

# A PLANNED PURPOSE For MIRACLES

## PART I

"To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven"—Eccl. 3:1.

God is not like many men; He does nothing without a purpose. Whatever is allowed to happen is according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the council of His own will" (Eph. 1:11, see Isa. 46:10).

Therefore miracles performed through man by the power of God are not mere accidents, but are for a special purpose. Let us examine some of the mighty miracle workers of the Bible.

### God's Purpose For Miracle Workers

Let us begin with the first great miracle worker, Moses.

"There arose not a prophet since like unto Moses . . . in all the signs and wonders, which the Lord

sent him to do" (Deut. 34:10-12).

He says God "sent him to do signs and wonders." Why? We know Moses did not seek after these things, for he was caring for his father-in-law's sheep on the back side of Horeb. It was God who appeared unto him for a certain purpose. "I will send thee unto Pharaoh . . . bring forth My people . . . out of Egypt" (Ex. 3:10). God also had a message for him to deliver to the children of Israel, "Thus shalt thou say . . ." But Moses, remembering how he fled from Egypt when his brethren accused him of murdering an Egyptian, said, "But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice . . ." (Ex. 4:1). So God demonstrated his power and permitted Moses to do these signs and wonders. Why? "That they may believe that the Lord God . . . hath

appeared unto thee" (Ex. 4:5).

But God's prophets are not the only prophets who work signs and wonders. When Moses went to Egypt he met Satan's men who imitated the very same signs of God (until God restrained them) that were meant to confirm the Word of God spoken by Moses (Ex. 7:11-12, II Pet. 3:8). As God's prophets performed signs in order to accredit their message as being God breathed (thus saith the Lord) so also Satan's prophets performed the exact same signs to confirm the words they spoke as being God's word.

### Elijah

The next great miracle worker is Elijah. During the time of Elijah the children of Israel had turned from the Lord. "Ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim" (I

Kings 18:18). The prophets of Baal had been doing signs and wonders in so much as to deceive God's children into believing they were the true prophets of the true God. Because these false prophets were being confirmed by signs and wonders, the children of Israel believed their words to be the words of the true God. Therefore God sent Elijah (I Kings 18:1) to challenge the false prophets before the people of Israel as to who was the spokesman for the true God. "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him . . ." (I Kings 18:21). When the test came, Baal's prophets expected their God to answer them as he had done in the past, but the Lord restrained Satan this time from answering in order that the children of God might know who was God's spokesman. Then

Elijah's turn came to call upon his God. He prayed, ". . . Let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy Word" (I Kings 18:36). Therefore God confirmed Elijah's words as being God breathed. As today, God's man, Elijah, was outnumbered by false prophets in the midst of God's people. "Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men" (I Kings 18:22). But God is always more powerful than Satan though both speak through their prophets and both confirm the words of their prophets with signs and wonders!

### David

Next, we notice what David says, (Continued on page 8, column 3)

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

## "SPRINGTIME"

By RAY HIATT  
Hazard, Kentucky

"My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land" (Song of Solomon 2:10-12).

I was saved in the latter part of March, in a year with an early spring. Hence, I always equate my salvation with Springtime. In the midst of the renewal of the earth, I was made anew. All the freshness and cleanness that accompanies Spring, I found to be implanted within me. The coldness was gone and the dreary sounds of Winter were no more. Glory! Words are but frail things to describe the newness of being and enlightening of spirit that God imparted to me. It cannot be described, it must be lived. Is it little wonder that the lost world regards the saved of God as charlatans? We cannot adequately describe the effects of salvation to them; we can only invite them to participate in it.

Springtime! What wondrous imagery that word brings to my mind. In describing it, we stumble over ourselves in paroxysms of joy, as we attempt to convey the feel of it, the sound of it, the smell of it, the sound of it, the is so fleeting and so ethereal that it almost eludes me. Hope! Yes, this is the essence of Spring. And yet more; Joy. An easy laughter and a deep seated sense of well being. Youth! Aye, there we have captured it. The time of birth and new life from the old. A time of beginnings. A new awareness and a new consciousness. A newness withal. Youth! Springtime is imbued with it. Love! Poets of every culture sing of love in the Springtime, but ours is a transcendent love for Christ.

Springtime. Can you not recall the Springtime of days in your Christian life? Can you not hearken to the joy that was yours on first meeting Christ? What was its worth to you then? With what price did you value it? Was it not a joy that welled up inside you, that you could scarcely contain? Aye, and so much more. You were new were you not, and was not every hour a treasured sixty minutes of unspeakable bliss? If not with you, I can surely say that it was so with me.

Springtime. Yes, it was glory, but why must we say "was"? Do you mean that such a treasure has slipped from your grasp? Have



PASTOR RAY HIATT

you permitted it to be stolen away? Surely not! Do you mean that you no longer have the joy of your salvation? That joy that made pain a bubble and trouble a transient thing. Surely, you have not traded it away. And yet, and yet?

Our text is predicated on Springtime and the Bridegroom says to us, "come," "come away." Have you not had enough of the drear of winter? Come away, Come with me to fountains of joy and springs of youth. Come away. Leave the chill and barrenness of your soul. (Continued on page 6, column 1)

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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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## THE BODY OF CHRIST

By ROSCO BRONG

Dean, Lexington Baptist College

Fanciful misinterpretations and misapplications of figurative language in the Bible are among the means used by Satan and his ministers to discredit the Word of God among the ignorant. With reference to the New Testament Church, Satan has accomplished one of his most cunning deceptions

Scripture passages in which the church is referred to and described under the figure of a human body as the body of Christ include: Rom. 12:4,5; I Cor. 10:16, 17; 12:12-28; Eph. 1:23; 4:4, 12-16; 5:23-30; Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15.

A careful and intelligent study of these Scriptures in context is enough to expose the Bible believer the evident fallacy and folly of the universal church heresy.

### A BODY ESSENTIALLY

"For as we have many members in one body . . . so we, being many,

are one body in Christ" (Rom. 12:4,5). The essence of the comparison is the organization of different members in one body. If a human body is ground into hamburger and fed to the dogs on six continents, it is no longer a human body. Neither do Christians constitute a body scattered around the world in space and through 19 or 20 centuries in time. The idea is so superbly silly that it could have been spawned only by Satan and adopted by people more influenced

(Continued on page 6, column 3)

## THE LOVE OF OUR LORD FOR HIS CHURCH

By WILLARD WILLIS  
Monroe, Ohio

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven.

And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" —Mt. 16:13-18.

Husbands, do you love your wives? Wives, do you love your husbands? Husbands, are other women as important to you as is your wife? Wives, are other men as important to you as is your husband? I have asked these questions so as to obtain a better understanding of the love our Lord has for His Bride—the church.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (Continued on page 7, column 2)



ROSCOE BRONG

in the popular though ridiculous myth that the figurative "body of Christ," as Christ's church is scripturally called, is not really a body at all, but is identical with the family or the kingdom of God.

### ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE LORD

A person is often resented if he talks about the goodness of the Lord very much. Many people will appreciate a person more if he will never mention the name of the Lord.

Think! If a person has a deep concern about something of this world does he not talk about it? Do we not expect a person to talk about the things that he loves and has given his life for? Should we not then expect a child of God to always enjoy talking about his blessed Heavenly Father who has done so much for him? David surely did this . . . "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psa. 4:1).

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

### "THE LAWGIVER, THE LAW, AND THE LAWLESS"

In our generation we find ourselves surrounded with a diversity of laws. There are physical, moral, civil, and spiritual laws in our complex society. Living in such an environment, it is necessary that we acquaint ourselves with the meaning of the word law.

"Law," is "something laid down," or "something established." It is a general expression of will enforced by power. It knows no persons or personalities. Law applies to all classes and in more

than one case. There can be no law without power to enforce it. Without power to enforce, it becomes the expression of mere wish or advice.

The essential idea of law is will enforced by power. It implies a lawgiver, subjects, a general command, and a power to enforce. Or better stated, law is a general command from an authoritative being enforced by power upon other things.

Law is an expression of the na-

ture of the lawgiver, and it reveals the normal relation of the subject to the lawgiver. Any law which fails to represent the nature of the governing power will eventually become obsolete. All permanent law is a transcript of what must be in order to have harmony between the governing power and the governed subjects.

### GOD AND LAW

God is not subject to law, He is the source of law. James 4:12 (Continued on page 2, column 2)

### THE FABLE OF THE SHODDY HOUSE

Moral: Build your life for God.

Once upon a time there was a house-builder who was so badly in debt that he and his family were in danger of being turned out into the street in the midst of winter. The men to whom he owed money were becoming more threatening every day, and the poor house-builder was almost frantic.

But a kind-hearted man who lived in the town heard of the house-builders sad plight and gave him a contract to build a house. He told the man precisely how he wanted the house built and the kind of material — the very best — that was to be used, and then went (Continued on page 8, column 5)



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MILBURN COCKRELL --- Editor

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Dear Brother Halliman,

We are a small mission located in the town of Denham Springs.

It has been brought before our mission about sending you money once a month. We are very small in number, but everyone agreed to send you \$25.00 a month. We hope this small amount will help carry the gospel to the lost people. Remember us in your prayers.

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I have received two letters from a man in a correctional institution in Chillicothe, Ohio. He enjoys our paper and desires to know more about the things of the Lord. I have already written to him. Perhaps other readers would like to write to him also. You may address him: Mr. David Broomfield, P.O. Box 5500, Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601.

