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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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AN AUTOPSY OF A DEAD CHURCH

By RAY HIATT
Hollywood, Florida

(PART TWO)

"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth" (Jer. 33:6).

Let us speak for a moment of one of the means that God uses to cure his churches. Christ is the Great Physician for He sees to the source of illness. We usually see just the symptoms. Yet, every pastor of a church of Jesus functions as a physician. The church is his practice and the Word and His wisdom are his medicine.

A physician's task is to prevent disease, treat illness, alleviate pain, quarantine the sick, and when all else fails, perform surgery. A pastor does all this through the teaching of the Word and through the therapeutics of his ministry.

A newly graduated doctor is learned but is a novice. Therefore, he must "practice" to gain proficiency or he shall lose his skills. The minister as he practices will err as the physician errs. Yet, he must be free to minister the Word with wisdom for it is the administration of the Word that heals.

In James Phelan's book, "How-

ard Hughes: The Hidden Years," he mentions that Hughes had four highly skilled physicians on his staff within voice call but he would not let them treat him. He died of mal-nutrition and multiple ills



RAY HIATT

that any physicians could have cured but he was adamant. He died of neglect. His own neglect. Poor, sad billionaire. Sadder still are those churches that die of their own neglect when help is near.

Churches of Christ that suffer

from pain and plague need help desperately. The minister of God, administering the Word, can help, can alleviate, can offer an anodyne for pain. But, no matter what his skills he is helpless if not permitted to practice — to pastor.

CONstriction

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:6).

A natural trait of healthy bod- (Continued on page 3, column 1)

Dishonesty

"Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child" (Ex. 22:22).

The Caliph Hakkam seized upon the little field of a poor widow, in order that he might add it to the gardens of his palace; and the poor woman laid her complaint before the Judge.

The Judge saddled his ass, hung a large sack on its back, and rode off to the Caliph, whom he found walking in his new pleasure ground. "Permit me, sire," said he, "to fill this sack with earth from these grounds." Hakkam assented; and when the sack was filled, was asked by the Judge to help him lift it on the ass's back. The sack, however, was too heavy.

"I cannot do it," said the Caliph; "it is impossible."

"Sire," said the Judge, "this sack contains but a small portion of the earth you took from the poor widow. How then will you bear the weight of all of it, which the Great Judge will lay upon your shoulders at the Last Day?"

The Caliph was struck with the force of these words. He thanked the Judge for his boldness, and restored the widow her inheritance.

"Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen" (Deut. 27:19).

Write Your Congressman For Aid To Establish High School

By FRED T. HALLIMAN
Missionary To New Guinea

Dear friends:

Greetings to each of you in the name of our dear Lord. I trust that each of you are able to rejoice in the marvelous blessings of our Saviour. Personally, I am enjoying good health and the Lord is blessing me beyond measure.



FRED T. HALLIMAN

However, insofar as the people in general are concerned in the Southern Highlands, there is much sickness and scores of elderly people have died. Some type of flu or other virus has hit the

people and seemingly few of the old people survive the attack. God has spared the immediate area where our Mission Station is located for the most part, and up to now, only a very few have been sick and so far, no deaths, as a direct result of this disease, has been reported.

It hardly seems possible that as I write this, it has been almost 13 months since I left America the last time and started back here via Nigeria. This has been an exceedingly rich year insofar as my ministry has been concerned. The work in Nigeria alone that we were able to establish by the grace of God would supply enough blessings for an eternity. I hear from Brothers John and James Imah fairly frequently and they report that God has marvelously blessed in their work since I was there. There have been several saved at both churches and added to the churches, but the thing that has really impressed me with the work there is that Brother John Imah started a Bible School in the church at Calabar shortly after I left (we had laid the ground work for this before I left them), and has been teaching Bible courses daily.

One of the students under Bro. John's teaching is his brother James, and just as soon as Bro. James successfully completes his (Continued on page 4, column 4)

Man - A Voyager In Eternity

VIRGIL C. MAYES
Splendora, Texas

Eternity — a word used only once in all the Holy Scriptures (Isa. 57:15). I doubt that there has even been a more difficult word to define. There is no way by which we may define or describe it so as to create a mental picture of eternity. Many have been the efforts of men to make a comparison by which we may get a mental picture of eternity but theirs, like my own efforts, have failed.

In August of this year, 1977, a Voyager space vehicle was launched which was followed by a second Voyager a few days later. These two products of man's ingenious efforts to explore the universe are said to be on an ENDLESS JOURNEY! What an awe-inspiring thought! More awesome, of course, is the thought of eternity

— beginningless and endless reality. Our finite minds are incapable of laying hold of such vastness. So let us try for an example which may be of some help as we look at eternity, a word which defies description.

The Voyagers are scheduled, if all goes well, to arrive in the vicinity of the Planet Jupiter in 1979, pass by Saturn in 1980, and six years later, pass Uranus in 1986. From there, one, or both of them will be sent into interstellar space. Forty thousand years from now our Voyagers will pass a star. One hundred and seven thousand years later a second star. These Voyagers carry with them recordings of a message from our President, speeches of other high officials, music, greetings in 60 different languages, the sound of a heartbeat, rain, a train whistle, and many other earth sounds.

It is hoped by the earthlings who launched the Voyagers that they will be intercepted by space travelers from another system. The probability of such is remote they say but a possibility. One assignment which the launching earthlings have given to one Voyager is to examine the atmosphere of Saturn's moon and search for the "elusive organic molecules" — "building blocks of life" which they sought on Mars but did not find. Fallen man is still trying to exclude God from His rightful place in creation. Be that as it may, let us get back to eternity and our voyage into the same.

Let us think for awhile that space may be compared to eternity. And, let us give one of our Voyagers a new assignment before it continues its voyage into the vastness of interstellar space. Let us press a computer button and give our spacecraft the com- (Continued on Page 8, Column 1)

CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS ORDAINED OF GOD

NABORS BREWER
Longview, Texas

Read Romans 13:1-7.

We now present a brief analysis of each of these seven verses in the 13th chapter of Romans.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). In this Scripture we see our duty to the state, and that we are to give honor to our civil rulers. We are to be law-abiding citizens, not law breakers. The truth and teaching of this is brought out further in I Peter 2:17, where we read: "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king (honor the heads of state)." "Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people" (Ex. 22:28). "Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people" (Acts 23:5). "Be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, and be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1). "And whosoever will not do

the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or unto banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment" (Ezra 7:26). "I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment" (Ecc. 8:2).

Christ obeyed civil law and observed the custom of taxation. "Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21). This Scripture teaches us that we have to pay taxes to our (Continued on page 5, column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

PROGRAM OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, unto the Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times" (Dan. 9:25).

Most honest interpreters of God's Word admit that this is a very difficult portion of the Book of Daniel. Even an a-millennialist like E. J. Young says, "The interpretation of these words is, to my mind, the most difficult point

in this prophecy" (THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL, p. 204). Many a-millennialists seek to avoid the difficulty here by spiritualizing the 490 years. Pre-millennialists contend for a literal fulfillment of the prophecy.

I believe that all would agree who hold to the literal view that before we can understand the Seventy Weeks that we must establish the starting and ending point. When did the 490 years commence? What date is the terminus of the Seventy Weeks? These questions and their answers are

vital to understanding the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel.

THE THREEFOLD DIVISION

In the passage itself there is indicated a threefold division: "seven weeks" (49 years), "threescore and two weeks" (434 years), and "one week" (7 years). There must be two gaps in this time, otherwise there is no need for this threefold division. There is first to be 49 years and a gap. Then a period of 434 years and a gap, and finally a seven year period which ends the prophecy and brings to (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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MILBURN COCKRELL — Editor

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The Seventy Weeks

(Continued from Page One)

pass the sixfold purpose stated in Daniel 9:24.

THE STARTING POINT

The initial date of the 490 year period is "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." But when was this decree issued for the restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland? This is a difficult question as there were four different decrees given in the Old Testament following the time of Daniel 9. Let us briefly look at all four of these.

THE FIRST DECREE

The first decree was given by Cyrus in 536 B.C. The Biblical account is found in II Chronicles 36:22-23: "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up." The same time is under consideration in Ezra 1:1-4.

There is no mention here of rebuilding Jerusalem but only of the temple. But in Isaiah 44:28 the prophet says: "That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." This indicates that Cyrus did issue an edict to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

This decree is given in Josephus, book of ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS as follows: "I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country to return to their own country, and to rebuild their city, and to build the temple

of God at Jerusalem on the same place where it was before" (Book XI, Ch. I, Sec. 3). It would appear from Ezra 4:7,11-16 that the Jews did repair the walls, but the work was brought to a standstill by the intervention of their enemies (Ezra 4:7-22). The work was hindered from going on till the time of the reign of Darius.

This decree has much to commend itself to us. First, the whole tenor of Daniel 9 would have led Daniel to assume that upon the completion of the Babylonian Captivity the 490 years would commence. The Babylonian Captivity ended in 536 B.C. when Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Second, the Bible suggests that the decree of Cyrus was a special act of God (II Chron. 36:22; Ezra 1:1-4; Isa. 44:28; 45:13). No such statements are recorded of the other decrees, although we can be sure that God was responsible for the other three (Prov. 21:1).

The great problem presented in this decree is that it is too far back to end at any point in the life of Jesus Christ. If it be the correct beginning point, then there is a very grave error in our modern system of chronology. This may well be as we shall see later.

