

## GOD'S PREACHER

by Oscar B. Mink  
Texarkana, Tx.

God's preachers are human (believe it or not) just as much as any of us. They come from all areas, but mostly from homes poor in material wealth. They come in all sizes -- tall, short, fat, skinny and in-between. But they all are of the male sex.

Most people do not care whether they exist or not -- that is, until they get in trouble. Then they cry, "Where is that preacher, what's his name?" Then the first question they ask the preacher is, "Why in the world did God let this happen to me?"

But, in fact, God's preachers are not hard to find, for they are constantly being told by most people, "You get in my hair," or "You get under my skin," and that is about as close as you can get to a person.

God's preacher is required to have the wisdom of Solomon, the disposition of a lamb, the swiftness of an eagle. But, when he makes a mistake, he is called an ignoramus. If he unapologetically preaches the truth of the Lamb of God, he is accused of being hard-hearted, and if he is not promptly at the scene of every church related emergency some of the members will say, "He is lazy."

In the eyes of a great many people, God's preacher is a bogeyman who spends most of his time talking about that place "down there."

While most workers get paid

vacations and holidays, God's preacher is on call twenty-four hours a day, every day in the year. He has no pastor, nor labor union on earth to take his grievance to.

Each church member knows that God's preacher has but one mission in life. That is to reprove sin wherever it is seen. He is considered a dedicated man. But he should keep quiet about the little



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sins, like immodest dress, or colored jesting, and oh yes, why does he criticize other churches?

If God's preacher drives a big car he is materially minded. If he drives a little car he is not interested in bringing people to church. He is expected to be the first and last person at the church service no matter what kind of a car he drives.

He must be at all times ready to meet the public and represent the church. If his old faithful suit begins to show wear from the many doses of pulpit sweat, he is

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Where grace lives, sin dies.

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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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## WHY CARRY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE FOREIGN MISSION FIELDS

By Adriano Ragracias, Sr.  
The Philippines

Why should we bestir ourselves to take the gospel of Christ to the non-Christian people?

If the non-Biblical and non-Christian religious beliefs are as unsatisfying as they appear today and are as incapable of providing the rock-foundation for the regenerated real life which the people of Africa and Asia, including the Philippines are beginning to live, what could be more futile than to attempt to reproduce ecumenisms with all difficulties and readjustments attending such a task?

Instead of becoming at ease with the passing of years the missionary problems grow ever more complex. A new situation has arisen in all lands which the Biblical Mission did not find

necessary to confront with the evolutionary paganisms by the gospel of Christ almost five hundred years in the Philippines.



Adriano Ragracias, Sr.

For it appears that there has been tremendous growth in the Filipino Nationalism and consciousness with racial pride. Both these movements have resulted in

a more strenuous and more enlightened resistance to the acceptance of fundamental Biblical religion brought by fundamental missionaries who are sincere and honest in their Christian missionary tasks with the native converts, so, the non-biblical traditionalists with their pride in the past, in the beauties of their own literatures and in the truths to be found in their pagan religious beliefs have caused many to conclude that all they need in religion is ethics as found in their own traditions. This is the attitude of an increasing number of high-minded Filipinos who have sincerely embraced of their anti-biblical religion which they have experienced.

That is what the apostle Paul described in his epistle to the

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## THE WOODSHED

by Fred C. Beard

Romans 8:28, "and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Here we find a Scripture that is familiar to most of us; and as long as everything is going along



Fred Beard

smoothly, with no mishaps, no trouble, no pain, we believe it to be true. But if something in our lives is disruptive to our normal way of life, then we start asking, "why?" And how could this be good for me? How can a trip to the woodshed, where I am going to suffer be good for me?

Believe it or not it will be, and it must be, and it always has been; even from the very beginning. Because God has always had His woodsheds. Adam had everything that was good, including the very best that man could ever want. And that was a walking and talking relationship with the Almighty Maker. But he disobeyed God. And God took him to the woodshed. His sin (all sin is disobedience to God) caused him to be separated from God, to

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by Dr. C.D. Cole  
"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5).

This third portrait of the saint shows him in relation to others and to material things. It is a virtue of the person who is poor in spirit-poor in his own estimate of himself -- and who grieves over his sins. "The meek man is one who has got himself out of the center of the picture." The ideal Christian not only esteems himself lightly; he also denies himself. The meek man does not measure events by their effect

upon his own welfare or comfort. His main concern is not for his own interests and reputation. He is ruled by love for God and his neighbor.

If the world should write a Beatitude touching earthly possessions, it would read about like this: "Blessed are they who push and shove and fight for their way to the top: for they shall win the earth." The world says, "Blessed are the strong, who can hold his own." But He who spake as never man spake says, "Blessed are the meek." We have never seen the man who exactly fits this picture,

but we have known some who reminded us of him.

What is Christian meekness? In the Bible the word is associated with such words as humility, lowliness, patience, and gentleness. It is the opposite of the fierce spirit that belongs to pride and disposition to avenge a wrong. It is the spirit that leaves vengeance with God. Meekness is not a natural virtue, but a spiritual grace. In Galatians 5:16, it is mentioned as a fruit of the Spirit along with love, peace, joy, long-suffering, gentleness, and

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

## TOTAL COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST

"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (II Cor.8:5). I know of nothing that could be more important to a child of God than this message, and a proper response to it. Most professed Christians of today just do not seem to be committed to Jesus Christ. It does not seem true of many that they have given themselves totally to the Lord, that He is first in their lives. Growth, blessings, and usefulness will be in proportion to one's commitment to Jesus Christ.

What is total commitment? Let me mention three things that

hinder such in the believer more than anything else. Self is the major hindrance. We desire to please ourselves. We are determined to do what we want to do. No one is going to tell us what to do. This attitude is destructive of real commitment to the Lord. When options are before us; we choose the one that we desire, that pleases us, that will most benefit us. We do not seek to know what the Lord would have us do, and then do that.

A second serious hindrance to total commitment is "others." "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter

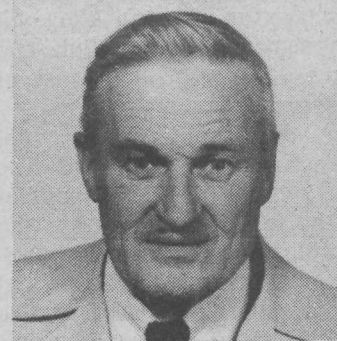
more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt.8:37). How many of us, and how often, put loved ones ahead of the Lord? A saved wife will stay out of church to please her unsaved husband. Believers will go to churches just to please a loved one, when they believe they should be going to a different church. A man will leave a church that he believes is teaching the truth and really would rather attend, to go to another one to please his wife. Believers will go to churches because their friends go there instead of because they believe the Lord is leading them there. Indi-

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## INVICTICIDE

by Gene D. Abbott  
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Invict is a word, often considered obsolete, which means indomitable; or unable to be subdued, conquered, or dominated. Perhaps it is a bit paradoxical or ironic that this word has come into virtual disuse. The adaption of this word into a philosophy has resulted in establishment of an "Invict" principle, which advocates that men have this characteristic. "Invict" is the root word for a poem by William Henley, entitled "The Invictus." Few people recall the poem, or recognize the title; but practically everyone will recognize a phrase from that poem. Now, like me, they may not be certain just exactly how to quote it; but they'll remember a statement that there's



Gene Abbott

a time when a man is the master of his fate and captain of his soul, or captain of his fate and master of his soul, in some order. This concept has had such a far-reaching effect that it matters little that people cannot name that poem and that few recognize the name of the author. I would not say that Henley initiated the

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*Faith should never be represented as being an act "so simple" that the work of the Spirit is not needed to produce it.*

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## TOTAL

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viduals will not serve the Lord faithfully, will not live totally separated lives because of loved ones. Believers will go to worldly places and do worldly things that they really would rather not do, just to please loved ones.

Our love for Jesus Christ should exceed all other loves put together. Oh, how often does Jesus Christ take second place to others in the lives of believers! We should love Him more than all other people and all other things put together. Yet, how few have this kind of love for Jesus Christ. Then there is that awful idol god of young people, peer pressure. How many young people go places and do things they do not really want to do, because they fear the opinions of others? They do not want others to make fun of them. They will smoke, curse, dope, drink, and have illicit sex, all because of peer pressure.

A third hindrance to total commitment is the world. The believer desires to be popular with, to be accepted by, the world. How often has total commitment to Christ been sacrificed on the altar of popularity? The pleasures of this world cause many believers to fail in total commitment to Christ. Oh, how sad! They sacrifice the greater joy of total commitment to Christ for the much lesser joy of the pleasures of this world. There are the material possessions of this world. Many believers fail in to-

tal commitment to Christ because of their desire for and love of material things. The wife works when she ought to be a keeper at home, mothering her children, and keeping house for her husband. They could live comfortably without her working, but they are so interested in obtaining more of the things of this world. Being a mother and a wife is a full time job, and leaves no room for working another job. Most women work because of their love (and their husband's love) of the material things of this world. Men will work two jobs, not because they have to in order to survive, but because they desire more of the material things of this world - and this leaves them no time for serving the



Joe Wilson

Lord in His church. Yes, these three things: self, others, and the world are the three greatest hindrances to total commitment to Jesus Christ.

Let us look at the positive side of total commitment. There must be a total surrender to the will of God. One must not decide according to what self wants or what others want, but according to the will of God. Total commitment means to seek, learn, and do the will of God in one's life. "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord what wilt thou have me to do?..." (Acts 9:6). These were the first words of Paul following his salvation experience. These should be the first, and the continuing, words of every saved person: not what do I want to do? or what do others want me to do? but what does the Lord want me to do? Friend, are these words characteristic of your life?

To be totally committed to Jesus Christ, one must deny self. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lk.9:23). What does it mean to "deny self"? It does not mean that we will deny certain things to ourselves. It does not mean that we will give up certain things for a period of time or for all time. This is what most people mean by "self denial", but it is not the Biblical meaning. To deny self is to say "no" to self at every point, all the time, and in every detail and every thing. To deny self is to refuse to allow self to enter at all into the decisions of life. Self says, do this. The Lord says, do this. One says "no" to self and "yes" to the Lord; this is true self denial, and this is essential to total commitment to Jesus Christ.

Read the above Scripture again, (Lk. 9:23). One must take up his cross in order to be totally committed to Christ. One's cross is not certain trials or troubles that he has. It is not certain obstacles to his serving Christ that he might have. It is not some sickness. It is not one's husband, wife, parents, or children. These

things are not one's cross. So often people look on some sickness, burden, or trial as being their cross. The cross is an instrument of death. It is that upon which one dies. To take up the cross is to die to self, others, and the world. The cross is that by which one is crucified to the world, (Gal. 6:14). When George Mueller was asked the secret of his life and service for God, he replied in words to this effect, "There came a day when I died. I died to George Mueller, to his aims, desires, pleasures, and ambition. Since then I have lived only to obey, serve, and please the Lord." This is what it means to take up the cross, and one must thus take up his cross before he can truly follow Christ.

To be totally committed to Jesus Christ is to always put Him first in one's life. He must be ahead of self, ahead of others, and ahead of things. Is Jesus first in your life? Do you have other gods in your life ahead of Jesus Christ? Are you thus an idolator? Search and see, dear friend, search and see.

To be totally committed to Jesus Christ is to seek always to please Him. It will greatly simplify and enrich your life if you will realize that you have one person to please one day at a time. Read that again. Now, put that into practice. Seek always to please the Lord, and other people and things will fall into the right places in your life. Now, let us sum up the meaning of total commitment. It means to be totally surrendered to His will for your life, to deny self, to take up one's cross (die to self, others, and the world) daily, to put Christ first in one's life, to always seek to please Him. These things are all involved in total commitment, and one cannot be thus committed to Christ if any of these things are missing.

This matter of total commitment involves two important things. First, one must learn God's will for his or her life. This can be done by earnestly desiring to know it, by being sincerely willing to do it, by much prayer and much searching of the Word. Let me say, to your consolation, that the Lord will not withhold the knowledge of His will from one who honestly and sincerely desires to know and do it. I say it reverently, but the Master owes to the servant to tell him what to do. Secondly, one must do the Lord's will. One will not continue to know God's will who will not do it. It is not always easy to do the will of God. When one is totally committed to doing God's will, there will be much opposition. There will be many trials to face. Dear friend, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. He will enable one to live according to God's will when that one is sincerely determined to do so. We cannot walk this path alone, and we don't have to. The Holy Spirit is given to the believer to enable him to know and to do the will of God. If we are not doing the will of God, it is our fault, and ours alone; provisions are made and strength is given. If you are not doing God's will in your life, it is not your wife's fault, it is not your husband's fault, it is not because of your peculiar circumstances, it is not because you are weak; it is because you are not sincere in desiring and endeavoring to know and do His will. The fault is yours alone.

Total commitment to Jesus Christ involves all else. Oh, this

is the root of the matter! We need to face and deal with this matter, for doing all other duties of the Christian life will surely follow this. Lack of total commitment to Jesus Christ is the source of all other problems in the Christian life. The totally committed Christian will tithe, read the Word, pray, live a clean and separated life, be a faithful worker in the church, and be a faithful witness for Christ. He will do all the other things that are commanded to the child of God. Yes, total commitment is the first and foremost thing, and will settle all other matters in the believer's life.

To be totally committed, one cannot keep back anything, or any part of anything. Don't "cross your fingers" when you speak of total commitment to Jesus Christ. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? They wanted to

give the impression before others that they were totally committed, but they wanted to keep back a part for themselves. It is a terrible sin to profess to be totally committed to Jesus Christ, when one knows that he is keeping back a part. One might thus impress others, but he cannot hide his lack of total commitment from the Holy Spirit. A pretense of total commitment, when it was not real, cost Ananias and Sapphira their lives. God may not kill you for such, but you will not get by with it.

