

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

"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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THREE PART SERIES BEGINS ON...

ANSWERING SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS "SHADES OF MARIOLATRY"

Part I

"Sirs,
"Today I read the clever words you printed about our Lottie Moon Offerings. It bears her name because it is an outgrowth of her pleas for help in the mission in China. She died in 1912, in large measure because she shared the suffering of the people she served. The only homage Southern Baptists pay this person is to name an offering after her. To compare this with the Roman veneration of Mary is, as we both know, as dishonest as it is absurd. No one has ever made the claims of greatness for her that have been made for Mary.

"The next 'original' independent Baptist idea may be a parallel attack on our Home Mission Offering which is named after Annie Armstrong. Then you can refer to the idolatry(sic)

of naming buildings on our campuses or professorships in our seminaries after men. Silly, isn't it!

"Southern Baptists aren't perfect. We make mistakes, will likely make more of them. To specialize in attacking us has been an Independent Baptist trait as long as I have been in the ministry, some thirty years or more.

"I cut out the article, mounted it in permanent form, and will use it as an example of the criticisms your group uses to make any imaginable attack on us.

"Thanks,

"Donald Kissiar

Lexington Baptist Church SBC
Box 3146

Lexington, Ohio 44905"

Dear Don:

Thank you for writing.

It is always good to have a

word from among those who have turned from bondage to the Lord Jesus Christ to enslave-



RAY WAUGH

ment by the Convention. Some of the men to whom you refer as "Independents" and "critics" are those who have realized that

Southern Baptists as a people have departed from the faith. Today, it is a sad and tragic fact that there are no "Convention Men" who have any interest in "earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered to the saints"!

One of the things which struck me about your letter was the dirth of Scripture. Though you arose from your haunches, as it were, to defend "Lottie Moon," Southern Baptists' right to "Use her name in collecting mission support," your right to use the name of "Annie Armstrong," and your right to indulge in the idolatry of "naming buildings on our campuses or professorships in our seminaries after men," not one word did you have for the Lord Jesus Christ! Not one word did you have for the precious Word of God, the Bible, infallible, in-

errant, and immutable! Not one word did you have for the Gospel of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus, the Christ!

This one detail should alert you to the fact that there is something tragically wrong in your life. In fact, perhaps it is time that some concerned person reminded you to "Examine yourself, whether you be in the faith; prove your own self. Know you not yourself how that Jesus Christ is in you except you be a reprobate?" Thirty years in the ministry, you say! And your only concern is to defend "Convention Practices"? What an appalling tragedy!

Perhaps, as the millions of others, you have turned from the Lord Jesus Christ to the Convention! Perhaps, as the

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PRAYING FOR THE DEAD IS IT SCRIPTURAL?

by Owen J. Croy

Asst. Pastor

Calvary Baptist Church
Ashland, Ky.

Several incidents have happened during the years that I have been in the pastorate which, humanly speaking, have led me to consider this topic, and at last, to write upon it. May I present these to you with the reasons I feel that they are very important and deserve serious study.

When I was pastor in Ohio, a brother pastor of the same faith that I hold, had a funeral in which a Protestant pastor took part. During the service he approached the casket and prayed for the deceased. My friend was shocked at his act of religious devotion to something as anti-scriptural as this, on the part of one who was supposed to be a descendant of the Protestant reformers. My friend would not have been shocked had he called upon a deceased friend who was a Roman Catholic, and found there a box in which he could deposit money to help pay the priest for praying the soul out of purgatory. "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (For the ransom of their soul is precious...)" (Psa. 49:6-8a).

Beloved, this horrible deception of Satan's delusion is prevailing the whole spiritual atmosphere and is keeping men from thinking rationally about death and the hereafter. The Mormons or The Latter-Day Saints hold to this falsehood. In addition, several years ago I watched while a large crowd of sports fans stood and had a moment of silent prayer for the soul of James J. Jeffries, former



OWEN CROY

world heavy-weight champion, who had died that week. About the same time it was common

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CONTEMPORARY CROSS CHRISTIAN, OR CATHOLIC

by Roy Snell

Charleston, W. Va.

That silver or gold cross which you wear for ornamental jewelry around your neck or for that so-called crucifix which adorns so many of the "churches" in our time — Are they proof or piety or simply promoting paganism?

Countless thousands in Christendom and many of those who are wont to be called Baptists are seemingly content to just "keep on doing it the way we have always done it" and to say "Amen" to whatever is served up to them — Never taking the time or the trouble to ascertain the reliability behind what they hear and what they practice.

Satan is ever the arch-

(Continued on Page 2 Column 4)

STEWARDS OF TIME

by O. B. Mink

Mansfield, Ohio

Ephesians

5:16:

"Redeeming the time,"



OSCAR MINK

because the days are evil."

We poor mortals are slaves of

time, there is hardly a thing we do that is not governed by time. The clock sends us to bed, and the clock wakes us up. The clock sends us to work, and the work day is closed by the clock. So, in his earthly stay man is bound by time; time ushered in his birth, and time will carry him through the portals of death. "There is a time to be born and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:2). However, there is a sense in which time is the servant of man, and of this particular aspect of time, man should ever be aware, for his state (not place) in eternity is determined by the way he utilizes the time granted him on earth. Time is sacred and the Scriptures lay great stress upon the urgent and wise use of it. Never was there, nor shall there ever be any time to kill. There is from the Divine perspective no such thing as unused or neutral time; man is, every moment of his existence, either for or against God. (Matthew 12:30). Knowing our days are few, and that we are as the grass which withereth, let us join our prayer to that of the Psalmist, "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." In so doing, we shall redeem the time (Job 14:1, Psalm 90:12, I Peter 1:24).

Time in itself is not evil, but good. It is the negative use of time that is evil. The fruit Eve partook of was not evil, but good, her misuse of it was evil. When time is used to gratify the flesh, that time is ill spent and can never be redeemed. Knowing in some measure the power of selfishness, it behooves the disciple of Christ to marshal all the forces of good at his disposal, and deploy them so as to preserve the sanctity of his time. The natural man spends every waking moment fulfilling

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Ray Waugh, Sr.

THE BEATLES IN PROPHECY

Early in the days of the Beatles' fame, the Lord, I believe, lay a message upon my heart. I was deeply concerned about the youth of our land, and I am yet. I preached the message, and I published it. The hearts of men, however, apparently were not ready.

Across the intervening years, I have continued to be concerned about the welfare of the youth of our land and of the youth in other lands, as well. I have wept that what God enabled me to see then has come to pass in the lives of multitudes of our young people. Perhaps, then, there is yet a place for

"The Beatles In Prophecy," the message which spoke to the shaggy bunch with the buggy name who corrupted multitudes, and who have had a revival of that corruption following the death of John Lennon.

Our subject for this study is, "The Beatles In Prophecy." Get your Bible and turn to the 9th chapter of the book of Revelation. You will find this message to be a most unusual one. Some of you may be shocked when we show you what God has actually said about that "shaggy bunch of boys with the buggy name."

God Is Never Surprised

Because of our human weaknesses, our spiritual backwardness and perhaps our plain old sinful carnality, we may sometimes suppose that the Beatles, who have wrecked so many young lives, are something on which God did not plan. Let me assure you, however, that nothing ever takes place on the earth or anywhere else which is a surprise to our God. Though the truth may seem strange to you, in the 9th chapter of the book of Revelation, we find creatures such as the Beatles prophesied. In fact, God very clearly prophesied that He would send just such

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The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOHN R. GILPIN, Jr.
Acting Editor

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BEATLES

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strange, foul, violent and noisy creatures into the world to torment men.

Look with me, now in Revelations 9:7-11:

"And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings were as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails; and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."

In this passage we read of creatures having, as it were, crowns of gold, faces of men, hair of women and teeth as those of lions. Notice further that their wings make a sound like that of chariots and many horses running. In addition, as scorpions, their hurting of men or their sting is a power which follows them or trails behind them, as it were, wherever they go.