## BRIEF NOTES

The Mount Lebanon Baptist near Lafayette, Alabama, will engage in revival services July 27 to August 1. The pastor, Elder Jimmy B. Davis, will be the speaker. Services will be at 10:30 in the morning and at 7:30 each night. The pastor and church invites you to attend these services.

Elder James Everman was called to the pastorate of the Antioch Baptist Church, Hobart, Ind. He has accepted the call. May it please the Lord to give this church and pastor many happy years together.

We would like to recommend a new church to all of our readers in the Springfield, Ill., area who may be looking for a sound church home. This new church is pastored by Elder J. R. Hughes, and

it was founded on the authority of the Madison Baptist Temple.

The address of the church meeting house is: Messiah Baptist Temple, 931 North Grand Street, Springfield, Ill., 62702. If you are passing through, stop and visit with them. They will welcome your presence as well as your prayers.

The Covenant Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., and pastor Gerald Price will host a Bible conference August 29-31. Speakers to be on the program are Elder Oscar Mink, Elder Jon Rule, Elder Don Pruitt, and the editor.

The Union Grove Baptist Church of Tilden, Miss., has called Elder Charles Salmon of Paris, Tenn., as their new pastor, and he has accepted the call. Since this was the fine church your editor left to come to Ashland, he will rest with a good degree of more comfort, knowing that they have a capable leader. I, for one, am extremely happy to know that the church there shall enjoy the teaching and leading of an able man of God like Elder Salmon.



## "The Lawgiver"

(Continued from page one)

says: "There is one lawgiver." God's law is an expression of the Divine will enforced by supernatural power upon His creatures who are duty-bound to obey Him, and who are liable to pains and penalties for disobedience. It expresses the moral nature of God and calls His creatures to absolute conformity to His holiness (I Pet. 1:15-16; Matt. 5:48). This complete conformity to God's law is the normal condition of man. The whole law can be summed up in three words: "Be like God."

The underlining idea of sin is law: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). All sin is against the will and nature of God. It is a lack of conformity to the law of God, either in disposition, act, or state. It is a destitution of correspondence with the Divine law; a rejection of the Divine authority.

All sin is law-breaking. Sin cannot exist without the law of God. Romans 4:15 declares: "For where no law is, there is no transgression."

### THE THREE SYSTEMS OF LAW

Law is a term found about two hundred times in the Bible, meaning a rule which regulates human conduct. Three subdivisions are mentioned: "the law of God" (Rom. 7:22,25), "the law of Moses" (John 7:23; Acts 13:39), and "the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

These expressions are not synonymous in meaning. Failure to distinguish between them has brought about no small amount of confusion. Law cannot be understood in the Bible unless one understands these three expressions.

The law of God is God's unchanging moral standard of regulating the conduct of all humanity. Sometimes the term refers to the whole revealed will of God, and at other times it points to the Ten Commandments. It is a transcript of the mind of God as to what man ought to be. This law expresses God's holiness, for it discloses God's holy face to human sight.

Obedience to this law is man's first duty: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13).

The law of Moses is the entire system of legislation, judicial and ceremonial, which the Lord gave to Israel during the time of Moses. It contained three parts: (1) moral regulation, Ex. 20:1-17; Matt. 22:36-40; (2) social requirements, Ex. 21:1-23:33; (3) ordinances for worship, Ex. 25:1-31:18. Much of the law of God was incorporated into the moral regulation of the Mosaic law, but this Mosaic system was not given to the Gentiles (Acts 15:5-6,10).

The law of Christ is God's law

"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one"—Job 14:4.

"Ye must be born again"—John 3:7.

If I understand correctly, the theological groups of this world are divided on the question of ruin and regeneration into three different groups.

There is first of all the group who says that man can decide for himself; man can make up his mind if he is going to do differently; man can make the changes that he wants to make; man can turn to God at anytime he wants to. That group we call Arminians.

There is a second group who might be called Calvinists. Calvinists believe that every person is spiritually dead—so dead that there is no spiritual life in that individual at all; and in order for that person to be saved, the Spirit of God has to make him alive, before he can believe, and repent, and be saved. I need not tell you I am a Calvinist.

There is a third group which is a sort of watered-down Calvinist, or up-graded Arminian. They say man is dead, but not "dead as a doornail," to use their expression. I asked one of them one day, how dead is man, and he said, "There are lots of things a dead man can do." I'll be frank, I don't know, and I am still wondering what it is that a dead man can do. There are these watered-down Calvinists, however, who say that man can believe, and by his belief and his repentance, he

is in the hands of Christ our Mediator. Christ was made under this law (Gal. 4:4) and this law was in His heart (Ps. 40:8). It was this law that He came to fulfill. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am come not to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

Thus the law of God is almost synonymous with the law of Christ. As creatures we are under the law of God our Creator, but being in union with Christ, believers are inlawed to Christ (I Cor. 9:21). Christ was responsible to the law for us, so that we are no longer responsible to it, but to Him. So the believer is not without law to govern his conduct when inlawed to Christ.

### MISCONCEPTIONS OF GOD'S LAW

The law of Jehovah is not temporary, for it manifests the essential nature of God. Moses broke the tables of stone upon which the law was inscribed, and Jehoiakim cut up the scroll and cast it into the fire (Ex. 32:19; Jer. 36:23), but the law continued as eternal as before in the nature of God and the constitution of man.

"The moral laws are just as stable as the law of gravitation. Every fuzzy human chicken that is hatched into this world tries to fool with those laws. Some grow wiser in the process and some do not."

"We talk about breaking God's laws. But after those laws have been broken several billion times since Adam first tried to play with them, those laws are still intact and no seam of fracture is visible in them—not even a scratch on the enamel."

"But the lawbreakers—that is another story. If you want to find their fragments, go to the ruins of Egypt, of Babylon, of Jerusalem;

is saved thereby.

With this as my introduction, I want to show you that men are spiritually dead and it takes God Almighty's regeneration to bring them to spiritual life.

I.

### THE RUIN

In my first text, Job asks the question, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?" and then he answers his own question when he says, "Not one."

Adam became unclean in the Garden of Eden and was expelled by God. Every child that was born from that time on has been born unclean.

In that respect, I'd like to show you that man's understanding is unclean. Listen:

"There is NONE THAT UNDERSTANDETH, there is none that seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:11).

You talk to an unsaved man and he can't understand spiritual things until he is regenerated by the Spirit of God. An unsaved man can understand how he can advance in worldly wealth. He can understand how he might be able to satisfy the desires of his flesh. He is able to understand material things, but he is not able to understand spiritual things, for this text says, "There is none that understandeth."

Notice again:

"Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even THEIR MIND and conscience IS DEFILED" (Titus 1:15).

study statistics; read faces; keep your eyes open; visit Blackwell's Island; walk through the graveyard and read the invisible inscriptions left by the Angel of Judgment, for instance: 'Here lies the fragments of John Smith, who contradicted his Maker, played football with the Ten Commandments, and departed this life at the age of thirty-five. His mother and wife weep for him. Nobody else does. May he rest in peace!' (W. Raushenbusch).

Men do not actually break God's laws; they break themselves against them. Jesus Christ said: "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Here our Lord affirms the permanent authority of the Scriptures. Nothing can deprive them of their authority, for they are settled forever in Heaven (Ps. 119:89).

Some are prone to think of God's law being merely negative. This

Folk talk about man's better understanding as a result of education. This might be true in the realm of mathematics, or history, literature, and geography, but man's mind will never improve one particle spiritually, until he has been regenerated by the power of God.

We read in the Old Testament that Adam named the animals as they walked by one by one. Talk about an intellect, certainly Adam had an intellect of unusual perception, for as I say, Adam named all the animals in the Garden of Eden. But how is it today? Listen: "Yes, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but MY PEOPLE KNOW NOT the judgment of the Lord" (Jer. 8:7).

In the Garden of Eden, man was intellectual. He had a gigantic intellect. But now man is more witless than a stork.

The Word of God goes further and declares that man is more stupid than an ox, for we read: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel DOTH NOT KNOW, my people doth not consider" (Isa. 1:3).

The Word of God even goes so far as to declare that man himself never has a good mind until he is saved. Listen:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a SOUND MIND" (II Tim. 1:7).

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

is an error because conformity to God is the inmost requirement of law. The law is spiritual and requires likeness in character and life to God Who is Spirit. Behind the negative expression of God's law is legions of positive moral requirements. When a sin is forbidden the contrary duty is commanded (Isa. 1:16-17).

It is also an error to think of God's law as being addressed to only one part of man's being. Man's law binds the hands only. God's law binds both the hands and the heart. It requires purity in soul and body (II Cor. 7:1). Anything which comes short of perfect purity in soul or perfect health in body contradicts the law and is a transgression.

The law of God is not always outwardly published or externally written. There was a law against murder (Gen. 4:8-15) and adultery

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

## Memorial Pulpit

By JOHN R. GILPIN

Our Beloved Pastor and Editor, Now in Glory



## "RUIN AND REDEMPTION"

## Commentary On The Whole Bible

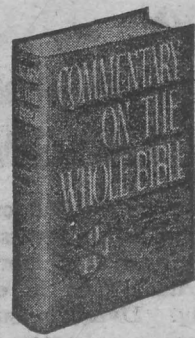
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## "Ruin, Redemption"

(Continued from Page Two)

When do you get a sound mind? When God saves you. If I speak to one who is unsaved, I would remind you that you do not have a sound mind this morning. Your mind may be all right so far as this world is concerned, but spiritually speaking, you will never have a sound mind until the Lord Jesus regenerates you and makes you anew.

