy to have heaped up treasures together for that everlasting day where rust, moths, mice, rats and taxes do not exist.

Our allotted days on earth are seventy years, therefore, we, at the age of thirty-five, have the candle of life burned to the half mark. We, at the age of 54, have burned the candle of life down to the one-quarter mark. Some, however, live much less than 70 years and some live more, but the "last days" eventually come to all.

I believe we are now living in the "last days" as far as the return of our Lord is concerned, however, many will have their trust in riches rather than Him when he does return. What about you?

"Behold the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth (Lord of hosts)" — James 5:4.

It is obvious from this verse that the Lord of earth requires every person here to treat every other person with honesty and respect. Those who do otherwise and suppose that the case is closed are badly mistaken. The cry

of that one you have wronged is to be heard by the Lord of Sabaoth (Lord of hosts), and you are to give an account of your actions.

"Who will render to every man according to his deeds" — Rom. 2:6.

My brother, Emerson, and I, when we were boys, helped a neighbor, Jim Turner, build a barn. One evening Mr. Turner asked us to go to the house with him to receive our pay. He, when arriving at the house, called to his wife to bring out some of his old clothing as pay for us two boys. We found out later that Mr. Turner was only joking, but we, for a moment, were very disappointed. There have been, however, multitudes who, in a sense of speaking, have received old shirts for their pay rather than their just dues. These cases may be closed for now, but one day they shall be brought to light, and the Lord of Sabaoth will weigh each case on His scales. The guilty believers will suffer loss (I Cor. 3:15) and the guilty unbelievers will receive greater damnation in Hell.

"Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in the day of slaughter" — James 5:5.

The persons to whom James has reference, in a sense of speaking, stand before God's bar and

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hear Him point out the charges that are against them. The charge in this verse is that they "lived in pleasure... and been wanton" — wanton of trusting God and doing good to their fellow men — wanton, because their main goal in life was to feed the flesh rather than the soul. They tore down their barns and built larger ones so that they could eat, drink and be merry.

"... ye have nourished your hearts as in the day of slaughter" — James 5:5.

The "day of slaughter" back on the farm was truly a day of feasting. The fresh liver, tenderloin and sausage prepared with gravy was a feast suitable for a king. There, of course, was a lot of work connected with the slaughter, but the taste of the fresh meat was more than a sufficient reward for the time and energy expended.

"... ye have nourished your hearts, as in the day of slaughter" — James 5:5.

We, back on the farm, spent one day nourishing our hearts, but the charge before us is that they have spent their entire lives in this manner. They, in fact, are so busy nourishing their hearts that they have no time for the Lord and His church. They have no time to thank Him for His goodness, but they have plenty of time to consume His goodness. What about you?

May the Lord richly bless you with the message He has set before us.



### Plumb Line

(Continued from page one)  
truth, and the life.

One Sunday evening I went down to the cornfield to pray. There on my knees the Spirit of

the Lord came upon me and was calling me to preach. I could just feel what the Spirit was saying. There was no doubt — it was as plain as words could ever be. Tears began to flow down my face. I looked up and said, "God, I can't do it." I pleaded to God with no relief. That was just it, and after sometime the Spirit eased and I started to the house with a secret to keep. I said that I would never tell it and I meant it. But the Lord also knew the secret. When I went to church, the pastor called me off to one side and asked me about it. God had told the secret. I had to say that it was true.

Then I told God that I couldn't go out and preach a lie. I told Him there were too many different doctrines being preached. I was in trouble again but with much prayer and study the Lord and I settled the matter for good. I am preaching His Word strictly in this message.

When God called Jonah to preach, Jonah said, "I'll leave the country." But God brought him back, and he ran to do the job. God means what He says. There is no varying or turning.

## II

Jesus built His church while here in the world. It is a righteous institution, the pillar and ground of the truth. Therefore, the church is the media whereby the truth is taught to the people and preserved through out all ages (I Tim. 3:15).

The church that teaches false doctrine cannot be the church that Jesus built. It was not a compromising church, because it condemned false doctrine and heresy. The true church serves as a plumb line to build human lives perpendicular to the plummet. Heresy is brought about by the flesh and the devil saith the Word, The heretic after the first and second admonition reject (Titus 3:10). He said there would be false teachers among you who privily bring in damnable heresy (II Peter 2:3).