God Pictures The Beatles

Though it may seem strange to compare the Beatles of the 20th century with the prophesied locusts of Revelation 9, a careful look at the facts and the prophecy will make real good sense. Historically, we can recall that locusts have been troublesome creatures which devour the life of the young growth in the areas upon which they alight. Wherever locusts have their singing, rasping good times, all green vegetation is destroyed. In Psalm 128:3, we

find that God Himself refers to young people as children and olive plants. Thus, it may be said of the Beatles that they are troublesome creatures which devour the lives of the young people in the areas where they hold forth in their Beatle Concerts.

Too, we are given the picture that these prophesied creatures were to be crowned with gold. Perhaps, today, we should simply say concerning the Beatles, they are loaded with cash; crowned, as it were with gold.

There are other details in con-



RAY WAUGH

nection with the Beatles which may be even more acceptable as prophetic analogies. Notice, if you will, that the faces of these creatures in Revelation 9:7 are as the faces of men, and in verse 8 that they have the hair of women. Needless to say, this is the one outstanding characteristic of the Beatles; the one thing which really gives us the key to the Prophecy.

Further, these 20th century creatures which we call the Beatles have but to show their glistening teeth and the addicted young people of this generation fall in frenzy before them, as the prey of lions before their bared fangs. The analogy, however, does not end here. Rather, the creatures in Revelation 9 have breastplates of iron, while the Beatles keep before themselves metallic instruments which have forms very much like many ancient breastplates and shields.

All of us have been troubled, at one time or another, by the noise which the Beatles make with their flailing arms or "flapping wings," so to speak. If we listen carefully to the Beatle-beat, we get the feeling and the sound of turning chariot wheels. If we note the attending rhythm with care, we discover sometimes walking, sometimes trotting and sometimes galloping horses. Combine the noise of the chariots and the horses, and we have this 20th century phenomenon which is like nothing else that men have ever produced with instruments and crashing voices.

God Shows The Tragedy

In verses 1 through 5 of Revelation 9, we see that the prophesied creatures ascended out of the bottomless pit for the purpose of tormenting men, and that the pain of their torment was something which followed them. So it is with the Beatles.

They ascended, as it were, from the dark, smoky and dismal depths of Liverpool. Now, wherever they go, they leave pain and sorrow behind them. Broken hearts almost without end, forever distorted emotions, a carnage of immodesty, completely warped senses of value, violated virtue, wrecked lives almost without number and distraught parents are the tormenting tragedies which follow the Beatles wherever they go.

"By their fruits ye shall

It is sad when our troubles try us more than our transgressions.

know them" (Mt. 7:20) is a Scriptural injunction which can be applied to all humans; both the lost and the saved, for "whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). The characteristics, the activities and the objectives of the creatures discussed in Revelation 9:7-11 were such as to show that their king was the angel of darkness from the bottomless pit. So, too, as we look at the Beatles and their kind, we discover that their characteristics, their activities and their objectives in life show that their king is the Devil.

Then, as we make inquiry into the personal lives and testimonies of the Beatles, we discover that there is not a Christ-honoring Christian in the lot. On the contrary, we find them declared to be antichrists by the man who perhaps knows them best. Note these words from the Saturday Evening Post:

"It is incredible, absolutely incredible," says Derek Taylor, the Beatles' press officer. "Here are four boys from Liverpool. They are rude, they are profane, they are vulgar, and they've taken over the world. It is as if they had founded a new religion. They are completely antichrist. I mean, I am antichrist...but they are so antichrist they shock me, which isn't an easy thing. But I am obsessed with them."

We can see, therefore, that the Beatles are godless young men who delight in tormenting men and setting patterns of rebellion which literally ruin the lives of hosts of our young people. Very simply, these godless creatures literally destroy the lives of many of our youth, and all because of their continuing lust for more gold. These shaggy boys with the buggy name devour the young people of our time, as the locusts devour the green growth of the land.

God Bigger Than Biases

It may be that some of you have been taught to believe that anything spoken of beyond the 1st verse of the 4th chapter of Revelation can only take place after all Christians have been caught away or "Raptured," and the Great Tribulation has begun. It may be, dear friends, that there will be a time in the future when there will be a further elaboration on Revelation 9:7-11. However, I confess to you that I believe that we have in this passage a most exact explanation — a prophetic picture drawn by a Godly man some 1900 years ago, if you please — of these modern creatures which we call the Beatles. I would remind you further that this prophecy was a marvel of insight and of God's provision. The wonder of it all should cause us to love the Word of God even more.

Often, perhaps, our modern religious systems and programs are too much like those of the ancient Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees to be really meaningful or applicable in the lives of the people. We make room for our perfunctory services; we make room for our traditional theology; we make room for our dispensationalism of which the Apostles knew nothing, but we don't make room in our thinking for a really meaningful and applicable Bible. Neither do we make room in our hearts for Christ Jesus or the leading of the Spirit of God in our study of the Word of God.

We come to the study of the Word of God with minds which have been closed because of preconceived intentions and objectives and make God's Word fit patterns of reasoning which

we, in our humanity, have designed. Just as the ancient Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees, we too often refuse God a place in our reasoning though we claim to be students of the Word of God. Hence, too often we miss prophetic truths such as we have seen in Revelation 9. If we, however, will realize that God is really bigger than our mental limitations, perhaps we will be ready to heed the leading of the Spirit of God in our interpretations.

God Calls The Needy

We need to realize above all, however, that without room for Christ Jesus, the Word of God cannot be made meaningful in any of our lives. Or, put another way, without a vital appeal to the Word of God, no man can really make room in his heart for the Gospel of Christ.

And without the Gospel of Christ Jesus — which alone "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile" — no man can be saved. Thus, any man who is not saved is just as lost as the Jews and Gentiles who demanded and caused the death of Christ Jesus on the Cross of Calvary.

If you, today, are a Christian who is incapable of seeing that the written Word of God is a living reality which can be made applicable in every area of life, let me suggest that you get out of the religious rut and learn to walk anew in freedom of spirit and of reason with our crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended, living and soon-coming Saviour. Even more, dear friend, if you are one who has never yet been saved, why not do as the Philippian jailer of old and ask that most important question, "What must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:31)?

If, in this moment, your heart does cry, "What must I do to be saved?" let me give you God's everlasting answer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31)!!! Whether you are a Beatle-fan or a Beatle-foe, whether you can appreciate our prophetic insight or whether you can't, right now, this very moment, before it is everlastingly too late, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"!

CROSS

(Continued from Page 1)

counterfeiter, when possible, of all that which we have received from our sovereign Lord and, in the matter of the "cross," he has perpetrated another of his deceptions on saint and sinner alike.

Before I get into the historical approach to this matter of the cross, I wish to point out something to all discerning readers. As you associate and mingle with the world at large, take note of all those who wear a cross around the neck or as a tie clasp. If you could investigate you would find that multitudes of those thus adorned have no time and no love for our precious Saviour. If you are wasting your time watching the professional performers, then you have seen myriads of crosses on the bared bosoms and chests. Beloved, if the world adopts something and takes it for show, then we had best beware. Little children, this contemporary cross, with the cross-piece lowered, came straight out of that Romish monstrosity in the middle of the 3rd. century A.D. Before that, the cross was denoted by the Greek word, Stauros, and simply meant an

BRIEF NOTES

The Calvary Baptist Church Bookstore would like to contact Mark E. Ramm, formerly of Fayetteville Arkansas. We would appreciate receiving his current address if anyone might have it.

It has been suggested by one of our long time subscribers that we publish more sermons by my father, the late John R. Gilpin, Sr. under a general heading of "Your Favorite Sermon."

Perhaps you have some favorite that you would like to see reprinted. If so, please send us the name and/or subject title and the date or approximate date it was first published.

upright stake or "tree" as Paul refers to it. (Acts 13:29).

The ancient Chaldeans originated the two beamed cross for the express symbol of their pagan god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) and this symbol was prevalent in Egypt and countries adjoining Chaldea.