I say, then, as a result of sin, man's understanding is depraved. Man's will is likewise depraved. We read:

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (John 6:40).

The word "will" as used here is a past participle. Literally, it says, "Ye have willed not to come, that you might have life." In other words, it was a definite act on their part that they would not come to the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.

Some people say they believe in free will. There are lots of preachers who talk in terms of free will. There are lots of theological students, so-called, who say that they believe that man's will is free—that he can turn to the Lord, or turn away from the Lord; he can decide, he can reject, he can accept, he can do anything he pleases, because his will is free.

If you turn a rock loose at the top of the hill, the rock is free to do one thing—namely, to roll down the hill. You turn a wheel loose at the top of a hill and that wheel is free to do one thing—namely, to roll down the hill. I am saying to you, man's will is just exactly like that. Man's will is just as free as a rock or a wheel. The only way that man's will can go is against God, and man has already willed against God. Talk about ruin, his will power is ruined.

Also, his spiritual eyesight is ruined. We read:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he CANNOT SEE the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

A woman said to me a few weeks ago, "I don't understand why it is that people don't turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved when they hear you preach. It looks like you make the Word of God so plain. It looks like everybody ought to turn to Jesus." From her standpoint, that was true, because she was saved, and she could see. I said to her, "Here is the reason why they don't: They can't see spiritual things until the Spirit of God opens their eyes and gives them spiritual perception."

Talk about the ruin of man, his understanding is ruined, his will is ruined, his spiritual eyesight is ruined, so that he cannot understand nor perceive spiritual things.

"But the natural man RECEIVETH NOT the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness

If people were more zealous and less jealous, this world would be a better place in which to live.

unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

Who is the natural man? It is that individual who is sitting here in front of me this morning who has never yet been regenerated by the Spirit of God. Every unsaved man is a natural man. And what does it say? That "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." Furthermore, it says they are just foolishness unto him, and he can't know them, nor understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. I say, beloved, his spiritual perception is ruined.

Even man cannot come to God. We read:

"NO MAN CAN COME to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44).

Notice, no man can come to God unless God draws that individual. The Word of God doesn't say that he might come if he would try hard. The Word of God doesn't say that man can approach unto God if the church would help him. It literally says this: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me, draw him."

I say to you, man is absolutely ruined spiritually as a result of what happened to Adam in the Garden of Eden, for man cannot come to God unaided and unassisted by the Holy Spirit of God. Man's affections are depraved.

He can't love the Lord. I heard a man say a few days ago over the radio, "Give God your heart." Tell me, beloved, what does God want with your dirty, repulsive, filthy, sinful heart? He went on in his message: "Just love God." Beloved, man cannot love God, for his affections are depraved. Listen:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and MEN LOVED DARKNESS rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

You can set darkness and light before an unsaved man and he will choose darkness every time. You can set sin and holiness before an unsaved man and he will choose sin. Why? Because his affections are depraved. As this text says, "Men loved darkness rather than light."

Years ago, a woman said to me, "I always go to church, and my husband always goes every time he has an opportunity. We take an active part in the church, and have for years, yet it is a fight every Sunday to get our boy to church. I just don't understand it." I said, "Sister, has he been saved?" She said, "No, that is why we want to get him to church." I said, "You have the answer to your problem. The reason why he doesn't want to go to church is because he doesn't love God."

That will account for the fact that men do not read the Bible. Why is it that the average unsaved man doesn't know whether he is in Genesis or Revelation when he reads the Bible? Why is it that the average unsaved man doesn't have any use for

## IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



Who said he saw Satan fall from Heaven?

Jesus, Luke 10:17-18:

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Also, see Revelation 12:7-9.

prayer, and wouldn't be caught in a prayer meeting? Why is it that the average unsaved man would rather stay home this morning with a glass of beer by his side and guzzle it, and watch TV, than he would to come to the house of God? I'll tell you why, because that individual's affections are depraved; men love darkness rather than light.

Notice another Scripture in that respect:

"Because the carnal mind IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

The carnal mind is a reference to the unsaved man, and it says that that individual's mind is enmity against God. He doesn't say it could be a little bit adverse to God, but he says frankly it is enmity against God.

Even man's conscience is depraved.

Years ago, a man said to me, "I decided from now on I am going to let my conscience be my guide." I'll tell you one thing, beloved, you have a mighty poor guide if you allow your conscience to be your guide. You can train your conscience to say "Amen" to any sin that you want to commit. A man gets drunk and is ashamed of himself. He gets drunk two or three times and he gets less and less ashamed. As time goes on, he gets to the place that he will wallow like a pig in a gutter, and he is not the least bit ashamed of it. Why? His conscience is depraved.

A man might curse for the first time and then take the name of God in vain, and he might deeply grieve over this, but if he does it over and over again, he will get to the place that he can use the name of God in vain with no compunction of conscience. Why? Because his conscience is defiled. He has a depraved conscience. God's Word says:

"Even their mind and CONSCIENCE IS DEFILED" (Titus 1:15).

Talk about the ruin of man, I say that his conscience is ruined.

Man is depraved from the hour of conception. Listen:

"The wicked are ESTRANGED FROM THE WOMB: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies" (Psa. 58:3).

Do I speak to somebody who is unsaved? I want you to know that your depravity didn't begin when you got to be 10 or 12 years old, but rather, you were estranged from the time that you were separated from your mother's womb. The Word of God says that we "are estranged from the womb." Sinner friend, your sinful nature didn't begin when you got up in the teens. It may have begun to manifest itself more so than in your earlier years, but your sinful nature began when you came forth from your mother's body.

I'll go further and say that your depravity actually began nine months before your birth, for we read:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and IN SIN DID MY MOTHER CONCEIVE ME" (Psa. 51:5).

David doesn't mean that he was conceived out of wedlock. He doesn't mean that his mother was a wanton woman. Rather, he means that he was conceived with a sinful disposition.

Beloved, you can go back nine months before the time that you were born, and you can say that you have been full of depravity from the very hour of your conception.

Listen again:

"Therefore the heart of the sons of men is FULLY SET in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11).

Notice, it doesn't say it is partially set to do evil, but fully set in them to do evil.

Notice another Scripture in that respect:

"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within YE ARE FULL OF HYPOCRISY and iniquity" (Matt. 23:28).

When we come to the book of Isaiah, we get a still greater picture of man's ruin, for we read:

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye wilt revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot unto the head there is no soundness in it: but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isa. 1:4-6).

Talk about man's ruin, from the crown of the head to the sole of his feet, man stands spiritually ruined.

If you turn back to the book of Genesis, you will find a very decided contrast, for we read:

"In the day that God created man, IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD made he him" (Gen. 5:1).

"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son IN HIS OWN LIKENESS, after his image" (Gen. 5:3).

Notice, man was originally made in the likeness of God, but when man begat a son, he was begotten in his own likeness.

I say, beloved, man is ruined. His understanding is ruined, his will is ruined, his spiritual eyesight is ruined, his spiritual perception is ruined, he will not come to God, his affections are ruined, his conscience is ruined, and he is full of depravity, even from the hour of his conception in his mother's womb. Need I say more when I tell you that man is a ruined creature in the sight of God?

The man who makes the money that buys the clothing that you wear, the man who provides your children's necessities, that is the

man I am talking about. Or the woman that you call your wife—that one that takes care of your home, the woman who is the mother of your children, that is the woman that I am talking about. Brother, sister, man stands in God's sight as a ruined creature.

## II.

### REGENERATION.

Is there any hope? If there weren't, I wouldn't have preached the sermon that I am preaching this morning. I certainly would never talk about your ruin if I couldn't tell you about regeneration. I certainly wouldn't talk about your spiritual condition, how sad it is, if I couldn't tell you there is a hope for it. Though man may be ruined, God Himself has worked out our regeneration.

Regeneration is not something that man does himself. We read: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23).

The next time one of these sons of Ham speaks to you, look him over carefully. When that Negro can change the color of his skin, then you can start doing good apart from the Spirit of God.

I have thought so much of recent date about the race riots that we are having. Do you know why we are having race riots?

Just one reason: God put a curse upon the Negro—the curse of servitude. God said the Negro was to be a servant to his brother. I don't care how much the Negro rebels against it; I don't care how much these cheap penny-ante politicians in Washington do for the sake of getting the Negro's votes; I don't care what anybody has to say about the race riot situation today; it is all a rebellion against the teachings of Almighty God. God says that the curse was upon the Negro—not a curse of slavery, but a curse of servitude.

I say then, whenever a Negro who was born to be a servant can change the color of his skin, you who are unsaved can regenerate yourselves; but you will never regenerate yourselves until the Negro can change the color of his skin.

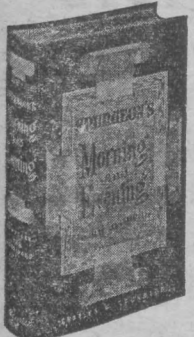
Notice again:

"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because YE CANNOT HEAR my words" (John 6:43).

Jesus Christ is asking this crowd a question as to why they don't understand. He says the reason is, "ye cannot hear my word."