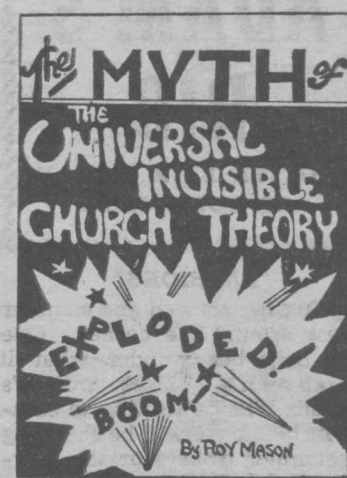
"Mark them who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17).

He is teaching us not to unionize with false doctrine, but to stand for the truth.

"I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing" — this would be done if we were all led by the Spirit. The Word tells us that they continued steadfastly in the doctrine of the apostles and the breaking of bread in prayer and of the same mind and judgment.

We should be so knitted together in love and fellowship that we should have the mind of Christ in us. The church was to have, and hold true the doctrine of the gospel throughout all ages. Christ said the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. It was not left with one person alone, but with the body of the church founded upon Christ and the Apostles with Christ being the chief cornerstone. Christ began to

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build the church when he took the disciples upon the mountain and ordained them, giving them a lesson that would guard the perpetuation of the church down through the ages. Every one must be proven or examined to be sound in the faith holding to no false doctrine. There are only two churches recorded in church history that came from the days of early Christianity and are still in existence today, the Baptist Church and the Catholic Church. So we must decide on one of the two. I'll take the Baptist. The Catholic church can't be right, for they have added a number of things to their practice that is not found in God's Word, such as sprinkling, which they have practiced since the 12th Century. Whoever violates the pattern or example Christ set forth will receive judgment to the line. A good Baptist will not compromise. Churches that have come directly or indirectly from the Catholic Church hold to some of the Catholic doctrines and will receive judgment to the line.

Let us consider what some of the great men of history have said about Baptists. Mosheim said, "The true origin of that sect which acquires the name of Anabaptist is hidden in the remote depths of antiquity."

Zwingli, the Swiss reformer says, "The institution of Anabaptist is no novelty, but for fifteen hundred years has caused great disturbance in the Catholic Church."

Cardinal Hosius, Chairman of the Council of Trent, bore this testimony, "If the truth of religion were to be judged of by the readiness and cheerfulness which a man of any sect shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be truer or surer than those of the Anabaptist since there have been none for these twelve hundred years past that have been more grievously punished." The Cardinal was an eminent and learned prelate of the Catholic Church in the (Continued on page 7, column 2)

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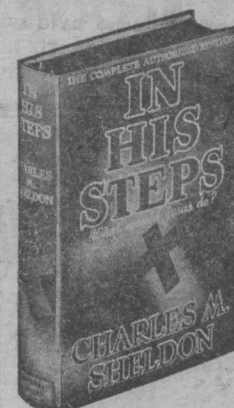
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### By Grace

(Continued from page 5)

a university professor, and none but the Holy Spirit can make a man spiritual.

By nature and training Saul of Tarsus was a proud, persecuting, self-righteous Pharisee, but grace wrought in him the graces of repentance and faith. It was grace that made him sick of self and fond of Christ. He had been depending for salvation upon his Hebrew ancestry and the rite of circumcision, and upon his orthodoxy as a Pharisee, his zeal as a persecuting patriot, and his law of righteousness but when grace revealed Christ to Him, in all His worth, he counted all these things as "dung," rejoicing in the righteousness which is by faith in Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:1-9).

Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit, and His work in us is as much of grace as was the work of Christ for us on the cross. Christ wrought for us on the cross to liquidate our sin-debt. The Holy Spirit wrought in us conviction for sin, and faith in the blood of Christ as the one and only remedy for sin. "Grace," said Spurgeon again, "is the morning and evening star of our experience. Grace puts us in the way, helps us by the way, and takes us all the way."

Anna Steele (1760), has memorialized the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in the following lines:

"How helpless guilty nature lies,

Unconscious of its load;  
The heart, unchanged, can never rise  
To happiness and God.

"Can ought beneath a power divine  
The stubborn will subdue?  
'Tis thine, eternal Spirit, thine  
To form the heart anew.

"'Tis thine the passions to recall,  
And upward bid them rise,  
And make the scales of error fall  
From reason's darkened eyes.

"To chase the shades of death away,  
And bid the sinner live;  
A beam of heaven, a vital ray,  
'Tis thine alone to give.

"O, change the wretched hearts of men,  
And give them life divine;  
Then shall their passions and their powers,  
Almighty Lord, be thine."

—Chapter 15 in Definitions of Doctrine.

## Plumb Line

(Continued from page 6)  
fifteenth century.