That selfsame Satan, who foisted the idea of Xmas on the 3rd. century "churches," is responsible for bringing this Chaldean Tau cross into those very same assemblies. A little study will show you that along with Constantine's forced religiosity there were numerous unregenerated pagans brought into the apostate ecclesiastical system of that time. Knowing nothing of the indwelling Spirit of the living God, naturally anything pertaining to true Christian worship was unpalatable to these blinded souls, and so they were permitted to retain their pagan signs and symbols in order to keep them reasonably content. And so the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the cross of Christ. Furthermore, that Chi or X of Constantine's purported vision is the first initial of the Greek spelling of Christ (Christos) and as such has nothing at all to do with "the Cross" as is popularly supposed and taught. W. E. Vine, in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, is an excellent and reliable reference to the truth of the Christian cross, and clearly shows that the idea of a T with the cross-piece lowered was not the "tree" on which our Lord suffered, but a counterfeit straight out of the paganism of ancient Chaldea.

The truth of the crucifixion, in all probability, is that they laid the form of Jesus on a stake, pole or roughly trimmed tree, his hands placed one upon the other above his head and thus impaled. His feet were likewise nailed to the tree, which was then set upright in a hole dug for that purpose.

A Christian osteopath, skilled in human bone structures has said that if crucifixions in Jesus time had been carried out with the arms outstretched to either side and with a nail through the palm, then the sheer weight and the unpreventable convulsive movements would have quickly torn the hands loose from those horrible spikes. This man reasoned that with both hands fastened together over the head, there would be considerably less chance of tearing through the cartilage and relatively small bones of the palms.

So, good Baptist, wear your silver "cross" if you must, but it is doubtful if you are truly exalting that Holy One of God.

ANSWERING

(Continued from Page 1)

millions of others, you have turned from the Cause of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Cooperative Program with all haste and without regard to the cost! Perhaps, as millions of others, you have turned to the comfort, security, and safety of the Convention for personal, professional, and popularity reasons, so that you might not have any occasion to need to "go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach"!

If you know anything at all about the Convention of which you are a part, you are aware that "Convention Men" care not at all that the Lord has made it absolutely clear that His Word, alone, is to be the final arbiter and authority among men and in the councils of men. Sadly, however, you do not appear to be aware of this truth. Though you claim to "have been in the ministry some thirty years or more," you apparently have never learned, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Do you never awaken in the middle of the night "conscience-struck" that your loyalty is to the Convention rather than to Christ, or that your dedication is to The Cooperative Program instead of to the Cause of the Lord Jesus Christ?

This may forebode ill for you further on!

"It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment"! A man who has turned from Christ to the Convention is certainly not interested or involved in fighting "a good fight," finishing his "course," or keeping "the faith"! Thus, on the strength of "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward," it may be that you are precluding yourself "a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give" on that day.

Maybe you, too, need to repent!

Repent! Before it is too late! Return to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Then, perhaps, God will provide you insight to know that our Lord "built" the church in Jerusalem — a Baptist Church, I would note — and that He has "built" every true, New Testament, Baptist Church since. Along with this insight, however, you will realize — almost as a bolt out of the blue, as it were — that our Lord never established any parachurch or suprachurch organization, whether it be a Convention to control the churches and keep them in line, a Cooperative Program designed to ensure that the people contribute to Convention Causes rather than to the Cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, or a Mission Board which would usurp the rights and the authority of the Local Church in the matter of missions and the preaching of the Gospel.

If you were "ordained" by the Convention, in a manner comparable to that practice of Romans and Protestants, then you have never been Christ's man! However, if you were or-

dained by a local New Testament Church which looked to the Word of God and trusted only in Christ, why have you betrayed that trust and given your loyalty to a Convention of men which is an anti-Christ, supra-church monstrosity, an octopian creature with slimy, ceaselessly-moving tentacles which uses churches only as "suction pods" to feed its Christ-beclouding head?

It may come as a shock to you, even as it came as a shock to me, but the Convention has one reason for its existence; that is, to supersede the churches! It is not surprising that one of the more famed of the Convention Theologians has made much across the years of his belief that Christ "is not our mediator"! Likewise, it is not really surprising that one of the more famed Seminary Presidents has openly declared that if God had wanted to give us an infallible Bible He would have done so by giving it to us on "golden plates," though every man who had anything whatever to do with the origin of that Seminary believed the Bible to be God's infallible, inerrant, and immutable Word! The name of Christ may be used in Convention literature on occasion, but such use is designed wholly to lull the contributing public into a hypnotic state of receptiveness so "the doctrines and commandments of men" will become their only interests.

Please do not be surprised! The veneration of Mary was several centuries in becoming a reality. In fact, it was not until 1960 that belief in her having been assumed into heaven bodily without dying was a Roman command; any belief to the contrary being a mortal sin subject to excommunication and an assured eternity in hell. The veneration of Lottie may take another 25 years, and Annie will not be far behind. Already, there are supposed "Baptists" who supposedly worship in "St. John's," "St. Luke's," or "St. Paul's," almost an infinitum!

The fact that Southern Baptists, in obedience to Convention Commands, can turn to a Roman Christmas and a Roman Easter and then utilize the names of Lottie and Annie as the main thrust of their appeals should tell you something! Surely you are aware that Jesus was not born on December 25, and that He was not resurrected on "Easter Sunday"! Why, then, do you indulge in such heinous paganisms? Has God prophesied your piteous plight in His Words, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron"?

Can it be that God is speaking to you "in parables" that seeing you "might not see, and hearing" you "might not understand"? Can it be that the darkness of Satan's, "Yea, hath God said?" pervades your very being and the whole of your ministry? Are you so much of the "Convention Man" that you cannot see Christ Jesus? Are you so intent on your own personal and professional perpetuity that you sacrifice the priority of Christ Jesus and throw your people to the Convention Conspirators?

Needless to say, the questions are yours!

The facts remain clear to those with eyes!

China was lost to Communism because the supposed religious folk sent women to do the work which God ordained



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

Colossians 1:18-22

INTRO: Most of the heresies of our day, as well as through the ages, have resulted from a lack of understanding of the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39). We need therefore to constantly and consistently set before the people the question Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16:13, 15: "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am," and "But whom say ye that I am?" May our answer be the Biblical reply of Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt. 16:16) and also the confession of the Eunuch in Acts 8:37: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God;" for this is the record and the report of all of the prophets (Acts 10:43). A faithful preacher will be like Jesus in Luke 24:27 and Apollos in Acts 18:28.

VERSE 18

"And He is." This is true, has been true, and will be true. How blessed to be able to say, "The Lord is" (Psa. 23:1); and that "He is able" (Jude 24).

"The Head of the body, the church." Not only is His "throne in the heavens" and "His kingdom ruleth over all" (Psa. 103:19; Isa. 6:1-3); not only is He the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (vs. 16, 17), but in a special and significant way, He is the Head of the church; the church He instituted, organized, and built (Matt. 16:18); the church He commissioned (Matt. 28:16-20); the church He placed the apostles in first (I Cor. 12:28); the church which is designated "an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:22); "the house of God, which is the church of the liv-

only for men, and in utter defiance of, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection...I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Being a "Convention Man," and having committed yourself to the Convention rather than to Christ, it is highly probable that you have long since ceased to "declare...the testimony of God." As your Convention peers, you doubtless have ceased to believe or to concede, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach..."

Likewise, you doubtless have developed a rationale for the Southern Baptists' "Lord's Prayer Plaque" or Medal — of which I yet have a copy — which Southern Baptists were encouraged to believe would be "a blessing" if "carried or worn." And just as Romans of another day were encouraged to believe they could receive eternal blessings by contributing to "St. Peter's," so Southern Baptists are encouraged to suppose that they can actually "take it with them" by endowing "chairs," "schools," "buildings," "churches,"

ing God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15); "the church of God" (I Cor. 1:2); "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16); the "churches of saints" (I Cor. 14:33); "the body of Christ" (I Cor. 12:27); and which was identified and empowered on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14); to which the saved were added (Acts 2:41, 47). No wonder we see Him walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks which are the seven churches (Rev. 1:12, 13, 20). He is therefore Lord of creation, King of the Kingdom, and Head of the church. May we ever remember this and "hear Him" in all things (Matt. 17:5).

"Who is the the beginning." "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." He therefore is the eternal "I am." It is blasphemy to place Him as a mere creature, either a man or an angel.