THE SECOND DECREE

The second decree was given in 519 B.C. by King Darius and is recorded in Ezra 6:1-12. This is a reaffirmation of the decree of Cyrus with penalties added to prevent interference (Ezra 6:11-12). It concerned the rebuilding of the temple. Nothing is said of the rebuilding of the city.

THE THIRD DECREE

The third decree was that of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, given in 458 B.C. and recorded in Ezra 7:1-22. It consisted of a letter giving Ezra permission to go up to Jerusalem and take with him some of the Levites. It also granted him authority to collect gold

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and silver to purchase animals for sacrifice in the temple and to draw on the king's treasures up to a stated amount. There is nothing in this decree which had any thing to do with the restoration of the city of Jerusalem.

THE FOURTH DECREE

This decree was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C. in the twentieth year of his reign. Hanani and certain men from Jerusalem told Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer, this message: "The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire" (Neh. 1:3). This drove the king's cupbearer to prayer and confession (Neh. 1:4-11).

The occasion of the decree is given in Nehemiah: "And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him; and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his pres-

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME

*I was weary and tossed about;
Waiting, Waiting.
Patience ebbing and running out;
Waiting, Waiting.
My God, Where are You, are You there
Waiting, Waiting.
Satan smiling, o'er my despair;
Waiting, Waiting.
I'm here, don't you hear My knocking
Opening, Opening.
My heart touched and then unlocking;
Opening, Opening.
Oh God, You had never left me;
Peace, Peace.
Faith had faltered, I could not see;
Peace, Peace.
Thank You God, My One and only;
Joy, Joy.
Love thru Christ, no longer lonely;
Joy, Joy.*

Herb Engleson
Melbourne, Florida

ence. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the CITY of the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the CITY of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may BUILD IT" (Neh. 2:1-5).

This decree primarily concerned the rebuilding of the city, not the temple. This command permitted the re-establishment of the Jewish nation and its capital city. Josephus relates that Nehemiah called together the people of Jerusalem and made a speech to them upon his arrival. A part of the speech contains the following words: "You know, O Jews, that God hath kept our fathers, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in mind continually, and for the sake of their righteousness hath not left off the care of you. Indeed he hath assisted me in gaining this authority of the king to raise up our WALL, and finish what is wanting in the temple" (Book XI, Chap. V, Sec. 7).

WHICH DECREES?

To which decree does Daniel 9:25 have reference? It seems to me that Daniel himself gives the answer. Daniel's commandment concerns the rebuilding of Jerusalem, not the temple. This excludes the second and third decrees. The first decree primarily concerned the rebuilding of the temple with some rebuilding of the city, while in the fourth decree the primary stress is on rebuilding the city with little said of the temple. Therefore, it would appear that the fourth decree is the probable one to fit Daniel's prophecy.

Other facts tend to corroborate this date of 445 B.C. Daniel reveals that the command concerns the "streets" and "the wall." While there is mention of a wall in Ezra (Chaps. 4:12-16; 5:3,8-9; 9:9), there are 31 references to the walls of Jerusalem in the Book of Nehemiah. Also in the book it is written: "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days" (Neh. 6:15). Still again: "Now it came to pass, when the wall WAS BUILT" (Neh. 7:1). The word "street" is mentioned one time in Ezra (Chap. 10:9) and four times in Nehemiah (Chap. 8:1,3,16).

The prophetic statesman mentions the city is to be rebuilt "in troublous times." The Jews ex-

perienced much throughout all four of these decrees, but none as great as in the case of Nehemiah. Josephus says of this: "But now when the Ammonites, and Moabites, and Samaritans, and all that inhabited Celesyria, heard that the building went on apace, they took it heinously, and proceeded to lay snares for them, and to hinder their intentions. They also slew many of the Jews, and sought how they might destroy Nehemiah himself . . . And this TROUBLE he underwent for two years and four months; for in so long a time was the WALL BUILT, in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Xerxes, in the ninth month" (Book XI, Chap. 5, Sec. 8).

The most probably beginning point of the Seventy Weeks is the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus given in the presence of Nehemiah in 445 B.C. The ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA makes Artaxerxes accession to the throne as 465 B.C. and the 20th year would be 445 B.C. This seems to be a well-established historical date.

THE TERMINUS OF THE 483 YEARS

The prophecy of Daniel 9 makes the 69 weeks to reach "unto the Messiah the Prince." But what period is this in the life of Christ? Is it His birth, or His baptism, or His triumphal entry, or His death, or His resurrection? Not all scholars can agree on the terminus of the 69th week.

There is a clue given in Daniel

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9:25 which indicates the time referred to by the prophet. Note the words "unto Messiah the Prince." This is surely a reference to the time Christ manifested Himself to Israel as their Messiah and King. By the pen of Zechariah Israel was told: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zech. 9:9). The Messiah and King would ride into Jerusalem on a colt. This was a sure sign to them of the identity of the glorious Messiah and King of Israel.

The fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy is recorded in John's Gospel: "On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt" (John 12:12-15).

The fact that Jesus Christ at this time not only consented, but He also took steps to bring about His triumphal entry by commanding them to bring an ass (Matt. (Continued on page 6, column 1)

BRIEF NOTES

The Pinehaven Baptist Church, Highway 69 South, Columbus, Miss., and Pastor Elvis Gregory will host a Bible Seminar, Nov. 18-20. Elder H. W. Gregory will speak five times on "The Christian Home, Its Needs, in the Light of the Times." Elder W. F. Bell will speak once each in the five services on "The Revival We Need in the Light of the Times."

Anyone visiting for the meeting will be taken care of relative to lodging and food. For further information you may contact Pastor Gregory by calling 328-5971, or write to him at Rt. 6, Box 517B, Columbus, Miss. 39701.

The Grace Baptist Church, 170 Deaton Street, Hazard, Ky., is seeking a pastor. If anyone is interested, he is urged to contact the church.

Elder Keith Schuetz, missionary of the Mansfield Missionary Baptist Church, Mansfield, Ohio, is presently working with the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Texarkana, Texas. The church is experiencing the blessings of the Lord and extends a cordial welcome to all who desire to worship in a New Testament Baptist church.

The church building is located at 830 Old Redwater Road in Texarkana. The schedule of Sunday services is as follows: Bible study at 10:00 a.m., preaching at 11:00 a.m. and evening worship at 6:00 p.m.

Bro. Schuetz may be contacted at 227 North Kenwood Road, Texarkana, Texas 75501.

A new mission has started in Dryden, Virginia, under the authority of the Mansfield Missionary Baptist Church of Mansfield, Ohio. Elder Edmond Dempsey is the missionary pastor. The mission is presently meeting in the Old Orr Store Building on Skaggs Hill. The mission meets each Sunday for worship at 10:30 a.m. A hearty welcome awaits any and all who visit them.

For further information about the mission you may contact Eld. Edmond Dempsey, 515 North Gilmer Park, Johnson City, Tenn. 37601, or phone him at 615-928-4775. If you would like, you may contact Bro. Hiram Jones, P.O. Box 78, Dryden, Va. 24243, or call him at 703-546-3277.

Autopsy . . . Church

(Continued from page one)

ies is growth. Churches grow in God's good time and as their health permits. Unhealthy churches do not grow and reproduce because their energy is consumed in fighting diseases and sometimes in just fighting. There are certain lesions that cause a morbid change in the basic structure of cells and chromosomes and, consequently, make them smaller. Spiritual constriction is one, for it diseases the mind and the concepts. The diseased concept is, "If you are sound you must be small." This is poor biology and worse theology. There is nothing wrong with LEGITIMATE GROWTH. I truly believe that the average Sovereign Grace minister would faint dead away if 10 people were to present themselves for baptism on a given Sunday morning acknowledging salvation in Christ. Rather than rejoice he would possibly call through the nation explaining to his friends that he used no Arminian trickery to woo them forward. This is spiritual constriction in operation. The emphasis has been placed on smallness to such an extent that we seem to desperately fear growth.

You need not compromise to grow. What is wrong with expecting an abundant crop when you sow an abundant seed? When the land has been furrowed, seeded, watered and cultivated with love and dedication under the direction of God there shall be a harvest of the elect. A harvest that should not amaze nor startle you. I do believe that the reason many Sovereign Grace churches do not reap is that they simply do not expect to reap. They have suffered from emaciated constriction for so long that growth is beyond their concepts or desires. Therefore, they rest on their soundness and shrivel away. We call such folk Hardshells when the disease is unduly aggravated.

Constriction. Church splits are common and when we're not splitting we're excluding. Church discipline is necessary when it is done right (and it is seldom done right). It is my observation that quite often church discipline is conducted as a lynching and not for the benefit of the one disciplined.

I surely believe in church discipline (when it is done right) and encourage the practice of it. Yet, a church that has more of an eye for exclusion than for growth is malfunctioning in a state of constriction and is retarded.

If our churches were as interested in growth as in discipline, then discipline wouldn't be necessary quite as often as it seems to be. New life in the body will allay the grouches and perhaps infect the Griper and Grumbler Corps with a smile from time to time. Pity the constricted folk with small minds, small concepts, small visions and small hopes. A church suffering from this illness will perish of attrition. It will die off gradually for it lacks the vitality to sustain itself.