When should one totally commit himself to the Lord? Well, one should do this at the moment of salvation. In fact, I would doubt the salvation of one who would refuse to do this at that time. I am a Lordship salvation believer. I question the salvation

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## FROM THE EDITOR

**"BOAST not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day (or a year) may bring forth (Prov.27:1).** What will this year bring forth? No one knows but God. There may arise some self-called prophets who will try to tell us, but they will thereby prove themselves to be false prophets. Only God knows the future. And He knows it because He has predestinated it, and He is able to bring to pass that which He has purposed. The best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray, but not so with the plans of God. So, whatever happens this year will be exactly according to what God has purposed for this year. All the events of this year are already detailed on the calendar of God's predestination.

I surely did not know at the beginning of last year of the sickness, the two surgeries, or the thirty-nine days in the hospital that I would undergo during the year. At the beginning of last year, none of us knew what would take place during the year. As the year unfolded, the events, predestinated by God, took place according to schedule.

What will happen this year? I do not know. I do know that, so far as we do or can know, Jesus Christ may come this year (if He has not already come before this is in the mailbox). Oh, glad and glad some day! What great blessings will come to the believer with the coming of Jesus Christ! No more sickness, sorrow, or sin. No more trouble or trial. No more problem. Only glory, only glory, by and by. All the saved up to the time of the rapture may be in heaven this very year.

What will happen this year? I do not know. However, I am quite sure that many will die this year. It is appointed to man once to die, and, my friend, your appointment with death may be during this year. Well, the time of death is not too important. The matter about death that is important above all else is, are you ready to die? Where will you go when you die? If you die this year; if you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you will go to heaven. Heaven is so much better than this life. To be with Christ is far better than anything that can happen to one in this life. Doubtless, some of you who read this will be in heaven before this year ends. If you die this year; if you do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you will go to eternal, burning hell. Nothing can or will ever happen to you in this life that will be anywhere near as bad as going to hell. Doubtless, some who are now living, will be in hell before this year ends.

What will happen this year? I do not know. However, I do know two things about what will happen this year. One thing I know, which I have already briefly mentioned, is that all that happens this year will be according to the predestinated will and purpose of God. He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. God does not predestinate what He already knows, as some men foolishly teach. God knows what He has already predestinated. God's foreknowledge of the future is based upon His predestination of the future. Predestination is God's purposing and planning of all that is to take place. Foreknowledge is God's knowing of His predestinated plan. Providence is God's governmental control of all His creatures and all their actions, and this control is according to His predestinated plan. Prophecy is God's revealing of that part of His predestinated plan that He desires that men might know. No predestination, no prophecy; it is as simple as that. History is the unrolling in time, and the coming to pass in time, of God's eternally predestinated plan. It would do you good to read this paragraph again, and remember these things. What happens this year will be what God has predestinated, and nothing will happen this year that was not eternally predestinated by God.

What will happen this year? I do not know. However, a second thing I do know about such is that whatever happens this year will be good for the true children of God. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom.8:28). It may not look good. We may not be able to understand how it could possibly be for our good. But the Bible says it is for our good, and whether we understand it or not, it will be so. One might say that God planned the events of this year with His children in mind, and planned it for their good. Nothing will take place this year that could be to the ultimate harm of God's children.

What will happen this year? I don't know. However, I do know that everything that happens will be according to God's predestinated plan, will be under the sovereign control of our Almighty God, and will be for the good of God's children. What more do I need to know? God bless you all.



## TOTAL

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of those who do not bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I really do not believe that this is a problem with one at the time of the salvation experience. I do not believe that at the salvation experience, one says to Jesus, "I will receive you as my saviour to keep me out of hell, but you cannot be the Lord of my life, you cannot tell me what to do, I will live my life as I please." Do you believe this?

This attitude of total commitment should be the continuing attitude of the life of a saved person. I know that their are backslidings and failures in the Christian life, but such should not, and will not, be the norm of the believer's life. He will repent of such and return to the attitude of total commitment. My friend, if you are not totally committed to Christ, you need to seriously examine your hope of salvation. It is very possible, even likely, that you are not truly saved.

Why should one be totally committed to Jesus Christ? It is the only right thing to do. As a morally responsible and accountable person, you should live this kind of life. Even the unsaved man owes the same obedience to Jesus Christ that the saved one does. Of course, he cannot and will not do this, but his inability does not rob God of His authority over men.

The saved person has an added incentive and responsibility in being totally committed to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gave Himself for our salvation. Oh, we deserve the eternal torments of hell, but Jesus took our place and bore our sins and redeemed us from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us (Gal. 3:13). "...know ye not...ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19-20). To fail to be totally committed to Jesus Christ is to rob Him of that which He purchased with His own precious blood. Gratitude to our Lord for His saving of our souls should prompt us to willingly and gladly be totally committed to Him for the rest of our lives.

There are many blessed and precious results of the totally committed life. This brings the greatest joy to the Christian life. Oh, so many Christians are not filled with joy. The Christian ought to always be the most joyful of people. But, when total commitment is lacking, joy is lacking, or at least is much less than it could and should be. The totally committed life is the life of the most usefulness in the service of the Lord and to the blessing of others. It is our chief end to glorify God, and we cannot do this apart from total commitment. It is our second chief duty to be a blessing to others, and we cannot do this fully without total commitment to Jesus Christ. There is no use in your singing or praying, "Make me a blessing" so long as you are not totally committed to Jesus Christ. Get this matter settled, and God will make you a blessing.

This is the way of the greatest rewards. It will soon be over down here. Ere long, we will be standing before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. Rewards will be given out. Yes, I believe in re-

wards. I know, I know, that many preachers do not believe in rewards, but that does not change my mind. I believe in rewards because the Bible teaches this. Dear brother and sister, our rewards at the judgment seat of Christ will be according to the degree of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Well, I am nearly done. I have two questions for the believer who reads this. What should you do in response to this message? What will you do? I have a word to the unsaved. This message has been for saved people. I do not talk with you about this subject. I tell you that Jesus Christ is God, He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death at Calvary, rose from the dead; and that if you will repent of your sins and trust Him as Lord and Saviour, you will be eternally saved. May God bless you all.

## PREACHER

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undignified. Yet some members keep telling him, "Don't you forget, we are giving you your living."

No matter how sour the grapes, he must ever be an extrovert, which is sometimes difficult. But, faith in God has made an optimist of him and he knows the rain which comes into his life falls from the cloud of God's merciful providence which abides upon him.

Soldiers get medals for bravery. Industry gives promotions and certificates of merit for jobs well done. The lodges bestow accolades upon their worthies. The entertainment world has their outstanding artist. But, none is to compare with the reward that God's preacher will receive when he faces his God and hears, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

God's preacher knows that in order to become president of the United States, he would have to take a demotion.

"This is a true saying; if a man desireth the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work" (I Tim. 3:1).

## WOODSHED

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have to work the ground for his food. His first born son slew his own brother; and God sent Cain out from his people. Now Adam has lost not one, but two sons. Now Adam knows what pain and sorrow is all about. He is getting his first woodshed trip, don't you see. But all this, bad as it was, was for his own good. We find out later that Adam had learned his lesson. Genesis 4:25-26. "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD." You see, here we are into the third generation, and men are calling upon God. Adam, you see, had to have been teaching his children about God, or they would not have even known there was a God. Adam's woodshed experience was a lasting experience. He never forgot God.

We are reminded of Abraham; that great man of faith. Yet he also went to the woodshed. There was a time when Abraham tried to help God to bring about the promised son. In his weakness he took advice from his wife, and took her handmaid Hagar. Hagar conceived, and Ishmael was born. But Ishmael was not the son of promise. When God was ready; Sarah, Abraham's wife conceived and that son of promise was born. Thus we find the first lesson that any woman knows, and every man should know if he were not so dense. Two wives was never meant to be, because the two can not live with one man, and not fight. Hagar and her son Ishmael were sent out from the house of Abraham. And thus began the war that is still being fought today, and may cost us some of our children in this mid-east crisis that is going on now. (Whoa, back off that rabbit trail).

We read in Genesis 22:1-2, "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." I want you to take note that God said that Isaac is Abraham's only son. Yes, God did not recognize Ishmael as the son of Abraham. And now God is taking Abraham to the woodshed! Oh, but Abraham was a good student, he had already learned his lesson. He follows the instructions of God to the letter. Oh that we would have faith, and trust, and follow the instructions of God. Then we too could stay out of God's woodshed.

Samson: Lust was Samson's problem, his woodshed trip cost him his eyes, and to grind meal for his enemies, the Philistines. Only in death did he have his victory. He slew more of his enemy in his death, than he ever did while living.

Then who could ever forget David's problem with lust? His lust led to murder. His woodshed trip cost him the son of that lust. And that was only one of his many trips to the woodshed. And he was the apple of God's eye. This should tell us a thing or two, if we listen. Hebrews 12:6, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." We all have faults, some more than others, but if we are His, He will correct those faults, and His way is through chastisements. Just read the rest of Hebrews twelve.

Peter had a problem of bragging. He said to Jesus that even if all the others did, he would not ever be offended of his Lord. And "Jesus said unto him, Verily, I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice" (Matt. 26:34). Jesus has just told Peter, Peter I'm going to take you to the woodshed. And He did. Matthew 26:75, "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." The trip to the woodshed hurt him. But Jesus loved him.

Hear me! The woodshed brings sorrow and pain. And if you don't

want the sorrow and the pain: then stay out of the woodshed. The way to stay out of the woodshed is to obey the Father. Jesus says to us in Matthew 19:19 "Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." And in Mark 7:10 "For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death." Again in Mark 10:19, "Thou knowest the commandment, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bare false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother." Jesus, just as God the Father, places the dishonour of parents with the sin of murder, theft, liars, and adultery. Honoring parents is a commandment from God. Young and old alike, you hear me, when you disobey your parents, your dishonor them in the eyes of God. And you will go to the woodshed. Believe me, I know where of I speak. Time, nor space will not allow me to share with you all of my woodshed trips; nor would I want to. But here is one that has stuck with me for some fifty years now, and it is as if it happened yesterday. I was maybe five or six, and we lived up near the top of a high hill outside of town, about a mile; and about half way there was the high school. Well one day my father took off to town, and I wanted to go with him; but I was told to stay there in the yard. Well, being the good, good boy that I was, you know that I did. Down that hill I went and just before I got to the high school, I looked back, and here came my mother. Now being a right smart fellow, I knew that I couldn't out run her, besides that, Daddy was out of sight, and I wasn't sure that I knew where to go. So I hid behind the bushes at the school. I figured that I'd let her go past, and then I'd go back home. I told you I was smart. But she slowed down just as she came to the place where I was hiding, and I began to snicker and giggle, and it was as if I just couldn't help myself; I laughed right out loud. Now believe me that was a very dumb thing for a

smart boy to do. I don't know what she had been doing when she saw me going down that hill; but she must have been cooking, or stirring something, because she had in her hand the biggest old wooden spoon that you ever did see; and she put that spoon to work on the back side of my breeches all the way back to the house. I ran as fast as I could but she got me every step. I thought I'd never get out of that woodshed.

Today, these weak parents, and this weak society that we live in would want to lock her up for child abuse. You listen to me, she did not abuse me. I got what I needed, and as I think back to it, I should have gotten more. Listen to me, I learned a lesson. It was a long long time before I ever disobeyed my parents again. Believe me all things do indeed, work together for good. Yes, even those bad things, those things that we don't see as good; they are for our benefit. We need to learn the lessons of our forefathers, we need to study the lives of those before us. I Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." What is our example here? The Father is telling us to heed His word. Exodus 20:12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." God didn't give this commandment for nothing. When we, as children, will not obey our parents, then how are we going to obey God? God is our Father! As we are taught to obey our parents, thus we are taught to obey the Father, our God.

Those that have gone through the years of raising their children to adulthood have gone through the lessons of the woodshed, from the other side. Applying the rod of correction to the seat of learning is not pleasing to the one that is giving, any more than it is to the one receiving. But

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

## TWO STRANGE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCES AND THE EXPLANATION

I had a strange experience in the hospital that I did not understand at the time.

This experience happened twice, but was the same each time, so I will tell it only once. Understand that I did not hear any voices, but the experience was just as real anyhow.

I felt I was walking close to the edge of the river. I was talking to the Lord. I told Him that I sort of hated to leave Katie with no one to look after her. He said, "I can take care of her." I said to Him that I sort of hated to leave the work. He told me, "I can take care of that too." I then said to Him, "Well, I am ready to go then." I really thought I would soon go to be with the Lord. I was surprised, after these experiences, that I did not go on. I did not understand this until several weeks after I was out of the hospital. The Lord explained it to me one day. He brought Abraham and Isaac to my mind. He brought to my mind that God did not want Isaac, but only wanted

Abraham to be willing to give Isaac. The Lord then explained to me that He did not, at that time, want me to leave this world, but only wanted me to be willing to.

I have talked with some about heaven as to how wonderful it will be. I then said to them that if they and others had not prayed so hard, I could be in heaven now. But, really that is not true. It was not my time to go. God has something yet for me to do. I believe that prayer had much to do with my healing, but I do not believe that prayer can really delay the predestinated time of one's leaving this world.

The above was a strange experience. I am thankful for it. I am thankful for the explanation that led me to understand it. Oh, that I might be more dedicated to the service of my Lord in the time that remains to me. Pray for me.



## The Baptist Examiner Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER--P.O. BOX 60--ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

*How can I know that my prayer is according to the will of God?*

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I. John 5:14: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us."

How important, and yet how neglected is prayer! Surely one of, if not the greatest failure amongst Christians today is in our prayer life. We either do not pray anywhere near as much as we should, or our prayers are not in accordance with God's will. I hope to lay down a few guidelines that might benefit us in praying according to the will of God.

First, I recognize that it is very easy to pray in the will of the flesh. We are a selfish people by nature and often our prayers bear that out. It is hard not to want and desire material things; but surely we should have a greater desire for spiritual things. Spiritual matters should be the major concern of our prayer life. How can we know we are praying in the will of God?