"The firstborn from the dead." Even in His humanity as the God man, He is exalted. He has power both to lay down His life and to take it up again (John 19:11; 10:18). Deity was never more manifest than in the power Jesus exhibited.

"That in all things He might have the preeminence," he has the priority both in regard to time, "He is before all things;" and in dignity, He is over all things and holds all things together, being the Creator of all things. Does He have the preeminence in the average church? Listen to the praying, singing, and preaching in the churches of our day.

VERSE 19

"For it pleased the Father."

"cemeteries," "bells," ad infinitum. Southern Baptists who are "Convention Men," to the man, have absolutely and unutterably rejected, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment." Very simply, "Convention Men" are Romans at heart!

The wealthy farmer got the word, "Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided," but Convention Men who get the message only in parables have never comprehended that "There are no pockets in a shroud"! These tragically deluded souls may encourage the equally deluded souls that they will be blessed of God by feeding their worldly greed, but they will find not one word of Scripture to counter, "It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment." They may get a little different reading from Rome, but remember forever that Rome is Babylon in whom will be found "the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

Have you never wondered why every institution which is "endowed" by those who suppose they "Can have their cake and eat it too," and who suppose they "can take it with them after all" becomes a propagator of teachings which are contrary to the beliefs of the founder?

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

Herein lies the kernel of God's sovereignty. We should always desire to know what pleases the Father and accept it with all readiness (Matt. 11:25, 26).

"That in Him should all fulness dwell." This is the reason He has the preeminence in all things. He is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). "In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). He is "Emmanuel, God manifest in the flesh" (Matt. 1:23); a truth which is a great mystery, but a truth indeed (I Tim. 3:16).

VERSE 20

"And having made peace." The war being ended, we have the victory (I Cor. 15:57); therefore we have peace with God (Rom. 5:1); a permanent peace based on the everlasting covenant (Heb. 13:20), a peace made for us, not by us.

"Through the blood of His cross." The road to our peace with God led through Gethsemane to Calvary. "With His stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5) for He bore our sins in His own body, having been made sin for us (I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21). May we go often to Calvary, for it was, "On the cross for me, on the cross for me; dying there in agony, Jesus paid the price, Himself the sacrifice; on the cross for me."

"By Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Although in the fullest sense, the elect are reconciled to God through the death of the Lord Jesus, by removing the barrier of sin, this reconciliation affects the whole universe which had been affected by the entrance of sin (Rom. 8:19-22). Redemption and reconciliation are brought about by the same means (Heb. 9:12).

"And you." This should move every child of God, for it is to be applied personally (Eph. 2:1).

"That were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works." Not only were we children of wrath by nature, but also by practice (Eph. 2:2, 3). We were active enemies of God (Rom. 5:10; Gen. 6:5). Our hearts were desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). We loved darkness rather than light because our deeds were evil (John 3:19). However, we can rejoice, for it, in God's mercy, and because of His grace, was only sometimes (I Cor. 6:10, 11).

"Yet." In spite of what we deserved.

"Now hath He reconciled." This again is a present and permanent relationship.

Conclusion: Because of what Jesus accomplished "in the body of His flesh through death," we will be presented "holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight" (Vs. 22; Jude 24).

(EDITORS NOTE: If you would like to write to Bro. Pyle expressing your appreciation for the lessons or ask him questions about his exposition of the Scripture his address is Rt. 22, Box 1198, Fort Myers, Fla. 33908.)

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. BOX 71 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41101

Is it Biblical for a professing Christian to use divining means to find water? Please give scripture for your answer.

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"There shall not be found among you any one...that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord" (Deut. 18:10-12).

I suppose that this question refers to the using of a limb or branch from a tree — I hear a peach tree — in finding water so as to know a good place to put a well. There could be two ways of looking at this, and my answer would differ accordingly.

If this method is used in a purely naturalistic way with no supernatural intent of thoughts. If it is practiced on the principle that a tree or limb with life still in it has a natural thirst for and movement towards water. Surely, God has placed desires and powers in natural plant and animal life. The moon and the tides of the ocean. The plant growing towards the sun. Roots of plants seeking nourishment and water. So, if the theory upon which one acts is this naturalistic one, so far as I know the Bible says nothing on this subject for or against. For my part, I doubt seriously the whole matter, and would not be involved in it. I would lean towards classing this among 'old wives tales.'

If the theory of this act and the intentions thereof are based upon believing in supernatural powers involved therein, it is another matter. If there is supposed to be a supernatural power in the limb, or in the person who is performing the act, or in the results, it is another matter. And the word "divining rod" has the meaning of supernatural powers involved. If one were proceeding upon a naturalistic theory as above, he should definitely not use the word "divining." There are two kinds of supernatural power. The power of God, and the power of God is involved in the "divining rod." I would oppose it on this theory and would insist that there is nothing in the Bible which would suggest a supernatural power of God being involved in this way. I would say that the Bible is against such a theory or such an act.

If the theory of the "divining" rod involved supernatural powers which are not of God, then, most definitely, it is a sin. My text states this beyond dispute. If it is believed that there is a supernatural power of any kind involved in the theory of the usage of this method in

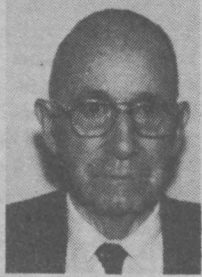
finding water, then the usage of this method is contrary to the Word of God, and no Christian should be involved therein.

So my answer is that if looked upon and used on a naturalistic principle: There is no Word of God giving any basis to believe in such, but no definite word from God condemning it as such. I would consider it a waste of time and a fable. If there is any thought of a supernatural power involved, then the whole thing is of the devil and is sin. If there is no thought of a supernatural power involved, the word "divining" should not be used.

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I affirm that what is truly Divine relates only to Deity, or to that which proceeds directly from the authority of Deity.

Therefore, in a theological and Scriptural sense, I have yet to see how any one can cut, of his own volition, a forked twig from a tree, and assume that it has, as a "divining rod," the ability to locate the presence of a stream of water under the ground, when manipulated by qualified person with both hands, one hand on each end of the twig, by spreading it with a peculiar twist in such a manner that, as it is passed over the ground until the end of the twig suddenly dips toward the ground and properly locates a vein of water under the ground.

Such "hocus-pocus" make-believe on the part of the manipulator of the twig, at best, is only a sham, in not being recognized, or authorized by Deity. Therefore, in not being authorized by Divinity, it can, in no wise, be properly termed as "a divining rod."

However, in the economy of God, when He called and commissioned Moses, He endowed him with special authority to use "a rod," known as "a shepherd's crook," as a sign of that God-given authority. Amazingly, the first use of this sign was of God, to convince Moses of his mission to deliver Israel from the tyranny of Pharaoh.

In this instance, the rod was cast on the ground (not to find water) and it became a serpent, from which Moses fled. But, at God's command, Moses too it by the tail, and, again, it became a rod in the hand of Moses "that they (the Israelites) may believe that the Lord (not the rod)... hath appeared unto thee (Moses)" (Ex. 4:1-5).

After this, under the direction of the Lord, Moses used the "rod" many times as a sign, but not for Divining purposes, to indicate the presence and power of Divinity. In this, alone, it answered the Lord's purpose in the hand of Moses.

However, later (not to find

water), it was used to "divide the water" for redemptive purposes, and Israel went over dry-shod.

Otherwise, apart from Divine authority, there can be no divining on the part of man.

Hence, just before Israel went into the land that was promised to them, the Lord said to Israel: "When thou comest into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one who maketh his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter of (mediums), or a wizard, or a necromancer" (Deut. 18:9-11).

But, sadly enough, many in Israel apostatized from the faith in violation of the above admonition of the Lord against their going after the abominations of the nations.

So, even today, many professing Christians are remiss about the same things, which are forbidden in the New Testament, even "divining for water," which answers to divination of any kind.

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If the questioner has in mind what is sometimes called a "divining stick" or tree limb as an aid in finding water, then I can see no more harm in its use than I can in the use of the Geiger counter to detect radio active substances, or the satellites used for weather prediction, or radar to detect enemy craft, or the x-ray to find bone fractures, etc. The limb or stick may not be as sophisticated or as scientific as the above mentioned instruments, but often the same effect can be achieved by something that is primitive and simple, as with that which is modern and complex.