MENTAL DISORDERS

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7). I am no friend of psychology. I was once a psychology major and sat through more wasteful courses than I care to remember that dealt with mental retardation, psychological development and mental dysfunctions. I changed my major to history when it finally occurred to me that psychology had nothing of any real value to offer. In fact, psychology and its practice can work a positive harm for it is false from its beginnings. I WOULD NEVER RECOMMEND THAT ANY CHRISTIAN GO TO A SECULAR PSYCHOLOGIST OR PSYCHIATRIST. All they can of-

fer are social answers and not very good answers at that.

As much as I dislike psychology and psychological studies, I must still affirm that mental illness is a reality. It is also a cause of church deaths. Please study this carefully with me for it is an area that I do not believe has been explored relative to Christ's churches.

There are people in this world who must be considered mentally ill. There is nothing organically wrong with their brain, yet their minds are abnormal. Everyone will agree with this. I now say this with exquisite care but I must say it. There are people in Baptist churches who are mentally ill. Do not let this startle you for it is true. Before I finish this study I trust that you will agree that it is true.

Let's be pragmatic and look at behavior patterns consistently. If you were to observe a person in the world who is violent, belligerent, hysterical, irrational, incontinent, uncontrollable, implacable, malicious, sadistic, cruel, disruptive, destructive and that could not function normally in society, you would say that such a person is mentally ill. Yet, we are inconsistent. When we see the same behavior patterns from a Baptist church member over an extended period of time we simply say he is influenced by Satan and needs to grow.

Satan certainly profits from all confusion and disorder, but I am convinced that he gets credits for a great deal he does not do.

I know that this is a difficult area of consideration. It is very difficult to write. Mental illness is one of those bugaboos of history that is kept in a corner of the house top and never discussed. I hesitate to discuss it now but it must be dealt with for it is a killer of Christ's churches.

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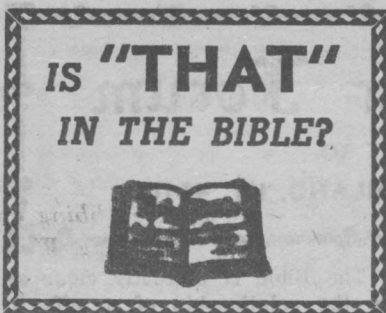
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Question:
"WHAT BOY DIED FROM SUNSTROKE?"

Answer: The son of the Shunamite woman, Second Kings 4:18-20 — "And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knee till noon, and then died."

We are all neurotic to a degree. Each person has his own particular set of problems and his own particular set of phobias. We all have anxieties. We all have personality dysfunctions. We all have disagreeable character traits. BUT, WE ARE NOT ALL SICK. I am not referring to eccentricities. We all have our peculiarities. I am talking here about people who are SICK and not only sick but destructive.

If we acknowledge that mental instability is a factor to deal with in the world why should we think it strange that it should occasionally be discovered in churches of Christ?

I beg you, please be careful how you deal with this subject now that I have raised it. I do not intend that you should psychoanalyze your fellow church members in whom you detect a personality trait you do not like. They are probably as healthy as you and possibly more so. It is a tendency of the half-educated and the half-baked to go about psychoanalyzing all they meet. Please, don't do this. But, be acutely aware that there are people whom Satan appends to Christ's churches whose minds are abnormal. They do not think as we think and their consciences are seared as with a hot iron. How shall you know them? They label themselves. They are destroyers, i.e., "ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). When a person identifies himself as a lamb and acts like a wolf and rends the church of Christ, such a person is SICK — sin-sick or sick in the mind but he is SICK. In the world he is called a psychopath (or sociopath). In the church we call him a false prophet with a reprobate mind in the guise of a lamb. Deal carefully with this subject but BEWARE!

COWARDICE

"Quit you like men, be strong" (I Cor. 16:13).

I have never met what might be termed a physical coward, or all men have courage that responds differently to different circumstances. All men have phobias of varying intensities. The man that fears fire will parachute from an airplane while the man who fears heights will walk smiling into a blazing machine gun.

I have no respect for physical courage. It is a cheap commodity. ALL PEOPLE ARE PHYSICALLY BRAVE. Desperadoes and dictators have physical courage. Physical courage is largely a matter of adrenalin.

When I speak of cowardice it is not physical cowardice but MORAL COWARDICE I refer to. Each child of God should be morally brave but few, precious few, are.

Moral cowardice follows the line of least resistance and the symptoms are fawning, timidity, acquiescence, love of self, cringing from responsibility, sneakiness, a sheepish smile, a hang-dog look, an overall essence of false apol-

ogy and the general air of the RAT. When you see the rat you see the moral coward personified in all his slinking character. It is the RAT I speak of. Not cute little field mice but the RAT. That disease bearer that decimated Europe and unpeopled more provinces than can be numbered.

The moral coward is a follower. There is a small fish called the pilot fish that accompanies the shark much as the hyenas follow the lion pride. The moral coward cowers on the fringes of activity but seldom initiates it. He just "goes along."

Let me illustrate moral cowardice as it infects and harms a church. A question: Where does the greater evil lie; with a person who perpetrates an evil act or a moral coward who knows it, can prevent it, but refuses for fear of being "involved?" Who has committed the greater sin? I realize that this is like a puzzle, within an enigma within a box, but consider it.

Predators that assail the church can only thrive if the moral cowards in the body permit it. Listen to a truth from John Bunyan's "Holy War," "For here lay the excellent wisdom of him that built Mansoul, that the walls could never be broken down nor hurt, by the most mighty adverse potentates, unless the townsmen gave consent thereto."

God give us men. Not pouting boys of 40 and 50, but MEN. Men of character. Men to whom words like honor, integrity, duty and sacrifice mean something more than easily assimilated platitudes. Give us men with vertebra. Men with courage. Not the cheap, flashy physical courage that each outlaw has and that Simon Peter once displayed for show, but COURAGE, MORAL COURAGE. Men who will accept a challenge, face a danger and lovingly conquer a foe for Christ.

Give us men who are more interested in RIGHT than in RIGHTS. The early world was evangelized by such men, not by the malleable, moaning splay-at-homes who magnify every slight and who put their way through an unproductive life. Give us men with a vision, a compassion and a breadth of consciousness that looks beyond their own abrasions to an aching world, writhing with sinners in need of the gospel.

Lord, please strip us of the leeches, the moral cowards who we can't stand, for they won't stand. Heavenly Father, if they won't get involved, then please teach them or purge them for they are a drain on the body and a trouble to bear. They slay your churches; not through a misguided strength but through a soft, pliable existence that molds them to any of Satan's devices. They smile benignly at the suffering of the innocent and meanwhile recite Bible verse by rote. God GIVE US MEN.

Give us men who will not vacillate between easy decisions, but who will do what is RIGHT. Not because it is easy. It seldom is. Not to be applauded. We seldom are. Not to gain acceptance. We seldom do. Give us men who will do what is RIGHT because it is RIGHT. Please forgive my crudity but I am sick unto death of moral cowards who just "go along" with the vile and the vicious. God grant that they might "go along" out of His churches for they are a plague and a weariness.

DISHONESTY

"Providing for honest things not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (II Cor. 8:21).

This is the disease of mendacity. The disease with a sly, perfidious smile. The disease of the sea-lawyer; the man who knows the letter of the law but none of its spirit. It is the disease of the fox and the weasel, for a dishonest church is some degrees worse than a chicken thief.

The symptoms of this disease

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are opportunism, willful blindness, expediency, a winking eye, a seared conscience, the aplomb of a gambler, the verve of a con man and the ambiguity of a politician, (of any age, for politicians change not).

Death breeds death and the contagion spreads. Many could be prevented by simple doses of honesty in the house of God. Not an abstruse concept surely and yet, very rare to find. You would surely think that the churches of the Lord are honest if anyone is. Yet, churches have been liars, thieves and even murderers upon occasion, for dishonesty can kill as surely as a gun.

Churches have many obligations both legal and moral; specific and implied. When a church of Jesus Christ undertakes a clear-cut obligation let it be discharged in a clear-cut, honest way. A church that will not meet its responsibilities honestly is in danger of death, and perhaps, dead already.

Some churches are pathological liars. A church that PROMISES and fails to PERFORM is either a liar or has joined the expanding ranks of the advanced adde-pated. There must be scrupulous honesty in all its dealings — toward its pastor, its missionaries and internally within itself.

A dishonest church has no testimony among men for even an uneducated mule will reject the testimony of a liar and a thief. A man might stretch a point and trust a fool, but who will trust a thief and a liar? One can disregard folly for we all act foolishly in this most foolish of all possible worlds (no apology to Voltaire). Folly is one thing but lying and thieving is quite another. A church that will not pay its just obligations is both a liar and a thief. A church that will not honor its word is become a fellow traveler of Satan for he never honors his word either.

The only cure for a dishonest church is REVIVAL. This is assuming that there is anything there to revive.

LAZINESS

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14).

This is the disease of the suppressed yawn and the rocking chair cadence. The shade tree disease that never plants a crop and never reaps a harvest. "Slothful" is the Bible word. "Sorriness" is what we call it in Eastern Kentucky. By any name it is a lessening of life because of a lessening of consciousness. Life can be yawned away as well as blown away. This is the hound dog disease; lying in the shade, too lazy to scratch a flea. The disease of the lotus eaters.