As I was preparing this message, my mind went back to my college days, when I was 17 years of age. One of my close friends in college died. I haven't thought about him for years, but as I was thinking about my message, this

(Continued on page 4, column 3)



## MORNING AND EVENING

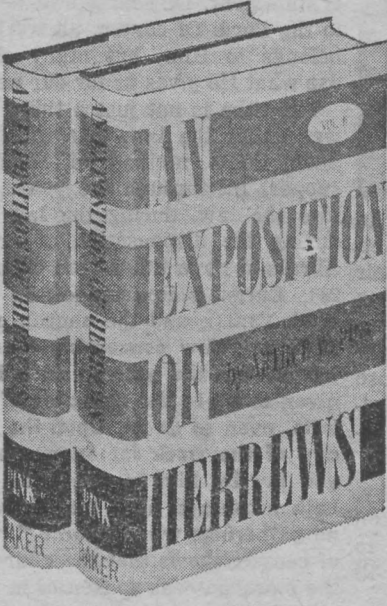
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JULY 26, 1975

PAGE THREE



# The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT TO:

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P. O. BOX 910 — ASHLAND, KY. 41101

"I believe a Christian should give tithes and offerings, however, I don't know what money I should tithe on. Should I tithe on my gross or net income?"

E. G. COOK

701 Cambridge  
Birmingham, Ala.

PASTOR  
Philadelphia  
Baptist Church  
Birmingham, Ala.



In Gen. 28:22 Jacob said, "... of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." And in Mal. 3:10 Malachi said, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." So, if your employer agrees to pay you \$200.00 per week, it is clear that your income will be \$200.00 per week so far as your work is concerned. If, at the end of the week he gives you a check for \$200.00, you have no problem in determining what your tithe will be. It will be \$20.00 even though you know you will have to pay your taxes, buy your food, clothing, etc. But if the employer takes the amount of your taxes out of the \$200.00, pays your taxes for you and gives you a check for the balance of the \$200.00, that seems to blur the picture somewhat. Some seem to think they should tithe only what the check calls for. But what difference does it make, so far as figuring your tithe, who pays your taxes? They are your taxes, and they are paid out of your income. The amount the employer withholds to pay your taxes with is just as much your income as is the part he gives you.

So if you wish to lay claim to all those wonderful blessings in Mal. 3:10, just meet the requirement. Pay your tithes on ALL your income from whatever source, and whether it all comes into your hands or not. And don't forget to do it because God said do it. We should not pay our tithes for the purpose of receiving the blessings, but rather we should do it because He said do it. That will put Him to the test. And He will see that we get the blessings because He has said we would get them. However, if you are afraid that He just might not do what He said in Mal. 3:10, I suggest that you keep your tithes, because He loves a cheerful giver. I do not believe any child of God has ever suffered financially in any way because he or she cheerfully gave Him all the tithes.

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER  
BAPTIST PREACHER  
Aripeka, Florida



Some Christians are engaged in business activities that are directly involved in the running of their place of business. In such cases, when a certain salary comes to them, it is a salary that is greatly depleted by the business expense they were out in securing the salary. Such expenses should be deducted.

Following receipt of their salary, there are various personal and home expenses. These are not to be deducted from the salary. All such money should be tithed.

In other words, the Christian is not obligated to tithe the money that is necessary for the winning

of the salary, but his actual net income should all be tithed.

Let me give another illustration. For years my wife worked in the office of a large business concern. There were a number of things deducted by the company each week. This reduced her salary to a net income and she tithed all the money that she obtained. I think she was perfectly correct in this. She did not tithe a gross income, but her net income, which really constituted all the money which she received.

PAUL TIBER

PASTOR,  
NEW TESTAMENT  
BAPTIST CHURCH

9272 Euclid-Chardon  
Road  
Kirkland, Ohio



If the issue of tithing is settled in your mind, then please look at an Old Testament reference for clarification as to whether the tithe is net or gross income.

Lev. 27:30 speaks of "all the tithe, whether of seed of the land or fruit of the tree is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord." If you are a farmer it means a tithe of all your crop; a businessman, of all your profits, a wage earner, of all your income. All, we take to mean the income earned before any obligations are deducted. In other words, gross income.

JAMES HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182  
McDermott, Ohio

PASTOR  
Kings Addition  
Baptist Church  
South Shore, Ky.



In your question you made it clear that you believe in the tithe. Let me take time in my answer to speak of tithing for the sake of those who claim that they do not believe in it. I have heard people say that they do not tithe because all that they have belongs to the Lord. I have yet to see any of them turn their pay check over to the church, or bring in all the produce of their garden, or give their full time to the service of the Lord. Frankly, I find it hard to believe them when they make such a statement. Of course, we belong to the Lord. Of course, all we have belongs to Him, but many of us use what He gives us for our needs.

The tithe is not just a thing that was under the law. The tithe has been God's method of financial support all through the years, before the law, during the law and during the dispensation of grace. Abraham gave tithes (see Gen. 14:20), Christ recommended it (see Matt. 23:23), and the church practiced it. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This of course, shows that the church is the storehouse as spoken of in Mal. 3:10.

The tithe of your pay should be the tenth of your gross pay, not your net. We are to give abundantly. "And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil,

and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly" (II Chron. 31:5).

If we hold back any of our tithe the Lord requires 20 percent interest. "And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof" (Lev. 27:31).

In closing, let me remind you that we are to pay ten percent of everything — crops, wages, and time. God gives us the time that we have, ten percent belongs to Him. We are to spend at least 16 hours and 48 minutes serving Him. We have not begun to serve Him until we give ten percent of our time. Sunday morning church service is not enough to worship Him.

## "Ruin, Redemption"

(Continued from page three)

I had who had been a close friend of mine came to my mind. Suppose when I get up tomorrow morning, and go to the office I would see this fellow on the street. Suppose he would greet me with, "Hello, 'Gallopin' Gilpin, how are you?" I would say, "Man, what are you doing here?" He would say, "Well, I just got tired of being dead, and I decided that I would ask a doctor to perform a miracle, and give me life." Beloved, he wouldn't be saying anything more ridiculous than these watered-down Calvinists or these up-graded Arminians are saying. This individual says he just got tired of being dead, and decided to ask a doctor to perform a miracle and make him alive again. You know a dead man couldn't do that. If a dead man couldn't do that for his old physical corpse, then why talk about a man who is spiritually dead, doing anything for himself? I say to you, regeneration is not something that man does, but it is God's work.

When the Apostle Paul was on one of his missionary tours, the Word of God tells us that he came over into Europe and the first convert in Europe was apparently a woman by the name of Lydia. We read:

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: WHOSE HEART THE LORD OPENED" (Acts 16:14).

We talk about man's ruin. What is the hope? The Lord has to open ruined hearts.

Listen again:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth"

(John 6:63).

It is not the preacher's persuasive personality. It is not the choir's ability to sing like nightingales. It is not because of anything that the church does. It is not men and women gathering around a sinner and, as they say, "pray him" into the kingdom of God. Rather, this text says, "It is the spirit that quickeneth."

Notice again:

"Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except IT WERE GIVEN UNTO HIM OF MY FATHER" (John 6:65).

Beloved, anybody in his unsaved state today, can never be saved unless the Spirit of God works within that individual?

May I say that the instrument that the Spirit uses is the Word itself, for we read:

"Being BORN AGAIN, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Pet. 1:23).

Beloved, a man isn't made alive just by the Word of God; neither is he regenerated just by the Spirit of God; but the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and implants it into a sinner's heart, and thereby that sinner is regenerated.

Notice again:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Pet. 1:4).

How do we receive the divine nature? It is through the precious promises of God, as they are preached, and the Holy Spirit applies these to our lives.

Listen again:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee. Ye must be BORN AGAIN" (John 3:3-7).

On the one hand we have ruin, and on the other we have regeneration. Man is ruined, but God must regenerate. Being regenerated, or being conceived of the Holy Spirit is one thing, and being saved is something else. You ask me how a man can be saved, and I'll give you the answer. God's Word says:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30, 31).

The Lord Himself said:

"He that BELIEVETH ON ME

hath everlasting life" (John 6:47).

You say, "If I can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, how can I be regenerated that I might be saved?" Listen:

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

You ask how you can be saved and I'll say to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. You ask how to be regenerated — how to be born again, and I'll tell you it is just as mysterious as the blowing of the wind. That is God's work. That is what God does. I can't understand.

You ask, "Do you see the wind blowing?" No, I don't see it, and you don't see it. Nobody ever saw it blowing, but you have seen the evidence of it. This text of Scripture says, "So is every one that is born of the Spirit."

I can't tell you how God regenerates you, for it is beyond mortal man to know and understand. However, I do know that through the application of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit, God regenerates you, and God makes you alive spiritually and all because you are spiritually dead and spiritually ruined.

## CONCLUSION

You ask, "Why is it that some people are saved, and some are never saved?" Listen:

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But YE BELIEVE NOT, BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:25-27).

Why is it that some are saved, and some are not? I will tell you why: Some are sheep, and some are not sheep. You can be certain of one thing, every one that was ordained before the foundation of the world by God to be a sheep, someday, mysteriously, is going to be regenerated by the work of the Spirit and the Word of God, and ultimately that individual is going to believe on Jesus Christ to the saving of his soul.

Some people say, "I thought repentance and faith were the cause of regeneration." No, no, beloved. Repentance and faith are not the cause of regeneration; repentance and faith are the evidences of regeneration. God regenerates you, and because God regenerates you, you are born again — because of that, God enables you to repent, and to believe, and to be saved. It all goes back to this: Salvation from beginning to end is all of God and not of man.