If the questioner has in mind the finding of water by supernatural agency, or dreams, then I say, Beware! The Scriptures strongly condemn this kind of divination (Lev. 19:26; Deut. 18:10; Isa. 19:3; Jer. 23:25-28; 27:29; 29:8; Zech. 10:2; Acts 16:16).

This evil divination is used by the soothsayer, Jean (i.e.) Dixon, and thousands of others in their effort to know and predict the future. Witchcraft, sorcery, soothsaying, necromancy, astrology (Predestination by the stars), and divination which claims the use of supernatural agency are all illicit.

It cannot be proven from Scripture (Gen. 44:5) that Joseph used a "divining cup." The Egyptians thought he did, because of his great prosperity and expertise in interesting dreams. The apostles were not practicing illicit divination when

they cast lots to fill the apostolic vacancy created by the betrayer (Acts 1:26); they rather trusted the providence of God in this matter than their own human sentiments.

Almanac weather predictions or long range weather reports issued by the U.S. Government cannot properly be considered illicit divination. I do not think it is divination for a hunter to use duck calls, turkey calls, or other means to help him find his prey. Neither do I think it is illicit divination for a person to use a peach tree limb or some other kind of limb in this efforts to find water.

Some telephone companies use what is called divining rods to find underground cables, and I never heard them called "Cable witches." But the ill connotation "Water witch" is immediately applied to the person who tries to find underground water with a tree limb. It is a mystery to me how water or underground telephone cables are found by this method, but if I doubted everything I do not understand, then I would doubt almost everything. However, I venture to say, there are scientists who can readily explain the magnetism which exists between these substances.

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I am not sure I understand just what you mean. By divining means you imply some sort of witchcraft. If that is what you mean, then the Bible is very clear about it. We have some scripture that deals with this in a very clear way. Let us notice some of them.

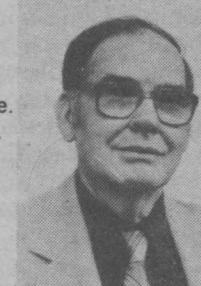
"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:31). In fact, God says He will turn from those who turn after them. "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." (Lev. 20:6). We are told not to suffer a witch to live. "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them" (Lev. 20:27. See also Ex. 22:18).

I feel fairly sure that you are referring to the practice of taking a forked stick and finding water with it. While some call this person a water witch, the method is not using witchcraft. It is merely using a fresh cut green twig that naturally bends toward water. Some have the ability to feel the twig bend in this manner.

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The word "divination" means "The act or practice of trying to foretell the future or the unknown by occult means" (by the aid of supernatural powers) (Webster). We have a New

Testament example in Acts 16:16-18.

To consider what the Scripture has to say concerning the subject we see in Deuteronomy 18:10-12, "There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, — For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." In II Kings 17:17 we see that the Children of Israel did this very thing that they had been commanded not to do, and in verse 18 it is said, "Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of His sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only." Also, in Ezekiel 13:23, the Lord tells the lying prophets, "Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divination: for I will deliver My people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the Lord."

There are other Scriptures which deal with this subject, but these are enough to show that the use of divination in the seeking of the unknown, be it water or whatever, is an abomination unto the Lord. In fact, in Leviticus 20:27, the command is given to Israel that, "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death:"

ANSWERING

(Continued from Page 3)

There is no exception! Be it College, University, or Seminary! Every Southern Baptist institution with any age, for example, was begun by men who professed to believe the Bible was God's word, that the Universe was God's creation, and that the churches are God's only ordained religious institutions on earth.

Today, however, there is not a Southern Baptist Convention Seminary, University, or College that holds and teaches these truths. The supposed "assumptions of Baptist forefathers" are deemed to be or to have been naive manifestations of religious and scientific ignorance. But do Southern Baptists care? Does anyone care? Do you care, really? Your own response of silence should give you some indication of the plight of Convention Southern Baptists! Needless to say, what we are seeing and hearing is tragic almost beyond comprehension.

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NORTH DAKOTA TO HAVE SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

by R. Lawrence Crawford
Hayward, California

Bathgate, North Dakota will soon have a Baptist church which was sponsored by The Calvary Baptist Church in Sumas, Washington where Brother Jim Blair has labored faithfully for many years. The church in Sumas was organized by Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky while Brother John Gilpin, Sr. was the pastor.

Brother Blair came from Bathgate originally, but the Lord moved him to the Pacific Northwest over twenty years ago, where he has managed his large dairy farm while he and Sister Blair labored to establish a true church. This man has stood for the truth there many years, and now God has blessed him and the church.

Several years ago, I helped Brother Blair in a series of meetings. During that meeting, Brother Wallace Saiger and family came from North Dakota to attend, but Brother Blair had been teaching these people the doctrines of Grace; however, they were still members of the Presbyterian faith. After many things which included Brother and Sister Blair making several trips back to their home town to teach the truth, the Lord led the Saigers into the truth. Young Brian Saiger was baptized and licensed by the church in Hayward where he graduated from Landmark Baptist Academy.

This young man later attended The Winnepeg Bible College, but he found that school so far off into Arminianism that he decided to quit and preach the gospel in nursing homes and other places rather than to waste his time with people who did not believe in a sovereign God, so he is also a factor in this new work in Bathgate.

In the meanwhile, the church in Sumas has baptized Brother Wallace Saiger and his wife Jean and Brian's wife Kay. These will constitute the new church in Bathgate.

The beautiful church building at the right of this article was bought by these people through the church in Sumas. It is located in the main part of Bathgate just a few miles south of the Canadian border and a few miles west of the Minnesota state line.

This work in Bathgate should teach us how God works His sovereign will. When Brother Blair was a very young Christian, he was given a copy of The Baptist Examiner and a sermon by Brother John Gilpin, Sr. on the doctrine of election. That sermon and the work of Brother Gilpin is still living in the new church at Bathgate, North Dakota.



are about to study, especially, makes these facts very plain.

First, I believe that man has manifested an attitude toward God and the things of God that has brought it about. And, I believe that God has and is doing a work.

II Thessalonians 2:9-12: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and all the deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie: That they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Satan is doing a work. It is to deceive with all power and signs and lying wonder.

Men are rejecting the truth. In fact, they receive not the love of the truth. They love falsehood.

Lastly, God is acting in judging men. He is sending strong delusion upon men. I don't believe that men would have turned to such nonsense as we are seeing, if God had not righteously judged men! This is the apostasy of the last days!

STEWARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

the desires of the flesh and the mind, and never stops to think that he shall give an account unto God for every idle word spoken and every misspent moment (Matthew 12:36, Job 7:18). Moses chose rather to redeem the time than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25). And Job tells us that the sin season is short, "The triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment" (Job 20:5).

While the stewardship of time is an awesome responsibility, it

should not serve to create in us a frenzied zeal. Such zeal is the mother of disorderliness, and would be a hindrance rather than a help in the proper use of our time. Redeeming the time does not mean that we are to forfeit all physical rest and recreation, but what it does mean is, whether we eat, drink, pray, or play, we are to do all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31).

Thieves of Time

Someone has said, "Procrastination is the thief of time." It is without doubt that a lot of time is lost due to procrastination, but procrastination is not the only culprit whereby time is lost. Laziness, carelessness, sensuousness are all thieves of time, and are more subtle and hurtful than procrastination. Sensuousness is not necessarily that which is manifestly sinful, surely those things are sensuous, but any and all things done in obedience to our fallen nature is sensual. It is a joy to get company, especially family whom you have not seen for awhile. On the other hand, considering the eternal perspective, it is readily seen that no company, be they ever so precious is worth getting who will take time from you which you owe to God. He Who purchased the church with His own blood, and grants man his every minute, has said to those baptized into His church, forsake not the assembly (Hebrews 10:25). Yet, the supposed excuse for absence, "I got company," seems never to wear thin. One day, that seemingly genuine excuse will regretfully be seen under the heading, I WISH I HAD NEVER SAID THAT.