The symptoms are one elongated whine. Here it is — "I can't work for Christ because it is — too hot, too cold, too chilly, too damp, Spring, Winter, Summer, Fall, too light, too dark, too sunny, (Continued on page 8, column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT TO:

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

"Is a Baptist minister the head of his house when his wife will not join the church he is pastoring?"

E. G. COOK

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Birmingham, Ala.

PASTOR
Philadelphia
Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



I fear the pastor would be dabbled in the Lord's business if he tried to get his wife to join the church he is pastor of. It is the Lord's business to add to His churches. If the pastor's wife is not a born-again Christian she has no business in the church. On the other hand, if the Lord has not revealed the truth concerning His sovereignty; and the truth concerning His church to her the pastor should not try to get her to join the church he pastors. This, of course, is assuming that she is already a member of some other church.

If this wife is a new-born babe in Christ, that is a different matter. It is the church's responsibility to teach young Christians the great Bible doctrines. But when a church accepts members from other churches who are not in accord with her she is begging for trouble. And she usually gets it. The great trouble with so many Baptist churches is that they have too many on the church roll our Lord did not add to them.

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Arpeka, Florida



He is not fully the head of his house when such a condition exists. This is a very unfortunate situation, and is one that can do a church a great deal of harm. This situation could come about thru a pastor marrying someone who is affiliated with a church of another faith. Sometimes, there is a man converted after he has been married for several years. The man is later converted and joins a Baptist church, and eventually he becomes conscious of the call to the ministry. His wife has for years been connected with a church quite different from the Baptists. The husband tries to get her to join the church with which he has taken membership, but to no avail. Later, after he becomes pastor of the church, he wants his wife to join, but she tells him that she is not going to change. She promises to try to live in peace, but she says that she won't change churches just for the sake of peace and convenience.

It is quite possible for a minister to be the head of his house as related to most everything, except religion. Actually, he doesn't have the right to force his wife into a Baptist church against her will. If husband and wife will read the Bible together, I'm of the opinion that will make Baptists of them. Let me give you an illustration.

Years ago, a woman called me over the phone and told me that her husband, as a result of his hearing me preach, had been sav-

ed. She said, "I know he has been saved, because his whole life has changed. I am a member of a Holiness church, and my father is a minister of that faith, but I'm concerned about my husband, even if he joins the Baptists." I said, "I will not argue denomination with you. I suggest that you and your husband read the New Testament together daily, and that you go wherever the Bible leads you." I spoke to the husband and a week later, baptized him. A year passed, and the woman called me again. She said, "I did what you suggested. I got my husband to read the Bible with me every day. It made a Baptist of me, and I should like to be baptized and become a member of your church." It was my privilege to do this, and she is still a Baptist after more than fifty years.

Good natured reading of the Scriptures and praying with the wife will usually make a man the head of his house in the true sense of the word.

PAUL TIBER

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Does she oppose him, keep her children from attending and otherwise hinder him? If so, then he obviously is not the head of his own house, and certainly, should not be pastor of one of the Lord's churches.

Is she gracious and kind, helpful and cooperative? If so, then the man is yet head of his own house. Would you expect the pastor to force his wife's convictions in order to satisfy the demands of some church members? That would be very unbaptistic!

I Timothy 3:1-7 nor any other Scripture addresses itself to such a technicality.

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This question could be answered in one two letter word "no." I would add a little and say with a resounding "absolutely not." A few years ago a man said that he was called to a field but his wife was not. My answer is that a man's wife is called to go wherever the man is called to go. If I felt the Lord calling me to go to Africa or California, I would not ask her if she would go, I would tell her to start packing. Her calling is to be my help meet. "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). When God made woman, He took a rib from Adam and made woman. After sin entered and God pronounced a curse on the serpent, He said to the woman: "... I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; AND THY DESIRE SHALL BE TO THY HUSBAND, AND HE SHALL RULE OVER THEE" (Gen. 3:16).

The Bible is perfectly clear as to the relationship of a wife to her husband. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing" (Eph. 5:22-24). Colossians 3:18 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Many people, denying the Divine inspiration of the Bible, overlook these passages by saying that obviously Paul was a woman hater. Let me remind you that Moses was the human instrument that God used in writing Genesis 3:16 quoted above. Peter also says the same thing. "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands; even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement" (I Pet. 3:5,6).

You ask if he is the head of his house. Note one of the requirements for the man who desires the office of a bishop. "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God" (I Tim. 3:4,5).

I personally would not want a pastor whose wife is in rebellion against him and the Lord. He could not do the work of the Lord properly. Let me close by saying

that any man's wife, whether he is pastor or not, has the responsibility of being in subjection in the same manner. Any woman that is not in subjection to her husband as is taught in the Word of God is guilty of sin likened to witchcraft. "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (I Sam. 15:23).

Write Congressman

(Continued from page one)

course he is to set up a Bible School in the Philadelphia Baptist Church over on the mainland. The majority of the membership of both churches take these courses, hence they are growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord.

While we have had some setbacks and disappointments along the way in our ministry here in Papua, New Guinea, we feel that the progress made has far outweighed any and all disappointments. We rejoice in knowing that God continues to call out His elect here and add them to the churches.

A New Church Has Been Organized

One of the things that causes us to rejoice greatly in this work is to be able to observe a group of people that have been saved and baptized and have grown in grace and numerically enough to be organized into a Baptist church. Recently, we had a renewal of this blessing.

For something over eleven years we have had a mission point, and for the past six years a small Mission Station, at Lake Kopia-go. The work there has been hard from the very start in that we have had a continual struggle with the various Protestant groups that also are doing mission work in the area. We have had every thing from moderate suggestions to leave the area, to harsh threats as to what would happen to us if we did not, but by the grace of

God, and in spite of all these provocations, we have continued to be steadfast in our endeavors to get a sound work established there.

Apart from the above, we have had trouble in being able to keep a missionary there for very long at the time due to the area being highly infested with malaria, but even this seemingly has been overcome now in that we have a man there that seems to be able to cope with the situation.

We have also had many problems with the land situation for the Mission Station and, at present, it is still going on. For over five years I tried to get a Mission Lease on a small portion of ground and, while I made application three times, each time the papers would always get caught in the machinery of red tape and lost. We had already built a house on the spot of ground and a bush material church building, when the owner of the ground said that he would have to have his pay for the ground. Since a white man can obtain ground only by a lease from the government here, and since I had been unable to obtain that lease, I asked the church people if they wanted to buy the ground and that is what happened.

Almost every foot of ground here in Papua, New Guinea, is contested by someone and, in due time, a distant relative came up and said the ground was his by inheritance. We are still trying to get a hearing on the ground where the Mission Station is, but like everything else, it takes lots of time for this to be accomplished.

Regardless of all the troubles we have had, God has honored His Word that has been taught there and our faithfulness is continuing in face of all opposition. On September 18, we held a service in which 16 people were organized into a Baptist church.

One of our preachers had been holding a revival meeting in the general area the week that had just past. On Saturday, I drove up to Kopia-go and arrived there just as they had concluded a baptismal service. The group had requested and obtained authority from the church where the revival meeting had been in progress that week, and on Sunday morning we organized them into a church.

This was a great time of rejoicing not only for myself and the preacher that had conducted the revival meeting, but for those that were organized into the church. Over the years, we have had several along that made professions of faith and some of these had been baptized. Some had died and others had moved away, but not until recently had we ever been able to get enough people that had grown in grace as well as in number, who were of the same mind to be organized into a church. The new church was named First Baptist Church of Kopia-go. The man who had been serving as their missionary pastor was called by the church as the first pastor. We feel that God has a great work for that church. The new church is already actively engaged in her own mission work. Just this week, I had word from there that they had sent their pastor along with another man to an area where there is no Baptist work, to see about establishing a mission point and start services with this new group of people. Beloved, just as the apostle John testified and rejoiced as we read in Third John, verses three and four, I also rejoice when I hear that these new churches launch out so soon in upholding the truth they have been taught.

I have asked you to pray for the mission work at Kopia-go many times, and I feel that you have, and now I ask you to continue to pray for this new church (Continued on page 7, column 4)

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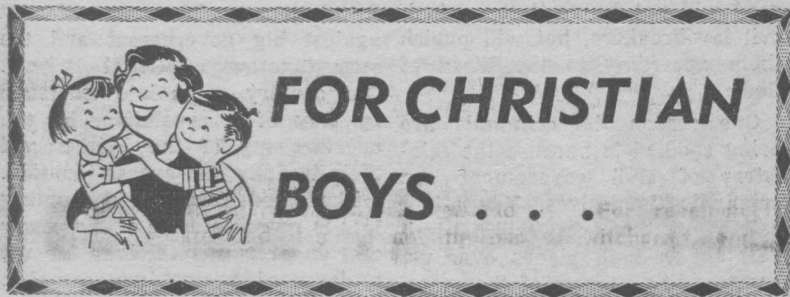
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If you pray for rain, be sure to carry an umbrella.



"THE YOUTH'S CATECHISM"

(Editor's Note: Beginning this week we are going to run a series of articles from THE CHILD'S INSTRUCTOR by Elder Benjamin Keach. These will be taken from the 1738 edition. This information is good for boys and girls).

Father: Come, son, you are grown up to a mature age; how do you know that there is a God?

Son: I know there is a God by His works of creation; "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1).

Father: What other means do you have to teach there is a God?

Son: The Holy Scriptures.