First of all, we need to have a close relationship with Christ. The closer we are to Him the more our prayers will be in accordance with His will. We need to keep our love level for Christ high. May we cultivate such a relationship with Christ that His will, will indeed be the same as our will. (Perhaps I should reverse the order of the above.) Secondly, we need to pray "in the Spirit." We neglect the greatest power source on this earth. If we are led by the Spirit, then our prayers will be in accordance with God's will. Thirdly, we must make sure that our prayers are according to Scriptures. We must, at the very least, make sure they are not contrary to Scriptures. There are things that we need not even pray about. They are so inconsistent with Bible teaching that it borders on blasphemy to pray about them. We should never pray for anything that would hinder us in our service for God. Let me give this example. We should not pray for a job that would hinder us from faithful church attendance. I have had people speak of God answering their prayer by opening doors that led to a lack of church attendance. I told one such person that they needed to remember that God is not the only one who opens doors. The devil opens doors if it will detract from the saints ability and desire to see God. Fourthly, we need to examine our motives in prayer. Ask yourself, "why am I praying

for this? Is it for my own good, or is it that God might be honored and glorified?" Proper motives will lead to praying according to Gods will. Ask if that prayer is answered, will it make you a better saint? These are just a few guidelines that we might use in helping us to pray according to God's will. I urge you to also remember who you are, and who God is. Proper reverence for God will aid in this. May God bless you all, and while praying, pray for me.

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"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (I John 5:14,15)

I believe that God only answers prayer according to His will. Certainly, it is possible to ask in prayer, not according to the will of God, for things we shall not receive. We live in an age of great materialistic desire, even among God's children. Fleshly desires and the error of desiring riches purely for personal gain give rise to unanswered prayers toward such ends, because this kind of attitude and desire in an individual have not sprung from a desire to honor God or to do His will. James reminds us of such attitudes when he says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:3) Do not misunderstand me, God may move an individual to pray for a specific thing, such as money, a material gain, or some such thing in a specific instance, for a specific purpose, but never for the individual gain as an end to itself.

Ultimately, praying according to God's will brings great benefit to the petitioner and glory to God. How do we know we are praying according to His will? Is the prayer being prayed as a result of studying God's Word and being guided and helped by the Holy Spirit? The Spirit guides us as to how we ought to pray as we are told in Romans 8:26; "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." God's revelation through His Word teaches us His precepts and ways. Prayer is one of those precepts and is to be done according to His way. In order to seek and to know God's will we must study His Word and

be led by His Spirit. This in turn, springs forth a desire in us to please Him and to do His will. We abide in Him, keep His commandments, and seek to do His will. Thus, our prayers reflect that, for our aim, our desires are correct.

I John 3:22 says, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." Our obedience to Him is imperative. Ignoring these things precludes our knowing, or praying according to God's will. Is the ultimate purpose of the prayer for God's glory, or the pure satisfaction of the flesh? Even in the seemingly most noble prayers on the behalf of others, as well as ourselves, we must have the attitude (if we are praying according to God's will) that, "Father, this is my request, my desire, nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done". God changes us through prayer and conforms us to His will.

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"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us; And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (I John 5:14, 15).

This tells us that we can have confidence and assurance that we will receive that which we ask of God if what we ask is according to His will. But how can we know that it is according to His will? God has given us many, many promises in His Word; and we can pray for that which has been promised with the assurance that it is according to His will. For example, we are told, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering..." (James 1:5, 6). We must study God's Word in order to know what these promises are, and knowing, then we can pray with confidence that they will be answered, knowing that they are in the will of God.

In addition to the promises given, we have the Holy Spirit within us ready to help us in our inability to pray. It is He who will make intercession for us. He knows the will of God and "he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom. 8:27). This tells us that if we are led by

the Holy Spirit to pray for some object, we may do so with the assurance that it is according to God's will, and that the request will be granted. "When we pray in the Spirit, we will pray for the right things and in the right way. There will be joy and power in our prayers" ("How To Pray" by R.A. Torrey)

There are many times when we pray, that we do not know the will of God; then, as in all our prayers we are to be submissive to His will. Our Lord, Himself prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

### WOODSHED

(Continued from Page 3)

lessons must be taught, and they must be learned. As we learn to do right in the woodsheds of life, we also learn to obey God in His woodshed. And His woodshed is bigger than ours was, it covers the world and all that is and ever will be.

God has the right to correct us as He will. We did no good for, or to, God. Romans 3:9-23 tells us what we were, and are. Unrighteous, evil doers, liars, and totally unprofitable, full of misery and destruction, with no fear of God, for we have all sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Yet in our vile state, just as we were; God sent His Son to die in our place. Oh, what love the Father must have for us. Jesus, God's only Son went to the tree for our sins, He died and was buried, but He arose, praise be to God, He overcame death, not for Himself, but for those that are His. He went to the Father, and there He makes intercession for us. We are God's children, and God corrects His children because He loves them and wants them to be blessed. Hey listen to me, if you are going through a woodshed experience, or have been through one, then take heart, praise God, He loves you. All things do work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to His purpose.

As I think back to that old wooden spoon, I know that my mother received no joy for giving me a spanking: I know that she loved me, and chastened me for my own good, and safety. As I remember the times that God has taken me to the woodshed, I again am reminded that He did it because He loves me, and every time it was for my profit. I ask you this question in closing. Have you felt the hand of God upon you, are you a son or daughter of the Almighty God the Father? Or are you outside of that family? I pray that you know Him. But even more, I pray that He knows you as one of His. Amen.

### INVICTICIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

"Invict" principle, or it is truly ancient, but he did advance it in a very subtle and effective fashion.

Perhaps I only imagine that I see this thinking spewing over into Christian thinking, and actually causing apostasy as a by-product. I know some will think I'm overly imaginative. Perhaps, but I don't really think so. When

I was much younger, Baptist preachers put much more emphasis upon the effect of the Spirit in bringing about the conversion of sinners. Now, the emphasis is upon the "decision" of the person. It was once considered, commonly, that we would respond to our feeling of a working of grace. This is not only seldom mentioned in the Baptist churches of today, but is often considered as a symbol of anti-mission sentiment. Such a position now welcomes an accusation of being a "Hard-shell." I was told I'd never preach in a certain Alabama church again because I suggested that a decision was only a result of having already been regenerated and (therefore) was only the exercise of God given faith. Now, I ask you, why should this statement cause such consternation? If I can be permitted to suggest an answer to my own question, I'd like to suggest that it is because contemporary preachers have committed invicticide en masse.

What is invicticide? If I can repeat my previous practice of giving the answer to my own question, I would say that it is a type of spiritual suicide. It is the application of the "invict" principle (previously defined), in a subtle fashion, to our own conversion. It is born of the desire to claim at least some small amount of credit for salvation, rather than giving all of the credit (and glory) to God. It is an infection of our contemporary society. It is subtle apostasy. It is spiritual vanity. It may very well be damning.

Genesis 4:17-19 declares, in doubtless fashion, that man has caused the very world around us to be cursed because of transgression. That transgression would appear very minor, if we were to rate it. It was disobedience, however; and any disobedience to God is serious. When we attempt to glorify the power or authority of mankind to any degree whatsoever, we do so to the discredit of God's sovereignty.

We now hear that one thing we must do for salvation is to accept Christ. This is a subtle humanistic thought which has slipped into the nominal church. What's so wrong with that, do you ask? It isn't true! If we must do something to receive grace it has ceased to be unmerited favor; since a prerequisite must then be satisfied. The subtle implication here is that man has to act before God will, or does. Do you now inquire, "How can it be otherwise, though?" I reply, "It could be that you are regenerated, first; then as a result of an "implanted" grace, you receive Christ." Grace must predate and even initiate faith, and faith must predate and effect justification. We will do nothing, under such a plan, except what God will have wrought. Friends, we did nothing to cause our birth and we can do nothing to cause our spiritual rebirth. With this in mind, read John 3:5, then read John 3:6-7. If you're troubled by John 3:15-16, simply read John 3:3-8; then allow that it'll provide the basis for John 3:15-16; Our belief results from the rebirth. This is the obvious meaning of John 3:3-8, yet we don't often see it, because it is against our nature to imagine that our eternal destiny is determined by God, rather than by our own will.

John 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of

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# The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT  
THE BAPTIST EXAMINER--P.O. BOX 60--ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

*Should a church have a men's meeting to discuss what is to be brought up in the business meeting? Can a woman have any say as to something being brought up in the business meeting?*

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I am aware that I Corinthians 14:34 says, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." We go back to Genesis 3:16 where God said, "Unto the woman he said, 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."

This is the law Paul was referring to. Men are to lead in everything. Men are the head of the house, men are to be the leaders in the church for women are not permitted to speak and are to remain silent when the church is in session. Now, should a church have a men's meeting to discuss what is to be brought up in the business meeting? There's nothing wrong with this if this is the custom of the church, but since this has not been brought up before the church yet why not let the women members suggest some things to be brought up before the business meeting. After all it will have to be voted on by the majority in order to be put into action or practice.

We at the New Testament Baptist Church sometimes have a private meeting with the women and discuss things that should be done and things that should not be done. Our women come up with some pretty good ideas sometimes. Our women are godly women who respect God's law as to speaking out in the assembly. They wear coverings to show respect to their husband, the angels, and most of all to God. I personally approve of our women's suggestions as to what should be brought up in the business meetings.

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The question of whether a church should have a men's meeting to talk over things that would come up in the business meeting of the church should be

left to the discretion of each church. If a church so desires to have a men's meeting, then I think that they can do so. If a church does not desire such, then that is their choice. Each church should decide for herself on this matter. I do not think that it is compulsory that each church should have one. It is my feeling and belief that it is good for the men to get together and discuss what needs to be done in and around the church. Also, it would be a good thing to talk over the spiritual condition of the church and pray about certain problems that are pending. But action should be taken, when needed, by the body when in the business meeting.

As to the women having any say as to what is brought up in the business meeting. She has a right to vote on any question that may arise. Her vote counts just as much as any other vote. If the question is meant to ask "Can she make inquiry as to questions during the business meeting?" Is someone saying can a woman ask questions or speak to a motion in business meeting? According to the Scripture, she cannot, for the Scriptures say that women are to keep quiet in the assembly, as to speaking.

Some have suggested that a church have an open meeting or informal meeting, dismiss the regular service and in this way the women could express their thoughts upon the questions at hand. I do not see any difference, or at least not much difference, in this or for the women to speak in the regular service or the business meeting.

Some of the Baptist churches, or at least they are Baptist in name, are run by the women. Maybe that is a sad thing to say, or a bad thing to say, but I think it is true in many cases. One man told me that their church was run by the women. He said that they have more women than men. This man went on to say that when the women wanted something done, that they out-voted the men everytime. Now, I say that is sad.

Another way that women can run the church is that they run it through their husbands. If a subject is brought up some will say let me talk it over with my wife, or let me ask my wife and see what she thinks about it. I didn't know it was done that way. I thought the Bible said if the wives wanted to learn any thing, "...let them ask their husbands at home..." (I Cor. 14:35). But in many cases it is the other way around. If the husbands have to ask their wives, how are they going to be the head of the woman or leaders in the church of God.

The husband should seek the leadership of the Spirit, and then if the husband has the leadership of the Spirit, the wife will be

glad to cooperate with him without any qualms.

Before anyone draws a quick conclusion as to my feelings toward the women in the church or the women anywhere, for that matter, let me sight you some Scriptures. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:19). I dare to say, that if husbands would love their wives as is directed here, then the wives would be more willing to be obedient to the proceeding verse which says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord" (Col. 3:18).

My wife is the queen in our home, and has been now for more than fifty years, but she is not the head of the husband. She recognizes me as the head and is obedient to the Scripture in this. She has always left the overall management to me. She has never interfered with my pastoring the church, nor has she interfered with my overseeing the business of the church.

Anything or everything that I have said does not hinder a woman from voting in the business meeting or asking her husband about the affairs of the church at home. If the woman does not have a husband, then let her ask her father or brother. If she doesn't have a brother or father, let her ask the pastor.

Every pastor should preach a series of messages on how the churches took care of their business in times past, and how the Lord blessed the churches and they had great revivals.

## INVICTICIDE

(Continued from Page 4)

the Spirit is spirit." Notice how invicticide can (and has, I believe) distorted our understanding of this verse of Scripture! The primary, and most obvious, meaning of this verse is that the rebirth cannot be by flesh (or fleshly will, for that matter) but must be caused by the Spirit to be spiritual rebirth. The most logical ramification of this is that we can no more effect spiritual rebirth with our will than we can effect our own natural birth. There is a very definite contrasting context found in these verses, and this is perhaps the strongest contrast in the entire passage. It relegates our natural birth to our flesh, contrasting it to the spiritual birth which is relegated to the Spirit. This effectually denies that our spiritual birth can receive any help from the flesh. The invicticide intellect has prevented multitudes from being able to see this most obvious meaning.

I have defined invicticide and have shown (in preceding paragraphs) why we are so very apt to

commit it. It is our basic nature to believe that (somehow) we can control our own destiny, especially our eternal destiny. We like to feel that we are able to rise above our depraved nature. This was the trap that Henley fell into, if he ever believed in human depravity in the first place. He was certain that, in some fashion, he could captain his own fate.

In summation, let me suggest that we need to bring this term back into usage and (further) that we coin the term "invicticide." There is good reason for this. We're fighting a ghost. People remember a phrase (vaguely), but hardly relate to it consciously. To fight it effectively, we need to stimulate their consciousness. We must show people where such logic is coming from. We need to put a meaningful label on what is transpiring, and invicticide is such a label. We're allowing this concept to permeate into our inmost thoughts, without being alerted to it. The worst aspect of the whole plight is that it has slipped into Christian theology, and we're tending to accept it without even noticing. Such nonsense is a fruit of theological invicticide and we need to declare this as a fact and identify the source.