The Welsh Baptists lay claim to great antiquity, affirming that they dated back to the first century. They maintain that the Apostle Paul visited their mountains, preached among them for two years, and founded churches which continue to this day. Seven great church historians asserted that the Apostle Paul's visit among the Welsh Baptists was quite certain. These same historians intimated that the Welsh Baptists never bowed their knees in submission to the Roman Catholic Church.

The seven churches of Asia failed to build by the plumb line or the righteous standard that Christ set forth and it was either repent or receive judgment to the line. If it had not been for strong men in these churches, the devil would have torn them to pieces.

The plumb line is a symbol of righteousness. God is a righteous God and every word and precept that He gave for the guiding of man is of righteousness. As long as we live by His precepts, we are living righteous lives and building by the plumb line.

Baptism is of righteousness. God gave the design to John — the design was the death, burial and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ. Sprinkling leaves Christ in the grave. If you do not receive the design as God gave to John, you will receive judgment to the line. When God speaks, it is all said. You cannot ask to or take from. No man has ever gotten by substituting something for what God said. John began preaching repentance and demanding baptism. If John had said that sprinkling clean water is just as good as baptism, John would have received judgment to the line. Moses was a great man, but he disobeyed God and met with judgment. Adam and Eve were made with His own hands in righteousness, but they disobeyed God and received His judgment. David was a man after God's own heart, but he received judgment for his sins.

Then the Lord set in the church the Lord's Supper. It also sets forth a standard of righteousness or holds up the plumb line. If you have practiced false doctrine or heresy, if you have not been baptized by the proper authority, if you are not in full fellowship with the church and are not living a righteous life, you are not in any condition spiritually to partake of the Lord's Supper. I Cor. 5:11 says if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. By so doing you will be holding up the plumb line. The penalty of eating unworthily is damnation to his own soul. But let a person examine himself and so eat. Yes, examine himself to see if he is guilty of the above-mentioned things. Oh, consistency thou art a jewel!

Alexander Campbell said, "From the Apostolic Age to the present time the sentiments of Baptists and the practice of baptism have had a continued chain of advocates and public monuments of their existence in every century."

Drs. Ypeig and Dermount, reformers in Holland said, "We have now seen that the Baptists, for-

Father's hand" (John 10:28-29). "This is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all he hath given me, I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

Paul said in Hebrews 6:1-6, "Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, this would we do if God permitted. It is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted the good word of God, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

God in all of His great power of love and majesty helped and blessed His very elect. This was proven on the day of Pentecost by saving three thousand souls. Why don't we have victories today? Because we go around half-way serving God. We have a name, but we are dead. He said if we would humble ourselves that He would hear from Heaven and pour out a blessing that we would not be able to receive. Whom do we see rejoicing these days over such a blessing? They that go about "weeping, bearing precious seed" shall greatly come, rejoicing, bringing the sheaves with them. Where is our tears? Where is our love for lost souls? Jesus wept, and if God's love abides in our hearts we will also weep. There must be a spiritual connection — when Zion travails she brings forth sons and daughters. When your soul is akin and bursting within for a lost soul, it is going to happen. I have been there and I saw it happen.

God has plenty of power for every child of God. Why don't we use it? "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Cor. 10:4). In this one passage of Scripture lies either success or failure. We are God's soldiers and must have a soldier's weapon. This is not a carnal weapon which is the devil's weapon. This weapon is being used more than any other in these days. God's weapon is the sword of the Spirit. The preacher preaches and calls the charge for battle. The soldiers have no weapons and sit as if they were dead. The devil with his carnal weapon has won the victory. God has the power to tear down the strong holds of Satan. Why don't we use it — the sword of the Spirit? It is because we are too carnal.

Joshua, at the command of God, was to take Jericho. God told Joshua exactly what to do and Joshua did that to every word. Then they gave a great shout, the walls fell and they took the city. "To obey is better than sacrifice." But there was Achan with his carnal mind who took the golden wedge, and the next battle was a defeat for Joshua and the children of Israel. One man's sins brought defeat with thirty-six children of Israel dead.

Obedience is the body of religion built by the plumb line. "What does the Lord require of thee, oh man, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8).

The Catholic Church cannot be right because they brought up with them the old priesthood. When Christ made the supreme sacrifice the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom. He became our priest and we can enter in through Christ and make our own prayers and supplications to Christ. We possess the priesthood within ourselves. He sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us, not some man called father or priest. "... Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (Rev. 1:5-6).

James Cardinal Gibbons, a strong Catholic writer, said concerning baptism that the church exercised her discretion in adopting the most convenient mode. This makes the authority of the church preferable to God's will and Word. But judgment will be the reward, yes, judgment to the line.