I can see old Jonah as he (Continued on page 5, column 2)

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## "PATIENCE"

The apostle Paul tells us "Be patient toward all men" (I Thess. 5:14). This is probably the prayer women send scurrying up to Heaven most often. "Lord, give me patience. Give me patience, Lord, with this child that is telling this long, laborious story. Help me not to cut him off. He may not come to me with something really important, next time. Help me to be interested in these events that are so vital to him. Yea, Lord Jesus, give me patience."

"Dear Father, give me patience. Patience with this baby who will not eat. She keeps playing with her food. Help me not to shake her as I so often want to do when she behaves this way. She needs to eat. I will only hurt us both if I fail to sit quietly and wait."

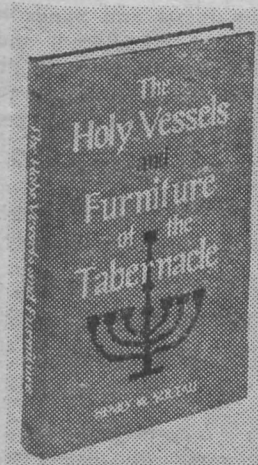
"Dear Lord, grant me patience. Patience with this boring old lady who wants to show me all the pictures of her grandchildren. Patience, Lord, as she repeats again the stories that I have heard so often. Help me not to resent the time she is requiring of me. Teach me again that age is to be honored and patience a virtue."

"Give me patience, my Lord. Patience when driving in crowded traffic. When waiting on a friend who is late. When trying to fix something around the house, that don't seem to work right. Patience with myself, my mistakes, my blunders. Teach me, Father, to pray at these times instead of giving vent to frustration."

The Apostle Paul, when speaking to the saints at Corinth, listed patience with stripes, afflictions, imprisonment, tumults, fasting, etc. In all these things we are not to give offense. And patience heads the list (II Cor. 6:3-5).

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"Yea, Lord, give me patience. For thou knowest it is not a natural trait with me. If I am to excel in this grace it must come from Thee. Help me, Father, to be as patient with others as Thou art with me."  
Amen.

## "Ruin, Redemption"

(Continued from page four)  
walked down the streets of the city of Nineveh one day after he had his experience in the belly of the whale. I can hear him as he said:

"Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9).

I say to you, man is a totally ruined, helpless, depraved individual, and man can never believe on Jesus Christ and be saved until the Spirit and the Word regenerate him and make him alive. Then salvation can come. It might come the same day as the regeneration, it may come weeks and months later, but there is one thing certain, from the time the Holy Spirit and the Word begin to work within your life, you will never again be the same careless sinner you were before, and ultimately you will be saved.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will PERFECT (finish) it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:8).

Thank God, beloved, what He begins, He is going to conclude. Isn't it wonderful to know that He takes us in our ruined estate, He regenerates us, He gives us repentance, He gives us faith, and He completes the work of our salvation? When I get to Heaven, I am not going to walk up and down the golden streets and say, "Look at John R. Gilpin. He got here finally because he held out faithfully to the end. He got here finally because of his works. He got here finally, because he kept going in spite of all the difficulties." Instead, beloved, when I get to Heaven, I will say:

"All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all."

My praise will be to Him throughout a never-ending eternity. May God bless you!

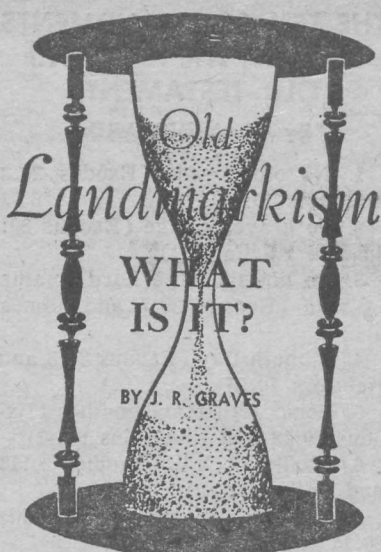
## "The Lawgiver"

(Continued from page two)  
(Gen. 38:24) in ancient time which has not come down to us in writing. Moses gave to man the first written law, but God's moral law existed for the creation of man. It is written in Genesis 26:5: "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

During the old dispensation the Gentiles were without an externally written law. But they had a natural law written on their hearts. It was sufficiently clear to secure at the day of judgment their acquittal or condemnation. It is written in Romans 2:14: "For when the Gentiles, which have not a law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not a law, are a law unto themselves."

Man's consciousness or unconsciousness in no way limits the scope of the law. The law of the Lord exists like the law of nature whether men recognize it or not. We cannot rid ourselves of God's dominion by denying its existence or refusing submission to it. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh" (Ps. 2:2-4).

God's law is not capable of modification, even to save a world of sinners. God cannot change it without ceasing to be God. The



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requirements of the law are not lessened because man is unable to keep it. Duty is not measured by ability. I may borrow money from the bank and then become unable to pay it back, but my inability does not excuse the debt. The obligation of man to obey the law is based upon man's original gifts and abilities. Man must render to God that which God first gave (Luke 19:23).

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAW

The moral law is all-comprehensive. It is over us at all times and in every circumstance. It cannot be confined to one place, person, or people. It requires every conceivable virtue and forbids every conceivable sin. "Thy command is exceeding broad" (Ps. 119:96).

Omissions as well as commissions are condemned by it. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17). The neglect of doing good is actually a moral evil. To hold the truth captive is to be guilty of unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).

"For we know that the law is spiritual" (Rom. 7:14). It breathes spirituality in its nature and intent. It embodies the demand of Him Who is Spirit. The law's essence is of like nature with the Holy Spirit Who gave it. God's law reaches to the spirit of man, and it gives him directions on how to be a spiritual man. It requires spiritual purity.

"The law of the Lord is perfect" (Ps. 19:7). Law is as the Law-giver (Matt. 5:48). It needs no addition or subtractions. "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good" (Rom. 7:12).

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). The moral law expresses in its least commandment the one requirement of harmony with the Creator. The violation of one precept is all that is needed to condemn us.

The least sin separates from God. Little snakes are still snakes. The least offense makes us guilty of the whole law in that it reveals our lack of love which is required in all the commandments. One must keep every part of the law in order to be a law-keeper. You cannot offend in one point without being a lawbreaker.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

Only to Adam was the law proposed as a method of salvation. With the first sin, all hope of obtaining God's favor by perfect obedience was lost. Since the fall man cannot submit himself to that Divine rule of life which is the practical expression of friendship with God. His aversion to the law makes subjection impossible, for sin cannot be in subjection to the

law. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). God never intended for man to be justified by the law. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified" (Rom. 3:20). No corrupt man can ever be justified by the law in God's sight. The deeds of the law may justify us in the sight of the church and state, but never in the eyes of the Omniscient One.

Paul clearly states: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified" (Gal. 2:16).

It was not the office of the law to remove sin. "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect . . . For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:1,4).

The law was the primer. It taught the elements of Christianity by objective lessons, but it could not meet man's need of justification and sanctification. It could not satisfy the demands of justice or make reconciliation for iniquity. "For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Gal. 2:21). If a man can be justified by the law, he needs no Saviour. If he needs Christ at all, it is because he is condemned by the law.

The commandments were added at Sinai as a standard of life for a redeemed people. It was not a covenant of works in the sense that Israel's salvation depended upon obedience to it. The Israelites were saved just as we are by grace through faith. Acts 10:43 says: "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20). The law was given to show man that he was a sinner. "What shall I say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7). Those who would know sin must get a knowledge of the law in its strictness.

The law opens our wounds, but it offers no remedy. The commandments make sin to "become exceeding sinful" (Rom. 7:13). It is like a mirror shows man his dirty face, yet it is a poor object to wash his face.

God's moral law stopped man's mouth. "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19).

The law convicts and condemns both Jew and Gentile. It prevents any man from boasting of being free from sin. It silences boasting by convicting men of their sins. It makes the world to come under the judgment of God and to stand condemned at His bar.

"The law worketh wrath" (Rom. 4:15) against all who break it. It pronounces a curse upon "every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Gal. 3:10). The law was "the ministration of death" and "the ministration of condemnation" (II Cor. 3:7-9). All the law could ever do was to condemn a man for his sins against God.

If the law could not save or justify us, then what was its Divine purpose? The answer to this question is found in Galatians 3:19, "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

The law was given to make sins take the character of transgressions, and thereby the consciousness of sin be intensified and the desire for redemption aroused. It is the office of the law to awaken in man the consciousness of sin, in order that he may feel the need of a Savior.

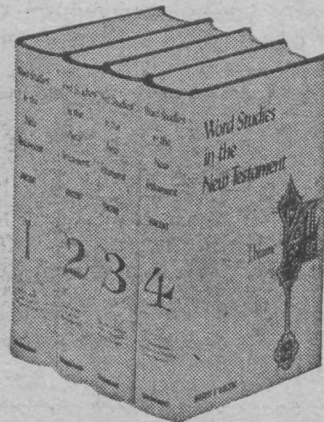
The office of the law was similar to that of a pedagogue, or tutor, who had the care and control of children in those days when the New Testament was written. The tutor was to watch, restrain, and often severely discipline the children. "Thus, even as the slave who leads a child to the house of the schoolmaster, so the law had led us to our teacher Christ, that by faith we might be justified" (Gal. 3:24 Conybeare's Translation).

The Holy Spirit uses the law to convict the sinner of his sins. By means of it He makes us sick of self and fond of Christ. He brings us to see our condemnation that we will trust Christ to save us. He uses it to strip us of all pretense of natural righteousness so Christ can clothe us. He uses the law to shut us up unto faith in Christ as the only avenue of escape from Hell.