## BLESSED

(Continued from Page 1)

temperance. Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is a conqueror; it overcomes evil with good. It is said that most men are like dogs that answer bark for bark and only make the night hideous and themselves hoarse. The spirit of meekness belonged to our blessed Lord. He said of Himself, "I am meek and lowly in heart." Moses was said to have been the meekest man of his day. He showed his meekness by ignoring the criticism of Miriam and Aaron, and by refusing to avenge their attitude towards him. Moses put up with their rebellion, but God avenged him by striking Miriam with leprosy. The meekness of Moses was further shown in praying for his sinning sister. "And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee" (Numbers 12:13). Vengeance belongs to God, and we must not usurp His prerogative, but leave those who would injure us in His hands. "And shall not God avenge His own elect who cry day and night unto him" (Luke 18:7). Another thing, the meek man is not forward to make claims upon others. The meek man does not make demands upon others; he does not even expect much from others. A lot of people are sore all over because they do not get the honor and respect which they think is their due.

Now meekness is not opposed to righteous indignation when God is slandered and men are injured. Jesus, who called Himself meek and lowly in heart, was aroused to wrath when the Pharisees objected to His healing the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath. He was moved with indignation when His disciples tried to keep the mothers from bringing their little children to Him. With righteous indignation He cleansed the temple and drove out the covetous men who made the house of prayer a den of thieves. Meekness forgets self, but it does not forget others. Florence Nightingale, English nurse and hospital reformer, was famous for her kindness and gen-

leness and yet she could fight like a tigress for her wounded patients. Abraham Lincoln could be terrible but not in self-defense.

Meekness is not laziness. I heard of a man who went to his doctor for a physical checkup. He said to the doctor, "Do a thorough job and when you have finished the examination, I would like for you to tell me in plain words just what is the matter with me". When the doctor had finished the examination, he looked the man straight in the eye and said, "You are just plain lazy." The man then said, "Please, put that in technical terms so I can tell my wife."

Now, Christian meekness is far more than a right attitude towards men who provoke us; it is also manifested in humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, realizing that our afflictions come from Him. It was in meekness that Job said, "The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord." And again, when he said, "Though he slay me, still will I trust him." A dear friend and deacon in my church in Florida was called upon to pass through deep waters of affliction. Trouble upon trouble pounced upon him like hungry dogs upon a helpless lamb. He lost his tangerine grove in a winter freeze, which put him in financial distress. And his troubles were climaxed by the fatal illness of his devoted wife. After months and even years of trying to nurse her back to health, she was taken from him. Under the terrible blow, he wavered for a moment. He talked of their happy married life in contrast with so many who has missed marital happiness. And then he said, "It does not seem fair for God to take my wife and break up my happy home." And while I trembled, grace came to his rescue. He humbled himself under the mighty hand of God and such sweet submission to the will of God has been rarely seen. While his wife lay cold in death on the Lord's day, this deacon was at church. And when some expressed surprise, he said, "Why not, here is where I find comfort; my friends and brothers in Christ are here, and I feel better here in God's house than anywhere else." This dear deacon has long since followed his wife in that long procession of those who have departed to be with Christ.

And here in our own church we have witnessed manifestation of the same grace given to a brother and his family. This past Lord's day, while his wife lay a corpse at the funeral home, he was here at church greeting the people as they came to God's house. And why not? This is where he found comfort and where his devoted wife would want him to be. One wonders where such an idea originated that the Lord's people should stay away from church in times of sorrow. Such an idea did not originate with David, for when his baby died, one of the first things he did was to go into the house of the Lord to worship. Let us think with the poet as he says,

"Lord, it belongs not to my care,

Whether I die or live;  
To live and serve Thee is my share,

And this Thy grace must give.  
(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

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JANUARY 19, 1991  
PAGE FIVE



## BLESSED

(Continued from Page 5)

If life be long, I will be glad  
That I may long obey;  
If short, yet why should I be  
sad  
To soar to endless day?

Christ leads me through no  
darker rooms  
Than He went through before;  
No one into His kingdom  
comes,  
But through this opened door.

Come, Lord, when grace has  
made me meet  
Thy blessed face to see;  
For if Thy work on earth be  
sweet,  
What will Thy glory be?

And now, let us consider the  
promise to the meek. "Blessed  
are the meek; for they  
shall inherit the earth."  
"But the meek shall inherit  
the earth; and shall delight  
themselves in the  
abundance of peace" (Ps.  
37:11). Whatever the Psalmist;  
meant, we may be sure that in  
quoting the Psalmist Christ did  
not mean that His people would  
win back the land by armed  
rebellion against the Romans.  
Yes, the meek shall inherit the  
earth. But this has no reference to  
the acres a man may own.  
Happiness cannot be measured by  
acres. One may own a large part  
of this earth and yet not enjoy it.  
A person may spend much time  
in clipping coupons and drawing  
interest on his investments, and  
yet not enjoy what he owns. The  
Psalmist says, "A little that a  
righteous man hath is  
better than the riches of  
many wicked" (Ps. 37:16). It  
is the meek man who enjoys  
what he has of this world's  
goods. The present enjoyment of  
earth's possessions depends upon  
the right use of them. The man  
who misuses what he has does  
not enjoy what he has. The man  
whose ruling passion is getting  
things is not happy with what he  
gets. Generally speaking, the  
wealthiest are the most miser-  
able. Marilyn Monroe had much  
of this world's fame and posses-  
sions, but her soul was empty.  
Like many other people who are  
famous and wealthy, her soul was  
empty and sad. With much to  
live on, they have nothing to live  
for. Most suicides are full-handed,  
but empty-hearted.

"Blessed are the meek:  
for they shall inherit the  
earth." This promise is for both  
the present and for the future. The  
meek are satisfied with what the  
Lord may be pleased to give them  
in this present life. And they will  
also be satisfied with what He  
provides in the future.

Spurgeon says of the meek:  
"They are lowly-minded, and are  
ready to give up their portion in  
the earth; therefore, it shall come  
back to them. They neither boast,  
nor contend, nor exalt over oth-  
ers; yet are they heirs of all the  
good which God created on the  
face of the earth. In their meek-  
ness they are like their King, and  
they shall reign with Him. The  
promised land is for the tribes of  
the meek; before them the  
Canaanites shall be driven out.  
He has the best of this world who  
thinks the least of it, and least of  
himself."

What striving and fighting is  
now going on for this earth!

What contention for control;  
greed for gold, and passion for  
prominence is now being dis-  
played on every hand! Most of  
this earth seems to belong to the  
warrior and the aggressor. The  
meek lie crushed under the heel of  
the oppressor. But as Dear John  
Pennington says, "This earth  
which the meek seem most de-  
prived of, they only shall have  
and enjoy. When the Lord hath  
made it worth having, then none  
shall have it but they."

Peter with prophetic eye, saw  
the coming of the day of the Lord  
when the heavens shall pass away  
with a great noise, and the ele-  
ments shall melt with fervent  
heat, and the earth shall be burned  
up. Nevertheless, we look for  
new heavens and a new earth  
wherein dwelleth righteousness.

And John saw the new heaven  
and the new earth, and heard over  
heaven's loud-speaker the an-  
nouncement that the tabernacle of  
God is with men, and He will  
dwell with them, and they shall  
be His people. And then shall  
His people inherit the new earth.  
"Blessed are the meek: for  
they shall inherit the  
earth."

## WHY

(Continued from Page 1)

Romans: "Professing them-  
selves to be wise, they  
became fools... being  
filled with all unright-  
eousness... who, knowing  
the judgment of God, that  
they who commit such  
things are worthy of death,  
not only do the same but  
have pleasure in them that  
do them" (Rom. 1:22-32).

Another consideration has an  
important bearing on the rela-  
tions between Biblical Christian-  
ity and reformed paganisms.  
More or less innocuous borrowing  
of Bible phraseology is found at a  
number of points: "Hail, Mary  
full of grace, the Lord is with  
thee. Blessed art thou among  
women." "Holy Mary, mother of  
God." Universal ecuminists and  
children in the Philippines are  
taught to sing these phrases for  
their refined Mariolatry theology.  
Then the Bible Missionary  
Scholar must be on the alert to  
note these borrowings and is  
duty-bound to call attention to  
show the source of the ideas in  
the Scriptures and tradition.

Another salient fact is that of  
Jerome's translation of Revela-  
tion 19:13 in about A.D. 340-  
420, when the non-biblical reli-  
gion struggled against the purely  
inspired Word of God. The New  
Testament Greek phrase  
"Bebammenon Haimati" which  
meant "Dipped in Blood" was  
translated into Latin "Adspersa  
sanguine" which means  
"Sprinkled with blood." The word  
"Adspersa" comes from  
"Aspergo" which means "To be  
sprinkled." But Jerome also gave  
directions to the formulation of  
doctrine. He devoted himself so  
intensely to the life and spirit  
that he became a monk and was  
instrumental in the introduction  
of the monastic concept into  
Rome. His most tangible contri-  
bution was the Latin translation  
of the Old and New Testament  
which is the known as the  
"Vulgate," (Page 240, History of  
Civilization, D. Harold King).  
The Greek word in Revelation  
19:13, "Bebammenon" which  
means "Having been dipped,"  
Jerome translated into Latin word  
"Adspersa" which means  
"Sprinkled" now saying that all  
religions are alike; but are differ-  
ent from one another in the

greater or lesser degree at times or  
gross purposes and even an-  
tagonistic. Humanistic religions  
might easily lead off into senti-  
mentalism which is only the  
throbbing, longing heart of hu-  
manity reaching after the true, the  
beautiful, and the good, and fails  
to realize that there is also the  
"inner cry" of unfulfilled desire  
rising up all over the nations,  
which religions ought to satisfy,  
but which so frequently remains a  
wistful longing or despairing  
hopelessness which has served no  
answer to the souls' appeal,"  
"which show the work of  
the law written in their  
hearts, their conscience  
also bearing witness and  
their thoughts the mean-  
while accusing or else ex-  
cusing one another,"  
(Romans 2:15). The function of  
biblical religion and biblical  
missions is to answer that inner  
cry. Do the Pagan and ecumenical  
religions, with their movements,  
provide the spiritual needs? This  
is the prevailing problem we now  
face! And with the dangers and  
pitfalls lying along the way ap-  
pearing in the "Confraternity  
Duay Roman Catholic Bible." The  
root-word of "Adspersa" is  
"Aspergo" which means "To be  
sprinkled" in the active tense.

Biblical religion is fellowship -  
communion with the father and  
with His son Jesus Christ, (I  
John 1:7), so that "if two of  
you shall agree on earth as  
touching anything on that  
they shall ask, it shall be  
done for them by my Fa-  
ther, who is heaven; for  
where two or three are  
gathered together in my  
name, there am I in the  
midst of them", (Matthew  
18:19-20). There is always a  
community of motion in the di-  
rection of the living and true  
God. Accurately, this fellowship  
may be conceived in the darkened  
mind of a savage or in the think-  
ing of a Muslim or Hindu or in a  
Christian. There is no other  
choice but to boldly witness for  
Christ and His gospel among lost  
souls in any lands, in any  
community of mankind, and act  
accordingly with the divine and  
eternal Christ and His divine  
commission. For He says,  
"...Thus it is written, and  
thus it behooved Christ to  
suffer, and to arise from  
the dead the third day. And  
that repentance and remis-  
sion of sins should be  
preached in his name  
among all nations, begin-  
ning at Jerusalem. And ye  
are witnesses of these  
things" (Luke 24:46-48).

The missionary motive is  
God's love for the sinful men  
through the eternal Son, Jesus  
Christ. "For God so loved  
the world that he gave his  
only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth on  
him shall not perish but  
have everlasting life" (John  
3:16). "For the love of  
Christ constraineth us..."  
"and all things are of God,  
who hath reconciled us to  
himself by Jesus Christ,  
and hath gives to us the  
ministry of reconcilia-  
tion;" "...we are ambas-  
sadors for Christ... be ye  
reconciled to God" (II  
Corinthians 5:14, 18, 20).  
"...Go ye into all the  
world, and preach the  
gospel to every creature,"  
(Mark 16:15). The early church  
did not consider its task to be that  
of making the Roman Empire a  
more fitting place for men and

women to live in. The  
missionaries duty was to save the  
individual soul from the corrupt  
society - not to save the society  
itself.

In the Middle Ages Christian  
Missions was a civilizing as well  
as an Evangelizing Agency. The  
family, the wider social and eco-  
nomic relations, political life,  
and international affairs - all must  
be evangelized by the gospel of  
Christ, (Romans 13:1-7). It is  
Bible Christian missionary con-  
viction that when a decided model  
or pattern has been achieved, it  
only proves to be that which  
came into the world with Jesus

Christ and His message. This is  
the boldest claims, and yet with-  
out this, the missionary enter-  
prise would soon be closed to  
exist. "...all power is given  
unto me in heaven and in  
earth. Go ye therefore, and  
teach all nations, bap-  
tizing them in the name of  
the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost:  
Teaching them to observe  
all things whatsoever I  
have commanded you; and,  
lo, I am with you alway,  
even unto the end of the  
world. Amen" (Matthew  
28:18-20).

## SPURGEON'S SERMONS ON SOVEREIGNTY

by C.H. Spurgeon

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of "free will" has in many areas

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Editor's note: I urge all  
readers to order this book.

## BIBLE

THE ONLY BOOK WHERE THE AUTHOR  
IS ALWAYS PRESENT WHEN IT IS READ

"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."  
The Bible gives us God's Holy word;  
Revealing God in Sovereign Grace:  
Most glorious message man ever heard;  
Grant wisdom, as its pages I trace.

The blinded eye knows not its worth,  
This the Spirit alone can reveal;  
It is only after the second birth  
That its teachings are made real.

It tells of all my sin and shame:  
My depraved and helpless condition,  
But tells of Jesus, the only Name,  
By Whom alone there is salvation.

It gives the story of Jesus' birth,  
Yet One with God in eternity past --  
But leaving His Glory, came to earth  
To suffer, dying for sins at last.

Then take courage ye sons of light,  
Taking His word as your only guide,  
Looking upward to that City bright,  
Forever with Jesus we shall abide.