Jesus tells us what the new birth means to any person. The new birth is being born of God. We are kept by the power of God unto salvation. "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my

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## Warning . . . Parents

(Continued from page one)  
or to the Lord Jesus Christ exalted in the message; for, surely in every evangelical sermon there is something to commend.

Some years ago, a minister of the Gospel, together with friends, attended a certain service. On the way home, the friends criticised the preacher's delivery, his enunciation, his grammar, and other points, to such an extent that the minister, who had himself received much blessing, spoke up, and said, "One thing I know, I received a great blessing through that man's ministry, and I don't want to lose it." Needless to say, there was no more criticism. Every Christian can be an instrument in the hand of the Lord to help maintain the Word of God, and a searching message, in the minds and hearts of the hearers. Too frequently, spiritual blessing is lost as someone engages in conversation on nonessentials, instead of making an observation on the message which is calculated to keep it glowing in the hearts of others.

### YOUNG PEOPLE AS CHURCH TRAMPS

Another danger that parents should be warned against is that (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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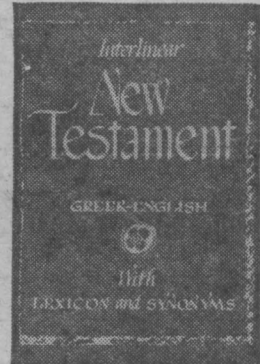
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PAGE SEVEN



## Warning . . . Parents

(Continued from page seven)  
of taking their boys and girls from church to church when they have their own evangelical church home. Some seem to search the church page advertisements for the service that offers the best entertainment, or the most sensational subject, or the best array of singers, with

little thought as to abiding spiritual benefit. In course of time, the young people have no real church home; they go anywhere and everywhere, but make no contribution anywhere; and finish up by going nowhere.

Parents would be well advised to find the church where God's Word is faithfully preached, where Christ is exalted, and separation unto God practiced, and then make it their church

home, cultivating loyalty and faithful attendance. It would be well to bring back into our church life the old-fashioned family pew; and to instill into the young people reverence for God and for the place of worship, regard for their own home church, and loyalty in attendance. If this were encouraged, the best interests of all spiritual churches would be conserved; and instead of our young people belonging to the tribe of the wandering foot, they would realize they have a church home, and stay there.

### DANGER OF A DOUBLE STANDARD

In reading a discourse by the Elder William Monod, dealing with defects in the morality of the family circle, the writer came across this telling utterance: "It excludes, or, at least, is called upon to exclude the grosser vices, the scandalous habits, such as drunkenness, adultery, violence; but it permits the father of the family to be deficient in piety, charity, and purity; it permits the mother of the family to be quarrelsome, frivolous, and avaricious; it permits children to be wanting in respect for their parents, to lie, to dispute. It is, for a large number of Christians, the morality of education. What they propose in bringing up their children, is not, above all things else, to save their souls; but to put them in a condition to earn money, to honor themselves, and to reflect honor upon their parents . . . they expect the minister to teach and recommend to him the Word of God in the church, or in the schoolroom; but they themselves recommend and teach it very little."

It is likely that more young people have been lost to the cause of Christ by inconsistencies on the part of parents than anything else. I suppose church workers know of many actual cases where parents have one standard for themselves, and another for their children; one standard before the public, another at home. It has been well said, "Consistency! thou art a jewel." Yet how lacking this jewel is from the adornment of many a home. Parents have told their children to tell the truth, while they themselves practice a lie in the customs office, as they hide contraband goods from sight, and thus avoid paying duty. Afterward, they glory in their success, not seeming to realize that they are training their own children in deception. What is the trifle gained compared with the jewel lost?

What preacher has not had the experience of seeing a Christian approaching him on the street, only to see the cigarette or pipe suddenly disappear, as that individual realized he was under observation. The children observe this, too; and they come to know that their father has one standard of conduct for the home, another for the church; and sooner or later, they see the sham in such profession, such mockery. How can boys and girls grow up with strong Christian convictions, and with a bold, unfaltering witness for Jesus Christ, when they are nurtured in deceit? Then people wonder why the preacher does not see more results in his ministry; and why young people grow cold, and wander away. How I thank God for a loving, praying, and consistent mother and father!