My lips with shame my sins confess  
Against thy law, against thy grace;  
Lord, should thy judgment grow severe,  
I am condemned, but thou art clear.

Should sudden vengeance seize my breath,  
I must pronounce thee just in death;  
And if my soul were sent to Hell,  
Thy righteous law approves it well.

Show pity, Lord, O Lord, forgive;  
Let a repenting rebel live;  
Are not thy mercies large and free?  
May not a sinner trust in thee?



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## "Springtime"

(Continued from page one)

Come away. Come to where the Sun of Righteousness always shines. Come. The winter rain is over and gone; you hear it no more. Come. Can you not hear the birds singing and can you not see the flowers bloom? Come. Why will you have Wintertime in your soul? Why will you endure coldness and barrenness when the One Who loves you, calls you away to Springtime? Springtime! Think of it. Aye, but not just Springtime: CHRIST.

Why will you tarry in Wintertime, dear friends? Why will you have the staleness of barren days when the variety of Springtime can be yours? Do you enjoy the coldness and distance from Christ? Surely not. Wintertime of heart is an anomaly to the Christian. There can be no coldness when close to the Sun of Righteousness. How close dwell you?

We speak of revival but for all the wrong reasons, and we promote revival but by all the wrong means. What is revival but a drawing close to Christ where once there was a separation between you? What texts should be used for revival, but those which encourage a return to the first love—Christ? Revival is nothing, more or less, than affixing the affections more firmly on Christ. WHEN REVIVAL IS ATTAINED, SPRINGTIME IS ASSURED. Most revival preaching is an attempt to arouse feelings of guilt. Shortcomings are highlighted, unfaithfulness is pointed out and sin is exposed. It is expected from this, that revival can be achieved. This might have been acceptable for Israel but we are SONS. This type of revival preaching is good psychology but poor theology. The Phenomenological school of psychology would probably approve of this approach. This type of preaching, however, completely overlooks our relationship with Christ. We are His friends, not His hired servants. Our relationship is that of joint heirs, not poor relations. The Bride has an even closer tie than this.

If an unfaithful Christian becomes suddenly faithful under this preaching, he has not been revived, he has only been shamed by guilt into an outward sham of obedience. Revival, true revival, is simply a drawing close to Christ, where we have been a distance away. Let a saint draw close to the Saviour and faithfulness in outward things is assured. However, faithfulness in outward things is no guarantee of closeness to Christ. Pharisees at heart are always

faithful and always cold.

Dear friend, do you have Springtime within? It comes from walking with Christ. It does not come from church attendance, tithing, serving or prayer. It is not said that Enoch TALKED with God but that he WALKED with God. His closeness to God led to his translation—a rare and wonderful happening. Picture with me for a moment a scene from the antebellum South. Picture a young couple walking in a garden abloom with the first flush of Spring. Picture them as they walk hand in hand in silence through the beauty of the Springtime day. What need have they of words? They have each other. Please forgive this poetic and prosaic scene, but does it not in some ways describe our text? True fellowship is what we see in our text. What greater boon could we ask? Church attendance, tithing, serving and prayer are commendable things, but they are lifeless things without an intimate walk with Christ.

How fares it with you, my friend? Have you Springtime in your life? Within what locus do you now dwell, Springtime or Wintertime? Have you perhaps traded your Springtime away? Have you become so doctrinally sound that you have become staid and grave and embittered? It happens. Have you become so faithful in outward things that you've grown old inside? It happens. Have you gotten your life so intertwined with religious activities that you have no time for Christ? It happens. Have the peccadillos of sin eroded away the joy of your life and the Spring of your days? It happens.

The Bridegroom says, "Come away!" If you've been distant from him, can't you see what you have lost? What could be more important to you than walking hand in hand with Christ in the Springtime of days? From what other source can true happiness spring? There is no happiness in DOING but in BEING—being close to Christ. Let a Christian be close to Christ and all religious duties take on the aspect of labors of love.

Let a saint be distant, however, and each duty becomes weighted down with worrisome care. Where there is no closeness to Christ, life becomes a drudgery and service becomes a painful thing. The blessings are removed and only the empty shell of religious orthodoxy remains. We serve, most assuredly, but we serve out of love. Let us leave the cold ritualistic observances to the Romanist and the Protestant. Why serve at all if we serve not in love? Does our God delight in empty ritual? God said

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN BOTH THE NEW AND OLD TESTAMENTS

By NOAL EDWARDS

1. No other gods (Exodus 20:3 and Acts 14:15).
2. No graven image (Exodus 20:4-5 and I John 5:21).
3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain (Exodus 20:7 and James 5:12).
4. Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8 and Hebrews 10:25).
5. Honor father and mother (Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-2).
6. Shall not kill (Exodus 20:13 and Romans 13:9).
7. Not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14 and Romans 13:9).
8. Not steal (Exodus 20:15 and Ephesians 4:28).
9. Not bear false witness (Exodus 20:16 and Romans 13:9).
10. Not covet (Exodus 20:17 and Ephesians 5:3).

of Israel in the first chapter of Isaiah that "it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting." Perhaps if we Baptists were to listen very carefully from time to time, we might hear God speak words of this nature to us. Where there is no real consciousness toward Christ, where love is not the motivating force, where ritualism holds sway, where outward piety is more important than inward warmth toward Christ, where banal platitudes are uttered and Christ is sublimated, where all these things happen in Baptist ranks, might we not hear our God say, "it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting?"

Dear friend, if you have cast away the joy of your salvation, you have lost something of inestimable value. We would love Christ even if darkness encompassed us, but here He offers us Springtime, here He offers us joy, here He offers us fellowship, here He offers us youth. Our bodies must grow old, for they have known sin and they bear the marks of sin upon them. However, a Christian need not grow old INSIDE. A tragedy in our Baptist ranks is that our people grow old INSIDE. They haven't the joy and gladness that they should. The Bridegroom is not OLD but YOUNG. No matter what your chronological age, you need not grow OLD inside if you walk in close companionship with Christ.

Springtime, delight in it. Springtime, glory in it. Springtime, never lose it, for if you lose it you have lost the substance of joy and gladness. Springtime; do not trade it away for tinsel and trinkets that do not last or satisfy.

Please hear me as I encourage you to serve our Lord Christ. Give your all in His service. Make His cause the banner of your life. Let nothing dissuade you from the path of duty. Endure what must be endured, give what must be given and suffer what must be suffered. Spend yourself in His cause. However, never forget that in all of your service, He invites you to walk with Him. Never be so assiduous in His vineyard that you mislay the joy of His presence. In all your toil for our Saviour, always retain the buoyancy of Springtime joy. Springtime!

## The Body Of Christ

(Continued from page one)  
by the philosophy of Plato than by the teachings of Christ.

"We have many members in one body" (v. 4), referring to the human body of each of us, does not mean that we have one big universal invisible human body. But such a monstrous idea is exactly as sensible as the idea that the one body in verse 5 is universal or invisible.

Ecumenical, modernistic, and compromising interpreters who reject the Lord's church but try to count themselves in a mythical

universal church need to study the abstract, generic, institutional, general, distributive, and ideal uses of words; or, if they already understand the truth about the church and reject it, they need to get saved.

Repeating, the essence of the comparison of a genuine New Testament church to the human body is the fact that each is an organization or organism having different members with different functions, but all functioning for their mutual profit in the whole body.

### A BODY EATING

"We being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (I Cor. 10:10, 17). The reference, of course, is to the Lord's Supper, which is scripturally observed by the members of one church or, at least, one kind of church eating from one loaf, or at least, from one kind of bread.

But, of course, there are in the world many genuine children of God who belong to false churches or to no church at all, and who partake of different kinds of bread in mockeries of the Lord's Supper or never partake at all; and of course those Christians are no part of the "one body," or one kind of body, referred to here.

### A BODY EXERCISING

More than anywhere else in the Bible, the figure of the human body to represent an organized church is elaborated in I Cor. 12:12-28. The baptism in verse 13 is of course water baptism; the

### EVER THOUGHT OF PRAYER CONDITIONING YOUR CHURCH ? ? ?

one body is what would today be called a Baptist church.

Note the words "no schism" in verse 25. Advocates of a universal church have an imaginary body full of schisms or splits—surely nothing fit to represent Christ, Who is not divided (I Cor. 1:10-13).

Verse 26 beautifully describes the ideal fellowship in a genuine church; I suppose that no believer in a universal church is stupid enough to pretend that the language fits his imaginary body.

### A BODY EDIFIED

God gave Christ to be "Head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22, 23). Christ in turn (Eph. 4) "gave gifts . . . for the edifying of expression of Christ." Again the expression "one body" in Eph. 4:4 means one kind of body, just as "one baptism" in the next verse means one kind of baptism.

Edification of a genuine New Testament church, an organized body of baptized believers under the headship of Christ, is fittingly figured in Eph. 4:11-16. Not the emphasis in verse 16 on "the whole body fitly joined together." In plain words, the figure means that the church needs to be well organized in order to experience "the effectual working in the measure of every part."

### A BODY ENGAGED

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23). "The church" or "the body" is no more universal or invisible than "the husband" or "the wife." The terms are used abstractly, generi-

cally, or ideally, and express reality only when applied to real entities. No man ever yet loved a universal invisible wife. The church which Christ loved and for which He gave Himself (v. 25) is an organized body of baptized believers in Him, having Him alone as its Head.