It records the perfect life He lived,  
Fulfilling all of the Laws' demand;  
Imputed righteousness we now receive,  
Justified now, before God we stand.

It tells of His death, story so sad;  
How He lay in the rich man's grave;  
In His raising, our heart is made glad,  
Knowing 'twas needful, His own to save.

It tells of His going back to Heaven,  
Sitting now on His Father's Throne,  
With all of His previous Glory given,  
And making intercession for His own.

It tells of His soon return in the air  
For His people, both dead and living,  
To meet our loved ones over there:  
What a joy these truth's are giving.

The saved of all ages, there to bow  
At the Judgment of Christ our Lord,  
To answer for deeds we're doing now,  
Losing or receiving our just reward.

After Christ's marriage to His Bride,  
And the Great Tribulation is past;  
Christ and His own, return to abide  
1000 years on earth, purified at last.

Meditation and composition by Claude H. Creech,  
Feb. 12, 1975

## BOOK REVIEWS

We have some new books in our book store. Kenneth W. Osbeck has  
given us another book relative to stories behind many well known  
hymns. This one is titled, "Amazing Grace." It is set up uniquely. It  
contains 365 inspiring hymn stories that can be used for daily devo-  
tions. I believe this book could provide spiritual food for every reader.  
It could also give many illustrations for the preacher to use in his ser-  
mons. It is often a help to the preacher and a blessing to the hearers to  
have some brief story relative to the writing of some beloved hymn.  
This is a paperback of nearly 400 pages. It should be a welcome addi-  
tion to any library. It sells for \$11.95

\*\*\*\*\*

We have "Designed For Conquest" by Roy L. Laurin. This book has  
studies on 27 Bible characters as to how they overcame different prob-  
lems - problems that many of us will face in our Christian lives. I am  
an ardent fan of studying and preaching on Bible characters. This is a  
great way to give concrete examples of Biblical instruction about life.  
There is also a study about Christ as Conqueror. The book should be a  
blessing, an encouragement, and a help to the reader. It is a paperback  
of nearly 200 pages. It sells for \$6.95. Order from our book store where  
the profit goes into our book ministry.



## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF PAUL - PART 11

by John R. Gilpin

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (I Thess. 1:9, 10).

This text presents to us four distinct facts. First, the people of Thessalonica originally were idolators. Second, they had turned from their idols to the Lord Jesus Christ. Third, they were then serving the true God. Fourth, they were waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think, if I mistake not, that this passage of Scripture correctly describes the spiritual experience of every child of God. If we were not actual idolators in the sense of bowing down before images of wood and stone, such as these Thessalonians did prior to conversion, at least we were idolators from a spiritual standpoint. We too, who are saved, have turned to God from idols, and we have found our salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Likewise, if we are properly living for the Lord, we, too, are serving the Lord God today, and certainly the pattern of the Thessalonian Christians is true of us, in that we are waiting for, and expecting, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I say, beloved, these four particulars in the lives of these Thessalonian Christians are likewise descriptive so far as the spiritual experience of every one of us is concerned.

I like to think about these Thessalonian Christians who had been idolators but who now were saved, and who now were serving the Lord, and who were waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ's return. I like to think that all of us who are saved, likewise are now serving the Lord God, and we are waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. With that thought in mind, I'd like to turn through the writings of Paul just to show you how Christians ought to be serving the Lord, how we ought to be walking with the Lord, and how we ought to be looking for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I  
"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

When a man is baptized he is placed beneath the water and then raised immediately from the water. Paul says that that is an illustration of what ought to be true so far as our spiritual life is concerned, that we, too, have been raised to walk in newness of life.

I am wondering if there is any difference in your life now to what it was before you were saved. Are you showing forth the praises of God in your life today, or is your life still characterized by the same old dead experiences that were yours prior to your professed conversion? I insist, beloved, that when a man comes out of the watery grave in baptism, that; in itself is a

picture of what has taken place within his life. This tells us that there has been likewise a spiritual resurrection within his own life. I ask you who profess to be saved and who have been baptized, if you are walking in newness of life, since the day that you professed faith in Christ?

II  
"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Rom. 6:12, 13).

Speaking of Paul and the Christian's walk, we certainly can see that the Christian's walk is to be entirely different to what it was before he made a profession of faith. You'll notice in this text that Paul calls upon us that we are not to allow sin to reign in our mortal bodies. That word "reign" has to do with a king. It is a word that describes the acts of a king, and Paul says that we are not to let sin be the king of our lives. We are not to allow sin to reign in our lives. Instead, we are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness. Instead of yielding our members - our hands, our eyes, our feet, our legs, our bodies - instead of yielding our members to be instruments of sin, we are to yield our members to be instruments of righteousness unto God.

The word "instrument" is a very interesting word in the original language. Literally, it is the word for "weapon." God wants you, that He might fashion you into a shining, glistening spear which He might hurl into the ranks of the enemy. God wants you, that He might make out of you a keen sword, sharper than any Damascus steel that was ever honed, that He might be able with you to cut down all these who would walk in sin and contrary to the things of God. God, I say, wants to take you and me, and make us to be instruments, or weapons of righteousness in His name.

III "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1, 2).

The word "therefore" is sort of a hinge connecting the first eleven chapters of Roman's with the last five chapters. In the first eleven chapters we have doctrinal presentation; in the last five chapters we have a practical application. In the first eleven chapters we have depravity, election, justification by faith, the security of the saved, and other great doctrines; in the last five chapters Paul urges upon us that there be a corresponding walk - a walk that corresponds to the first eleven chapters of doctrines with the last five chapters of practical Christian living. Therefore I say

that there ought to be a corresponding relationship between a man's creed and a man's deed, and there is just such a relationship. What a man believes will determine what he does, and what he does will be definitely predicated by what he believes.

I contend that a Baptist who believes the doctrines of grace ought to be the cleanest living individual in the world. I contend that a man who believes in election, and depravity, and justification by faith, and the security of the saved ought to be a man who lives at the very foot of the cross day by day. Paul says, "Therefore if you believe the doctrines that I have taught in these first eleven chapters, I urge you to present your bodies a living sacrifice."

Paul knew about the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, how they offered bullocks, calves, lambs, turtledoves, and pigeons upon the altar as a sacrifice. Paul said, "God doesn't want a dead sacrifice on your part. God wants your life as a living sacrifice - a sacrifice upon the altar of Christian service." Thus our lives are to be presented as a sacrifice to Him.

Then he tells us that we must not be conformed to this world, but rather we must be transformed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Every time I read this passage, and I have read it many, many times through the years, I have been impressed by this fact, that it is either world conformity, or Christ transformity, so far as your life is concerned. You are either going to be conformed to the world, or else you'll be transformed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I read this and I bow my head in the presence of my God as the Apostle Paul, two thousand years ago, would urge us thereby that our walk should be worthy of what we believe as God's children.

IV  
"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

Paul believed that a Christian ought to walk worthily before the Lord. Sure nobody could read these verses without realizing that Paul is exhorting us to come to life, to awaken, to arise from our sleep, realizing that the night is far spent.

I ask you, how much of your life has been wasted? Isn't it true that there is an awfully lot of your life, and your time, and your influence, and your talents that have been wasted? Isn't it true that your tithes that should have been serving the Lord in a great measure many times in your life have gone for your own selfish pleasure? Isn't it true that much that represents you by way of time, and talents, and influence, and opportunities of Christian service has figuratively gone

down the drain, and been wasted? Paul says that it is time for us to awaken from our lethargy; it is time for us to arise from our sleep; it is time for us to realize we ought to put off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; it is time for us to realize that we are to walk honest and not to walk with rioting and drunkenness and the things of this world. Rather we are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.

I have often said that if I don't make provision for my physical body, I'll wither away and die. Beloved, if I do not make provision for my fleshly nature my fleshly nature likewise will die. The sad thing about our lives is this, that the most of us make abundant provisions for our fleshly nature.

The Word of God tells us that we are to feed the new nature (I Pet. 2:2), and to starve the old nature. However, the majority of us fail to feed the new nature, but rather we starve it with the things of the world.

I say, beloved, you can't read verses like this without realizing that the Apostle Paul is exhorting us to walk as Christians ought to walk.

V  
"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died" (Rom. 14:15).

There are some things you can do that won't hurt you, but they may hurt me. Isn't it strange that you may do things that perhaps won't hurt you one particle but they will hurt me in seeing you do them? Isn't it true that there are some things that I might do that may not hurt me, but they'll affect you? They'll hurt you in that if you see me do them, you'll be offended as a Christian thereby. That is what Paul is talking about. He is telling you to be careful lest you may be the means of destroying one for whom the Lord Jesus Christ has died.

The particular case that Paul is talking about was the matter of eating meat, possibly meat that had been offered to an idol. It might not hurt the individual who did so, but it would become a stumbling block to some weaker brother, and thereby would be destroying one for whom Christ died.

I think, beloved, that there may be things that you can do that don't affect you. They may not hurt you any as a Christian, they may not hold you back in your Christian service, but be careful lest what you do, may be the means of causing some Christian brother or sister to stumble, and that individual's life and influence may be destroyed thereby.

VI  
"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19, 20).

Notice, "bought with a price." Do you realize that you are a bought man? As a slave may be bought out of slavery, so you have been bought out of the slave

market of sin. As a servant may be redeemed from physical slavery so you have been redeemed from spiritual slavery. The price has been paid, and that price was the blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul says, "You are bought with a price." What is the price? The shed blood of the Son of God. Therefore Paul says, "Since you are bought with that kind of a price, glorify God in your body."

I ask you, are you bought with a price? You say, "I know that Jesus Christ died on the cross." That is not the question. Are you bought with a price? Have you been bought? Do you realize that Jesus Christ has died for your sins and that you are definitely a bought one? If so, glorify God with your life. You have no business to live for self. You have no reason to think in terms of self. You have no reason to try to please yourself. You are bought with a price; therefore glorify God.

VII  
"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (I Cor. 8:13).

Paul comes back to this thought of the meat that has been offered to idols, that has gotten into the market, and he says, "It may not hurt you to eat that meat, but it may be the means of causing some Christian brother to be offended thereby. He may not understand what he sees you do, and it may be an offense to him." Therefore Paul says, "If eating meat makes my brother to offend, I'll eat no meat as long as the world stands."

Let's bring that over and apply it to your life and mine. If doing anything as a Christian is the means of causing some Christian brother to be offended and to stumble thereby, we ought to be mighty careful lest we do it.

Paul goes further in the preceding verse to say that whenever you do so, you wound the conscience of that weaker brother, and you thereby sin against Christ. I tell you, beloved, whenever an individual asks me whether it is right or wrong to go to various places and do various things, my answer always is this: It doesn't make any difference whether it affects you or not; the question is, is it going to hurt somebody else? If you are going to stand in the way of some weaker Christian brother, then Paul says, "While the world standeth, I will eat no meat."

VIII  
"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

How many meals did you have today? How many times did you drink today? How much time have you spent so far as your body is concerned pampering your flesh today? I ask you one thing, did you do it for the glory of God? This text says: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." This is a good test for

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## PAUL

(Continued from Page 7)

what you do. Are you doing it for the glory of God? If you are not, it is time to make a change.

Your recreation, is it for God's glory? Your worry, ultimately is it for God's glory? Your eating, is it for God's glory? Do you do the things you do in order that ultimately God might be glorified thereby. That is Paul's exhortation to us as to our Christian living.

IX

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (II Cor. 3:18).

Paul is speaking about how we behold Christ, and how that in turn, changes us from glory to glory. You can't sit down and look at Jesus and come away the same man. You can't read the Bible and see Jesus in the Bible and come away without being a changed individual. Brother, sister, by observing Him, by coming face to face with Him, and by seeing Him as with an open face in a glass, we are changed from glory to glory.

I believe that a child of God ought to be showing forth more of the glory of God today than he did yesterday. I am satisfied that if you can't see more of the glory of God in the lives of Christians that you associate with now, than what you saw in their lives a year ago, there is something wrong with their Christian profession. We ought to be changed day by day, from glory to glory, and more glory, and still more glory, so that as we look upon Him, the world is able to see more of the glory of God within our lives.

X

"For the love of Christ constraineth us..." (II Cor. 5:14).

What is it that urges you on as a Christian? What is it that constrains you as a child of God? What is it that would push you, impel you, or propel you forward as a Christian? "...the love of Christ constraineth us..."

I am satisfied that there is many a man who is trying to serve God and doesn't do it because of the love of Christ. Some people, I think, try to serve the Lord because they want to keep out of hell. I think some people try to serve the Lord because they want a big reward when they get to Heaven after while. But this text says, "...the love of Christ constraineth us..."

I tell you, beloved, you and I who are saved ought to be able to look back yonder to Calvary and see not just the blood as it flowed from His hands and His feet and the wounds in His body, but we ought to be able to see the love of God that caused Jesus Christ to go to that cross, and that love ought to constrain us in the service of the Lord.

XI

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And

what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Cor. 6:14-17).

Beloved, God wants you to come out from the world. God wants you to be a "come-outer" that is, to come out of the world.

You say, "Isn't it all right for me to be a member of the organizations of the world? Isn't it all right for me to be linked up with the things of the world? Isn't it all right for me to have worldly associations?" Beloved, God says that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, but rather, He urges us to come out from the world, and to be separate from the world, and the promise is, "...I will receive you."

What a promise! The only man that can expect to be received of the Lord is the man who has come out from the things of the world. I can't read these verses without realizing that the Apostle Paul is urging upon us that we are to live and walk a different life to the life we lived before we were saved.

XII

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14).

Sometime ago a friend of mine was showing me a birthmark. The friend said, "A mark from birth." After this friend went away from my presence, the thought came to me, I have been marked from birth - that is, from my spiritual birth. I was born into the kingdom of God, and crucified to the world. The sad thing about it is, most of us have lingered a lot after we were crucified.

I say to you, you and I who are saved, are marked by the Lord Jesus Christ. God crucified us so far as the world is concerned the day that Jesus Christ became our Saviour.

XIII

"I THEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love" (Eph. 4:1, 2).