The time spent at an old fashion family picnic is evil if it keeps a person from discharging his duty to God. What shall we then say of television, theater, carnal literature, and the like? All of these are unmasked and announced thieves of time, and to allow these things to steal

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

PRAYING

(Continued from Page 1)

practice for the churches in many occupied countries to pray for the soul of Joseph Stalin.

I do not consider it such a shock that there should be such a wave of emotional excitement at the death of John Lennon! I would rather believe that with the awful spiritual vacuum of the world today, it is to be expected! May I call attention to Hosea 8:7: "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. It hath no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal; if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up."

Did these who made such an uproar and called it prayer, really pray? I cannot judge, but I can point out the true conditions of prayer to reach The Throne

of God. Look at John 16:23, 24, 26, 27. "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you...ask, and ye shall receive."

Did these who pretended to pray for the soul of John Lennon stand on praying ground? Were they truly addressing God as their Father? "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them who believe on his name; Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13).

But What Does The Scriptures Actually Teach About The Estate Of The Dead — Remember, If They Speak Not According To Them There Is No Light In Them. "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).

Let us look at Ecclesiastes 11:3: "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree fall towards the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." I'm aware that this is a proverb, but, as such, it has to teach certain truths that God reveals to man that reason, unaided by God's Holy Spirit, cannot make known to man. May I quote from the footnotes of The Berkeley Version in Modern English; "Certain events are unchangeable. The life hereafter is determined by our ways of living this side of the grave." p. 678.

Now we turn to the plain positive teaching of God's Word and not a proverb. We next look at Luke 16:22-27: "The rich man also died and was buried; and in hades (hell) he lifted up his eyes being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus likewise evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all

this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that they who would pass from here to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from there."

Now the lessons: 1). A great gulf fixed, neither the saved or the lost can pass over that impassable gulf — "as a tree falls so is it!"

2): The state of our souls are set at death for all eternity. No prayer can change God's inexorable Word.

We turn to Mark 9:43-50. We shall turn only to the words that apply to our study. "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life lame, than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

We turn now, to the words of Our Lord in Matthew 25:41, 46; "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

O, beloved, we would beseech in Christ's name, be ye reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5:20).

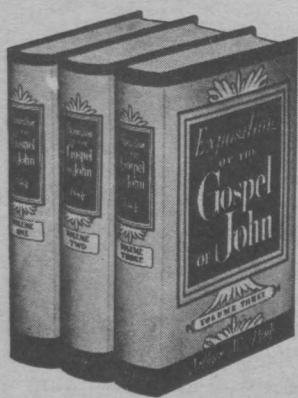
For now is the accepted time. II Corinthians 6:2: "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation)."

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

As I come to the last Scripture that I want to study in connection with our topic, "Why all this emphasis in a vain superstition such as 'praying for the dead' that we have seen in all the public media of many countries in the last several weeks? I believe that the one Scripture we

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STEWARDS

(Continued from Page 5)

from us time which we owe God, is equal to leaving the burglars the key to our home while we are away. There are one hundred and sixty eight hours in a week, and if a person attended all the regular services of his church he would spend approximately five hours per week in the house of God. Apart from providential leave it is the Christian's duty to be in every service of his church, and we need to keep in mind that God knows the difference between His providence and our perfidy. It is the member who attends consistently that realizes, he is yet an unprofitable servant, for he knows he has done no more than that which was his duty to do (Luke 17:10). He also knows, if he fails in this part of his duty, he will be less likely to succeed in any other.

The Christian may become careless in punctuality, and form a habit of tardiness. Such a habit is never more malicious, nor the person more guilty of time stealing than when repeatedly late for church service. There are occasions when Divine providence hinders, resulting in late arrival, but let us not compound guilt by blaming God for human dilatoriness. It is the general rule that when a person is late for church services he adversely diverts the attention of at least a few people in the assembly for a few minutes. Ascertain the number of people distracted by the late comer, multiply that number by the number of minutes their attention was interrupted, and the total will be the measure of time stolen from them by the unthinking and careless person. The aggravation is furthered, for the usual thing is, the speaker is momentarily distracted by the tardy person, which results in the whole assembly suffering an undue loss of time. The tardy person has unlawfully and permanently taken away part of the most important commodity God has given to man, time. The eternal law says, "Thou shalt not steal." And this law applies to time as well as money. The habitual time thief knows there is no human court to which he is amenable for his theft, so all corrective admonitions fall on deaf ears, and he merrily continues his repulsive habit. However, there is a court to which he has been summoned, and in which appearance he will not be one second late. In that court he will be caused to see his abuse of time, and the harm he did to others by it. "So then everyone of us shall give an account of himself unto God" (Romans 14:12).

Now is the Accepted Time
Serving God is not for spare time, when there is nothing else to do. With God there is no "Spare time," and the faithful know God has given them no minute to consume upon the flesh. They know that their King's business is urgent, and that His program allows for no delays. Man's economic philosophy is, "Time is money." But let us remember men's philosophy and God's determinations are often contrary the one to the other. The King of time and the Lord of life has not said "Time is money," neither has He said, "I will wait for your service until you become affluent," but the omniscient economist has said, "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such

a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:13, 14). God has not said, I will wait until you establish a career, or reach middle life, or retire, and then you may serve Me. But He has said, "Remember the Lord Thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days (age and sickness) come not..." (Ecclesiastes 12:1). And He has said, "Look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest: (John 4:35). There is no time like the present, and "now" is all the time we can be sure of. Thus, the urgency is constant, for the time of our departure from this fleeting life is always at hand (John 7:6). God demands and deserves the preeminence in all things, and except He have it in our dispensing of time, then He has it in nothing else in our life. The sum of what a person is when they face God is the result of the way in which they spent their time in this life. Seeing then that our sojourn here is so very brief, let us not waste a minute of it, but utilize it in such a manner so as when our days reach their end we can say with Paul, that tireless and busy apostle, "I am

now ready to be offered" (II Timothy 4:6). Christ said to His church, "Ye shall be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8). He did not say, I expect you to be My witnesses, nor did He say, I hope you will be My witnesses. He said, "Ye shall be My witnesses." Once a person is saved he mounts the witness stand where his life's testimony is judged by the world. He may be a good witness or a bad witness, but he is a witness all the time. When he squanders time, he steals from God, from others to whom he owes a better witness, and he robs himself of precious time and opportunities he can never redeem. How is it with your life's time card? When God asks you about this day, and He surely will, where will it appear, on the credit or debit side of the eternal page? May God grant us the strength to "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (Colossians 4:5), for "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). God's all-sufficient grace has supplied the believer with every means necessary to enhance his life, and all these means come to us in the vehicle called time. Let us pray for Divine enablement so as to guide our particular vehicle in being about our heavenly Father's business.

TELEVISION AND THE CHRISTIAN HOME

by Raymond Blanton

"I will sing of mercy and judgement: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

Psalms 101:1-3

INTRODUCTION

1. As we approach the subject of "TELEVISION AND THE CHRISTIAN HOME," I realize that T.V. is here to stay but that is no reason for the Christian to have one in his home.

Rattlesnakes and skunks are here to stay but you wouldn't think of bringing them into your living room just because of that! In fact, in many ways the rattlesnakes could do less damage than the one eyed monster of television.

2. In 1938, a news commentator named E. B. White made this statement:

"I believe T.V. is going to be the test of the modern world, and in this new opportunity to see beyond the range of our vision we shall discover either a new and unbearable disturbance of the general peace or a saving radiance in the sky. We shall stand or fall by T.V. — of that I am quite sure."

There is much wisdom and foresight in this statement, and the way it has turned out thirty-five years later, we are falling by T.V.

3. When television was made available to the average home, many were the cries against it and its evil influences and rightly so, but gradually things have changed. Almost all pastors and evangelists now have sets in their homes.

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WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Has T.V. changed? Yes, but it has changed for the worse!! It is definitely no better! If pastors and evangelists believed it was wrong for Christians to have or view T.V. 20 years ago and now see no harm in it, what has changed to make it all right?

Here are some things that have changed:

1. Moral standards of religious leaders and Christians! The standards have been lowered, making T.V. not so bad!

2. Values have changed! The Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University made a study of television several years ago. In their report they asked this question — "For 15 years T.V. has been at or close to the center of attraction in America. Is it ruining American taste, morality, and values?"