### A BODY EXALTED

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence" (Col. 1:18). See how Christ has honored and exalted the church which He Himself organized during His personal ministry on earth and declared that He would continue to build upon Himself! Under the figure of a building, He is its foundation; under the figure of a body, He is its Head.

Shall He recognize as members of His body rebellious children who have refused to join themselves to Him as Head of a church relationship? The supposition is mere fatuous fancy, without a shred of Scriptural support.

### A BODY ENDURING

Paul rejoiced in his suffering for the saints at Colosse that he might "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Col. 1:24). Of that church, he tells us in the next verse, he was "made a minister." Now, it hardly needs to be pointed out to intelligent readers, that Paul's ministry was not performed merely in an abstract idea, but in real assemblies of the saints having definite organization and location.

Because or by means of the sufferings of Paul and the afflictions of Christ in the flesh of other faithful ministers through the centuries, the figurative body of Christ, formed during His earthly ministry, has endured to this good hour; and such churches will still be here when He comes again. (Matt. 16:18; 28:20; Eph. 3:21; etc.).

### A BODY ENLARGING

Christianity in general is in a spiritual decline, having less and less of God as it has more and more in numbers and wealth; less and less of truth as it dotes more and more on bogus miracles; or, in the language of Scripture, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (II Tim. 3:5).

A genuine New Testament church, however, being an organized body holding fast to Christ as its Head, "from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God" (Col. 2:19). This is the kind of growth we need.

### A BODY ENROLLED

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15). How can the peace of God rule in hearts that rebel against the teaching of His Word on the church and its ordinances?

The first church at Jerusalem (before Pentecost) had a roll or list of names to the number of "about an hundred and twenty" (Acts 1:15). They had been called, not only to salvation, but also to the peace of God ruling in their hearts in one body. As one body they carried on business for the Lord, including the election of (Continued on page 7, column 4)

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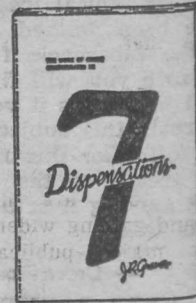
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## "WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY?"

Tom Crotser and his followers, dedicated to proving the historical accuracy of the Bible, plan to walk inside Noah's Ark this summer. They plan to climb Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey in late July. This seventh expedition of theirs is to seek out and collect artifacts from Noah's Ark.

According to Crotser, last summer's expedition located Noah's Ark 10,000 feet up between V-shaped sheer ramparts of the mountain. Photographs of the site, which show wooden planking joined together at one end of the boat-shaped object, were taken from 2000 feet away.

From previous expeditions, they have already brought back photos of pottery and other artifacts found in a cave near Mt. Ararat. Among these are primitive inscriptions on stones that linguists have translated to confirm that Noah and his family lived in the area after the floodwaters subsided.

On former trips up Mt. Ararat, Crotser and his group have brought down gopher wood that has been authenticated by experts at the University of Chicago as being between 4000 and 5000 years old.

It seems a glacier in which the Ark is imbedded has served as a preservative and has allowed the craft to petrify and survive for thousands of years. Crotser believes that the craft he viewed contains 70,000 tons of gopher wood. This may be one of the greatest discoveries of our time. It will be great proof of the accuracy of the Old Testament. It may also settle once for all the measurement of a cubit, and then we may really know what gopher wood is.

University researchers in Orlando, Fla., report that alcoholism strikes only one-half of one per cent of U. S. Jews as compared with a rate of 7.1 per cent of all Americans.

"Jews drink, there's no doubt about that, but they just don't become alcoholics," said Rabbi Adler of Orlando, who participated in the research project.

According to Dr. Charles M. Unkovic, chairman of the sociology department at Florida Technological University, this is the first survey of Jewish alcoholism in 20 years and, surprisingly, the number has not changed.

The study attributed the low rate of alcoholism among Jews to the solidarity of the Jewish community, close family ties and the fact that wine is a religious symbol and is first drunk early in life.

The study revealed that what alcoholism there is among Jews can be traced to either a breakdown in family life or religious beliefs.

Quite often those of us who believe in using wine in the Lord's Supper are accused of teaching our children by example and precept to be drunkards. But is this true? You will observe that the Jews, who have been using wine in the Passover for four thousand years, have less drunkards than the grape juice Baptists and Protestants. These facts are plain enough for anyone to see.

Those who use wine in the Lord's Supper look upon it as being a symbol of Christ's blood. Being mindful of the restrictions placed around this ordinance, we more than any others would dare not misuse that which represents the blood of our Savior.

Religious papers have gone through some jolting and sometimes fatal shakeups in recent years. Some are making headway and gaining wider circulation. Other major publications have been added to the toll of casualties.

In June of this year the monthly magazine, UNITED METHODISTS TODAY, was added to the casualty

list. The 10-million-member denomination, second largest among Protestants, is without a general church magazine for the first time in 150 years. The magazine was ordered terminated on the grounds that costs and deficits had mounted and circulation fallen.

Many religious publications are surviving on denominational subsidies or other supplemental means of shoring up magazine income. Many of these are losing their soul to the bureaucracy it serves.

The total circulation of Roman Catholic newspapers and magazines registered a gain last year for the first time in three years. The Episcopalians have done likewise.

### Sermon On Mount

(Continued from page one)

(Eph. 5:25). The love our Lord has for His church and the importance of His church is seen in the many love letters He, through the Spirit, has written to His churches. Let's note the beginning of a few of these letters:

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God" (Rom. 1:7); "Unto the Church of God which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2) "... unto the churches of Galatia" (Gal. 1:2); "... to the saints which are in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:1), the "faithful" were necessarily church members, or they would not have been termed "faithful."

It is obvious to me from the above Scriptures plus a host of other passages, that the Word of God was written to the Lord's churches. These letters, in fact, are letters from the Lord to His Bride — the Bride for which He has died. A husband writes a love letter to his wife. He shouldn't be writing love letters to any other woman. The Lord, in like manner, has written love letters to His church.

A man chooses a wife out of all the women in the world. Our Lord Jesus, according to John 15:16, has also chosen Himself a wife.

"Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye should ask the Father in My name, He may give it you."

I'm a firm believer in election and I know of a multitude of Scriptures to confirm my belief. The Scripture before us, however, is not dealing with election to salvation, but to the election of the Lord's church. This fact becomes obvious when we consider that our blessed Lord Jesus is the one who is doing the choosing. You will note that He declares: "I have chosen you." We who know and love the great doctrines of grace, know that we were chosen to salvation by the FATHER rather than the Son. The work of the Son was that of dying for those whom the Father had chosen. It is obvious, therefore, that John 15:16 is referring to an election within an election.

The elect then in John 15:16 refers to the eleven who were set in our Lord's church — the church He loves beyond our comprehension. The fact that John 15:16 refers to the eleven is confirmed by the pronoun "you." He said, "I have chosen you." The pronoun "you," as it is used here, is in the plural and refers to a collective group. "You," in the English, in many cases, does not enable us to know whether the reference is to one or more, but this is not true with the Greek. The Greek, in fact, leaves no question as to whether one or more is intended.

Our Lord chose the eleven as His representatives. They, according

to John 15:16, were to "go and bring forth fruit," that is, more churches. Our Lord proceeded to state: "your fruit (churches) should remain." This fact, of course, bears out Matthew 16:13 where it is promised that the gates of Hell (death) would not prevail against His church.

The eleven — our Lord's representatives — His church for which He died, can be traced all through the New Testament. We, for example, find the eleven in Acts 1:2: "Until the day in which he was taken up, after that He through the Holy Spirit HAD given commandment unto the Apostles whom He had chosen."

It is very important to tie the word "chosen" here in Acts 1:2 with the word "chosen" in John 15:16 where the reference is to His choosing them as His representatives.

We can also trace the eleven — our Lord's representatives, to Matthew 28:19,20:

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the

be baptized, but they are also refusing the Lord's Supper at the hands of His church. They, in short, are failing to support the Lord's church. Those who fall in this category need to weigh well John 14:22-23:

"Judas saith unto Him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My Words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with (along-side) him."

Our Lord, in these Scriptures, declares that those who love Him will show their love by keeping His Words. The result of their keeping His Words is that He "will come unto them and make His abode with them." The questions — how will He come unto His Word-keepers and make His abode with them? It is obvious that such is done by His Spirit through the church. It is as stated in Ephesians 4:11-12:

"And He gave some Apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

One won't grow much in truth if he or she neglects the body of Christ (church). This fact is made very obvious from I Timothy 3:15 where the church is termed "the pillar and ground of the truth." We may go a step further and say that if one will enjoy continual sanctification, then, he or she must be a member of our Lord's church. This fact is made obvious from Ephesians 5:26:

"That He might sanctify IT and cleanse IT with the washing of water by the Word."

This truth is typified by the "laver" which stood before the holy place in the Tabernacle. One, in fact, could be regenerated (in type) at the brazen altar, but it was necessary to wash at the laver (hear and heed the Word) before entering the holy place — the holy place where one could enjoy the light from the lampstand, the table and the golden altar.

The very first act for all believers is that of Scriptural baptism. (Continued on page 8, column 3)

### The Body Of Christ

(Continued from page 6)

Matthias as a successor to Judas Iscariot.