Notice, we are to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called. We have been called by the Holy Spirit. God has given to you a call, and He is now saying, "Ye are to walk worthy of that vocation."

Beloved, I have a heavenly call, then my walk ought to be a heavenly walk. But I live here within this world. Yes, but it was a heavenly call that reached us in the world to bring us to salvation, and now there ought to be a heavenly walk on your part and on my part, as we live here within this world, to the extent that we'll even forbear one another.

other.

Now I know so far as I am personally concerned that everything I do pleases every one of you. I know that beyond a shadow of a doubt all of you are perfectly pleased with everything you have ever seen me do. Well, I am going to be honest with you. There are a lot of things that I see you do that don't please me. Of course, as I say, I know that you are perfectly pleased with me, but I am not pleased with everything you do. But, beloved, I'll tell you how I put up with you. Paul says that we are to forbear one another in love. Seriously, believe me. I say there ought to be a lot of Christian forbearance on the part of every child of God.

XIV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:22-24).

Notice: put off the old man, and put on the new man. The old man is our fleshly nature. The new man is the nature we have in Jesus Christ. We are to put off the old fleshly nature and put on the new nature.

Years ago, I preached a sermon from this text on the subject, "How to Properly Divorce the Old Man and Get a New One." Of course in announcing the message before preaching it, it attracted a lot of attention when I

talked about divorcing the old man, and a lot of people got interested in it. Now, beloved, that is exactly what I'd like to see you do. I don't ordinarily advocate divorce, but I would certainly like to advocate that every member of the church get a divorce. That is, I would like for you to divorce your old man, which is your old fleshly nature, and I'd like to see you begin to walk with your new nature paramount in your life.

XV

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:18, 19).

Wine on the one hand is held in contrast to the Spirit on the other. Wine changes a man. It changes a man's walk. It changes a man's talk. Yes, wine will change your walk, your talk, and your bask.

The Apostle Paul says that instead of being drunk with wine we are to be filled with the Spirit, and what will be the result? Beloved, being filled with the Spirit, will likewise change your walk, your talk, and your bask.

There was a fellow in the post office when I was there one day who had had "one too many." I am satisfied when I was looking at him, that he had passed the stage of one too many several hours previously. His walk was entirely different to the walk of a normal man, and his talk was

entirely different.

Beloved, when a man is filled with the Spirit he talks differently, he walks differently, and there is a difference in his life. God shows us through the exhortations of Paul that He wants us to walk differently to what we walked before we were saved. He even says that we are to speak to ourselves psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, and we are to make melody in the heart to the Lord. He doesn't say you have to be able to sing a solo to be happy, but he says that you ought to make melody in your heart to the Lord.

Beloved, I am not much of a singer, but I still make melody in my own heart. Paul says not to let wine be the means of causing you to change your life, but to be filled with the Spirit, and let the Spirit put melody in your heart.

XVI

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

I ask you, as a Christian wouldn't you be better off dead than alive? Now I am not saying that I want you to die, and I am not saying that I want to preach your funeral, but actually, wouldn't you personally be better off dead that you are alive?

There isn't one of us but what that would hold true. Paul said that if I were to die I would be the gainer, but to me to live is Christ. As long as I live I am to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what God wants us to do.

XVII

"That ye may be blame-

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## STUDIES IN JONAH

by John M. Alber

"Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? What is thy country? and of what people art thou? And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them" (Jonah 1:8-10).

Our story opens today with Jonah being found out by the mariners, and their inquiry into his behaviour. Jonah had only wanted to get away from his duty, and in so doing, he had brought the wrath of God upon himself and those that were in his company. This evil that had come upon them all was because of Jonah's own selfish desires to see his enemy perish at the hand of his God. When we sin, little do we realize at the time the effects of that sin upon ourself, much less others. Jonah had not counted the cost!

God had told Jonah that He would bring judgment upon this wicked nation because of their great wickedness unless they repent. He did not want to see that happen as we have considered in days gone by. There are some lessons here that we should perhaps briefly think upon. God's controversy is sometimes greater with His people and more severely prosecuted than against

heathen and gross idolaters. Why? Because rebellion is idolatry according to first Samuel 15:23, and so much more so in a child of God. Though these mariners worshipped that which was no god, yet none of them had so behaved towards a supposed deity as had Jonah done towards the one and only true God. Oh beloved, Jehovah God may wink at sins in the heathen, but He will not let His own children go on unreclaimed as Amos 3:2 tells us, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

I. The Urgent Questions of the Mariners

It is very interesting and most admirable to see how these heathen dealt with this prophet of God. Though they are themselves in great danger, they do not press for his ruin nor condemn him without giving him the opportunity to clear himself of the crime he was guilty of. Again, the hour in which we find Jonah and these mariners put together was one of a very serious and trying situation. These men had inquired of Jonah in a mild manner and yet, the intense way in which they dealt with him showed the urgency of the hour. However, the patience that they had shown to Jonah was far greater than many Christians would have displayed in similar circumstances.

First, as these questions were asked by the mariners, they must have sunk home to Jonah's own heart and conscience. When they asked, "What is thine occupation," Jonah could not put out of his mind his calling and the duty that he had left behind.

He knew full well that the God of heaven was dealing with him, and these folk were in the wrong place at the wrong time so far as man was concerned.

Secondly, as we stop for a brief moment and apply these same questions to ourselves, what can we learn from them? We need to every once in a while pause amid the excitements, hurry, and concerns of life, and ask what is our present business - the work of God, or the service of Satan! Let me just ask a few questions? You be your own judge! Are we more content with earth and the things it offers, or heaven and the things that it will provide? Do we seek to make this journey of life more enjoyable than we are in preparing for the life beyond this life? Do we enjoy being with God's people or the people of this world? Do you enjoy going to church, studying the Word of God and speaking for the Lord, or would you rather watch T.V. or some movie? Do you enjoy seeing others stand in judgment rather than mercy?

II. The Confession of Jonah

It must have been hard for Jonah to admit before these men that he was to blame for all that had come upon them; nevertheless, tell them that he was a man of God. But he did! He told them that "I am an Hebrew." A name that designated one was a descendant of Abraham. That name would indicate certain great privileges and advantages that went with it. In essence, Jonah was saying that he was one of those peculiar people that belonged to the true God of the Universe. To these people, the children of Israel, belonged the oracles of God and the covenants.



## PAUL

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less and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

We are living in the midst of a crooked and perverse world, but God wants us blameless and harmless. He wants us to shine as lights. I tell you, beloved, you can't read these verses without realizing this truth, that so far as we are concerned, Paul is exhorting us, as Christians, that our lives shall show forth the praise of God.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1, 2).

What do you think the most of? Your wife? Your husband? Your house? Your children? Your work? Paul says we are to set our affection on things above and not on things on the earth. I know as long as we are in the flesh that there are fleshly ties that we have, whereby we naturally have our affections on things and people here within this world, yet our affection above everything is to be on Him who is above.

### XVIII

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

Haven't you heard people say, "If I believed in the doctrine of salvation by grace, I'd just take my fill of sin?" Haven't you heard people say, "If I believed that old doctrine of once saved, always saved, I'd just go out and live any kind of life that I wanted to?" Haven't you heard people say, "If I believe in eternal security and I believed that I couldn't lose my salvation by sins that I commit, I'd just have a big time so far as this life is concerned." No you wouldn't, beloved. You would do those things if you didn't believe in salvation by grace, for the man who believes in salvation by grace is taught differently, because this text tells us what the grace of God teaches us.

The first thing that the grace of God teaches a man is that he is to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Furthermore, the grace of God teaches us that we are to live soberly, righteously, and godly - soberly as unto ourselves, righteously as unto our fellowmen with whom we come in contact, and godly as unto Him who lives and reigns in the skies. Don't tell me that if you believed in salvation by grace you would go out and live any kind of life you wanted to. You would do those things if you didn't believe in salvation by grace. If you be-

lieve in salvation by grace, then the grace of God would teach you what to do. It would teach you to deny ungodliness, it would teach you to deny worldly lust; it would teach soberly and righteously, it would teach you to look for the second coming of Christ, and it would teach you to purify yourselves that you might become a peculiar person in the sight of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I tell you, beloved, when you read these verses, you come face to face with this fact. The Apostle Paul believed that Christians ought to walk like Christians, and that there ought to be a walk on the part of Christians that would be different to the walk of the world.

### XIX

"THEREFORE leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God" (Heb. 6:1).

I ask you, are you a Christian? Are you saved? Have you become a child of God? Then if you are saved, if you are a Christian, the exhortation is that we go on unto perfection.

Are you as good as you want to be? Are you as perfect as you would like to be? Then let us go on unto perfection. Just out yonder in front of me is my goal, and that goal is perfection. It looks like that every day as I strive, I just don't reach that goal. It is beyond me. I just can't get up to it. But Paul says to go on to perfection. I thank God that the man and the woman who is saved, who day by day strives for perfection in the service of the Lord, is going to find that he gets better and better as he goes on.

As the poet has said:

I heard it singing, singing sweetly,

Softly in an undertone;  
Singing as if God had taught it,

It is better further on.  
Night and day it sings the same song,

Sings it while I sit alone,  
Sings it so the heart can hear it,

It is better further on.  
Sits upon the grave and sings it,

Sings it when the heart would groan,  
Sings it when the shadows darken,

It is better further on.  
Further on! How much further on?

Count the milestones one by one?  
No, no counting, only trusting,

It is better further on.  
Further on! How much further on?

Count the milestones one by one?  
No, no counting, only trusting,

It is better further on.  
Further on! How much further on?

Count the milestones one by one?  
No, no counting, only trusting,

It is better further on.  
Further on! How much further on?

Count the milestones one by one?  
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Count the milestones one by one?  
No, no counting, only trusting,

It is better further on.  
Further on! How much further on?

tians that tomorrow, and in the tomorrows to come, we shall find ourselves drawn closer to Him, as we go on to perfection.

May God bless you!

## THE SEVEN JUDGMENTS THAT ARE GIVEN IN GOD'S WORD

It has been often pointed out that there are at least seven judgments spoken of in Scripture.

### The Judgment of the Cross

Where the sins of the believer have been judged. Christ, "the Judge of all the earth," assumed the liability of our sins and met by His death all the just claims of God against the sinner. Risen, ascended, and glorified, the Saviour now ever lives to save each guilty sinner who will rely upon His finished work, accept Him as his personal Saviour and acknowledge Him as the Lord of his life. See I Pet. 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:26; etc.

### The Judgment of Self

This is the believer's individual and daily responsibility. The Christian must mercilessly examine and judge himself in the light of God's Word and confess and separate himself from all known sin in his life thus revealed (II Cor. 6:14; 7:1, 10, 11; I Cor. 11:31; I Pet. 4:7).

### The Judgment Seat of Christ

This will take place immediately following the rapture of the saints, and believers only will appear before it. Read carefully II Cor. 5:9, 10; Rom. 14:10-12; I Cor. 3:9-15. At this judgment the works of the believer are to pass in review and he will be rewarded or suffer loss. It is not a question of deciding whether the believer is saved or not, or of settling his eternal destiny -- that has been settled by the judgment of Calvary (Rom. 8:17). The difference between the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Judgment of the Great White Throne is the same difference that exists between a civil action, in which the case and not the individual is tried; and a criminal action, in which the individual is charged, proved guilty, sentenced, and executed.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ the motives of our service for Christ will be revealed (I Cor. 4:4, 5). Much that has passed muster and earned the commendation of our brethren will be found to be so much "wood, hay, and stubble" in that day. All true service, motivated by love for Christ and done with a single eye to His glory, will be rewarded. With this thought of the Judgment Seat of Christ before him the believer ought to think soberly, act justly, serve lovingly, speak truthfully, pray fervently, study diligently, and anticipate longingly the coming of the Lord Jesus. Paul spoke continually of "that day" when the rewards should be given (II Tim. 4:6-8).

### The Judgment of the Nations

This is to take place when Christ appears with His saints at the close of the great tribulation, when the living nations are to be judged according to their treatment of the Jewish remnant (referred to by Christ as "My brethren") during this tribulation period (Matt. 25:31-46; Joel 3:1, 2). It is distinguished from the Judgment of the Great White Throne by many features. There

is no resurrection spoken of; the subjects of the judgments are living nations; the place is on earth; no books are opened; and three classes may be distinguished: "sheep... goats... brethren."

### The Judgment of Israel

This will also take place at Christ's appearing with His saints to usher in the Millennial Kingdom. Israel will be regathered to stand before Him and be judged as to whether or not they are fit to enter the land of Palestine to enjoy the glories of His personal reign. See Ezk. 20:33-44; cp. Ps. 50:1-21.

### The Judgment of the Great White Throne

This, as has been already pointed out, will take place at the close of the Millennial reign. See Rev. 20:11-15; John 12:47, 48; Matt. 12:41, 42. (1) The Subjects, "The dead small and great," i.e., the wicked dead who have died in their sins (John 8:21, 24). Not one will be missing in that day. This is the Divine and therefore, unescapable "appointment" (Heb. 9:27). (2) The Judge, Christ (John 5:22; Rev. 6:16, 17). The One Who might have been their Saviour has now become their Judge. (3) The Evidence, "The Books" (Rev. 20:12; cp. Matt. 12:36, 37). The record of each life with all its lies, evil thoughts, words, deeds, and attitudes, will be produced as evidence; and perfect justice, unmixed with mercy, will be the portion of all. There will be no bribing of this Judge, no tampering with the witnesses; no falsification of the evidence; and no interruption in the course of justice. (4) The Sentence, "The second death" (Rev. 20:14), or eternal separation from Christ and the glories of heaven. (5) The Execution (Rev. 20:15), "Cast into the lake of fire." How solemn is this. Let each reader make certain that he will never stand before this Great White Throne. Flee now to Him, Who as the Saviour, is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him (Heb. 7:25). As a lost and guilty sinner, believe the message of the gospel that Christ died for your sins and then receive Him definitely to be your personal Saviour and own Him henceforth as the Lord of your life. Then Christ Himself will give you the guarantee that you shall not come into this judgment (John 5:24).