Father: What grounds or argument do you have to believe the Scriptures are the Word of God?

Son: By the contents or matters therein discoursed and treated of, which are so transcendently sublime and mysterious, that they could never be the product of human invention.

Father: How else?

Son: By its antiquity, the Books of Moses being as Tertullian well observes in the 19th chapter of his APOLOGY, the first writings in the world.

Father: You say well; what other arguments have you?

Son: The majesty and authoritativeness of the Spirit of God speaking in them, and the inimitable style wherein they are writ-

ten, shows doubtless they are of God.

Father: How else?

Son: By the excellent Spirit of Himself that everywhere breathes on them; this is another fair example of the Hand of God in making them.

Father: That is a good argument, what else have you?

Son: The sweet and admirable agreement, consent, dependence and harmony that is found in every part of the Holy Scriptures, then there are so many books, written by so many different persons, of various conditions, from many ages, removed into several places and different languages yet all agreeing with each other and every part with the whole, a great argument, doubtless, of its Divine authority.

Father: What other arguments have you besides these?

Son: The approved credit of sincerity of the penman, which none could ever prove guilty of the least imposture.

Father: I like these too. Have you any more?

Son: Another proof that the Holy Scriptures are of God is the exact and punctual fulfilling of the prophecies therein contained. To foretell events is the prerogative of God only (Isa. 46:10). This, sir, I could make very clear.

Father: I don't doubt it, my son, proceed to another.

Son: Those writings, and that doctrine which was confirmed by so many real miracles, must needs be of God; but the books and doctrine of canonical Scripture were so confirmed, nay, by such wonders, that Satan himself could not imitate, nor malicious envy deny to be Divine.

Father: This is one of the best of all: To the next.

Son: To these astonishing miracles I may fitly add, the wonderful preservation of these Holy Writings for so many years: Had not the Bible been of God, since it pretends to be, certainly God would have blotted it out long ago; but His special care to preserve it, shows whose it is, considering what implacable enemies it has met with in every age.

Father: Yes, doubtless, my son, God would never have suffered such a book to continue from the beginning of time: falsely pretending His name and authority: I am glad to hear you mention this; proceed.

Son: Sir, the Scripture did not only survive notwithstanding all the art, contrivance, and malice of men and devils, but has triumphed over all opposition; I mean the blessed success the gospel has had in converting so many thousands, those accounted by the wise men of the world foolishness proves its Divine authority, especially considering the publishers of it were generally but weak, ignorant, and illiterate persons as fishermen, tentmakers, etc.

Father: And you might add, it has no force of arms, or temporal support on its side, but against both wind and tide, in opposition to the interest, will, and wisdom of carnal men, it prevailed. My Son, have you any other?

Son: Yes, sir, I may add beside those outward and more visible trophies of its glory, the mar-

vellous luster of its empire, efficacy and power within, I mean, upon the hearts and consciences of men; it enlightens, convinces, converts, kills and gives life; it terrifies some, and rejoices the heart of others; certainly it must be God's Word, were this only considered.

Father: You say it well, and I hope you have found the power and truth of it upon your own heart; and this argument if so you can never lose; now I will forbear, and hear what you have further to say.

Son: To all those arguments, I must add the testimony of God's church, I mean, believers, and holy martyrs in all ages, who have sealed the truth of the Holy Bible with their own blood.



Civil Government Is

(Continued from page one)

government, and our tithes and offerings to our church. However, God did not say to give unto Caesar, that is unto government, just anything and everything without exception that the government might ask of us. God tells us in Matthew 22:21 to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. That which is Caesar's is not everything that we own. If we should give the tyrants at the top of governments everything they ask of us, we would not have anything left for ourselves, our loved ones, and for the financial support of our church. If we misinterpret this Scripture to say that we should give Caesar anything and everything he asks for, we could not obey the Scriptures which command us to provide for our own, and God tells us that if we provide not for our own, we are worse than an infidel.

The men who are heads of our governments will ask for, and try to get more, much, much more than that which is Caesar's. The heads of governments are people, and people will do evil, even kings, and in our land even presidents, etc. I might say, in view of known world happenings, especially presidents and high government officials, even our prostituted news media with all their secrecy, let us know of the corruption of our high officials. Our government takes our money by force, or threat of punishment, in unjust taxation, over and above that which rightfully belongs to Caesar. Not only do they take our money, and not govern properly, and not spend this tax money wisely, but they are actually using our own money to help support Communism at home and abroad. Rendering unto Caesar that which is Caesar's could not possibly include tax money to support the evils of Communism.

The tax money we are forced to pay to city, county, state and federal governments now amounts to about 46 per cent of our income, on the average income in the United States. This is almost half of the average per capita income. If anyone should go out on the streets with a gun and force anyone to give up their earnings, that one would be a crook and a thief, and would be thrown into jail (the jail would probably be air-conditioned with a color television, all at the expense of us taxpayers). This crook would be prosecuted, and rightly so, but our government can take our earnings by force or threat of punishment and they are considered by almost everyone to be our great benefactor.

No one lives off the government. The government gives nothing to anyone. Many are living off the taxpayers. Taxpayers are giving at home and abroad. The government gives nothing, merely being a go-between, a medium for handling our money. The government cannot give anything. Even the government itself is supported by taxpayers. The government cannot give anything to anyone for

government is non-productive. In fact, government is counter-productive, with all its alphabet regulatory agencies, bureaus and fat-cat bureaucrats. Even bees have more sense than we do, they get rid of the drones.

Our righteous Holy God can advocate and demand nothing but honesty and righteousness, so when He said for us to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, He meant a just and equitable taxation for the purpose of an honest government for the protection of society. Civil government is for our good and for our protection.

The second part of this Scripture, "Render unto God the things that are God's," teaches specifically "things" plural — the giving of tithes and offerings to the Lord through a local New Testament assembly. There is no way to render unto God that which is God's except through one of His assemblies. Rendering unto God that which is God's cannot be done by giving to the Salvation Army, a secular corporation, nor by giving to the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, a member of your family, a friend, nor any other giving of a secular nature. Providing for one's own family is not rendering unto God that which is God's. Providing for one's own is a scriptural requirement of every (male) head of every household, especially Christian households, and is an enforced requirement of God and of most civil governments.

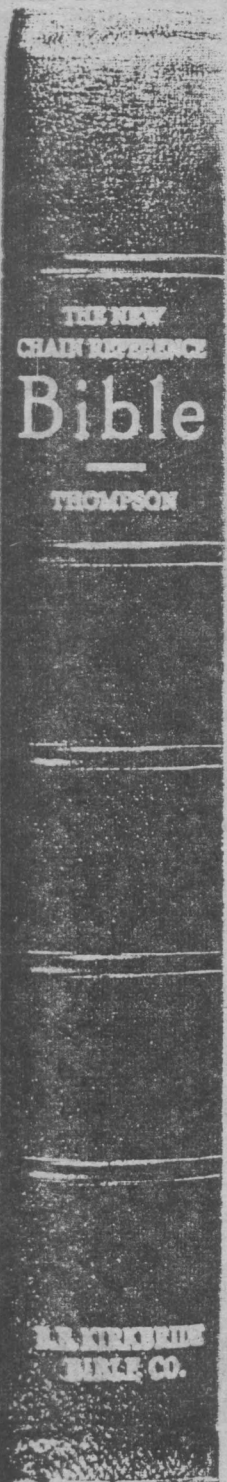
We now come to verse 2 of Romans 13: "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." "Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities" (Jude 8). "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government" (II Pet. 2: 10).

This type reminds me of the hippie movement which is knowingly or otherwise part of Satan's conspiracy to overthrow civilization. They look filthy, act filthy, live filthy, smell filthy, and are dreamers, under the influence of narcotics. Most of them live in communes, violate every known law of both God and man, and they all defy authority. Incidentally, one does not necessarily need to be young to do the evil things the hippies do. These lusters after the flesh have tried every known perversion, including cannibalism. These long-haired male hippies identify themselves with their shamefully long hair, the long hair itself being a shame according to the Word of God. They identify themselves as rebels against society, their long hair being a deviation from the normal as accepted by our society for so many years.

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same" (Rom. 13:3). This Scripture teaches the authority of the state, and God's command to do good. The evil doer is to be punished for his evil deeds, but we shall receive praise for the good we do in obedience to the commands of God.

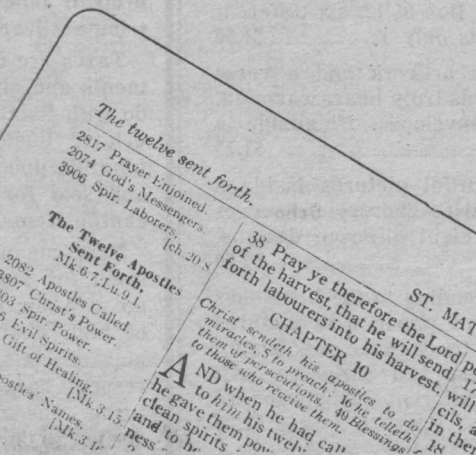
"For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:4). "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of" (Continued on page 6, column 3)

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The Seventy Weeks

(Continued from Page Two)

21:1-3) strongly indicates this was a special day. Before He had requested that His Messiahship be kept quiet (Matt. 9:30; 12:16; 17:9). The Saviour on the occasion of the triumphal entry went so far as to say if the multitude ceased declaring His kingship the stones would cry out (Luke 19:39-40). Then this whole event must have been a very special day in the history of Christ's ministry on earth.