How thankful we ought to be, if our names are enrolled not only in the Lamb's book of life, but also in the membership of the kind of church which Jesus organized, commissioned, and promised to be with until the end of the age! (Matt. 16:1; 28:20). True membership of this kind of church will eventually be brought together in one heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, as the Bride of Christ

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### CONCLUSION

Saul of Tarsus learned that when he persecuted the church he persecuted Christ (Acts 9:4), and as Paul the apostle to the Gentiles, he learned to honor and serve Christ by honoring and serving His churches. Modern seekers for self-glory, who downgrade and minimize the sacred importance of Christ's churches, are either ministers of Satan or unfaithful in their ministry for Christ.

Enemies of truth may accuse us of believing that only Baptists are saved. They lie. Salvation and church membership are two different things. Every saved person on earth ought to be a member of a genuine New Testament church, but many saved people, perhaps most of them, are not. Their numbers cannot justify their disobedience (Ex. 23:2).

Jesus organized and commissioned only one kind of church. That kind of church is better in the sight of God than false churches organized by men, and certainly, it is infinitely better than a universal church which does not even exist except in heretical imageries.

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Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Our Lord's reference in these verses is to the eleven and their fruit, or all Scriptural churches. The "ye" in these Scriptures were authorized to baptize, therefore the "go ye" could not include Martin Luther, Henry the Eighth, John Wesley, Alexander Campbell or any others who cannot identify with the "ye," that is, the eleven. It follows that Scriptures like Ephesians 4:11 and 12 were written only to the eleven and their fruit.

"And He gave some, Apostles; and some, prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, Pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

We see that the special blessings of the Spirit are to those who are in the Lord's churches. These are the ones who are built up in knowledge and wisdom. It is true, however, that many who are not members of our Lord's church, have acquired a lot of knowledge regarding the Holy Scriptures. There, in fact, have been those who have even memorized great portions of the Scriptures. They, however, in the main, have failed to rightly divide the Word. I may learn all the parts of an automobile, but it is another thing to rightly divide them so that each is placed into its proper position.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of God" (II Tim. 3:15).

Some are teaching or intimating that membership in our Lord's churches is of no particular value as far as spiritual growth is concerned. This, however, is only true if one is not a faithful member.

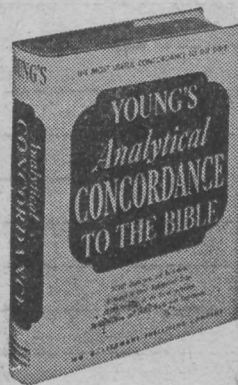
A person who refuses to be baptized into our Lord's church is not keeping our Lord's words. Not only is he or she refusing to

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**GIVE US READERS**  
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## Sermon On Mount

(Continued from page seven)  
tism into our Lord's church — the church He loves, yea, the church for which He died. How, then, can those who are not Baptists, yea, those who have not been scripturally baptized, be enjoying sweet fellowship with the Father? I will go further and state that all unscriptural Baptist churches are in the same category. It takes more than a house to make a home and it takes more than a name to make a Baptist. There, in fact, are many false Baptists. They are false to the extent that even the baptism administered by them can be termed "alien immersion."

A true church is the "pillar and ground of the truth." Any group, therefore, Baptist by name or otherwise, who are not the "pillar and ground of the truth," are false.

The church of which I am a member will not accept the baptism of Baptists who are the pillar and ground of error rather than the truth. Those who come to us from these groups are required to be baptized.

There are times when it is difficult to determine whether or not a particular Baptist church has strayed far enough so as to have ceased to be the Lord's body. We, in such cases, baptize the individual so as to remove all doubt. This action is important for the church as a whole and for the individual, in view of the fact that those who die with only alien immersion will miss being in the Bride of Church.

One good way to determine whether or not your baptism is valid is to ask yourself the following question: Could I now join the Baptist church that baptized me? You, if you could not now join the church that baptized you, are saying by your action, that that church has lost its authority (your baptism, however, is good if the church was sound when she baptized you. The fact that she is not now would not effect your baptism).

The Holy Scriptures admonish us to make our calling and election sure. Let me also admonish you to make your baptism sure; otherwise, you will miss being in the precious Bride of Christ. You, of course, will be saved, "yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:15).

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

## A Planned Purpose

(Continued from page one)  
". . . We see not our signs, there is no more any prophet . . ." (Psa. 74:9). Because of sin, God had withdrawn Himself from Israel. There were no signs in the land, therefore David assumed there were no prophets of God in the land, because where there was a prophet of God there were signs and wonders being done. Signs and wonders were the credentials of the prophet of God.

### Jesus

The next great prophet mentioned in Scripture is Jesus. Moses predicted, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee . . . unto him ye shall hearken" (Deut. 18:15). Peter applied this prophecy to Jesus, "And he shall send Jesus . . . For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up . . . him shall ye hear in all things . . ." (Acts 3:20-22). Peter brought forth proof that Jesus was a prophet approved by God, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs" (Acts 2:22). The 5,000 men that Jesus fed said, ". . . This is of a truth that prophet that should come . . ." (John 6:14). Nicodemus said to Jesus, "We know thou art a

teacher come from God . . ." How could Nicodemus be so sure? ". . . For no man can do the miracles thou doest, except God be with him" (Jn. 3:2). Jesus Himself said, "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father" (John 15:24). Thus Jesus separated His works from those being done by false prophets. "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not" (John 10:37).

Jesus performed both signs and wonders that Israel might believe that He was that prophet sent from God whom they were waiting for. The apostle John after beginning his testimony of Jesus by presenting Jesus as "THE WORD OF GOD" then closing his testimony he says, "And many other signs truly did Jesus . . . But these are written that ye might believe . . ." (John 20:30-31). Truly, signs and wonders were done to confirm the WORD OF GOD.

### Apostles

The next great miracle workers were the apostles, "That with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:33). This great power was in keeping with God's purpose of miracles, to confirm the Word of God, "But ye shall receive power and ye shall be witnesses unto Me . . ." (Acts 1:8). For Jesus was "The Word" (John 1:1). Because of the power God wrought through the hands of the apostles, to give testimony to the Word of God, Paul says, "Therefore we ought to give more the earnest heed to the things which we have heard . . . which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness with signs and wonders and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will" (Heb. 2:1-4).

Again in Acts 15:32, "And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with words and confirmed them." Why did the prophets have to confirm their words with signs and wonders? Jesus says, ". . . Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe" (John 4:48).

### The Great Deception

Paul tells the Corinthian Church that they should be followers of him and should take heed to his words, since by him, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, signs, and wonders and mighty deeds" (II Cor. 12:12). But the problem with the Church at Corinth was that they had some of Satan's spokesmen among them who were deceiving them by supernatural means. Therefore, Paul reminded them of his mighty deeds and then says of Satan's counterfeit men, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ" (II Cor. 11:13). They were leading God's children astray by deceitful works!

The Lord has warned His children continually about the false prophets who come in sheep's clothing. "Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, where as ye say, the Lord saith it, albeit, I have not spoken" (Ezek. 13:7). Moreover the Lord predicted, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch, that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." "Behold, I have told you before" (Matt. 24:24-25).

If it were possible! Which it is not! God has devised a plan to reveal the false Christs and false prophets with their signs and wonders.

### The Time And The Season Is Past

Knowing that Satan would send false Christs and false prophets that would use the means that God used to confirm His messengers, God devised a plan to thwart Sa-

tan's counterfeit program. Through the prophets Isaiah and Daniel, the Lord reveals the time when His purpose for miracle workers will end.

### False Christs Caught Out of Season

In Daniel the Lord says concerning the Messiah or the Christ, that when He comes that he would, ". . . make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy . . ." (Dan. 9:24). The Old Testament prophets spoke of the Messiah and what He would do. Jesus confirms this fact, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Paul says, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ . . ." (Gal. 3:24).

Paul also says, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things . . ." (Heb. 10:1).

What does Dan. 9:24 mean when it says, "to seal up the vision and prophecy . . ." It meant that when the TRUE MESSIAH came that He would seal up all prophecy and vision concerning the MESSIAH. How? By being its fulfillment! For Jesus Himself says, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me" (Luke 24:44). And again He says, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law . . . but to fulfill it" (Matt. 5:17). When Jesus was upon the cross of Calvary He said with a loud voice, "IT IS FINISHED."

Children of God do not have to look for a Messiah today, for He has come! He has met all the requirements of the law and the prophets of God that were foretold of Him. He has been approved by God with signs and wonders! ". . . Many of the people believed on him, and said, When the Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done" (John 7:31).

Those who are claiming to be the Christ today, such as Mr. Moon of Korea, are false Christs. But Mr. Moon has a tremendous number of followers, he must be right, he can't be all wrong, as some might say. But God's Word declares him to be a heretic, and anti-Christ, a deceiver, a false Christ.

But even the nation of Israel after God confirmed Jesus to be the Christ, rejected Him, even after God gave them as a nation a special sign.

(To Be Continued Next Week)

## The Shoddy House

(Continued from page one)  
away for a long stay. The house was to be built and made ready to occupy when he returned.

So the house-builder went to work, and as he pondered over the costly material to be used, he thought he could save quite a goodly sum of money for himself by using inferior material, for the man would never know what went into the building of the house. And so he used the poorest and cheapest material he could find, and put it in places where it would never be found out.

Finally the owner came back, and the builder went to him and told him that the house was all done.

"That is well," said the owner, "and now I wish to tell you as a good, honest friend of mine, that you built the house for yourself, for I am going to make you a present of it, and you and your family can move into the house at once. I wanted the best of material and workmanship in this house, because it was to be yours!"

—Adapted