I read somewhere of a family who lived on the prairie. They were very poor. The boy in the home was ashamed to take his lunch out at school. He never had cakes, jam tarts, or extras. On one occasion, a man called at the farm, and offered a high price for the horse standing in the barnyard. The boy of the home chuckled with delight at thought of what a difference it would make to his daily lunch, as well as in other ways, if such a large amount of money came into the home. However, that boy's father was honest. He knew there was something wrong with

the horse, and that it was not worth the large amount offered. To the boy's amazement, and bitter disappointment, he heard his father refuse the offer. Later that boy marveled at the honesty of his father, who accepted his poverty rather than "get rich quick" with a guilty conscience. It was that one act of his own father which lived over and over again in the boy's mind and heart, and held him to the path of rectitude. God honored that father's testimony in the lifelong honesty and uprightness of his own son.

One act of a parent, under the blessing of God, may result in the salvation of the child in the home; even as one act may result in the wrecking of a child's life. Oh, that parents might consider their responsibilities, and realize that their child is at school

their responsibility, weigh well their words, and consider their actions and reactions in the light of the influence they exert, and the welfare of those they love.

The parents' duty is to direct the lives of their children, and ever to seek God's guidance in doing this. Let this writer sound another warning to parents who train their wee darlings to be proud and self-conceited, encouraging thoughts of vanity by telling them they are cute, pretty, smart, and the like — and this before visitors. The writer has been in homes where a parent will say, while the child is listening, "He won't do as I tell him"; "He won't eat this, or that"; he won't; he won't; and the little chap smirks, and thinks he is an independent little prodigy. God's Word says, "Train up a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6). Mark the words, "in the way he should go," not in any way his wayward, inexperienced little heart prompts him to go.

The writer once visited a home and asked a mother about sending her boy, about seven years of age, to Sunday School; and, believe it or not, that mother said, "Well, I'll ask him about it, and if he wants to go he can go."

### DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

I would plead with parents to be earnest and practical in the eternal interests of their children, especially young parents. Think of your children as gifts from God, and that you have been entrusted with them for Him, that their lives may be lived for the glory of God. Parents are stewards who will have to give an account to God for every word and deed which has influenced their children contrary to their spiritual welfare. Your children

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may go out into the world to live lives to the glory of God, or to live lives of shame to your own confusion. Which shall it be?

The problems of children attending Sunday School; the problems of young people quitting church in their early teens; the problems of the young people's society; and many more problems will be satisfactorily met, by the blessing of the Lord, when Christian parents heed their responsibilities, and warm-heartedly co-operate with some Christ-honoring pastor, or Sunday School teacher; and so "train up a child in the way he should go," for God's Word continues to assure us, "and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

## LOOKS FORWARD TO THE

Your Ministry has blest this Preacher more than words can ever express. Among the many blessings I shall enjoy when Jesus comes is to tell adequately and fully men like yourself the blessing God gave me through you. I enjoy a fellowship meeting with you and the writers of The Baptist Examiner with each issue, I can say truly, I sit together in Heavenly places with Christ Jesus and these brethren, I do not read the sermons casually or haphazardly but pray and ask the Lord to help me that I might experience the attitude and Spirit of the writer as I read, and I find as a result when I have finished a sermon, I could wish to reach out and shake the writer's hand and tell him, to the praise of our Lord, the blessing of his sermon to me. May the Lord's blessings continue with you and all who have a part in the publication of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER.

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PAGE EIGHT

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as soon as it is born into the home; that parents have the first opportunity to mar or make the life of their child, since the home is the first school where the most enduring memories and influences are registered in the child's mind.

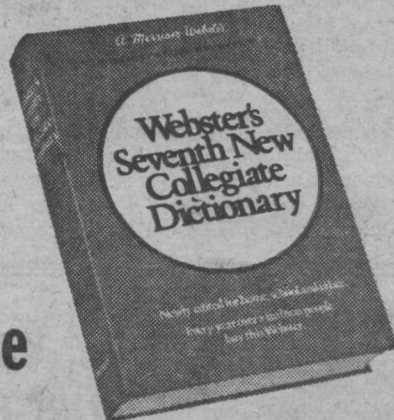
### FAITHFUL DIAGNOSIS THE BEST SAFEGUARD

It is easier not to say certain things than to say them. If, however, by calling attention to practices which are harmful to young people, parents may henceforth be put on their guard, it will be worth while. We all need long-distance calculation, that is, to estimate what the results of our present course of action will be ten years from now. "Do as I say, not as I do," is poor training for any child. Belittling the means of grace simply by neglecting them, such as never attending the prayer meeting, is educating the child toward non-attendance. Then why be amazed if the children grow up indifferent to the call of the church, the call of Christ?

For some Christian parents, such warnings as these are unnecessary, since they recognize

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