Luke gives this account with some additional details: "And they brought him to Jesus: and they set Jesus thereon. And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen: Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. . . . And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes" (Luke 19:35-38, 41-42).

Especially do we need to notice what He said in verse 42: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things that belong to thy peace!" The American Standard Version of 1901 gives "this thy day" as "in this day." The New English Bible has it "on this great day." What made this day so great was that Christ offered Himself to the Jews in Jerusalem as "the Messiah the Prince." This day was important because it marked the end of the 483 years of Daniel's prophecy.

The decree of King Artaxerxes was given in the month of Nisan (Neh. 2:1) and when Christ rode into Jerusalem it was the month of Nisan near the Passover (John 12:1). Since I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, I contend that from Nehemiah 2:1-8 unto Luke 19:35-45 was exactly 483 years to the day. I will for ever believe this even if all historical records speak to the contrary. God's Word is true for it is the words of Him Who cannot lie. The 483 years foretold by Daniel proves that our God has indeed declared "the end from the beginning" (Isa. 46:6).

CAN WE COUNT THE TIME?

The time space between the dates should be 483 years to the day, unless man has erred in his system of reckoning time. But this is the problem. Man's chronology of this period has never been accurately determined. The

almost universally received chronology of this time is dependent on the list of the kings and the number of years assigned to them in Ptolemy's Canon (A.D. 70-161). Ptolemy is the only authority that some appeal to for the chronology of this period.

But Ptolemy is contradicted (1) by the national traditions of Persia preserved in "Firdusi;" (2) by the national tradition of the Jews preserved in the "Sedar Olam;" (3) by the testimony of Josephus; (4) and by the conflicting evidences of such well-authenticated events as the Conference of Solon with Croesus. There seems to be good reason not to depend too much on Ptolemy's Canon.

I have not seen anyone who has been honest with the accepted chronology and made the time of the decree to some period in the life of Christ be exactly 483 years. A-millennialists evade the whole matter by making the number symbolical, which leaves room for much vain speculation. Pre-millennialists stick to the literal fulfillment, but they have a problem with the time element, using the accepted chronology.

Sir Robert Anderson counts this time from B.C. 445 to A.D. 32 as the 483 years. But his ending date is not according to the accepted chronology. Most would end according to modern scholarship at 30 A.D. A. C. Gaebelain and Alva McClain concur with Anderson. Clarence Larkin slightly disagrees with Anderson claiming he is about 1 year and 5 days short of the 483 years. However, Larkin still comes out short of the 483 years, adding that there is an error in profane history.

David L. Cooper believes the starting point is the decree of Cyrus and the ending the crucifixion of Christ, but he has quite a problem in making his timetable work as it is about 90 years too long. He says the problem is an error in profane history. But perhaps the whole problem would be solved if he could show a 90 year time gap between the 49 years and the 434 years.

HOW COULD WE COUNT THE TIME?

If we were going to try and count this time would we use the solar year or the Jewish year? Which calendar does God use in the Bible? The flood began on the seventh day of the second month (Gen. 7:11) and ended on the 17th day of the seventh month (Gen. 8:4). This is five months of 150 days (Gen. 7:24; 8:3), or 30 days to a month, or 360 days to a year. In Revelation there is mention of 42 months (Rev. 11:2) and the next verse counts it 1260 days (Rev. 11:3). The number 42 will go into 1260 30 times. This gives us a 30-day month. Thus in the Bible God uses the Jewish calendar which consists of 360 days. We would expect as much since the time in Daniel 9 concerns the Jews in Jerusalem.

The decree of King Artaxerxes was given in 445 B.C. Christ made His triumphal entry in A.D. 30. This is according to modern chronology. This is 475 solar years of 365 days. We must convert this to the Jewish years. When we multiply 475 years by 365 days, the number of days in a solar year, plus 115 days for leap year, we have 173,485 days. Then when we divide these days by 360, the number of days in the Jewish calendar, we have 481 years and 325 days. This is within two years of the time needed.

How do we account for this error? First, there are the best of reasons to believe that Ptolemy's Canon is inaccurate. Second, it may be due to my limited ability to count the time. Third, it may well be that in the next few years modern scholarship will uncover evidence which will show the time to be exactly 483 years. On this point more serious study is greatly needed.

I am convinced that this pro-

phesy has a literal fulfillment as does all Bible prophecy. There are no errors in the Bible, not even in chronology. The believer has no choice but to be assured that it was exactly 483 years between the going forth of the decree and the triumphal entry of Christ. God's Word is true even when human histories are in error.



Civil Government Is

(Continued from page five)

mothers, for manslayers, For whomongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (I Tim. 1:9-10).

If our governmental leaders and rulers are not ministers to us for good, they are not of God, but are of Satan. What a shame that we would put a representative of Satan in our highest places of power in our government, and that, in many cases by our own voting. God plainly tells what kind of a person to look for to minister unto us for good, but we go right on, year after year, electing Satan's representatives. A minister of

good will not be good to wicked, evil law-breakers, but will punish them according to the Word of God.

One reason the criminals are being coddled is because the ministers of civil government are criminals themselves. You might call them the overworld. Criminals set in high places over us, commanding respect of the masses, but criminals nevertheless. We know the underworld to be composed of the Al Capone types. The underworld criminal gets practically no respect, and deserves none. However, he is no worse a criminal than the overworld.

Civil government is ordained of God for our good, for the protection of God's people, and is for the prosecution of criminals, and even in some cases, for the prosecution even unto death for certain criminal acts and deeds. The purpose of our government of these United States is to protect United States citizens from national and international criminals. At this present time, they are doing a poor job of either. Our great Constitution, the Bill of Rights, etc., were written to protect us from big government. The

Revolutionary War was fought against big government and the over taxation of Great Britain. Our country came into existence by way of a revolution, by the overthrowing of the British and their tyranny and excess taxation.

The word "sword" in Romans 13:4 is representative of the power of rule over us, which is for us, to be used against our enemies.

"The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it" (Prov. 16:14). A wise man will not provoke the wrath of kings by evil doing. "If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place (in other words, do not run or try to escape)" (Ecc. 10:4).

"Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake" (Rom. 13:5). In other words, be not obedient to governmental authority out of fear only, but we are to obey magistrates because of a godly conscience, the inner man telling us to do that which is scripturally right in the sight of our Lord and obey the earthly powers which are ordained by God. We are to obey the laws of civil government not out of fear only, nor out of fear of the wrath of magistrates only, but also out of respect for Divine authority.

"For, for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing" (Rom. 13:6). The previous verse, verse 5, tells us of our duty to obey the law. This verse tells us that the divinely appointed ministers of civil government have a duty of their own. The ministers of God have a duty to attend to the Divinely appointed things continually. They are not to perform their duties haphazardly, or at intervals. We hear of our congressmen having a lot of business on the Riviera in France and in different resort and entertainment places all over the world. Many of them are guilty of dereliction or neglect of duty in violation of the trust of the people they are supposed to represent.

According to Romans 13:6, government officials are to attend continually to their duties. The weight of responsibility which God has placed upon every individual, especially the heads of households, is enormous. How much more weighty is the responsibility of high civil officials who themselves are responsible for the thousands, and in some cases, even millions, whom they are supposed to represent to the best of their ability!

"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor" (Rom. 13:7).

"Defend the poor and fatherless: do just to the afflicted and needy" (Psa. 82:3).

"To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" (Prov. 21:3).

"Masters, (turn your servants loose and let them go, you are not supposed to have any servants) give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven" (Col. 4:1).

"Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver" (II Chron. 17:11).

Taxes are for support of governments and officials. Tribute has to do with taxation of lands and real estate. Custom has to do with taxation upon merchandise bought and sold for profit, that is mercantile items.

Fear means to have proper respect for superiors. Honor has to do with our respect due unto men of high distinction. Many of our high officials are due no honor or respect because of their unscriptural, unconstitutional acts and deeds. So in light of these Scriptures which teach us to have respect for men who rule over us, what are we to do? We are to have honor and respect for the (Continued on page 7, column 3)

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

NAIROBI, Kenya (EP) — President Idi Amin has banned the activities of 27 religious organizations in Uganda, according to the nation's official radio monitored here.

An Internal Affairs Ministry spokesman said the ban is already in force because the organizations are "not conducive to the security of Uganda."

Banned were the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Uganda Baptist Mission, Salvation Army, and the Bahai faith, which incorporates aspects of other faiths.

Freedom is granted only to Islam and the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

An estimated 90 per cent of Uganda's 11 million people are Christian, with the vast majority belonging to the Anglican and Catholic churches. Moslems make up the other 10 per cent and dominate Uganda's military government.

Evangelist Oral Roberts has announced plans to build a \$100 million health center in Tulsa which will combine medical expertise with prayer. The center will include a 777-bed hospital, a 60-floor clinic and diagnostic center, and a 20-floor research center. An estimated staff of 5,000 will be required to maintain the center, including some 300 physicians and surgeons.

If Mr. Roberts is as good at the "healing and health" ministry as he claims to be, we wonder why he needs such a health center.

\$3,500,000,000.00 of your tax dollars may go to parochial and private schools under a plan now before the U.S. Congress.