### The Judgment of the Angels

The angels who rebelled under Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19) shall be judged in "the great day" (II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6 and their eternal doom sealed. Christians will be associated with Christ in this judgment (I Cor. 6:3) and will rejoice to see "Satan bruised under their feet" (Rom. 16:20) "that God may be all in all" (I Cor. 15:28).

--The Prophetic Digest

## THE FORGOTTEN CHRIST

We usually remember our friends and loved ones on their birthday, and we try to show a special token of our love. The world in their religious zeal, though completely ignorant of the birth date of our blessed Lord, have pretended such consideration to Him as to set a special day to remember His birth, and the

world falls over itself to celebrate Him, but the strange thing about this Christmas fanaticism is that He is the most forgotten Person in the whole celebration. Folks buy gifts for everyone they think highly of, or for those whom they expect to receive a gift from. And the world, to show its appreciation, has cooperated to make it easy to pay for them in three, six or twelve months.

Everywhere you hear the slogan, "Put Christ back in Christmas." Of course, Christ never was in Christmas; pagan revelry and ritualism was simply christened with a Christian name. The priesthood of pagan gods condescended to take Christianity under its robes so it could shed some of its intoxicating enjoyment and Christmas cheer to the poor saints who had to give up the world and bear a cross. Yes, all the world, Christian and pagan alike, unite to enter into the spirit of Christmas, while the Christ stands on the outside of the door and knocks, and pleads, "Come ye out from among them, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and be a Father unto you."

It is a sad commentary that the work of Christ witnesses a decline of interest, and the Lord has to wait until Christmas is over, and everybody "gets back on their feet," to get the message of salvation to dying souls for whom He died! Yes, when Christmas is over, we'll have more time for Christ, we'll have more money for His work, we'll have more energy to labor in His vineyard and live for Him.

Poor forgotten One! Pity that we should pretend to celebrate and commemorate the birthday of a holy God! Pity that the tinsel of the world should dazzle our eyes and hide from view the face of Him who is altogether lovely! I pray that you will not waste His precious time and money on His enemy's heyday.

## CHRISTMAS IN TEXAS

by Bill Farmer

**Editor's note:** These articles on Xmas are late, but maybe they will move those of you who celebrated this heathen holiday to repent thereof, and determine that you will never do so again.

In Texas it is still very warm and a variety of trees stay green all year. Cold season comes and goes quickly. Yet, looking around, here it's just as wicked as the frozen, liberal north. In time past this part of the country was called "The Bible Belt." Now, we might call it "The TV Guide Belt" or "The Origin of the Species Belt", or, perhaps "The Quarterly Belt", The Masonic Handbook Belt", the "Catholic Missal Belt", or "The Football Rule Book Belt." Yes, and "Any Book But God's Book Belt."

Now we come to Christmas... a time when the world pauses for... what? To remember the Savior's birth? To fast, pray and repent to God because of sin? To preach to men about the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning work? To go out and talk to family, friends, people on the job about salvation? No! No! No! No! It is a time to pause and keep ancient pagan heresy alive! What does the

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## STUDIES IN PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21

by C.T. Everman

**"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them w which walk so as ye have us for an ensample"** (Phil. 3:17).

Paul had, in the previous verses, explained that the Christian race was like a race in which the runners must abide by the rules of the game if they expected to reach the goal. There are many who claim to be Christians who disregard the rules established by God and go about to set up their own rules. From the very beginning there have been two groups who have opposed the true teaching as given in the Word of God and have gone their own way. One group were the Judaizers, who taught one must keep the law of Moses in order to be saved; thus they added works to grace. Many are doing the same thing today. The other group profess to believe in Christ, yet by their lives they deny Him. We have both groups in abundance in our churches today.

Paul had warned the Philippian church against the Judaizers, now he warns them against those who show by their lives that they do not possess that which they profess. He begins by telling them, **"Brethren, be followers together for me--"**. That is, live as I do. He is saying that his life is an example of true Christian living. He does not say this to be proud or boastful. He had just told them that he had in no way reached perfection, that he was still striving for the goal that yet lay ahead; but he was still in the race, still abiding by the rules. While he was far from being faultless, yet he urges them to follow him only as he followed Christ. **"Mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."** Paul was not alone in following Christ. There were others in the Philippian church whom Paul included with himself, **"mark them which walk --"**, take note or look to those who walk, who live by the Word and take them along with me for an ensample.

**"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things"** (Phil. 3:18-19).

Here Paul gives the reason for the warning, **"For many walk"**, many who were not living lives that followed Christ. He had warned them over and over, now with tears he warns them again. These he says are really **"enemies of the cross of Christ."** The "cross" was that upon which Christ made atonement for the sins of His people. Any one who adds to or subtracts from that atonement is an "enemy" of the cross. The atonement was to make us like Christ, **"to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren"** (Rom. 8:29). Those whom Paul is warning against were living

lives that showed they knew nothing of the true gospel. One who lives an immoral life, even though he claims to be a Christian, is an enemy to **"the cross of Christ."**

**"Whose end is destruction--"**. What Paul is saying is that these are headed for destruction the same as all sinners who do not trust Christ. They profess to trust Christ, but their **"God is their belly."** They worship themselves, their own appetites instead of the living God. They live only for self and to fulfill their own sinful lusts, **"whose glory is in their shame."** They glory in the very things of which they should be ashamed. They think nothing of heaven, their mind is on **"earthly things."** Their hearts desire is to obtain things of earth. How many professing Christians there are who live for honor, fame, money, or pleasure! These are the real **"enemies of the cross of Christ."** Paul wrote to the Colossians, **"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth"** (Col. 3:1, 2).

**"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"** (Phil. 3:20, 21).

After his warning concerning the false followers of Christ, those who were really **"enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction..."** Paul now returns to the true Christians. Their citizenship is in heaven, for that is what is the meaning of the Greek word used from "conversation" as used here. The Philippians could understand what Paul was saying, for the city of Philippi was a colony of Rome and all free-born of Philippi had been made citizens of Rome. They may have never been to Rome yet they were under its protection and were subjects to its laws and enjoyed the rights and privileges the same as those who lived in Rome. In like manner, Christians are citizens of heaven, though living on earth. They are under its care. To heaven they own their allegiance. Their names are listed in heaven's register as citizens. **"The book of life"** (Phil... 4:3). They are governed by heaven's laws. While the false followers of Christ have their mind only on earthly things, the Christian's mind is set upon heavenly things and his hope is centered on the glories of heaven.

While the Christian's citizenship is in heaven and he is subject to its laws and government, this does not mean that he is not to be subject to the laws of the earthly government. Remember the Holy Spirit who inspired Paul to write this also inspired him to write, **"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).

As citizens of heaven, living

on earth, the Christian is to be looking for the coming of **"the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."** From heaven, one of these days, Christ our Saviour will appear, **"We look for the Saviour."** The word "look" implies eager longing, earnest expectation, a great desire for it to occur. Paul, along with all the other writers of the New Testament, wrote and looked for the return of Christ. The first church had received a promise from the angels who said, **"this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"** (Acts 1:11). Christ, Himself, told His church, **"I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"** (John 14:3). All Christians should be looking with earnest expectation for the return of Christ. In Titus 2:12, 13 we are told that, **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."** This should be one of the greatest incentives for us to deny **"ungodliness and worldly lusts"** and to **"live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."**

When Christ returns He will **"change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body"**. At this time our vile (earthly) body which is subject to weakness, disease, and death, will undergo a change into a body like unto Christ's glorious body. The apostle John wrote, **"it doth not appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"** (I John 3:2). The last link in the chain of God's plan of salvation is glorification (Rom. 8:28, 29). At this time our sinful body will be changed to fit its eternal home, **"We shall be like him"**; no more sickness, no more death, no more sin!

The thought which Paul is expressing here is that since we are looking for the return of our Lord when we will be changed to be like Him, we should strive to be like Him while living here on earth. As our citizenship is in heaven, our conduct, our manner of life should be that of a citizen of heaven. John told his readers to abide in Christ lest they **"be ashamed before him at his coming"** (I John 2:28). This changing of our earthly body into a glorious body will be brought about, **"according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself."** Such a change requires a great amount of power. There is only One who has that power, the One who has power over all things. That One is our Lord Jesus Christ. The power that raised Christ from the grave, by which He was declared to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4) is the same power that will bring about this change. We are told, **"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"** (I Cor. 15:51, 52).

As we look for that day with

earnest expectation, we are commanded, **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"** (I Cor. 15:58).

**"My faith shall triumph o'er the grave,**

**And trample on the tombs;**

**My Jesus, my Redeemer, lives,**

**My God, my Saviour, comes;**  
**Ere long I know He shall appear,**

**In power and glory great;**

**And death, the last of all His foes,**

**Lie vanquished at His feet.**

**Then, though the worms my flesh devour,**

**And make my form their prey,**

**I know I shall arise with power,**

**On the last judgment day;-**

**When God shall stand upon the earth,**

**Him then mine eyes shall see;**

**My flesh shall feel a sacred birth,**

**And ever with Him be.**

**Then His own hand shall wipe the tears**

**From every weeping eye;**

**And pains and groans and griefs, and fears,**

**Shall cease eternally.**

**How long dear Saviour! Oh, how long**

**Shall this bright hour delay?**

**Fly swift around, ye wheels of time,**

**And bring the welcome day"**

Watts

## A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

by Herb Evans

A recent visit to the Soviet Union, by a group of Christians, produced some interesting information. Would you believe they were permitted to bring in and freely distribute tracts and Bibles on "Red Square," in Moscow? This is all part of the new face that the communists want to put on, for the West, in order to get desperately needed economic help. But hold on! A truck was trying to bring in a load of Russian New Testaments from Finland. They had a Russian permit to do so, but the Russian pastor, who was to receive the Bibles, revoked the permit. Why? Because they were bringing New Testaments, and he wanted complete Bibles. Why? Because he was a "registered" or "state" church pastor, and registered churches do not freely distribute Bibles. They sell them! They sell them, on the black market, for about sixty

dollars. The "unregistered" churches distribute Bibles freely, but there is a hitch. They do not have a "permit!" or "license." They are the underground church, the unofficial church, the illegal church. They could have a permit, they could have a license, but they would have to make a "deal" with the devil. Deals are made by the "state" church to exist. You will not find any children in the "registered" church for they have agreed not to teach their children religion. They have also agreed to report everything to the devil that he wants to know. The "unregistered," underground, illegal, unofficial church also exists but barely. They meet in crowded apartments and tents without heat or facilities. Their pastor's apartment is "bugged" and they are followed by the KJB. They do not make deals with the devil, but they are free in a country that is not free.

We have come to the time and place in America, where a king has arisen that knows not Joseph. "Registered" or "incorporated" churches are now "state" churches, incorporated under the laws of that state and bound to public policy. They, too, must report to the devil anything he wants to know; they must fill out his forms. They are allowed to teach their children, but under increasingly austere requirements. Some, under the financial burdens of these requirements, have had to close their schools and orphanages. As the state increases these burdens, more will close. Unregistered or unincorporated churches also exist in this country. They are free! They are unofficial but not yet illegal or underground. They do not fill out government forms, they do not submit their records to the government (some do not even keep them), they do not submit their buildings for government inspection. Do they have "tax exemption?" No! They have "tax immunity!" They have not traded their constitutional "tax immunity" for corporate, non profit organization, tax exemption. A tax exemption may be taken away legally. Rights, under the constitution, may only be taken illegally. When that time comes, they will go underground. They will not make a deal with the devil!

NOTE: What we have said has nothing to do with the Moonies, it has nothing to do with the moral majority, it has nothing to do with ecumenism, It has nothing to do with politics! Fundamental separatists everywhere, and we commend them, will not be able to hide behind these things. To be consistent, we must also separate ourselves from political devils as well as religious devils!

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder George R. Sledd has accepted the call from the Jordan Baptist Church of Sanford, Florida to become their pastor. Pray for him and his ministry in this fine church. Visit them when and if you have opportunity. The address is 920 Upsala Rd, Sanford, Fl. 32771. His phone is (407) 323-9072.

However learned, godly, and eloquent a minister may be, he is nothing without the Holy Spirit. The bell in the steeple may be hung well, fairly fashioned, and of the soundest metal; but it is dumb until the ringer makes it speak. And in like manner, the preacher has no voice of quickening for the dead in sin nor of comfort for the living saints until the Divine Spirit gives him a gracious pull and bids him speak with power.

--C.H. Spurgeon



## CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 9)

winter solstice have to do with Christ? If you must celebrate Xmas (which is not mandatory or even mentioned in the Bible) why do it on the birthday of the baby Baal? Why mix the true account of the virgin birth of Christ with the spurious lies and legends of Isis and Horus?!

People pause at Christmas to promote pagan and/or sexual emblems. Things like the yule log, the evergreen, the wreath, the mistletoe, the holly, the wassail, the candles and so-on. Not to labor the point, but the wreath was an ancient orgy marker! The reader might well look at the rest of the things on the above list. Here I would like to point out also that some Xmas emblems are out-and-out demonic. What about those elves? What sort of beings do you suppose they are? And how about "St. Nick"? Doesn't he see you when you're sleeping? Doesn't he know if you've been bad or good? Doesn't he live in the north? God is in the north (Psalm 75:6, 7). So we might conclude that the "jolly old elf" actually is worshipped as a god! Each generation lies to the next about him. The "Now" generation always prays to him. The kindly "Father Christmas" answers the prayers of millions of children! Doesn't he give out those phallic candy canes?! Satan is the head over the demons, imps and goblins. Do you suppose this is just a coincidence that Satan is head over these strange pointed-eared elves?

People at Christmas also are busy promoting "peace" to the point of nausea. It is all so sweet and syrupy it could give you diabetes! "Peace"... everyone wants peace, but when politicians say it you better hold your billfold! Peace is man's goal, and he will never have it! Why? Because mankind ignores and even hates the "Prince of Peace." "For when they shall say, peace and safety: then sudden destruction..." (1 Thess. 5:3).