The answer to this question is — it has!! Someone penned these words of wisdom:

"Sin is a creature of such hideous mean

To be despised is but to be seen,

But seen too often familiar her face

First endured, then pitied, then embraced."

The values of "the world, the flesh and the devil" are definitely on the increase among professing Christianity.

The Devil has brought about the nakedness of our day thru T.V. A virtuous woman is practically a thing of the past!!

Many professing Christianity have viewed such gross immorality and immodesty on T.V. until their morals and values have been greatly altered, if not destroyed.

Some will say "But we control our T.V." One man said, "I thank God that I am lord and master of my T.V. set." Many say, "If something comes on I shouldn't watch, all I have to do is turn it off."

I'm reminded of a story I

heard of a man who was going to catch a large catfish with his hands — he went into the deep water and under the bank where the large fish was. He ran his hand thru the fishes mouth and out one of his gills. He then headed for the top. His friend cried from the bank — "Have you got him?" He answered, "Yes, I've got him." And just as he went back under the water he cried out, "No, wait a minute, he's got me!"

You may think you have your T.V. under control, and wake up to the fact that it has damaged your values and morals.

You may also wake up to the fact that thru years of constant viewing sin has sunk its venomous fangs deep into the hearts of your children. You may then cry like Lot did for them to flee the wrath of God and hear them laugh at you!

Christians take warning — you can't play around in the devil's waters and get away with it. The drunkard says, "I can control my bottle," but he can't. An old Chinese proverb says — "First the man takes the drink then the drink takes the man!"

The same sequence may be seen in T.V. and the Christian home —

"First the home takes the T.V., then the T.V. takes the home."

Let's look at some reasons why T.V. has no place in the Christian home!

I. T.V. DOES NOT MAKE A BETTER HOME!! IN ANY WAY!!

1. It does not make a better home spiritually!! Many who profess to be Christians are like that bunch of Hebrews out in the wilderness. — Num. 11:4-6.

"And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

"We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

"But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

They grew tired of God's heavenly provision for them and turned their hearts to lusting after the things of Egypt!!

John chapter six tells us that the manna was typical of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Christian, is Christ not enough for you? Must you have your times of fellowship with this wicked world thru T.V. to satisfy the old flesh? Something is wrong in your heart if Christ is not all you need!

In I John 2:15-17 we have a good evaluation of the television.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world.

"And the world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

2. There is no spiritual growth thru viewing the things of this wicked world; instead the Holy Spirit is grieved.

You may say, Preacher, I can watch it or leave it alone! Then leave it alone! Sell the thing and invest the money in reaching lost sinners with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!!

T.V. is a non-essential and does not make a better home



Question:— What Hebrew King worshipped the stars?

Answer:—Manasseh, Second Chronicles 33:3. — "For he (Manasseh) built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars of Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them." According to Deuteronomy 17:2-7 this was a capital offense.

spiritually!

Another reason why T.V. has no place in the home:

II THE TIME ELEMENT

1. Ephesians 5:15-16

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

"Redeeming the time, because he days are evil."

Time is precious!! When a moment is gone it is gone forever!! Watching television is a far cry from redeeming the time. It is really a waste of time. Something worth while could be done, like praying - I Thess. 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." It is hard to pray and watch T.V.

Reading the Bible is well worth while!!

Christian, are you reading thru your Bible this year! If you will write us we will be happy to send you a Bible reading guide. It takes you thru the Bible in a year. If you haven't taken up this practice, now is the time to start!! You cannot be a strong Christian without reading all God's Word regularly!!

Sowing the seed is redeeming the time! You should give out or mail out Gospel tracts every day!

Television is no aid in redeeming the time!! It is rather a time waster!

Another reason:

III — THE GROUP YOU ARE

FELLOWSHIPING WITH!

I Corinthians 10:20:

"...I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."

The writers and producers of T.V. programs are men of this world whose minds are controlled by Satan.

When you sit down to view one of the movies or plays which is the product of an evil mind you are in reality turning your mind over to them for a period of time. How dangerous to turn your mind over to the most wicked people on earth. It is thru this brain-washing process that the god of this age, the devil, has brain-washed Christians into accepting sinful things as not so sinful and the lost into doing anything he wants them to do!! There remains very little difference now between America and the jungles of Africa!! We now have a heathen America!! Romans 1:21-24 tells just what has happened!

"Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

"And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an

(Continued on Page 8 Column 3)

"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY"

ANAPOLIS, Md. (EP)—The X-rated gingerbread men and women sold at a shop here may be "disgusting" but they're not illegal, according to prosecutors who refused to pursue a Moral Majority complaint about the cookies. The gingerbread people sold at the Gingerbread Man feature prominent sex organs and big smiles.

"These were obscene cookies, and there's no way you can get around that," said James Wright, executive director of the Maryland Moral Majority.

Mr. Wright sent two youngsters into the shop to make a purchase. He then tried unsuccessfully to convince Annapolis police and the Anne Arundel County state's attorney's office that the store had illegally sold obscene material to minors.

Frederick Paone, an assistant state's attorney, said he found the cookies "personally disgusting" but not illegal. "All I saw was a visual representation of a gingerbread man, not a visual representation of a person," Paone said.

Mr. Wright said he was told by Mr. Paone that Moral Majority could try to obtain a warrant on its own, then bring its cookies and witnesses to court.

Mr. Kathe Halter, who runs the bakery, said the cookies, which sell for \$1.50 each, are popular: "People buy them like crazy. They're fun. And they all have big smiles because they're proud of their natural endowments."

WASHINGTON (EP)—President Jimmy Carter made an emotional farewell appearance January 4 at the Baptist Bible class he has attended for the last four years, saying that humility, compassion, courage and love are qualities that can overcome "broken collarbones and election defeats."

President Carter, teaching the class for the last time as President, referred often to his own recent setbacks, and said that if a Christian follows the teachings of Christ and tries hard, "God will understand when you fail."

"How can we expect all of our prayers to be answered when all of Jesus' prayers weren't answered," President Carter said.

He was praised by many members of the class at the First Baptist Church, and Fred Gregg, its regular teacher, told him: "In history, in time, people will wake up to what a great president they had."

MEDFORD, Ore. (EP)—"Many Christian churches and organizations are guilty of stealing about every week of the year," states Dr. Bob Turnbull, president of Omega Publications.

"Thousands of denominational and non-denominational churches, plus parachurch organizations, mimeograph or photocopy the words of a copyrighted song, and that is illegal. According to the new copyright law 94-553 enacted on October 19, 1976, it is illegal to mimeograph or photocopy the words of a copyrighted song or to make a slide or overhead transparency of a copyrighted song."

"In the Holy Bible we are commanded to obey the law of the land, and the law of this land makes this kind of photocopying illegal. While making copies of songs may seem innocent enough at the time, it is actually a serious problem for those people who make their living from writing and publishing music. It is tantamount to taking food from their families' mouths."

"The vast majority of Christians would never think of entering someone's house and stealing his hard-earned income, and yet they unknowingly do exactly that when they photocopy a writer's song rather than purchase a copy."

Dr. Turnbull further states that "there are some music publishing companies who have gone bankrupt because of the widespread illegal duplicating practices of choir directors, music ministers and pastors. Churches are the worst offenders and they either ignore or tolerate this offense, instead of being law-abiding and making sure their Christian stand is above reproach. When asked about this illegal practice, the majority rationalize their actions. Interesting, since their rationalization wouldn't stand up in a court of law, nor before our Lord!"

Dr. Turnbull says "there have been court cases recently involving millions of dollars where music publishers have sued major denominations and some individuals for mimeographing copyrighted songs. I am glad they won their cases!"

It is time for churches and Christian organizations to display Christ-like honesty and begin to obey the law of the land in this matter. I encourage members of these churches and groups to remind their leaders, if they are breaking this law, that violation of this is both a crime and a sin."

ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, Calif. (EP)—1980 saw another increase in occult activity in America as reflected in the marketing sophistication of occult movements. According to Craig A. Huey, president of Infomat, Inc., a Rolling Hills Estates direct marketing agency, many companies prospered greatly by marketing occult books, magazines, charms, voodoo pendants and other assorted paraphernalia.