The plan to pump \$3.5 billion of federal tax dollars to parochial and private schools was introduced in Congress on September 26. The plan would allow up to \$500 per student per year in the form of tax credits or tax refunds for one-half of tuition paid to parochial and private schools from kindergarten through college and university.

Under the plan nearly \$1 billion would go to church-related and other private colleges and an additional \$2.5 billion would go to public colleges in order to give the whole package the appearance of having a secular purpose.

The bill called the "Tuition Tax Credit Acts of 1977" was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Robert Packwood (R. Oregon) and Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (D. N.Y.) but architects of the plan are reported to be two Roman Catholic priests, Monsignor Edward F. Spiers, executive director of the parochial lobby group Citizens for Educational Freedom, and Donald Shea, a member of the staff of the Republican National Committee.

I wonder if churches have recently looked at some of the official U.S. government figures for the past five years. Some religious people are unaware of how inflation has hit the churches. Since 1972, the average price of a one-family home in America has risen 57 percent; fuel and utilities went up 65 percent, property taxes jumped 63 percent and mortgage payments escalated 74 percent.

A pastor or church official who made \$10,000 in 1967 would have to make \$21,870 in 1978 to simply match the same buying power he had in 1967.

An expert on church affairs recently wrote that a minister's housing allowance of \$4,000 in 1972 should be \$6,500 in 1977 and \$7,500 in 1978.

A self-employed minister who paid \$499 for Social Security taxes in 1968 could pay as much as \$1400 in 1978.

Some Baptist churches have not given their pastor a raise in ten years or more. As the rate of inflation increases the pastor who is on a set salary receives less and less each month.

Noel Smith, editor of the BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE of Springfield, Mo., has written a book called **JEWS, GENTILES, AND THE CHURCH**.

It contains some great statements on the independency of the local church. But on pages 106-107 he indicts an independent Baptist as "an ecclesiastical anarchist." On page 106 he speaks of "the hollering and whooping and stomping by the lathered 'independents.'"

On page 99 Smith says, "I believe in associations, in conventions, in fellowships." He failed to tell his readers when such human organizations first began among Baptists. He did not bother to give chapter and verse from the Bible where the apostolic churches had "associations," "conventions" and Bible "fellowships." Was this an oversight on his part, or was it due to a lack of proof texts from the Bible?

The new state budget passed in August by the State of Pennsylvania increases auxiliary services parochial aid from \$45 to \$72 per student, and textbook loan aid from \$5 to \$10 per student.

In August the State of Louisiana passed a \$13.7 million package bill, of which about \$5.77 million will go to aid parochial school students.

Mary Quant, the designer of the mini-skirt, said that its purpose was "sexual solicitation and seduction." There is much to prove that her product accomplished that which its inventor intended. The ATLANTIC JOURNAL reported that five years prior to the debut of the mini (1958-1963) there

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was a marked decrease in forcible rapes in the U.S. and England. The report then says that after 1963, shortly after the mini skirt appeared on the streets, the record took a sharp turn in the other direction and by 1969 there had been a 68 percent increase in the U.S. and 90 percent in England of forcible rapes.

The Jesuit Tondi, an Italian Communist, after having finished the Lenin school in Moscow, was instructed by the Communist Party to enter a religious order. He excelled in knowledge and lived an outwardly holy life, and thus became secretary to the Pope.

He was discovered while stealing secret documents. Now he openly declares himself to be a Communist and has married a comrade. He is still active in religious matters for the Communist Party and claims to have been forgiven by the Pope (JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD, 10-77).

CHICAGO, ILL. (EP) — Opposition to the admission of practicing homosexuals to theological seminaries or their ordination to the ministry has been reaffirmed by the president of the Lutheran Church in America.

SYDNEY (EP) — A demonstration staged here by 1,500 Australian Christians of Egyptian Coptic origin protested alleged plans which would threaten the religious freedom of non-Muslims in Egypt.

The Copts said there are widely circulated rumors that Egypt plans to become an official Islamic state, subject to Muslim Arab laws.

"We fear application of the Shariaa (statutes of Muslim law) would curtail the human rights of Christians," according to Ramezis Shamrock, a leader in the newly organized Australia Coptic Association.

He said enforcement of other laws found in the Koran and other works "would inevitably lead to the massacre or enslavement of the Christians."

CHICAGO (EP) — Three children have been returned to their

Civil Government Is

(Continued from page six)

offices of our land, for civil government is of Divine appointment, but there are many officials filling those offices, who, because of their evil acts and deeds, are not entitled to any of our honor and respect. God tells us to "pray for those (presidents, governors, etc.) in authority over us," but surely God does not mean for us to pray for their evil deeds. I have a lot of honor and respect for the offices of our land, but I have very little respect for many of the officials in those offices.

In our study of Romans 13, verse 1 through 7, we see at least five distinctive duties to the state.

1. In verse 1, we see the duty of citizens to honor rulers.
2. In verse 2, we are to obey the ordinances of man if they do not clash with the commands of God. To disobey the ordinances of man is to rebel against God.
3. In verse 3, we see that authority is vested in the state by God, and our obligation is to obey the law.
4. In verse 4, we see that the king is to favor the good, and execute his wrath upon the wicked.
5. In verse 5, we see the duties of citizenship; tribute, honor and justice.

There are at least three things brought out in the study of these Bible verses in Romans.

1. There is no such thing as sinless perfection in the flesh, for in these lessons God indicates that His people will sin when they violate civil law, and are subject to prosecution for the sin of law

breaking.

2. The Bible teaches the separation of church and state, but it also teaches that civil government is ordained of God. The Bible teaches the sovereignty of God over rulers and civil government. As good Christian citizens, we are to obey the civil laws. We are not to mix our churches with the state, but we are to go to church for the Holy Spirit to teach us from the Word of God as to what it is we should do and not do as subjects of the state.

3. If civil law, man's law, clashes with God's laws, we are to obey God rather than man. However, all good laws are based upon the moral laws of God. God says, "Thou shalt not steal." Government says the same. God says, "Thou shalt not kill, or murder." Government says the same thing (except in the case of abortion, which is murder of a living fetus). God says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Government says the same thing — perjury being a high crime.

Write Congressman

(Continued from page 4)

there. I would like to ask your prayers also regarding the ground where the church building is sitting and where the pastor's house is, that we will not have to give up this location and move somewhere else. Many of your mission dollars has been spent on this mission point over the past 11 years, but I know that you will rejoice to know that while I have planted and you have watered, God in His time has given the increase.

Bible Conference To Start Soon

I read with interest the announcements of the various Bible Conferences back there as they are reported in The Baptist Examiner. Without exception, I always wish that I could attend these Conferences. Beginning on October 18, we will be having another Conference among the churches over here. This Conference will be unique in that it is the first one where I have ever assigned subjects to any of the preachers. Heretofore, I have always let them choose their own subject to preach on, but this time decided to assign subjects to see how well they can study their lessons. We are expecting a good Conference and time of fellowship.

Our following Conference will be unique also as we intend to have a full scale conference at that time with about 30 or more speakers. At this one to be held in October, we will have only 8 speakers and the rest of the time will be devoted to other aspects of our mission work. We will be making a long jump when we launch out into a full scale Bible Conference, such as is conducted back in America. We expect to find it necessary though, for some time to come, to set aside some portion of each Conference to work out any problems that may have arisen since we last met.

We Are Praying About A High School

Please do not let the above sub-heading scare you away from the New Guinea mission work, for your mission money is not going into the starting of a high school nor the upkeep of it, if it becomes a reality. However, for some time now, I have been actively engaged in trying to get a high school established in this area where the Mission Station is located. While we feel that any and all education is the responsibility of the government and not that of the Lord's church, i.e., secular education, we do feel that education is a necessary aspect in a well-balanced Christian community, especially now in view of so much heresy being taught by Catholics and Protestants. Therefore, we are willing to do all we can to see that these institutions are in op-

Eld. Fred T. Halliman Missionary To New Guinea



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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Write Brother Halliman frequently. His address is:

ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN
Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission
P.O. Box 19, Koroba, via Mendi
Papua, New Guinea

eration so our people can better read and understand the Word of God for themselves.

In the Koroba Sub-Province of the Southern Highlands Province, there is not a single high school, and while each year there are many boys and girls that are qualified to go on to high school and further their education, only a mere 20 per cent that qualify even get an opportunity to go, because of lack of schools. All the children in this Sub-province that get to go to high school, have to go off to other areas to what is called "boarding high schools." This not only involves their being away from home all the year, but expensive plane fares to take them there and bring them back, plus their boarding cost and school fees. Many of the children cannot go even after they are chosen, due to their parents and, or other relatives being unable to meet the necessary cost for them to attend. Just recently, I have had letters from some of the pupils that are attending high school and they fear they will have to drop out next year due to an increase in the school fees. The high school fee is going up from \$86.00 this year, to \$150.00 next year, and while that might sound like a mere drop in the bucket to most of you, for a people in a developing nation such as this, which have no regular income of any kind, it would probably be easier for the average American to come up with five or six thousand dollars than for these people to come up with one hundred.

Inasmuch as the American Government literally gives away millions of dollars each year, either directly or indirectly to the Communist countries of the world and, since as of now, there is no Communist influence in this nation whatsoever, I felt that it would be worth a try to get enough money to establish a high school in this area through foreign aid or any other legitimate source that might come about. At least, this would be going for a cause that is worthy, and would benefit Christians in general and Baptists (Continued on page 8, column 5)

What's Happening

(Continued from page seven)

Christian mother following a series of articles in Moody Monthly magazine revealing the outrage of disruption of the home by Soviet authorities.