Men pause at Xmas to over-emphasize Mary and promote the Catholic "church." After all, Christmas is "Christ Mass." More properly, "Catholic Mass." The demonic pappa in Rome struts like a peacock instead of the hell-bound, wicked, godless sinner he is. What about the "Black Madonna" so revered by Catholics. Are they confused about the race of Mary? Catholics have the names and the races of the three wisemen. The Bible doesn't give their number or much information about them. So where did you Catholics get all those intellectual goodies? Christmas comes to you live and in living color by the same people that brought you the Inquisition, perversion of the Bible, death of thousands of martyr, the burning of Bibles, and such great people as Adolf Hitler, Castro, Marie Lebeau (Voodoo Queen), the Kennedy's, Father Guzzman (child molester), Innocent III, Pauncho Villa, DeSade, DeCarte, Mussolini, DeGaulle, and last but certainly not least, the Anti-Christ himself!

Americans pause at Christmas to get drunk as a tick in the name of religion like the Romans and the Vikings. And, like the Romans and the Vikings, they're going to hell! The very idea that these "office parties" and church

dances at the Knights of Columbus (see above paragraph) could in any way remotely please God is obscene!

People at Christmas pause to spend huge amounts of money they don't have and then blame God for not providing for them!

Christmas is pagan idolatry, filth, and godlessness.

Let us look first at a tribulation passage having to do with Anti-Christ killing people and leaving their bodies in the street (Rev. 11:9)... **"And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another."** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Now, look at (Jere. 10:3, 4) **"...For the customs of the people are vain: For one cutteth a tree out of the forest... they deck it with silver and with gold: They fasten it with nails and with hammers."** Have you got your tree yet? Sort of an old-fashioned Christmas?

It's not over. Look at Ezek. 8:13, 14. **"...Thou shall see greater abominations than these... behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz."** Now, Tammuz (born on December 25th) was the son of Nimrod and his birth marked the beginning of the mother/child worship which runs wild at Christmas! So to say the least, God's Book is against it.

So, what will Christmas be like this year? Across the world and here in Texas people will continue not giving a flip about what God says. This season is a season of depravity. We need to worship God all the year round. So, let's keep Christ in Christmas... the only problem is that He was never in it!

### "HOLIER THAN THOU": AN UNCONVINCING ROLE FOR THE NCC

by G. Russell Evans

Many of the faithful are still reeling from the unprecedented one-two punch recently delivered to their National Council of Churches (NCC). The first blow was the January's Reader's Digest article by Rael Jean Isaac (pp. 120-5, "Do You Know Where Your Church Offerings Go?") and the second came from Morley Safer on the CBS-TV show 60 Minutes (January 23, "The Gospel According to Whom?"). Both reports exposed in documented detail some of the unpopular excess of the NCC that had been causing the membership so much anguish.

In passing, let us note that the NCC's partner, the World Council of Churches, also suffered a one-two punch recently: one from another Digest article (Joseph Harriss, pp. 130-4, "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ?") and the other from the same Morley Safer TV show. To be sure, people are beginning to take notice!

The most serious charge has been the support of Marxist-communist trends by collection plate money entrusted to these Councils -- and the most interesting reaction has been the air of injured innocence in total denial of any wrong-doing by Council officials who attack with countercharges of their own. In-

deed, the NCC's president, United Methodist Bishop A. James Armstrong, absolved himself of any culpability, proclaiming to Mr. Safer "My responsibility is not parishioners, but to God." If so, we have a classic "Holier Than Thou."

Nonetheless, church supporters are upset and besieging their pastors for answers. There is help. The editor of the United Methodist Reporter ran a "How to Respond" column, an editorial attacking the Digest, and, of course, the NCC rebuttal to the Digest article (January 14, 21), but not Dr. Isaac's rebuttal to the rebuttal. So, let's see about that rebuttal to the rebuttal.

Indeed, if I were ever public defender for the NCC(or WCC), I would not like to tangle with Mrs. Isaac. This lady's arguments are devastating - also, very courteous and convincing in her well documented and clear response. A few examples will illustrate:

The National Council enters the arena wearing ecclesiastical robes and quoting Scripture about preaching the Good News, freeing the oppressed, and clothing the naked. Wonderful. No argument there, of course. But Dr. Isaac and many others question the long-standing NCC programs that support "Marxist-Leninist movements." Not so, says the NCC, with the flat statement, **"The NCCC does not fund or otherwise support Communist governments or movements anywhere in the world."** (Emphasis and underlining by the NCCC).

This was a good opening for

Mrs. Isaac who proceeded to document (5 times) specific instances of NCC contributions of money and supplies to totalitarian and pro-communist regimes which, of necessity, control the people and all outside contributions. Indeed, church money that helps people with agricultural and medical needs, for example, also frees government funds that often harm the people.

Moreover, this principle was evident in the so-called "new economic zones" in Vietnam where Church World Service (CWS) funds of the NCC were reallocated by the communist government. In other cases, the NCC proposed ending the U.S. embargo against Cuba and U.S. recognition of communist Angola. In 1975 it sent "greetings" to the new Marxist regime of Mozambique, comparing its "noble struggle to our own." NCC president William Howard had a precedent for this magnanimity, however, because his predecessor, William P. Thompson, did the same after the communist takeover after the Vietnam War.

Moreover, the same pattern of NCC support for community governments has been observed in Latin America: Resolutions have urged ending U.S. aid to the freely elected government in El Salvador and NCC money has gone to communist Nicaragua leaders for their literacy campaign, \$200,000 worth, to help indoctrinate the people in Marxism and Sandinista propaganda. Impressive documentation sup-

ports in detail all the above activities.

The National Council's propensity for resolutions is legion, for example, some 120 of them on human rights. But unfortunately, the Council leaders never got around to one condemning Vietnam for creating vast numbers of refugee boat people. Nor could it find time for one criticizing the infamous Idi Amin for his murderous reign in Uganda where some 90,000 people were killed during the first three years he was president.

According to the NCC's own William Wipfler, an important function of the Council is to present a balanced judgment on human rights conditions around the world for the information of its supporters and church members. Why then, the reluctance and utter failure at times to report on the atheist and repressive governments? The result is distortion and deception. What is the NCC's answer?

As to the NCC assertion that it did not use Cuba as "a model society for Christians," Isaac documents the Council's praise for the "equity, justice, and human dignity" in Cuba. The NCC director of Overseas Ministries, Dr. Eugene Stockwell, after a 1979 visit to communist China, said he had not abandoned faith in Christ but was forced to ask himself "whether Christian nations can provide nothing better than injustice while an atheist nation struggles mightily to secure a modicum of justice."

In 7 pages of carefully drawn logic and primary documentation, Mrs. Isaac establishes her identity for accuracy and thoroughness. The National Council, we believe, did not make its case and, in many instances, its pleadings seemed moot and irrelevant. There was no evidence to prove its "Holier than thou" stance and much to reinforce its reputation for obfuscation and dedication to leftist and Marxist causes. Moreover, we conclude, many Methodist, Presbyterian, and other mainline members either agree with these causes, or don't know about them, or don't care. At any rate, they continue to fund the NCC!

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Since we can only behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we know that a right knowledge of Christ and of God the Father are inseparable. We can only know the redemptive character of God as it is revealed in the person, offices, and mediatorial work of Christ. Our Lord did on all occasions declare that He came to do the will of His Father, to make known His name to His brethren, to glorify Him, that the praise of His grace be exalted. And we, through Christ, do believe in God, even the Father, when we intelligently and thankfully assign unto Him the infinite perfections of all the holy properties of His nature engage din our salvation! Therefore, salvation is in the person of Christ, and we must preach and trust Him.

## PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Physical life was breathed from God  
Into a dead body formed from the sod;  
And thus, man was made a living soul  
With all other life under his control.

For Adam, there was no mate to share  
Fellowship with God, no one to care;  
Then God took a rib from Adam's side  
And made the woman, to be his bride.

Then Eve, by the serpent was deceived!  
The Almighty God, she had not believed;  
Who forbid them eat of a certain tree,  
So from God's sight they tried to flee.

Their relation with God now was broken  
As they did not obey what He had spoken,  
And this was the beginning of all sin,  
And it brought condemnation on all men.

Since Adam, all men, before regeneration  
Are Spiritually dead, under condemnation;  
Now a Spiritual birth "must" take place.  
This comes from God, by His great Grace.

The sinless Savior must shed His Blood,  
Before men can have relation with God,  
The Holy Spirit reveals to God's own  
How Jesus Blood, their sin did atone.

Verse composition by Claude H. Creech  
Dec. 13, 1976



## MY IMPRESSIONS

I have attended most of the Calvary Baptist Church conferences since 1967. I have enjoyed them very much. As for this year's, it was another great conference. The food, singing, fellowship and preaching were good. It is so good to hear the truth preached and to be with those who believe and stand for the truth. I thought the spirit at the conference was exceptionally good this year. I want to thank the pastor and every member of the Calvary Baptist Church for everything they have done to make another great conference.

Calvin W. Kern, Gladwin, Mi.

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This is my first conference in many years and I certainly enjoyed the blessing I received. It was to my advantage to be here and I hope I will be able to come back next year.

Susan Johnson, Griffin, Ga.

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I think the conference was great. This was my second year and I sure hope I see a third. All the preaching was great, but I love all the singing talent. The Lord has really blessed your church and its works. Thank God for it.

Lisa Riley, Park Hills, Ky.

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Wonderful preaching, good fellowship, great singing, food was delicious and everyone was so gracious. I hope next year I will be feeling better, but I thank God for the health I do have. Thank God for the Calvary Baptist Church and TBE.

Sadie Cole, King, NC

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You say that it's the greatest event that happens on Memorial Day weekend, and I must agree. The conference was well-rounded in its subjects of truth. Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church for your hospitality.

Wayne Smith, Griffin, Ga.



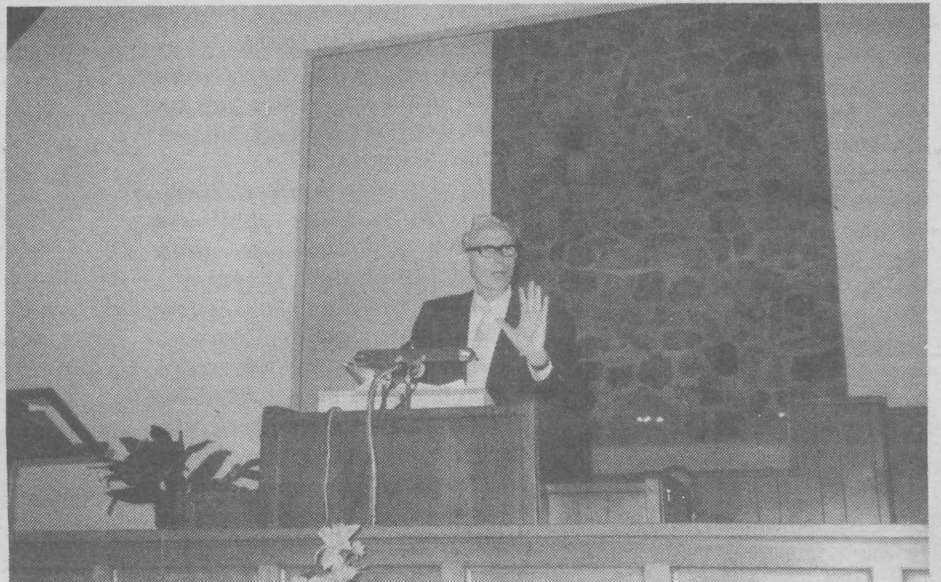
Sam Wilson brings us a truly great message on "Wild Beasts Are After Our Children."



Some fine young people at our conference.



Eldon Joslin: Song leader, singer, preacher: I don't know which he is doing here, but he does all of them very well.



Oscar Mink, a great preacher, (all true preachers are great) preaches to us.



David West brings us a fine message.

## JIMMY SWAGGART'S SUFFERING

How can a believer doubt when he knows that he is represented before the throne of God by an advocate, even "Jesus Christ the righteous"? It is the privilege of the very feeblest believer to know that he was represented by Christ on the cross, that all his sins were confessed, borne, judged, and atoned for. This is a divine reality; and when laid hold of by faith, it must give peace; but nothing short of it can ever give

peace. There may be earnest, anxious, and most sincere desires after God; there may be pious and devout attendance upon all the laws, offices, and forms of religion; but there is no possible way in which to get the sense of sin entirely removed from the conscience but by seeing it judged in the person of Jesus Christ as a sin offering on the cursed cross. If it were judged there once for all, it is now to be regarded by the believer as a divinely, and therefore, eternally settled question; and it was so judged, as proven by the resurrection of the Surety.

According to Gris Gris Magazine, September 18, 1985 (printed in Baton Rouge, La., where Jimmy lives), the Swaggarts have really "forsaken houses and lands for Lord's sake" (Matt. 19:29).

WBRZ-TV carried a program that charged Swaggart with paying family members \$400,000 while he collected money for the Children's Fund. Money is usually extracted from the viewers by showing pictures of Ethiopian children with distended stomachs and flies around their eyes.

At the same time this plea for funds was being aired, according

to Gris Gris report, the Swaggarts began work on their 9,337 square foot house. It features a \$250,000 fence, a "gold-colored swan spitting water into a round eight-foot tub in the middle of the second-floor bathroom," as well as a second floor balcony which overlooks the swimming pool.

The city parish valued the home at \$776,000. That should make some of the fixed income folks who support his work feel "used of God." A social security check could possibly buy a few pieces of the marble around one of the house's fireplaces. Jimmy's

son, Donnie, built a house adjacent to Dad's which is assessed at \$576,000.

What a contrast between our Electronic Church evangelists and the Lord Jesus, in (Luke 9:57, 58) we read, "And it came to pass, that as they went in the way, a certain man said unto Him, Lord I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Part of report from Gris Gris Magazine copies by permission.

--The Maranatha