The available mailing lists involved in the occult now stands at some 3,824,622 (some include the accumulation of several

years). Women still constitute a majority of the buyers. The vast majority of occultists are involved in astrology. For example, one company called the American Astrological Association has some 339,660 individuals who have bought horoscopes. Seventy percent are women. There are some 86,000 women mail order buyers who paid \$8.40 each for a genie-in-the-bottle good luck pendant, a mystical talisman. The House of Collinwood has 92,976 buyers who purchased ankhs, pyramids, talisman amulets, zodiac medallions, occult necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, (mostly for women).

There were 208,302 buyers of the Handbook of Supernatural Powers, which gives directions for ancient spells and potents. Seventy percent are men. There were 91,846 buyers of the book Magic Power of Witchcraft. There are 16,842 members of the Circle of Mystic and Occult Arts Book Club.

Not all companies and organizations will allow their mailing lists to be used by others. However, available lists do reflect market movement and public interest.

Mr. Huey cautioned that "Evangelical Christians should be aware that modern, persuasive marketing techniques are being used on the general public. Christians have much to learn from the unreached public's interest in the supernatural."

Mr. Huey also stressed that Christians must begin to use modern marketing techniques: "We should experiment with display advertising and direct mail to the unchurched. Typically, this large group doesn't read Christian publications or listen to Christian radio programs. Some Christians may wish to reach even those interested in the occult itself. Perhaps they can be reached through the techniques of direct marketing in the secular media."

WASHINGTON (EP)—President Carter signed into law Dec. 24 a bill restoring an income tax exclusion for missionaries and other charitable workers. The signing followed months of efforts by organizations with charitable workers overseas to convince Congress to restore the \$20,000 tax exclusion which had been in effect prior to passage of the Foreign Earned Income act of 1978.

Congress completed action on the measure just two days before a twice extended deadline granted by the Internal Revenue Service for payment of 1979 taxes. The tax exclusion cleared Congress as an amendment to H.R. 4968, a bill dealing with real estate investment trusts. The new law will save Southern Baptists alone about \$1 million annually. Estimates of savings for all charitable organizations range as high as \$25 million annually.

The signing came as no surprise since President Carter supported the measure. The real question for backers of the measure was whether or not it could be moved through the closing days of the lame duck session of Congress.

The overseas tax exemption is granted to employees of agencies who perform "qualified charitable services" in "lesser developed countries," and is not related to the constitutional requirement for church-staff separation.

WASHINGTON (EP)—Prayer in public schools

and tuition tax credits head the list of church-state issues likely to be legislative objectives of the conservative-flavored 97th Congress which convened January 5. It is unlikely the new Congress; with a Republican-controlled Senate and a much more conservative orientation, will match the separationist record of the 96th Congress on church-state issues.

Since both the Republican platform and President-elect Reagan support prayer in public schools and tuition tax credits, the question is not whether these issues will surface, but when, and in what form. Such issues may be temporarily pushed aside until the new president and Congress have had a chance to tackle larger issues, such as the ailing economy.

Proponents of school prayer and tuition tax credits mustered a flurry of activity during the last Congress, but failed to change current laws and court decisions which support the constitutional requirement of church-state separation. Proponents of prayer in schools have made no secret to their plans to push the issue in the 97th Congress. Like the prayer in school issue, chances for tuition tax credit legislation have been enhanced with the new Congress and administration.

On another key church-state matter, the 96th Congress backed away from lobby disclosure legislation requiring religious groups to keep records and report to government on their advocacy efforts. Chances for a legislated ban on the use of clergy in the 96th Congress are uncertain, but the new Republican leadership in the Senate and the Republican platform both appear to lean more in the direction of unleashing the intelligence community rather than restricting it.

BROOKFIELD, Mo. (EP)—A judge has approved a Bucklin, Mo., minister's plan to educate his two sons in his church's religious school, but only as long as it is operated according to accepted procedures for private schools.

Linn County Circuit Judge James Wheeler issued the ruling after Charles Quinn of the Bucklin Bible Baptist Church agreed to comply with regulations for private schools. The minister had been threatened with a contempt of court citation for refusing to return his sons, 14-year-old Danny and 11-year-old Chuckie, to the Linn County R-2 public school in Bucklin.

But Wheeler, after the last of two hearings in the month long controversy, said the youngsters could attend the church school, which will be monitored by a county juvenile officer.

Mr. Quinn withdrew his sons from the public school Dec. 4 to enter them in the Triple B School, which he formed through his church because of what he and others believe is a breakdown in public education.

"Jesus Christ has been almost completely removed from public schools," Mr. Quinn said, "They don't encourage prayer or the morals I think education should instill."

NASHVILLE (EP)—John H. Buchanan, Alabama's Sixth District Republican representative to Congress for the past 16 years, has become a consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission effective January 1. Mr. Buchanan, who was the only Southern Baptist minister in Congress, lost his bid for re-election when he was narrowly defeated in the

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Republican primary last September by a Moral Majority-supported candidate.

According to Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission, Buchanan will represent Southern Baptists in Washington, D.C. in areas of Christian social concern and Christian social action. Mr. Buchanan said, "I count it a special privilege to be working in this new capacity with the Christian Life Commission whose commitment to applied Christianity and to Christian citizenship have given me great support and encouragement through the years."

Mr. Buchanan, formerly pastor of churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Alabama, is an active member and deacon of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington where his wife has served for 10 years as a music director.

CHATHAM, N.J. (EP)—Trans World Radio-Guam recently promoted a stamp-exchange campaign for its Chinese listeners. As a result of this project, mail response has increased at the Hong Kong office. As many as 100 letters per day have been received, representing at least 25 provinces in China. Many of the letters are from new listeners.

The letters indicate that "the Chinese are inquisitive about God's Word and Christianity," according to Trans-World Radio. More than 340 programs are beamed weekly from Trans-World Radio-Guam in the Mandarin, Cantonese, and English languages to over 900 million Chinese.

In other news, TWR also announced the twentieth anniversary of TWR on-the-air from Monte Carlo, Monaco. The Gospel is broadcast from this location into Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa in 35 languages.

A FRANK EXPOSURE OF FREEMASONRY

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TELEVISION

(Continued from Page 6)

image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and footed beasts, and creeping things.

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts..."

The morals of this nation are crumbling and the main tool of Satan right now is T.V.

The ungodly styles are fashioned by men of corrupt minds controlled by Satan and people are brainwashed into accepting them by means of T. V.

Someone has pictured Satan's plan for T. V. in the Christian home as follows:—

"The home is the place for this sinful device; the people deceived will think it quite nice. The world will possess it; most Christians can't tell that it's all of the devil and was plotted in Hell. We'll sell them with pictures of the latest news, and while they're still looking we'll advertise booze. At the soul-damning cigarette also they'll look, until they forget what God says in His Book. At first it will shock them. They'll seem in a haze; but soon they'll be hardened and continue to gaze. We'll give them some Gospel that isn't too strong, and add a few sacred songs to string them along. They'll take in the ads with the latest of fashions, and soon watch the shows that stir evil passions. Murder and love-making scenes they'll behold, until in their souls they are bitterly cold."

Remember the text?

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee. O Lord, will I sing."

Here is the right kind of music for the Christian home! You don't get this kind of music on T. V. This comes out of a heart that is right with God.

"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me?"

Here the heart that is right with God cries out and longs for the return of his Lord.

Does His return bring comfort or fear to your heart? The return of the Lord for His own is surely at hand. We will then stand at the judgment seat of Christ. Christians, our works will be tried, Your T.V. viewing will be tried!

"When Jesus comes to reward His servants, whether it be noon or night.

Faithful to Him will He find us watching,

With our lamps all trimmed and bright.

O can we say we are ready, brother?

Ready for the soul's bright home?

Say will He find you and me still watching,

Waiting, waiting when the Lord shall come?

Christian, what will He find you watching? A television show?

Then our text says:

"I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes."

My friend, that leaves no room for the television in the Christian home.

What this world needs are more permanent Wives, and less Permanent "Waves" to stay out of our hair."

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