Mrs. Zoya Radigina of Perm had been accused of wrongly educating the children, aged 11, 8 and 6, and suffered the loss of her youngsters in 1973. Their school teacher had discovered they were being brought up as Christians and testified that the pupils "often gave strange religious answers to biological and scientific questions."

CHICAGO (EP) — The "Temple Scroll," which explains the religious life of the Essenes, a Jewish religious sect that lived some 2,000 years ago on the Dead Sea some 29 miles outside Jerusalem, will be published this month in three volumes.

Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, associated with the scrolls since they were discovered in 1947, acquired the "Temple Scroll" — believed by Biblical scholars to be the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls — in 1967. He has spent the last decade deciphering the 27-foot-long manuscript.



Man — A Voyager . . .

(Continued from page one)

mand that when it passes the second star, it is to swing around and return to the earth. This return would be accomplished 294,000 years from now. We will command it to dip one drop of water from the Pacific Ocean, take it to the vicinity of the second star and return for a second drop of water. This 294,000 year (not miles) trip must be repeated until drop by drop the Pacific and then the Atlantic Oceans are emptied. When this has been accomplished,

ETERNITY has only begun. "Oh, endless eternity so wide — where in thy vastness shall I hide?"

MAN IS A VOYAGER IN ETERNITY

The speed of our Voyager space vehicle, is said to be approximately 32,000 M.P.H. give or take a little. When it has traveled for 147,000 years, it will pass a second star. Its journey into space has just begun. One million years from now, if all is still intact, it will have passed a few more stars. Finally, it will arrive at a place where our minds have been stretched to the limit. It will come to the end of space. Our minds cannot admit of something — a reality, that has no end. But, we ask, "What is beyond what we call the end?" Awesome? Indeed! But it is there nevertheless. Although our minds cannot conceive endlessness, there is no alternative.

DEATH IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF OUR VOYAGE IN ETERNITY

When a friend or a relative passes on in death, we hear it said: "He or she has gone out into eternity." This is not the case. When we are born, we begin to inhabit eternity — a ceaseless existence. Like the little Voyager space vehicle, we are on our way. We cannot go back and become non-existent. We are, and shall ever be in eternity. Someone has asked—

"What hath eternity in store?
I stand upon its billowy shore
What it may have in store for
to see
What it may have in store for
me."

Those who have not been washed in the blood of Jesus (Rev. 1: 5) and saved by grace through faith (Eph. 3:8) will be forced to answer —

"A yawning gulf
A flaming path

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The essence of Jehovah's wrath
To all eternity, to all eternity."

ETERNITY LOOKS IN TWO DIRECTIONS

In Psalm 90:2, the Psalmist said, "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God." Jesus described two ways, in one of which, all mankind is traveling (Matt. 7:13-14). One way leads to what He called LIFE. The other way leads to destruction. In other passages it is described as EVER-LASTING DESTRUCTION.

Our limited experiences and knowledge of space has helped this writer realize how great our God really is and how small we are. "Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance" — the almost invisible particles of dust left on the Pharmacist's scales after they have been wiped (Isa. 40:15). And yet, He says of us that our hairs are numbered (Matt. 10:30).

God is so great that out there in that vastness of space He put the sun and moon and stars in place. And His all-seeing eye was mindful of a little speck of dust He called Earth and upon it His creature — man, fallen, lost and helpless. He made Himself a little lower than the angels, housed Himself in human flesh and came to rescue us. He told us of God and His love. God was manifesting Himself through His Eternal Son, Jesus, the Eternal Son, the Word of God, told us about God's House. "In my Father's house are many mansions, (mone) dwelling places, places to live." Out there somewhere, EVERYWHERE is God's house — Where God lives— "He inhabiteth eternity."

Ephesians, chapter two and verses five through seven take on a new dimension when we look at what is said with eternity in view. I look forward to a time beyond time when God shall show us His house, room by room, dwelling by dwelling, place by place. His "house" is so vast and glorious that eternity is needed for us to see it all. "That in the ages to come (those ages which are approaching — more of eternity) he might SHOW the exceeding riches (surpassing wealth) of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

What a shame that some will not enjoy the surpassing wealth of God because their pride, their self love, their unbelief has kept them away from that humble place at the foot of the cross "Where the Prince of Glory died" — Where the could "see the stream His flowing wounds supply." Like the rebellious Israelites — "They entered not because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19). John 3:18 says they "are condemned already" because of unbelief.

God's love is communicated to us in the words of Jesus and demonstrated to us by His death on the cross.

If there is a word more difficult to define than ETERNITY, it must be SO in John 3:16. "God SO loved the world."

Dear reader, are you a real born-again believer? If not, will you now, with God's help, turn from your sin, turn from yourself, turn to God, repent, believe that Jesus died for your sins, was bur-

ied and rose for our justification. Follow Christ in baptism and serve him faithfully.

No one knows how long Voyagers No. 1 and No. 2 will survive. It is doubtful that all the contingencies have been considered. The plans and products of fallible, finite minds can never duplicate that which our Sovereign God in his infinite wisdom has reserved for Himself. Only He can bring into existence that which will never cease to be. This He did when His breath entered man and caused him to "become a living soul" — a creature equipped for eternal existence, an endless voyage. Job mentioned a "change" which was coming for himself (Job 14:14), but he knew that would be only a "change," not the end. Every man's change will come (Heb. 9:27), but even the most uncivilized believe they will live on after physical death.

You, like the Voyager in space, are already in ETERNITY. Make the good voyage with blood-washed believers. Don't be one of those who will finally say:

"Up to the gates of Hell I rise
To seek an answer from the
skies,
Oh, God, how long must I
endure
these torments on this sin-
damned shore?
Thundering from that vaulted
throne
I hear these dreadful words
alone
TO ALL ETERNITY, TO ALL
ETERNITY."



Autopsy . . . Church

(Continued from page three)
too dim, too much, too little, too late, too soon, too early, too young, too old . . . too bad." If that isn't sufficiently sickly, try this. "I can't serve because: 1. I'm sick; 2. I'm tired; 3. I'm sick and tired; 4. I'm tired and ill (clever camouflage); 5. My wife is sick; 6. My wife is tired; 7. My wife is sick and tired; 8. My bones ache; 9. My back aches; 10. The seats are hard; 11. The preacher's long; 12. Company's coming; 13. Company came; 14. Company left; 15. They may come back; 16. I'd better stay here just in case; 17. I can't; 18. We can't; 19. We shan't; 20. Let's don't."

Man was designed to be productive, not languid and lazy. There is some excuse for laziness among the pitiful Hardshells for their synthetic doctrine teaches sorrow to a frightening degree. But, there is no excuse for laziness among MISSIONARY BAPTISTS. It is my hope that when Baptists go bad they turn into Hardshells for the Hardshells are no threat to anyone. They have indoctrinated themselves to death and they have almost raised organized laziness to an art form.

A lazy church will perish by attrition and anemia. It will not be used of God. There's an old bit of Kentucky Windage that says, "If you have a job to do give it to a busy man. Don't ever give it to an idle man for he will never get it done."

A lazy church is like a fat hen perched on a padded limb. It has no agility but rests in a supine slouch. Laziness is not an inflammatory disease. A lazy church will never explode. It barely manages to creak. It will die slowly and in silence as useless things should. When it dies someone should be good enough to preach a sombre funeral message (not too loud) and quietly plant it under the ground.

In the Hindu mystique, the state of "Nirvana" is the highest state reached in a life of meditation. "Nirvana" means quite literally "blown out." I fear that a lazy Baptist church might quietly reach the state of Nirvana. If they are not enlivened, then they will simply and quietly be "blown out." They do not explode for ex-

plosions require a release of energy. They are quietly extinguished and merge into darkness.

Above all, I desire the health of the bodies of Christ. I trust that this paper may serve as a breath of fresh air to ill churches and aid them to see their maladies and seek the care of the One who can heal.



Write Congressman

(Continued from page seven)
in particular to no end.

I have been writing to my Congressman as well as President Carter on the matter for some time. I have had some very good response from my Congressman, but as yet nothing from the President. I feel that many of you back there could have a direct influence on this project by writing to:

Mr. John J. Gilligan, Washington, D.C.; or write directly to the President, or both, and urge them to make the funds available for this high school. You might like to write to your own Congressman or have other contacts. You might have some worthwhile advice to offer me in making contacts, but I ask you to join me in prayer and doing what you can otherwise to make this possible. Once the school is built, the government here will take over all expense of operating it and furnish the teachers, etc. In due time, they will no doubt build a high school in this Sub-Province, but I have been informed by reliable sources that it will take several years before the government here can accomplish this.

Before we got behind it and really pushed it and, in fact, started off the primary school here, there was none in this area. However, after we got the school going, the government soon took over. We have already been assured that if we can get sufficient funds to get the building up, that from that point on, the government will bear the expense.

Let me emphasize once again that no mission money will be going into this proposed school, although we would greatly benefit as a mission by having such, and if we cannot raise the necessary funds through foreign aid or some other way, we will pursue the idea no further. Your prayers in this matter would be greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless each of you. We pray for you daily.

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